

# PACIFIC

FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY | VOL. 28, NO. 1



## Teammates in Life

**TOP 10** P. 4

**PASTORAL**  
SUPPORT P. 6

**STEM**  
SUCCESS P. 11



RICHARD KRIEGBAUM, PH.D.

## president's message

# THE FOOD, OR THE ULTIMATE CONDITION

A very successful national restaurant chain studied its entire operation for ways to improve total performance. It is what successful organizations do to remain successful over long periods of time in constantly changing conditions. One action was to adopt a different ultimate measure of success. The company wanted to see happy people leaving the restaurant.

Not just people with full tummies, but people who were feeling happy. Ultimately, it was not about the menu, the taste of the food, the training of the staff or any of a hundred other factors. It was not even about whether the customers felt they got what they expected. It was about how happy people felt when someone at the door said "goodbye" as they left. They were a restaurant selling food, but their indicator of success was the feeling at the farewell.

After many months of labor, the FPU Board of Trustees approved a revised strategic plan for the university. The trustees did not approve a huge set of wonderful things that everyone wants to do. Instead they approved a set of desired conditions that describe the future reality they believe God wants for Fresno Pacific University and Biblical Seminary, and the world we are called to serve and change by God's grace. At this level of planning there is one controlling issue:

*How will the world and the church be different if Fresno Pacific University succeeds at the business God has called us to do in his kingdom on earth?*

This is our present response:

Wherever Fresno Pacific University graduates are present in the world they will be recognized for consistently demonstrating wise and effective ethical leadership through generous and compassionate service and professional excellence that embodies the kingdom of Christ on earth.

Like every aspect of an effective planning process, this spacious statement of our desired reality will be modified as we gain wisdom. To make that bold vision a reality, we must make countless other conditions happen by constantly implementing the best available strategies. The strategies are all the different ways we get that job done.

The strategies include great facilities,

large endowments, generous donors, excellent faculty, staff, students and board members and especially faithful prayer supporters.

We do not want to just feed students a fine education. The ultimate desired condition is FPU alumni who are empowered by their education and by the Gospel of Jesus to transform relationships, families, communities, professions, organizations and churches.

Every Wednesday, President Rich Kriegbaum and Provost/Senior Vice President Steve Varvis share their leadership perspective through a short video and blog. Subscribe for free at [fpu.edu/cp-signup](https://fpu.edu/cp-signup)

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

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*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*



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**MAY 2015**



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for the  
future of  
**VALLEY  
PHARMACY**



FPU's  
partnership  
with a new  
university will  
help fill a void  
in medical  
care.



California Health Sciences University and Fresno Pacific University are working together to bring the future of pharmacy to the Central Valley.

To those who remember, the past is a kindly business owner found at the soda fountain as often as at the pharmacy counter. "People called him Doc," says CHSU professor Robert Clegg, Ph.D.

The present is a man or woman juggling lines of customers at the drive-in and walk-in areas of a chain store. If the pharmacist of the present looks tired, it's because he or she is likely putting in extra hours to keep up with increasing demand. "There's something of a shortage of pharmacists in the Central Valley," says David Hawkins, Pharm.D., vice president for academic affairs and dean of pharmacy at CHSU.

Karen Cianci, Ph.D., dean of the FPU School of Natural Sciences, agrees. "Most pharmacists are working double overtime," she says.

Very soon, pharmacists will be members of the primary care team, working directly with physicians. "It's not just dispensing medications; it's taking care of patients, which is a much more rewarding career," Hawkins says.

The universities have entered into a partnership where FPU pre-pharmacy undergraduates transfer to CHSU after three years and complete their four-year doctorate of pharmacy program, saving one year of study and resulting in degrees from both institutions. "We would reserve seats for those students," Hawkins says.

### Building a university

That future is taking shape at 120 N. Clovis Ave., Clovis, where CHSU—founded in 2012 and the only pharmacy school in the region—has one building of 32,000 square feet and plans for a second. But enter the lobby and see the dream: a painting of Millerton Lake, where CHSU plans a 179-acre campus that would ultimately include a medical school and a school of allied health producing physician's assistants, occupational and physical therapists and nurse practitioners.

