

PACIFIC

FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY | VOL. 29, NO. 1



ENGINEERING THE FUTURE

COMMUNITY
ACTION P. 8

GATES
SCHOLAR P. 12

CHAMPION
RETURNS P. 27



RICHARD KRIEGBAUM, PH.D.

president's message

WORK AS WORSHIP BUSINESS AS MISSION

Higher education at Fresno Pacific University prepares people to work and to worship. Even more importantly, a Fresno Pacific education prepares people to work as an act of worship. Practicing the professions for which our students prepare is a means of providing grace in the lives of other people. Some of our work is done for pay and helps us provide for ourselves; and some of our work is done voluntarily without financial compensation to improve life for others.

What transforms work into worship and business into mission is the learned habit of the heart, the intention of the soul, the spiritual discipline of doing our work as to the Lord. What we do to the least of people in the world, we do to Jesus.

What we do to make a living is the business to which God has called us for that purpose. With our work we support ourselves and thus achieve one of the responsibilities God has given each person. That makes our work a form of lived prayer and expression of our thanks for the privilege of doing meaningful work and an expression of our petition that what we do will matter

to God and make a difference in the world. The business we are in is our mission and the people we serve are our mission field.

The dominant culture in the world around us seeks to narrow the definition of religion to actions like reading Scripture, singing hymns, preaching and praying. But that is too small a notion of true religion for those who follow Jesus.

"True evangelical faith cannot lie dormant. It clothes the naked, it feeds the hungry, it comforts the sorrowful, it shelters the destitute, it serves those that harm it, it binds up that which is wounded, it has become all things to all people." — Menno Simons

Read the stories of FPU people—students, alumni, faculty, staff, friends and supporters—who demonstrate in countless beautiful ways that everything we do is part of our worship; whatever business God entrusts to us is a means of pursuing our mission. Let the work of our hands and hearts and minds be always an offering of our true worship, let it be our true evangelical faith, the Gospel alive and effective in a needy world.

*Fresno Pacific University
develops students for
leadership and service
through excellence in
Christian higher education.*

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MAY 2016



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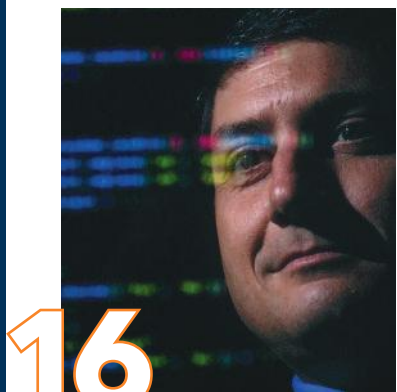
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Varvis Trading Admin for Classroom

A leader in both academics and administration is choosing the classroom over the conference room.

Stephen Varvis, Ph.D., will step down as provost/senior vice president at the end of the 2015-2016 academic year to begin a full-time position on the faculty in January 2017 after a semester-long sabbatical in the fall.

To call Varvis' career "varied" is an understatement. Since joining Fresno Pacific in 1985, he has been business manager, a full-time faculty member, dean of the college, director of business and civic relations and the first vice president for enrollment in 2007. Named provost in 2012, he added senior vice president when Richard Kriegbaum, Ph.D., returned as president in 2014. An active teacher for most of his administrative career, Varvis has worked in the history, business and English departments and chaired the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies and the department of history.

Kriegbaum praised Varvis for his effect across the university. "In one way or another he has shaped every aspect of Fresno Pacific University as it exists today, and he has profoundly influenced countless students and colleagues," Kriegbaum said. 🏠

New Kinesiology Degrees Appeal to Working Professionals

Online program is expanding on 10 years of success with two new options

The first cohorts of the Master of Arts in Athletic Training and Master of Arts in Sport Administration are set to begin in May 2016. Both degrees can be earned completely online, with the athletic training program being perhaps the only one of its kind, according to Jim Ave, Ph.D., ATC, program director and associate professor of kinesiology.

Each degree is 30 units and is designed to take 13 months to complete. Potential students are already working in or wish to move up to athletics at the college level.

Both programs had been emphases in the kinesiology program. Expanding to separate degrees better serves the many coaches, physical education teachers, athletic trainers and others FPU is attracting who want to enhance their careers, Ave said.

Since the kinesiology program began in 2005, at least 250 students have completed M.A.s, with about 80 enrolled as of January 2016. "It opens up the door to specific areas of employment," Ave said. 🏠

M.A. in Sport Administration

For people who want to be athletic directors or hold other positions on the business side of athletics. While high schools don't always require athletic directors to have a master's degree, colleges and most professional sports do, Ave said.

Coursework emphasizes:

- Career development
- Financial/revenue development
- Sports sales/sponsorship
- Leadership

M.A. in Athletic Training

A post-professional graduate program. Candidates will have already completed their bachelor's degrees and the classwork to become a board-certified athletic trainer and passed, or be eligible to take, the certification examination.

Classes focus on:

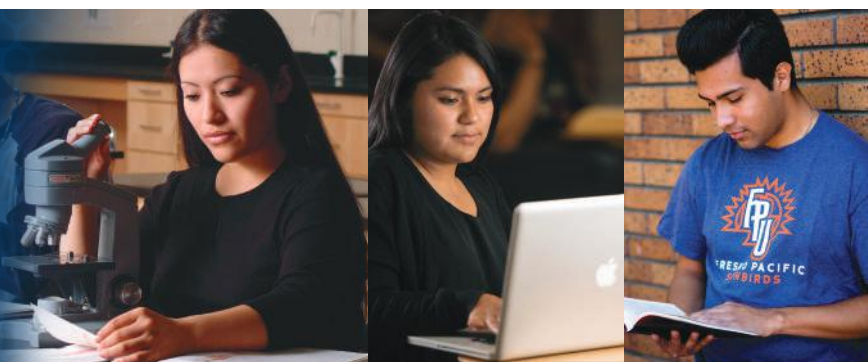
- Evidence-based practices
- Advanced therapeutic exercise
- Advanced administration
- Athletic training education

These stories and all the FPU news at fresno.edu/news

LEARN
more



Grants Further Student Success



Cultural Awareness Promotes Retention

A new grant provides resources to help take the “under” out of “underserved” regarding FPU Hispanic students. Gina Ponce de Leon, Ph.D., associate professor of Spanish, and Maribel Viveros, assistant director of institutional research, landed a five-year, \$2.36 million U.S. Department of Education grant to encourage Hispanic and low-income students to enroll and graduate. “Our objective’s are retention and student success,” said Ponce de Leon, project director.

FPU is one of 96 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) receiving more than \$51 million in new awards in 2015, according to the DOE. An HSI is an institution of higher education with at least 25 percent Hispanic full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollment.

FPU is already listed by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* as one of the nation’s top 10 HSIs in graduating Latino/a students.

The new program will include a Multicultural Learning Center, culturally embedded curriculum and, in the fourth year, a minor in Latin American studies. Any course can be an example of culturally embedded curriculum, from general-education requirements to advanced majors’ classes, so long as at least 10-15 percent of the content is from a different culture. Faculty may apply for \$3,000-4,000 stipends for professional development and materials.

The point is that the new content be truly integrated. “Including culture in the curriculum is not just adding pieces,” Ponce de Leon said. 🏠

“STREAMS” Smooths Path for STEM Transfers

Community college students planning for a degree in a STEM field have a program just for them at FPU starting in the fall of 2016.

Supporting Transfers in Reaching Educational Aspirations in Math and Science (STREAMS) will help community college students earn bachelor’s degrees in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines. The program is open to all students in the State Center Community College District who have earned or are completing an associate degree and is especially designed for students from low-income and/or under-represented backgrounds who are the first in their families to attend a college or university.

One special feature is a two-year graduation guarantee for qualified students. Those who enter FPU with the needed credits

from community college and make satisfactory academic progress at the university will be able to get all the classes they need to graduate in two academic years. (FPU already offers a four-year graduation guarantee for qualified students in all traditional undergraduate programs.)

STREAMS is financed by a five-year National Science Foundation grant. “The goal is to promote a more representative workforce in STEM fields, especially for the Central Valley, by providing scholarships and academic mentoring for talented low-income students,” said Ken Cheung, Ph.D., an associate professor of chemistry at FPU and principal investigator for the grant.

For more information, visit fresno.edu/streams 🏠





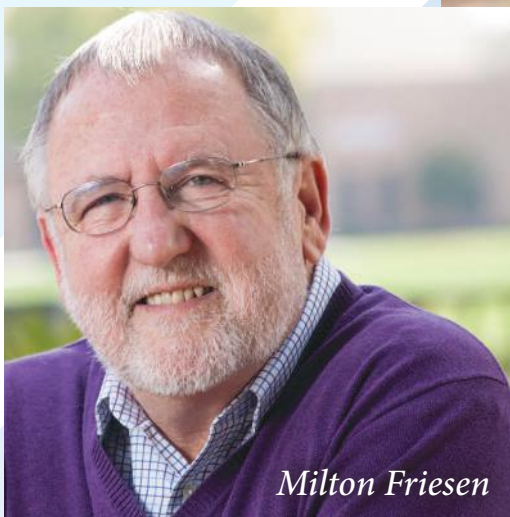
Roberta Jentes Mason, Ph.D.



Arlene Mack



Diane Talbot, Ed.D.



Milton Friesen

Retirees Made Their
Mark in Teaching,
Organization, Outreach

*Meaningful
Work*



Garry Prieb

Roberta Jentes Mason, Ph.D.

Professor of Education

Bobbi Mason (M.A., '86) wants everyone to love reading.

This is not the frustrated wish of English teachers that students share their passion for dissecting the deep symbolism of *Moby Dick*, but a vision to engage students and teach holistically. "How do you marry reading and writing so reading supports writing?" she asked.

University language departments are rife with divisions: literary interpretation, composition, creative writing. "My thing is looking at how it all fits together," Mason said.

As the only daughter among seven children on a dairy farm outside Wooster, OH, reading was Mason's sanity. "I was horrified at my first teaching job to find kids didn't like to read," she said.

That first job was in Zeeland, MI, in 1966. Three high schools, one middle school and one junior high school in Michigan, Kentucky and Ohio later she landed on the full-time faculty in 1987. "I feel like I've had nine lives," she said.

While Mason taught students, she also studied them. She put what she learned to work in establishing Learning Edge, a summer program that brought teenagers of all reading levels together to look beyond the words to ideas. "Teaching those concepts was always my goal," she said.

Arlene Mack

Executive Administrative Assistant

Every visionary needs someone to handle the details that make or break every project. Arlene Mack was that person for many after coming to FPU in 1996.

Working with personalities as varied as Wendy Wakeman, Ph.D., dean of the School of Professional Studies; D. Merrill Ewert, Ph.D., president; and the entire board of trustees, Mack kept her competence behind the scenes. "I don't like attention," she said.

Not that it was quiet backstage. In the FPU style of one head, many hats, Wakeman was once simultaneously in charge of SPS, the degree completion program and the graduate school. "I was trying to help her

stay organized," Mack said.

Other memorable times included opening regional campuses, especially Visalia. "I was on the ground floor of that," Mack said, working with Wakeman and Cindy Steele, then in charge of the centers. "I was going back and forth every day for probably six months," she added.

Following Nancy Neufeld as assistant to the president was also challenging—though Neufeld herself recommended Mack. "Merrill was very encouraging," Mack said.

Mack sees herself as an organizer/problem-solver. "And I tried to be a friend," she said.

Diane Talbot, Ed.D.

Pupil Personnel Division Chair

Each December a new graduating class of school counselors makes Diane Talbot understand her impact. "To see them move from candidate to colleague is awesome," she said.

Happy as Talbot has been since joining the faculty full time in 1997 to direct the school counseling program, it wasn't her plan back at Tranquility High School, where she started teaching Spanish in 1974 and became a counselor in 1985. She didn't plan to be a counselor, but got on well with the Spanish-speaking students and parents. Later Talbot hadn't believed she could teach at a university. "Other people saw something in me I didn't see. I've been told to apply for every position I've had," she said. "But I haven't been told to retire—I guess that's a good thing."

One highlight was helping launch FPU's dual program in school counseling/school psychology in Bakersfield. "We were the only program in town," she said.

Through her graduates, Talbot's influence has reached throughout the Valley. Counselors are involved with graduation rates, student safety, attendance and other areas at their schools. "We like to say we're the heart of the school," she said.

Milton Friesen

Music Department Program Director

Milton Friesen's goal has been to help students discover the adventure of music.

"I hope I have equipped them to look beyond the printed instructions and tap into their creative spirit," he said. "Music is a wonderful way to express God's creativity in worship."

Friesen joined FPU in 2006 to start the vocal-instrumental ensemble Crosswind, but he was no stranger to the place, being the youngest child of Dietrich Friesen, music faculty from 1952-1979. Milt's career has included solo vocal recitals—including Schubert's masterpiece *Die Winterreise*—roles with Fresno Grand Opera and other companies and positions as cantor and music minister with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno, the Visalia United Methodist Church and his current position at North Fresno Church (Mennonite Brethren).

Though Friesen grew up in the rich Mennonite Brethren choral tradition and sang in a youth choir, starting a choir at St. Paul Newman Center led him to become a choir director. "I quickly realized that being a recitalist and opera singer was a far cry from getting voices to work together," he said, grinning. But learn he did, and today he calls conducting the FPU Concert Choir another highlight. "That experience has been fabulous," he said.

Garry Prieb

Director of Church Relations

Garry Prieb (BA '71, SEM '84) has made a career out of telling stories with a purpose.

When Prieb joined the Advancement Office in 2008, he had plenty of storytelling practice as a pastor and church planter, head of a missions organization and director of development at what is now Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Though his own life story has bounced colorfully around Fresno, Congo, Canada and Indiana, Prieb highlights not himself, but the ministries for which he wants to generate support. "With fundraising comes the opportunity to tell the stories of people and organizations," he said.

A Fresno native, Prieb grew up in a missionary family in Congo and has returned several times, first to teach

continues on page 29

M A N Y

R O L E S

1 G O A L

Alumni Educate Themselves to Help Others

By Makenzie Dunckel

Whether a family or individual in Kings County is in need of transportation, financial assistance, educational support or help for their children, Kings Community Action Organization is there—and so are FPU alumni.

Some 20 graduates work at the KCAO, which has 18 locations in Hanford, Armona, Home Garden, Avenal, Corcoran, Kettleman City and Lemoore (kcao.org). Here are four graduates using their education to make an impact:



Yolanda Solorio
(BA '98)

Yolanda Solorio, Early Head Start manager, supervises a preschool that benefits children and parents from low-income homes, upholding one of KCAO's values: the importance of the family. "We want to be able to support the providers and families," Solorio said.

Solorio completed her degree in liberal studies. She remembers getting encouragement from Dina Gonzalez-Piña, assistant dean of multicultural ministries, then her counselor. "She always pushed us, trusted us and believed in us. She wanted us to be successful," Solorio said.

Working as a student with members of

the Hmong community in Fresno inspired Solorio to serve through her profession. She drew upon her own experience. "I am an immigrant myself, so I really have a heart for it. The experience helped me understand the need to support them," she said.

As part of the management team of KCAO's largest program, versatility is not just useful, but necessary. A typical day for Solorio does not exist, and daily tasks include speaking to providers, visiting families in their homes and tending to urgent needs. "It is difficult sometimes, but I have a very supportive group that works with me. They work as a team," she added.



**Adriana
Gaytan**
(BA '14)

One member of that team is **Adriana Gaytan**, an Early Head Start child development specialist who has worked at KCAO for seven months. "The vibes I get from everybody are that they are so passionate about what they do. They want to give it 100 percent," she said.

In her position, Gaytan works with children and providers. "I mentor the providers. I spend time with the children, playing with them, seeing what they are doing and what they need to be learning," she said.