Current facilities include two seminar classrooms, a library with both books and computer terminals, a student lounge, study rooms, research lab and faculty offices where 15 faculty teach 72 students. Major funding

comes from the Assemi family, owners of Granville Homes, which since 1977 has built more than 5,000 houses in the Central Valley. A \$75,000 gift from Walgreens has allowed for a pharmacy practice lab with five exam rooms, sterile and compounding labs. Throughout, the décor resembles a high-end medical specialty practice or professional venue with walls, art and carpet in muted tones.

The curriculum is as forward-looking as the facilities, built on "team-based learning." "We don't lecture to our students, because students don't learn in a lecture; they memorize. I want to get them involved," says Hawkins, who has spent 40 years as a professor and administrator in pharmacy and medical schools in Texas, North Carolina, Georgia and California.

Team-based learning was invented more than 30 years ago by a business professor at the University of Oklahoma. Hawkins used it in his previous position as dean of the California Northstate University College of Pharmacy, and has edited a book, *Team-Based Learning Guide for Faculty in the Health Professions*, as well as a student guide. Among the attributes of team-based learning are class discussion and assignments and examinations given to teams as well as individuals that engage students more than traditional classes.

### Professionals for the Valley

CHSU plans to increase enrollment to 320 in the next four years (and double the faculty)—that's where FPU comes in. Hawkins has already visited FPU and met with students. He was impressed. "They asked great questions and had great comments," he says.

Like FPU, CHSU is in the Central Valley to transform lives and communities in this region. While many new pharmacy graduates gather experience here, then move somewhere else, CHSU hopes to prepare local students for careers in local communities. The partnership builds on FPU's strong science program and general education courses in the arts, professions and social sciences. Another boost for FPU students is a gift from the Isnardi Foundation, founded by Vince Isnardi, himself a Fresno pharmacist, to fund two paid summer internships. "We're

The partnership builds on FPU's strong science program and general education courses in the arts, professions and social sciences.



*Continued on page 21*

# GRAND SLAM:

## Student Scores in

A team led by senior John Koretoff (BA '15, business administration - finance) and advised by Jim Bryan, Ed.D., associate professor of business administration, placed ninth in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual CME Group Trading Challenge.

FPU didn't just place in the top 10, they did so alongside such schools as the University of Alabama (Birmingham), Boston University and Carnegie Mellon as well as universities from China, Japan, Germany and Zimbabwe. The challenge is a four-week competition where undergraduate and graduate teams trade CME Group futures. "This is the only competition available for students to trade on a real-time professional trading platform [and] gather a first-hand understanding of how to trade futures and manage risk," according to Genevieve Nyren of the Edelman public relations firm, representing CME Group.

A worldwide derivatives marketplace, CME Group ([cmegroup.com](http://cmegroup.com)) offers a wide range of products, including futures and options based on interest rates, equity indexes, foreign exchange, energy, agricultural commodities, metals, weather and real estate. CQG, Inc. ([cqq.com](http://cqq.com)) provides trade routing, global market data and advanced technical analysis. CQG partners with more than 100 futures exchanges around the world.

### Real-world experience

"This was real-world experience," says Bryan. "[Participants were doing] live trading on the exchange. The only thing that wasn't real was the money being used. The commissions being 'paid,' and the volatility of the markets were real."

The students—representing more than 500 teams from 226 colleges and universities in 37

“This was real-world experience.”

- Jim Bryan







The FPU team took  
ninth out of 500  
teams worldwide.

## Futures Trading World Series *By Katie Fries*

countries—traded on a professional trading platform provided by CQG and learned about market events by accessing professional resources like live Dow Jones newsfeeds and *The Hightower Report*.

A catcher/infielder for the Sunbird baseball team, Koretoff developed an interest in the financial industry in high school but didn't seriously consider a career in the commodities future market until recently. A Clovis West High School classmate, Michael Brown, placed fourth in the 2012 competition as part of a team from Menlo College. His encouragement and mentorship played a role in Koretoff's decision to take on the 2015 Challenge, Koretoff says.