After hearing about FPU through coworkers, Gaytan pursued her degree with a cohort located at West Hills College in Lemoore. Classes were demanding, but rewarding. "My friends seemed to be more challenged by their work at FPU than my friends at other schools. It was challenging, but it was good for me. It was worth investing more energy," she said.

Gaytan smiled as she spoke of a favorite memory working at KCAO. "One of the providers said that she really learned from me, and that she enjoyed having me there. I feel like they enjoy my presence, and that they track with me and respond to me," she said.

Every organization depends on dedicated employees to prosper. At KCAO, many of those employees are FPU grads seeking the prosperity of an entire community.

FPU Alumni Working at KCAO

- Lindy Akers** (BA '13)
educational coordinator
- Rachel Alvarado** (BA '12)
teacher
- Laken Barton** (BA '12)
teacher
- Monica Cano** (BA '10)
teacher
- Yolanda Corona** (BA '13)
site supervisor
- Michelle Dove** (MA '08)
Head Start/child development director
- Carla Enriquez** (BA '13)
site supervisor
- Adriana Gaytan** (BA '14)
child development specialist
- Sandra Hernandez** (BA '10)
associate teacher
- Laura Logan** (BA '10)
contract compliance manager
- Sarah Lorah** (attended 2000-2002)
finance director
- Mara Martinez** (BA '14)
teacher
- Irene Moreno** (BA '12)
executive administrative assistant
- Teresa Puga** (BA '15)
teacher
- Victoria Ramirez** (BA '15)
child development specialist
- Trichelle Renteria** (BA '10)
teacher assistant
- April Sanchez** (BA '12)
site supervisor
- Yolanda Solorio** (BA '98)
Early Head Start manager
- Glenda Stephens** (MA '08)
deputy executive director
- Ron Torres** (MA '08, BA '01)
human resources director

Glenda Stephens
(MA '08)



In 34 years at KCAO, **Glenda Stephens**, deputy executive director, has worked to make the agency a go-to organization. "Even if we do not have the answer, we will point them in the direction where they can get that answer," she said.

As supervisor to all program directors, Stephens is both a mentor and leader. FPU prepared her for just that. "I think one of the things that really stood out to me was the importance of leadership and your role as a leader. You have to provide that support-base," she explained.

Though her duties are administrative, Stephens still focuses on serving people. "Organizations like this are not places where you are going to get rich, but the satisfaction every single day is knowing that you made some difference," she said.

One satisfactory moment occurred when Stephens ran a childcare center for young and expectant mothers, guiding and supporting a struggling 17-year-old mother of a 3-week-old infant. Years later, the same woman flew from Mississippi to Stephens' office with her then 15-year-old daughter, whom she wanted Glenda to meet.

"I hope that the message we send to the community every day is that we really are here to help. We want them to know they can walk through our doors and they will be treated with respect. We care about them," Stephens said.

“Organizations like this are not places where you are going to get rich, but the satisfaction every single day is knowing that you made some difference.”

—Glenda Stephens

Ron Torres, human resources director, felt that care during his job interview. "The thing that stood out when I was first interviewed here, was being fully embraced and accepted," he said.

Torres never planned on working in human resources until he was influenced by an FPU professor as an undergraduate. "It was then that I said 'Hey, that is a good fit for me, and that is where I want to go,'" he said.

Among Torres' most essential tasks is managing a diverse staff. "It is a big challenge, because you have the older management people and the influx of the younger coming in, and it can be really challenging to get those two to work well together," he said. "The biggest lesson is that I have become aware that people are going to come across my path in life who are very different from me, and that is really a good thing."

Torres knows what KCAO can do through his wife's experience. As a Spanish-speaking immigrant, she attended a Head Start preschool in Monterey County. While picking strawberries at age seven, she felt there was another plan for her life, and she became the first person in her family to earn a college degree. "I have to believe that as a girl in Head Start she was impacted by the people she met," he said. 🏠

Ron Torres
(BA '01, MA '08)



Cultural Awareness



Helping the Hmong Community Understand Abuse

By Katie Fries

Bao Yang was teaching stage craft at Fresno's Sunnyside High School when she stumbled upon her true calling and a way to give back through work.

Yang, who has a theater arts degree from California State University, Fresno, had been teaching for "about a year" when she realized she might be in the wrong field. Some of her students had troubles at home that as a teacher she wasn't equipped to handle. "I grew to want to make a difference in these kids' lives," she says.

So Yang became a domestic violence victim's advocate. In her work with the Marjaree Mason Center and Fresno Police Department, she has supported abuse victims as they work through difficult situations and transition from victim to survivor.

At the police department, Yang assists detectives in the investigation unit as they work with domestic violence victims and respond to domestic violence crime scenes and has begun training law enforcement officers and dispatchers in effective ways to respond to domestic violence and sexual assault calls. "I deal heavily with trauma," she said. "I work with kids, or victims, who have come from broken homes."

In 2012, Yang began working toward a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, part of Fresno Pacific University. Much of her student research focuses on the effects of domestic violence in her own Hmong community.

"In many ways the Hmong culture is still learning how to reach for outside resources when it comes to outside issues," she says. "Some of the issues aren't being tapped into because they don't understand where to seek out services. Or, if they do, they're afraid to."

This interest led Yang to examine how younger Hmong people often view domestic violence. "What I found was that many

considered physical abuse as domestic violence, even spiritual abuse was a big one," Yang says. "[But] many didn't consider sexual assault, that it can be

considered domestic violence."

Even financial and emotional abuse can fall under the umbrella of domestic violence. "What I find interesting is that in our culture there isn't a word that defines emotion. It could be a language barrier, but only 70 percent considered emotional abuse. But it's huge, it affects their perception of themselves and how they function in the world," she says.

And, she added, "the elders still have a huge impact on their decisions, whether they would leave a domestic violence relationship."

In April of 2015, Yang presented her research at the Hmong National Development Conference in St. Paul, MN—an opportunity she says would not have been possible without support from her advisor and mentor, David Bruce Rose, Ph.D., associate professor of marriage and family therapy.

As a part-time student and single mother of three young children, Yang says she's taking her time finishing her master's degree. But she keeps an eye toward the future.

"I plan to continue to teach and I plan to continue to do research. I really enjoy the research piece, and I like to discover new things," she says, "but I do hope to become a licensed MFT and serve my community, the underserved communities, well."

The seminary has given her a way to contribute through her profession. Before enrolling at the seminary, "I felt like I was working in my community but I didn't know how to give back. As a student, I'm learning different ways to give back to the community; it's something I'm definitely inspired to work on," she says. 🏠

“ I received the most amazing gift. I feel that giving back to the people I interact with is the least I can do. This scholarship has just enhanced my drive to help others. ”

—Alexandria Longoria


The Gates Millennium Scholars
Funded by a Grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

When Alexandria Longoria walked the stage in May 2016 to receive her B.A. in Liberal Studies from Fresno Pacific University, one chapter in her educational journey came to an end. Her story, though, is just beginning.

Longoria plans to pursue her teaching credential, master's and doctoral degrees—and thanks to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, her higher education expenses will be covered.

Longoria was named a Gates Millennium Scholar during her senior year at Hanford High School. Each year, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awards the scholarship to 1,000 high achieving students from low-income backgrounds.

"I virtually applied for every scholarship I qualified for," Longoria says. "Honestly, at the time I was applying I did not realize how big the process was, nor how big the scholarship was." She recalled writing eight essays and obtaining three letters of recommendation.

"It was a complete shock when I found out I had received the scholarship," she adds. "It was awe-inspiring to know I had been selected out of the thousands of applicants nationwide."

Longoria decided to attend FPU for its small classes and community atmosphere even before hearing from the Gates Foundation. In order to retain the scholarship, she is required to maintain a solid GPA and send transcripts to the foundation upon the completion of each semester.

An indirect responsibility, she said, "is utilizing the gift of a college education to its fullest potential," Longoria expects to continue to do that as she looks toward her next goal: the FPU teaching credential program.

Longoria's short-term goal is to teach at the elementary level, eventually, serving as a school administrator. She knows, however, she needs to take one step at a time. "I have to commit myself to my education for 10 years and be focused on school. While it is not a requirement from Gates, it's more of a personal and individual responsibility I associate with the scholarship," she says.

In addition to her studies, Longoria has worked for more than three years in FPU's Office of Continuing Education. Her boss, Interim Executive Director of Continuing Education Peggi Kriegbaum, has no doubt Longoria will be successful due to her mix of curiosity and compassion. "She is an intense observer and is always trying to learn. She questions things that don't work or don't make sense, but not in a threatening way," Kriegbaum says. "I have heard her advising and encouraging fellow students and her younger siblings to work hard and take their own educational efforts seriously."

Receiving the Gates scholarship, for Longoria, is further motivation to "pay it forward." "I received the most amazing gift. I feel that giving back to the people I interact with is the least I can do. This scholarship has just enhanced my drive to help others. Someone so selflessly helped me and it inspires me to put others first and give as selflessly as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation," she says. "I can't wait to get into the classroom and teach children that anything is possible through hard work and dedication." 🏠

Gates Scholarship Inspires Student to **PAY GENEROSITY FORWARD**

By Katie Fries

History Reimagined

By McKenzie Duncel

ALUMNI PROFILE

CHRIS CUMIFORD

BA '12

Chris Cumiford is challenging how learning happens in the classroom—and being rewarded for it.

In 2015, Cumiford (MA '12) was named Tulare County Teacher of the Year. For 2016 he is one of the top 10 teachers in California.

The challenge starts with Cumiford's classroom at Visalia Technical Early College (VTEC) High School. Colorful lanterns hang from the ceiling, a 60-foot chalk board lines the wall and casual music plays in the background. The coffee shop-meets-museum environment is historically eclectic and all about learning.

"I want people to know that the design is as important as the assessment to me," he says. "It is not just decorating. This is the class."

But Cumiford did not stop there. He

created "linear modules" and the "three-screen approach."

Linear modes consist of four stations, each with different tasks on a given subject, between which groups of four students rotate to in 10-minute intervals. Simultaneously, 16 other students are doing the assessment, and then the groups switch. "You have had the topic thrown at you from so many different angles. It includes hands-on artifacts and documents out of the book. It is more fun, I think, instead of being boring and dry," Cumiford says, holding up a World War I replica gas mask used in that day's lesson.

The three-screen approach uses three large video screens, each portraying something different, that students see when they enter class. "I never wanted to be

the teacher with my back to students just writing on the white board," he says. "I never get the question, 'What are we doing, today?' because it is up there happening."

This passion for history emerged during an undergraduate internship leading tours of Alcatraz. "I was able to interact with the history that was happening and hands-on, and that was interesting. To see people excited about history was the first time, I thought that I could do this for a living, because I was excited about it, too," he says.

Cumiford's inspiration grew at FPU under the mentorship of Marshall Johnston, Ph.D., and Pamela Johnston, Ph.D., associate professors of history, with whom he studied for his M.A. in World History in the Individualized Master's Program (IMAP). "They were very passionate and really cared," he says.

"They are always trying to build people up and give their students opportunities, whether it is hands-on experience, field trips or teaching opportunities. But they have

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STAY
IN TOUCH




patience. Their door is open, and they have time for you. I think in the business of teaching, there are always things to do, but after class ends, to stick around and make time for your students is important," he says.

Marshall Johnston would quote Isaac Newton that those who see further are "standing on the shoulders of giants," Cumiford recalls. "As a history teacher, being able to accept, embrace and teach that every day is really important. We do stand on the shoulders of giants. Someday we hope to be giants, and future generations are going to be standing on our shoulders," he says.

As he teaches, Cumiford aims to get students emotionally involved. "Thankfully we have moved away from just dates and the memorization of things. To be able to bring back those historic people briefly in the classroom is the highest honor I feel that I can give to past generations. If we are reading a primary source document, for a brief moment in time, the students are transported back into their lives and have this connection," he added.

Whatever his methods, Cumiford's teaching centers on students, and he encourages them to cherish their own ways of thinking. "They should be embracing that there is only one brain on the face of the earth that thinks like they do. If it is reading *The Iliad* or *The Odyssey* that have been read millions of times, they are the only one person who will see it that way," he says.

In Cumiford's classroom, students enter a place where they can actively and meaningfully engage with the stories of history, with one another and with a teacher who cares about their education. 

1950

THE HOUSE RAISINS BUILT

By Kevin Enns-Rempel, Director, Hiebert Library

On a campus dating back only to the 1950s, one building stands out from the rest. The imposing Tudor Revival mansion known as the "Seminary House" clearly has origins that pre-date the rest of the campus.

Those origins are linked to Wylie Giffen (1872-1936), one of Fresno County's leading agriculturalists in the early twentieth century. Though Giffen lived in the house fewer than 10 years, it is his story that lies behind the "Seminary House" of today.


The Giffen family came to California from the Midwest, settling in Fowler in 1888. Soon afterward, Giffen invested in his first vineyard property. His land holdings would grow immensely and he eventually owned vineyards in seven California counties. Giffen helped establish the California Associated Raisin Company (now Sun-Maid Raisins), and was its president from 1913 to 1923.

In 1916 Giffen began planning a home on Butler Avenue. Designed by architect Henry Starbuck, the impressive structure combined Arts & Crafts and Tudor Revival styles and was completed in 1917.

In 1922 Giffen organized what was reportedly the world's largest family agricultural corporation, the Lucerne Vineyard Company. In 1922, however, raisin prices plummeted, along with Giffen's financial status. His company defaulted on a bond and the house was auctioned in 1926.

Giffen bounced back, however. He became a major cotton grower on the Valley's west side, while still farming grapes. In 1936 he fell ill with a severe cold. Complications set in and he died on August 21, 1936, at the age of 64.

The Giffen Home would pass through several hands before being purchased, along with land to the south and east, by the Mennonite Brethren Board of Education in 1955 for the seminary campus. At first, the building served all seminary functions: classrooms, offices, chapel and library. With the construction of other buildings, it became primarily the seminary administrative and faculty offices. When the seminary merged with Fresno Pacific University in 2010, the "Seminary House" became home to

the seminary faculty as well as the university's Bible and religious studies faculty. 



From the Archives...





I think we'll soon be looking
to FPU for innovators and
mentors in technology.

— Bethany Mily

FPU JOINS TECH

“MOTHERSHIP”

By Doug Hoagland

Visionary words tower in black letters on the colorful side of the grand old building. They read: “The Mothership of Technological Education, Collaboration, and Innovation in Fresno.”

The painted silhouettes of four young people—one at a computer with arms raised in victory—also loom large amid splashes of green, yellow, red, blue and orange. This is Bitwise Industries South Stadium building in downtown Fresno.

That triumphant young person will soon be symbolic of students at Fresno Pacific University.

Home to both established and developing tech-sector businesses, Bitwise is one of the best hopes to diversify and modernize the Valley’s economy. FPU is gearing up to add its academic muscle to that effort.

Beginning in August—at the start of the 2016-17 academic year—Fresno Pacific will offer a major in software engineering. Many courses will be taught at South Stadium.

FPU will be the first institution of higher learning in the San Joaquin Valley to educate students about how computers work and how work can use computers.

Think of it as bridging the digital divide that separates computer geeks from the world of business and industry. Karen Cianci, Ph.D., dean of FPU’s School of Natural Sciences, is excited at the possibility. “Hopefully, it knocks down the division between the ivory tower and the work world,” she says.

“I tell students there are two things you need—knowledge in your major and a professional network,” Cianci adds. “You need to meet people already working in your field. If your goal is to be a computer entrepreneur, you’re going to meet those people in our program at Bitwise. How beautiful is that?”



Fresno Pacific now offers a major in software engineering.