Bryan agreed to be faculty advisor, and two classmates and fellow baseball players, Wilson Ashford and Michael Tittle, rounded out the team to provide the requisite number of participants. Then it was time to get down to business—literally. Koretoff sent in the application and spent his Christmas break studying and strategizing.

"We were approved for the competition by early December and at that point I ordered my study book for the National Futures Association Series 3 Exam," Koretoff says. Though it was not a required text, Koretoff thought the exam would provide him with industry knowledge that would prove useful in the competition. "I would need to take it before starting a career in the field following graduation [anyway]," he added. Passing the exam in early January, he then familiarized himself with the software used in the challenge.

In the initial round of competition, teams

were given a virtual \$100,000 with which to trade on the commodities exchange. Koretoff chose to focus on crude oil futures, hoping its volatility would allow him to do well. He had to stay on top of the markets and continually research the subject to make decisions about his trades.

"As the competition went on and I became more comfortable with this particular asset class, I looked to combine fundamental reports from the American Petroleum Institute, Energy Information Administration and Baker Hughes into my decision-making," Koretoff says. "Additionally, I stayed alert for news coming out of influential OPEC members Libya, Iran, Ukraine and Greece. Each of those sources possessed potential to cause price movement."

After the first round, Koretoff found his team in ninth place overall. As one of the top 50 teams, he was invited to continue to the second round, in which each team started fresh in the standings, this time with \$250,000. Even with some setbacks, he was able to again finish in the top 10.

### Coming from behind

"My make or break moment came two days before the conclusion of the championship round when I made a bad call on a position I had been building for over a week," Koretoff says. "I had to make a strategy adjustment in order to still place in the top 10. I recovered, made the adjustment and entered the trade that recovered all the losses plus a little extra to give us a ninth-place finish. It was stressful, but a great lesson."

Koretoff and Bryan traveled to Chicago for

the awards ceremony April 8-10, 2015. While there, Koretoff toured the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, went on the trading floor and networked with professionals in the field.

Bryan anticipates that those students who placed highly in the competition will have an edge when looking for employment because "firms are looking for people who can actually trade money."

That the team took ninth place out of more than 500 participants speaks to the richness and depth of FPU's business program. "I am extremely thankful for the education I received here," Koretoff says. "I loved being part of our academic and athletic communities. The students and faculty at this university are top-notch. The professors in the School of Business are exceptional. They do a spectacular job at expanding our views of the world and increasing our understanding."

With this success in his field before graduation, Koretoff has an eye toward the future. "My goal is to work for a financial firm in Chicago or Manhattan and specialize in energy sector analysis before pursuing a master's degree in financial engineering," he says. "Eventually, I want to run a hedge fund."

A tall goal, but a possible one, Bryan says. "A big part of the CME Group Challenge involved using expertise from classes taken. The broad range of courses offered at FPU [prepares students] to go down a career path of a Wall Street or commodities job," he added. 🏠





# [ FOUND IN trans·la·tion: ]

*Certificate Helps Pastors Build the Church in Their Language*

By Jaime Strmiska

For Jose Armenta of Fresno, the humble beginning of a homegrown Bible study was the early segue to a career and calling in pastoral ministry. As Armenta's small group swelled in size, so did the demand for added space—and the need for an official pastor. So after a small list of names was drawn up, placed in a basket and prayed over, Armenta's name was chosen. And for the past 19 years, he has pastored this flock of nearly 100 men and women at Templo Apocalipsis, an all-Spanish-speaking congregation in Central Fresno.

Armenta works two side jobs—playing music and tinting windows—to supplement his income. The complexities of working multiple jobs and pastoring a

small congregation have left little time for Armenta to further his education. Armenta is not alone. Statistics show that of the roughly 500 churches in Fresno, more than one-third are Spanish-speaking. Of those churches, just 5 percent have pastors with formal training. And like Armenta, many work one or two jobs on top of their full-time ministry.

"It's a huge challenge for Spanish-speaking pastors who are bi-vocational. Do I pursue a master's degree or feed my family?" says Rev. Jonathan Villalobos, M.A., senior pastor at Bethany Inner-City Church. "There's definitely a need for pastors in the area that have received the call from God but have never been able to receive a formal education."