Bethany E. Mily, executive director of Geekwise Academy, agrees. "When a person learns in the Bitwise environment, she can literally begin to envision herself using her newly acquired skills in the companies around her. Envisioning a particular life for one's self is the only way to carve a path toward it." Geekwise Academy is the technology education and training division of Bitwise Industries.

Fresno Pacific's software engineering graduates will have not only technical knowledge but also the ability to talk to the people on the factory floor or in the corporate office, identify their computing needs and make computers obey.

It is, of course, more complicated than that. And we will return to the nuts and bolts—OK, make that the algorithms and pseudocode—of the software engineering program before we're done. First, though, come along on a trip to South Stadium, originally known as the James C. Phelan building and built in 1914 to sell Fords.

INCUBATOR FOR INNOVATION

Lights shaped to resemble clouds hang in the main hall at South Stadium at Van Ness and Mono avenues. A concrete block column around the elevator shaft is

painted with abstract images that include a robot with a giraffe's neck and head wearing a red sprinter's uniform.

A concrete staircase with orange railing leads you from the first floor into the building's basement, where students can write messages on hallways painted with whiteboard paint. One message reads: "Inspire everyone around you with love and..." Another offers a soaring ideal: "...do something substantial/significant/noteworthy."

Another wall is filled with big and small photos of Grumpy Cat, a feline popularized in pop culture by an Internet posting in 2012. The centerpiece is a painting of Grumpy with pink fur, blue eyes and its trademark dour expression. In blue letters is the admonition: "Don't Be A Jerk."

The basement has a gym and a tenant's lounge with movie posters—*Star Wars*, *Star Trek* and *Back to the Future* among them, plus wall signs that declare "Bam!" and "Wham!" South Stadium also is home to an intellectual property law firm, an accounting firm and a UPS outlet.

Simon Sultana, the FPU faculty member developing the software engineering program, stands behind a glass door in one of the basement classrooms. Exposed pipes run at ceiling level.

Steel girders painted lime green crisscross on one wall. The floor is cement, and the walls have a special covering called Walltalker—a wallpaper of sorts that mimics a whiteboard. Student chairs have woven plastic backs molded into a comfortable ergonomic design. They are lime green, too.

Sultana is writing on one of the walls.

He fills it with mathematical expressions for a software program to keep track of a school's wins and losses in sports:

If $A1 = B1$ Add one to tie

Else if $A1 > B1$ Add one to win

Else if $A1 < B1$ Add one to loss

Sultana and two students discuss probability and efficiency in writing the program. This is a basic computer science survey course—the first class that software engineering majors will take. But Sultana hopes students in other majors will take the class, too. "By developing a background in computers, they will be able to use computers more effectively and efficiently," he says.

FPU'S POINT MAN

The students listen intently as Sultana relates an anecdote from his career as an engineer at Chrysler. The story seems to perfectly capture the combination of theoretical and practical that FPU wants in its software engineering program.

Sultana was the lead engineer on the anti-theft sentry key immobilizer system. The system used ignition keys embedded with computer chips, and only keys properly programmed could start and operate a vehicle for longer than two seconds.

As Sultana tells it: One night, a fellow engineer drove home in one of the prototype vehicles being used to test the sentry system. When he passed an airport, the signals from planes corrupted the system, shutting off the fuel injectors.

"He had to limp home with the engine dying every few seconds," Sultana says, chuckling. "OK, that's off track."

Actually, it wasn't. It was a real-world problem that the engineers needed to solve. With additional testing during development, the problem was fixed.

Sultana's back story is interesting. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and two master's



Find out about all the software engineering options - B.S., B.A. and minor at fresno.edu/programs-majors/undergraduate

LEARN
more



degrees from Wayne State University in Detroit—one in electrical engineering, the other in business administration. Sultana is now a doctoral candidate at Old Dominion University in Virginia.

“As undergraduate engineering students, we studied theory, theory, theory,” he says. “But depending on the electives you took, you didn’t really understand what an engineer did when you went out to work.

“You knew the theory behind electricity and physics, but you didn’t know how to go out and conceive a solution to address a human need and then develop that product, design it, implement it and operate it. And that hasn’t changed.”

Sultana saw the disconnect during the nearly 10 years he was at Chrysler: On the vehicle assembly floor, an engineer bathed in theory would try to partner with an assembly supervisor up to his elbows in the practical demands of building vehicles. “The engineer would try to explain something, and it would sound like gibberish to the person on the other end,” he says.

He had an easier time. “I was gifted, by God I guess, with the ability to talk to people and get to the bottom of solutions and be an intermediary.”

That will be the goal for FPU’s software engineering graduates.

HEAVEN-SENT

After leaving Chrysler in 2004, Sultana continued working as an engineer, briefly for Motorola and then a start-up firm, before coming to teach at DeVry University in Fresno. He became program dean of the College of Engineering/Information Sciences.

But in 2015, DeVry shut down its engineering programs locally because of

changes in student aid at for-profit colleges and universities. Sultana started looking for a new job. His former co-worker, FPU Registrar Michael Allen, introduced him around Fresno Pacific.

Sultana met Cianci, who later said it was as if “God dropped Simon out of the sky.” He had the right background and credentials to revive a computer science program at Fresno Pacific—a long-held goal of Cianci’s.

She eventually decided instead to establish the software engineering program as a way for students to use principles of computer science to develop high-quality software in professional settings. It was a testament to nimble decision-making that seeks to best position students for the ever-changing job market. Sultana suggested the software program after being hired on a one-year faculty contract and making a crucial discovery. “I talked to local industry leaders, and one thing that kept coming up was the need for employees who understand how to develop software and know how to work with other people, how to communicate their ideas and how to communicate with a customer,” he said.

That all-important communication component is not central to most theory-heavy computer science programs. FPU’s software engineering program will stress communication as it balances theory and application.

In December, FPU faculty and administrators approved the program, which will offer both a bachelor of arts and a bachelor of science. The latter will have a heavier mathematics component.

LEARNING BY DOING

Now comes the exciting part. Students in the program will get

experience meeting customers’ needs in their classes. The curriculum will include two semesters of projects—students will volunteer one semester for a nonprofit organization, such as a church or school, and one semester for a business to develop a needed software product.

The project might be designing a website to gather data, collecting feedback from customers or connecting online customer orders with inventory and then process payments. “We don’t want to have classes where we’re talking about something as an abstract concept only,” Sultana says. “We are going to push learning by doing.”

FPU already has started to publicize software engineering. Admissions counselors, student counselors and student callers using the telephone, email and mail to reach prospective students have been educated about the program. The university’s app also has been updated. “Our goal would be to encourage students to stay local and help better their home, and this major is one way they can do that,” says Jason Munoz, enrollment marketing coordinator.

Fresno Pacific’s already solid reputation will be enhanced by the software engineering program. “When we think of FPU grads, we traditionally think of great teachers and excellent business people,” says Mily of Geekwise Academy. “With technology being the fastest-growing industry on the planet, I think we’ll soon be looking to FPU for innovators and mentors in technology.” 🏠

By developing a background in computers, they will be able to use computers more effectively and efficiently. — Simon Sultana

IN TOUCH with ALUMNI

SUNBIRDS **4** LIFE

We want you to stay informed, interested and active in university life by attending athletic, music, drama and other events; praying for current students, faculty and staff; and providing financial support for FPU's mission.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ivan Paz (SEM '15, BA '09) and Noemi Vega (current seminary student) participated in Urbana 15, December 27-31, 2015, in St. Louis, MO. Urbana 15 is InterVarsity's 24th Student Missions Conference co-hosted by InterVarsity/USA, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada and Groupes Bibliques Universitaires et Collégiaux du Canada. Paz opened the Urban Poverty Track plenary session with a 20-minute message to more than 3,000 students about what a theology of shalom looks like in the inner-city. Vega led the Spanish morning Bible studies in Matthew, served in prayer ministry and in a mixer for Latino/a staff recruitment. More at urbana.org.

Seth Ramirez (BA '15) is working as an economic development specialist for the Fresno County Economic Development Corporation.

Stan Rodrigues (MA '15) recently landed his dream job as a soccer coach at Eastern Oregon University. His wife, Angela, and two sons (ages 3 and 11) are happy, and Stan says his degree from FPU has helped him immensely.

Mason Brady (BA '13) is now working as the director of finance and supply at Homegrown Organic Farms in Porterville, CA, and is also in charge of international business development in South America. He graduated from the International MBA program in Madrid, Spain, in the top 20 percent of his class. This MBA program was ranked 12th in the world by *Financial Times* in 2015.

Tony Calvillo (MBA '12, BA '03) is a realtor with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services California Realty. He is married to wife Rocio, and has daughter Kamilah Alessandra (2).

Gonzo Villegas (BA '12) is working for Senator Tom Berryhill in his Fresno District Office. His role as a district representative and outreach coordinator centers around health, education and economic policy and outreach in the Hispanic community.

Brittany Baker (BA '11) is a missions teacher, librarian and coach at Capital Christian High School, Sacramento, CA.

Erica Cuellar (BA '11) is the special projects associate for the Office of the President at Esperanza Inc. in Philadelphia. She has lived in Philly for over two years now and loves it, although she still considers California to be one of her homes.

Colette Wilson-Nwonye (MA '10) accepted her third term as District I Director for the International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP) Sacramento Chapter, as well as a second term as Education Chair IAWP Fresno Chapter.

Melissa Bergen (SEM '09, BA '04) has been hired part-time by Shafter Mennonite Brethren Church for a dual role—pastor at Iglesia Compañerismo Cristiano and local missions outreach for Shafter Mennonite Brethren Church. Her job is to build bridges between the two congregations. The two churches and Melissa have been creating and building this position for the last four years.

Jessica Rybaczyk (TC '09, BA '08) served during the summer of 2015 with Students International in Costa Rica, and raised support to return to Costa Rica to serve there with the organization long-term. She flew out in January.

Whitney (Hutton BA '08) Bunker launched a nonprofit organization called City Without Orphans, which helps bring resources and awareness to families, churches, foster/adoptive children and the local child welfare system. More at citywithoutorphans.com

Tiffany Sarkisian Rodriguez (BA '05) is a communication studies instructor at Clovis Community College.

Nori Jo Naylor (MA '01) received a Doctorate in Education from the Graduate School of Education at University of California, Riverside, after successfully defending her dissertation titled, "How Political Language Matters: Proposition 227 in the Political Spectacle." While there, Nori was awarded the Flora Ida Ortiz Endowed Scholarship. After earning her M.A. in TESOL at FPU she taught ESL at the community college level for several years. Nori plans to apply the knowledge she has gained through her education and her teaching experience to advocate for the improved academic achievement of English learners and immigrant students in California.

Rev. Virgil Kleinsasser (BA '68) and wife Edna celebrated 70 years of marriage September 14, 2015. "How I thank the Lord for the wonderful wife, coworker, helpmate and soul mate of all these

Alumni are valued members of the FPU community!

**let's
connect**

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ADVISE/MENTOR students through Sunbirds CAN - fresno.edu/Sunbirds-can

years," Virgil said. "At 92 for me and 91 for Edna, we long for and pray daily for the upward calling into His presence soon." Born and raised in rural Dinuba, CA, Virgil attended the rural Zion Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Church, founded in 1910 by his grandfather, Rev. John Z. Kleinsasser. His father, Rev. John J. Kleinsasser, was also pastor. Virgil was drafted in 1943 into the U.S. Army as a conscientious objector and placed in the medical corps, serving with the 43rd General Hospital in Oran, Africa; Naples, Italy; and the Marseilles area in France. When the European War was over, he was transferred to a station hospital on the way to the Philippines to take in battle casualties from the planned invasion of Japan when the war ended. Still in the Army, Virgil married college sweetheart Edna Voth on September 14, 1945, in Dinuba. Both graduated from Biola University. They became Mennonite Brethren missionaries and spent 25 years in Nigeria and Ghana with Sudan Interior Missions (SIM). While on furlough, Virgil was asked to be the third-generation pastor of the Zion (now) Mennonite Brethren Church, where he served for three years and earned his B.A. in history from Fresno Pacific. Starting in 1970, the couple spent six years in Ghana with SIM before Virgil was named SIM regional director for California, Nevada and Arizona. He retired from that post. Virgil and Edna kept serving in a local church in La Mirada, CA, moving into The Palms, a local retirement facility, in 2013.

& Human Services Agency. He also earned an M.A. in Rehabilitation Counseling from California State University, Fresno in 2002 and is working toward a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration with specialization in local government management for sustainable communities. Since graduating from FPU, Seng has been a counselor/case manager with Vocational Management Services, a social worker with EMQ FamiliesFirst, a social worker supervisor with Fresno Adult Day Health Care Facility and a program director with Empowerment Institute. He has been with Tulare County for the last five years. He and his wife have been married for 16 years and have three boys and two girls. The family lives in Fresno.



IN THE NEWS

Lilia Gonzales Chavez (MA '08) has been appointed by Governor Brown to the California State Summer School for the Arts Board of Trustees. More at gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=19177

Joe Benge (FS '11) was named the Minor League Coordinator of the Year for 2015 by the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society for his work with the Tampa Bay Rays. More at pbats.com/pbats-announces-milb-toy-winners/

Vicky Kusnierek (TC '04, BA '02) was honored by Tulare County as Educator of the Year in October of 2015. Vicky's interest in teaching began when she volunteered in an elementary classroom. She quickly became excited about learning and decided to pursue a teaching credential. She has been teaching at Pleasant View School West for 12 years. More at recorderonline.com/news/poplar-teacher-honored/article_caea4134-5ee9-11e5-b3f4-ff85d051fe62.html

Seng (BA '97) Yang is deputy public guardian/resource specialist at Tulare County Health

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MARRIAGES



Joe Eldridge (BA '15) married **Jessica Johnson (BA '15)** on October 24, 2015.

Eldar Moraru (BA '10) married **Kayla Maloney** on May 30, 2015 at Grace Church of Sacramento in Citrus Heights, CA.

Doug Kulungu (BA '10) married **Patience Kusangila** July 25, 2015, in Kinshasa, the capital of his home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo. Doug runs the nonprofit **Kulungu For Congo**, which built a computer center to train Congolese to use computers and provides scholarships to 25 college students. For the future, the group plans to provide clean water to a village of more than 10,000 people and hopes to build village schools. More at kulunguforcongo.com

Bailey-Ann Boyle (BA '09) married **Keopanya Keoprasith** on November 14, 2015.

Giedre Gadeikyte (MA '01) married **Wayne Norman** on April 25, 2015 in Nida, Lithuania. Both work at LCC International University in Klaipeda, Lithuania.



BIRTHS



Amanda Flores (BA '15) announces the birth of son **Carson James McKnight** on October 26, 2015. Both mom and baby completed the liberal arts bachelor's degree completion program at the Bakersfield Campus.



Daniel (BA '05) and Hanna (Nielsen BA '04) York announce the birth of daughter **Raelynn Margaret** on March 18, 2015. She was 8 lbs., 7 oz. and 20 inches long.

Kristin (Bartel TC '04, BA '03) Lee and husband **Jason** announce the birth of daughter **Lisette Grace** on September 18, 2015. She joins sister **Dinah Elizabeth**, 2.

Christine (Gregory BA '03) Pereira and husband **Jithin** announce the birth of son **Luke Michael** on November 9, 2015.

Michael Davidson (BA '10) and wife **Taylor** announce the birth of daughter **Jordan Renee**. Michael is currently associate pastor of family ministry at Central Community Church, Fresno.

Kyle (BA '07) and Diana (Dersch BA '06) Reynolds announce the adoption of sons **Joel**, 10, and **Rocko**, 2. They join brother **Deonte**, 9, who was adopted in November 2012.