Learning the ins and outs of running

a church is also an issue. "Many smaller Latino churches don't have the resources to hire an administrative pastor to handle keeping books, payroll, state filings," says Rev. Jim Rodriguez, B.A., senior pastor, United Faith Christian Fellowship.

## Getting started

Local, informal Bible schools have arisen to help Villalobos, Rodriguez and other Spanish-speaking church leaders, but none have been connected to an accredited institution. The desire for such an association led several Latino pastors to partner with the Fresno Pacific University Center for Community Transformation (CCT).

The CCT, part of the Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, began in 2012 with the mission to connect the strengths of FPU with the resources of the region to transform cities. CCT's aim is three-pronged: research community transformation solutions, convene leaders around those solutions and train God's people in the skill sets necessary to achieve those solutions.

See how the Center for Community Transformation is bringing faith to community development at [transformcentralvalley.org](http://transformcentralvalley.org)

GET  
INVOLVED!





CCT's Executive Director Randy White, D.Min, an urban ministry veteran in Fresno, had long been involved in conversations with local Latino leader friends about the lack of educational access for Spanish-speaking congregations. That made a natural fit to continue the dialogue through

### First success

As of May 1, 2015, more than 60 students from 12 Valley communities have registered for the program and 25 have graduated, some driving an hour or more one way to attend classes. One church is using CPML as its elder training program;

where CPML has prepared her to better interact with families. What started as a personal outreach has grown to include many others from her congregation, Delft Church of God, to lead Bible studies, help with fundraising and other activities. "It's opened the door for the whole congregation



the newly formed CCT. And in January 2014, the Certificate in Pastoral and Ministry Leadership (CPML) took shape.

Comprised of six modules—biblical training, leadership, pastoral care, Christian education, theology of a family and community transformation—the CPML gives Spanish-speaking pastors and lay leaders a higher level of training in leadership and community development. Classes include guest lecturers and are led by the same cluster of pastors who advocated for the CPML's creation.

Each module includes five weekly evening classes on the main FPU campus. From start to finish, the program can be completed in one year, or students can choose to pause and restart a new module as their schedule allows. Tuition is \$675 for the entire program.

"It's an access point for very gifted people to dig their well a little deeper and increase their tool belt, especially in the area of community transformation," White says.

another is shifting its weekly Bible study to send another dozen leaders to training. Students represent more than 20 churches from a cross-section of denominations.

"I love the fact that these are experienced pastors and lay leaders who want to grow," White says. "Their life position hasn't given them an access point, but the minute one is provided they take it."


Norma Del Toro of Delft knows this well. Del Toro's days are often busy managing a full-time day care that runs sometimes from as early as 4:30 a.m. into the late evening hours as well as serving in her church and spending time with her growing family. But she hungers to learn how to better minister in her community.

A friend's suggestion to consider the CPML program led Del Toro to an orientation night. One module turned into the next, and by December 2014, Del Toro earned her certificate.

Del Toro insists her education is already paying off in her volunteer work at Open Gate Ministries, a family shelter in Dinuba,

to have that opportunity to get out of the four walls," she says.

Building on the CPML, the seminary is increasing access to advanced education by creating an onramp for certificate graduates to step into graduate study. Some students, even though they have not completed a bachelor's degree, will be eligible to enter a master's program based on a combination of performance, ministry experience and the accumulation of a specified number of undergraduate credits.

White credits CPML's success to its founding pastoral team. They're the men who created the initiative, designed the curriculum and advocated for this marginalized group of men and women. "These leaders, by virtue of their partnership, have changed the landscape of the city," White says. 



# good READS:

## Faculty books add to education

*By Wayne Steffen*

**C**omputers in FPU academic offices have been humming. In less than 18 months, eight faculty have published seven books.

While these volumes are unlikely to top Amazon's sales list, scholarly publishing is integral to education. "When our professors write, it requires that they refine their own thinking and offer it to others," says Stephen Varvis, Ph.D., provost/senior vice president. "That refinement and discussion help them be better professors. They exercise their critical and creative abilities, and continue to develop."