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ADOPTION



LIVES
transformed | McKENZIE LAIN

Wallflower Blooms in Service, Spirit

By Alison Rosa

McKenzie Lain is a self-described former wallflower who has blossomed under the care and nourishment of Fresno Pacific University. The sophomore traveled to Fresno from her home state of Arizona after hearing about FPU on the radio and has been enjoying her experience ever since. Drawn by smaller class sizes and a larger sense of community, Lain has found a home and life-changing experiences among students and faculty.

It is common for students at FPU to grow in mind, body, and spirit, and Lain has experienced a new emphasis on her relationship with God. "I was able to make faith my own, coming to FPU," she says. Lain is a psychology major who works in the Office of Spiritual Formation, as well as leading others during College Hour through the spirit care team.

Lain has developed a passion for mission work and has travelled the globe teaching others about the grace of God while growing as an individual. She has served in Thailand and Haiti and plans to go to Portugal this summer. On her trips, Lain helps children learn English, teaches Bible study and offers services wherever they are needed. "When we go to these places, we are there to help in any way that we can," she says.

After graduation, Lain plans to continue her passion to serve and improve the lives of others through working in marriage and family counseling. The experiences and relationships cultivated at FPU will allow her to help others bloom. "This is a community, this is your family," she says. 🏠

EDITOR'S
NOTE!

Do you know a student who has been transformed at FPU? Contact Wayne Steffen at wsteffen@fresno.edu

the | BIRDCAGE |

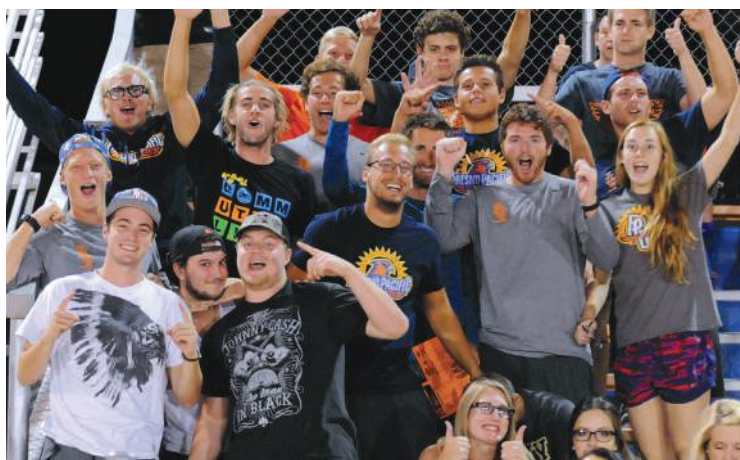
rallying for improvement

By Allison Rosa

In the stands of an FPU basketball game, a spectator can see and hear what The Bird Cage has become. Students adorn themselves in anything boasting the blue and orange. Amidst the squeaks of shoes on the hardwood floor, the gym is filled with applause and cheers from the student section. The cheerleaders are front and center and Sunny the Sunbird tumbles through the stands. Words of encouragement are shouted across the Special Events Center, and an energetic passion pulses through the audience.

The Bird Cage is a student group that promotes university pride and an involved presence at FPU sporting events. From its first appearance two years ago with just three students, the group now rallies 50-70 students per athletic event. As the small group rallied at more events, the following gained more attention until the concept of an organized student section began to emerge. Through the power of peer connection and word-of-mouth, the group began to grow in numbers.

John Samson, one of the co-founders, works to maintain



and encourage growing numbers in student involvement and support for Sunbird athletic teams.

Sophomore Michelle Howard works with both The Bird Cage and the Student Life Office staff. Student life seeks to increase student participation in all activities, including sports. "We want to bridge the gap between athletics and student life," she said.

Though Howard, Samson and the others didn't know it, their work was fitting into a larger university goal. One focus of the FPU Strategic Plan is to maintain a consistently competitive athletics program. A large and enthusiastic crowd is an important, and appreciated, boost to athletes and coaches. "Athletics is an important part of the student experience here at FPU. It serves as a source of pride, a unifying factor for students, staff, faculty and alumni.

We're thankful for the role The Bird Cage plays in





creating a positive game environment for our teams. When the group is out in full force, it raises the energy level of the entire venue. It's exciting for our teams to be able to compete in a game-day atmosphere that showcases the vibrant student life on this campus," said Jeremiah Wood, associate athletics director.

Going beyond the call of game support, members of The Bird Cage have plans for activities, such as raffles and competitions, to generate interest and raise funds for the athletics department. T-shirts and other gear are also in the works. Through hosting events and collaborating with local businesses, The Bird Cage hopes to improve the athletics facilities and assist not only players, but spectators as well. "Pack the gym, pack the baseball field, pack the soccer field—that's my goal," Howard said. 🏠



Ben and Janice Norton

MANY HATS MUCH SUCCESS

By Wayne Steffen

Soccer Coach

Residence Hall
Parents

First Chief of
Safety & Security

Athletics Director

Missionaries

Teachers abroad
Lebanon, China

A do-it-yourself approach has taken Ben and Janice Norton to success in fields as varied as soccer, missions and education.

Oh, dry sense of humor hasn't hurt. Some examples splashed with both qualities:

- Ben (SEM '77, BA '71) writing his own *Fresno Bee* soccer articles because staff writers rarely attended games and misquoted him when they did. "It was usually a half-inch column somewhere, but it was attention," he says.
- Janice (BA '71), meanwhile, cooked for the team, when she wasn't raising a family that would eventually grow to two boys and two girls or teaching elementary school. "I don't know how she did it," Ben says.
- Planting a Mennonite Brethren church in the small town of Midway, British Columbia, Canada, with five other couples. "We never knew what it was midway between," Ben says.
- Teaching at, overseeing and founding schools in Lebanon, Hong Kong and Beijing and traveling to more than 35 countries in the process.

from high school in Taiwan. Janice is a Washington State native who didn't plan to marry a Canadian. "When you live on the border there's always that little rub and tension," she said. But Ben brought her around. "When you love someone it doesn't really matter."

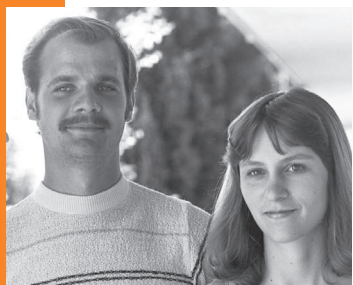
After stints at Judson Baptist College and Westmont College, Ben took Fresno Pacific up on its offer of a soccer scholarship, earning his degree in social science. With several alumni in the family, Janice's path to Fresno was more direct and she finished her degree in English with a minor in psychology.

After graduation Ben went to work for Standard Brands in Calgary and Janice joined him after they married in July, 1972. Feeling a growing desire to attend seminary, Ben contacted Gary Nachtigall, then athletics director, and the couple was back in Fresno.

From 1974-1989 the soccer team, then the Vikings, amassed a 154-140-32 record with Ben as coach and Janice as supporter. In 1980 the team earned the school's first NAIA district championship in any sport with a 2-1 victory over Westmont. A kid named Jaime Ramirez—fellow FPU Hall of Fame member and today's head coach—fired the winning goal.

In addition to coaching, Ben and Janice were residence hall parents and Ben was the first chief of safety and security as well

continues on page 29



From the beginning

Canadian by background, Ben Norton was a missionary kid from India who graduated

Ainger-Schulte returns to coach Sunbird volleyball

A star returns as Tracy Ainger-Schulte (MA '06, BA '97) takes over as coach of the women's volleyball program she once led.

"We couldn't be more excited to welcome back one of our own to lead such a storied program," said Aaron Henderson, director of athletics, at the February 9 announcement. "Tracy's experience as a player, a coach and a leader in the volleyball community is unmatched in the Central Valley. While her accomplishments in the realm of athletics speak for themselves, what really stands out are her character, her integrity, her unwavering faith and her passion for student-athlete success on and off the court."

In nine years as coach at Fresno City College, Ainger-Schulte led the Rams to as many conference titles and two state final four appearances while earning Central Valley Conference Coach of the Year honors every season. Her 205-45 record includes an extraordinary mark of 124-2 in CVC matches.

"I would like to thank President Richard Kriegbaum, Director of Athletics Aaron Henderson and the search committee for

giving me this opportunity to be a part of the FPU community once again," Ainger-Schulte said. "I am humbled by God's goodness, and by his graces, in bringing me to this exact place, at this exact moment in my life. It is an honor to get to return to the place where it all started for me."

Prior to coaching at FCC, Ainger-Schulte spent three years on staff at FPU (2003-05) becoming associate head coach and an integral part of the 2003 national championship team. In three seasons, 1994-96, she led the Sunbirds to three straight GSAC titles and two NAIA final fours. She was a three-time First Team All-American and the 1996 NAIA National Player of the Year.

Ainger-Schulte ranks first in program history in career digs and digs per set, second in kills per set and third in overall kills. Her 1,032 digs in 1994 remains the single-season school record. She holds FPU records for most digs in a match with 61 and most aces in a match with 12 (twice). Her #11 jersey is the only FPU number to be retired.

Prior to FPU she starred in tennis and volleyball at FCC and was a standout in



volleyball, basketball and tennis at Reedley High School. Ainger-Schulte has been inducted into three halls of fame: the NAIA Hall of Fame in 2003, the FPU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009 and the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010.

Ainger-Schulte will also teach in the kinesiology department. Her FCC teams have been awarded the AVCA Academic Team Award and she has designed curriculum for multiple FCC kinesiology classes.

As the sixth head coach in Fresno Pacific Volleyball history, Ainger-Schulte rejoins a program with an all-time record of 985-255 as well as six national championships and 17 conference titles in 34 seasons. 🏠

Sports Notebook

Jaime Ramirez won his 300th game as men's soccer coach during this year's PacWest Championship match. The Sunbirds qualified for the NCAA postseason for the first time in school history with the win, and also earned their second PacWest title in three years. Renato Bustamante was

selected PacWest Player of the Year and to the NCAA Division II All-American First Team. Teammate Jorge Chedraui made the All-American Second Team.

Men's water polo, under head coach Bryan Suhovy, received votes in the national poll for the first time in school history.

Following the season, the Sunbirds had a school-record four student-athletes named All-Americans: Daniel Seymour, Zlatko Vlastic, Dillon Robinson and David Maes. Seymour, a three-time All-American and multiple school record holder, is moving on to play professionally after graduation. 🏠

This Just In!

C.J. Haydock named head men's basketball coach in April. More at fpuathletics.com



in step with the
SUNBIRDS



Helping Students Connect to Opportunity

Andrews Family Scholarship

The right word at the right time can make all the difference.

For Jeff Andrews, those words came from a friend in fourth grade: “Hey, you want to play drums this summer?”

Both boys started a summer music program. The friend quickly went on to other things, but Jeff discovered a passion for percussion that coalesced into the desire to give others the chance he had.

“That opened up a whole new world for me,” Jeff says. Hoping to open new worlds for others, Jeff and his wife Laura started The Andrews Family Endowed Music Scholarship with a \$10,000 contribution.

As Jeff progressed through high school and college he majored in music and wrote, arranged and gave command performances in competitions. When it came time to earn

a living and raise a family, Jeff followed another passion—aviation—founding Niacc-Avitech in 1983. He is now vice president and general manager of the Clovis-based firm, which tests, recertifies and repairs aircraft systems.

Meanwhile music has become a member of the Andrews family. Jeff and Laura, a singer, performed together in a worship band. “That was a very fulfilling thing for us,” she says.

Son John played trombone and some drums as well as baseball in school and daughter Christine (now Simon) took piano when she wasn’t following her love of theater. Today John is manager of national accounts support at Lyons Magnus foodservice company and Christine is assistant to the president and dean of Fresno

Pacific Biblical Seminary. The family attends The Well Community Church, Fresno.

Some of Jeff’s employees are FPU alumni; he’s been impressed. “To me it’s a silent giant here in Fresno. If I were going to pick any university in the area to do something with, it would be this one,” he says.

FPU President Richard Kriegbaum, Ph.D., sees the way Jeff has blended the creative and the technical in his life as mirroring how the university integrates the arts and sciences. “We’re whole people in God’s image,” Kriegbaum says. “The right side of the brain is as important as the left side.”

For Jeff, that right word at the right time can spark a brain, a spirit, a life. “How can we afford that same opportunity to be next little Jeff Andrews?” he asks. 🏠

Retirees Made Their Mark, continues from page 7

and later, with wife Ruth, a nurse, to work for a construction firm. As a pastor he led one Canadian church to build its first building and knocked on 700 doors with Youth Mission International volunteers to start another congregation. As head of Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission he carried missionary stories throughout the U.S. and Canada, then at AMBS completed a \$24 million campaign.

Through it all Prieb has linked people and ministry. "People give through stories that appeal to their interests," he said. 🏠

Many Hats Much Success, continues from page 26

as athletics director. "I just kept adding hats," he says.

Though Fresno Pacific was comfortable, the couple decided to put Ben's seminary degree in missions to work in Midway. The move to Lebanon, to an American school for the children of American Lebanese, missionaries and corporate executives, came from 1997-2001, with Janice teaching elementary and Ben physical education. He also chaired that department and served as athletics director amid another plethora of administrative roles too numerous to remember.

Starting in 2001 the family spent about a decade at the International Christian School in Hong Kong. Ben was principal, then headmaster and Janice taught middle school before becoming librarian. Their most recent project was a stint from 2012-2015 founding Hope International School in the Chinese capital.

Always looking forward

For their next adventure, Ben and Janice are founding the Center for Teaching Excellence in Beijing to instruct administrators and teachers in inquiry-based learning and critical thinking, "to get Chinese teachers trained in a different worldview and prepared for changes in the Chinese educational system," Ben says.

In all their roles, the Nortons can take comfort from a record where things got better over time. *Bee* coverage improved after Fresno Pacific hosted the NAIA soccer nationals in 1984 and made it to the finals, the Midway church is a healthy congregation of 70-80 people and enrollment at the International Christian School grew from 550-600 to 1,100 students while they were there and has experienced what Ben calls "many miracles" since.

Ben hopes he has been a positive influence; first on his players, despite his own youth, and since. "What we do now has much eternal significance in the teachers we influence, the businessmen we work with and helping change the culture to one of a love-based education," he says. 🏠



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IN TOUCH



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The FPU community—made up of students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, friends and donors—is a generous community. In addition to dollar gifts to the university, many give of their time, talent and treasure to churches, non-profit organizations and other places in our larger community. 🏠

FPU Faculty and Staff...



Over 80 volunteer in some capacity at local non-profits

Over 35 volunteer at their church



20 serve as board members in local organizations

5 are pastors in addition to their role at FPU



From a survey conducted last year by faculty and staff.

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honestly say that it has been an amaz-
ing journey so far. I've been able to
learn so much, not just academically,
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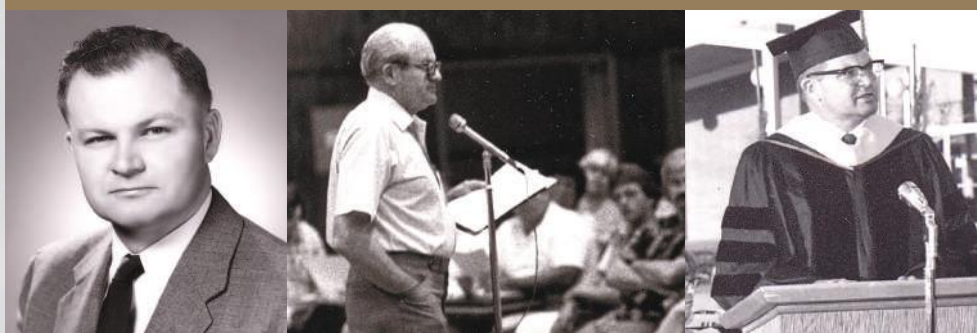
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