Scholarship takes energy and courage, Varvis says "I admire our professors who write, and I read what they write—  
I enjoy learning from them."





**A book begun  
in childhood**  
**Freedom's Delay:**  
**America's Struggle for**  
**Emancipation,**  
**1776-1865**

University of Tennessee Press, July 2014,  
**Allen Carden, Ph.D.**, *professor of liberal arts  
and history/degree completion academic  
counselor*

Visiting an aunt in Florida in 1957, a thirsty young Allen Carden drank from the nearest fountain. His aunt picked Carden up and moved him away. "She said, Allen, that's not our drinking fountain," he recalled. His aunt pointed at the sign above the fountain and asked her nephew if he could read it: "Colored." "I said, Aunt Fay, is it different water?"

Back in his native Illinois a few years later, Carden's father took him for a haircut. The barber motioned him ahead of a black customer. After the cut, the barber told Carden's father: "He can sit in my shop all day but I won't cut his hair," Carden says. "My dad said, We're going to find another barber."

For Carden, this book reflects his calling as a Christian historian. "This is an offering of the scholarship of justice to God. I've talked about the past, but making application to the future," he says. "We're still not finished with the task."



**The Gospel  
that's needed**  
**Galatas, part**  
**of the Iberian**  
**American Biblical**  
**Commentaries Series**

Ediciones Kairos, October 2014  
**Mark Barker, Ph.D.**, *professor of mission and  
theology, Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary*

In a squatter community in Honduras, Mark Baker saw God's word being interpreted judgmentally, legalistically and without social justice. "Why in a place of such great need is the Gospel interpreted in such an individualistic way and not a holistic one?" he asked. This was not the Good News these people needed.

Baker took up the question again in this

commentary on Galatians. Starting work in 1996, Baker admits the project was a process of "trudging" through the verses. Writing in Spanish, not translating, slowed the work. "I'm fluent in Spanish...but it's evident in my writing that it's my second language," he says. Latin American seminary students corrected the manuscript.

Of the many Galatians commentaries in English and Spanish, this is the first in Spanish by an evangelical Protestant for Latin Americans. Like all books in this series, there is a section of pastoral applications. "It brings together serious biblical scholarship and the life of the church," Baker says.



**Christ  
above culture**  
**Ecclesial Identities in**  
**a Multi-Faith Context**  
**American Society of**

**Missiology Monograph Series**  
Wipf & Stock Publishers, January 2015,  
**Darren Duerksen, Ph.D.**, *assistant professor  
of intercultural studies*

The practices that bring one group of Christians closer to God can be labeled irrelevant and even a barrier by opponents. In India Darren Duerksen was drawn to write about innovative believers combining their culture with the teachings of Christ.

"I became aware of a variety of expressions of church," he says. "They have a very clear understanding of the Bible and the centrality of Christ."

Western music, for example, is not considered spiritual music by many in India. Some Christians have adapted bhajan, a form of song and poetry familiar and fitting for worship. Coconuts and coconut milk can replace bread and grape juice as sacraments. Changes may be as simple as sitting on the floor during worship.

The goal is sensitivity to family and community when practicing a religion too easily seen as foreign. The result brings a new and wonderful expression to the body of Christ. "Christianity is flourishing in the global South," Duerksen says.



**Beyond pop  
psychology**  
**Discovering**  
**Forgiveness:**  
**Pathways Through**  
**Injury, Apology, and**  
**Healing, volume 2 of the Theological**  
**Postings Series**

Cascadia Publishing House LLC,  
December 2014, **Larry Dunn, Ph.D.**,  
*associate professor of peacemaking and  
conflict studies*

There are many books on forgiveness, but quantity does not equal quality. "There is just a plethora out there, mostly in the pop psychology realm," Larry Dunn says.

Dunn saw the need for an accessible yet serious exploration. A sabbatical provided time, and Cascadia editor Michael King offered an opportunity. "He was not only interested, but they were starting a new series where he thought it might fit," Dunn says.

As for the need to enter the crowded field, Dunn quotes theologian Ron Sider, who goes back to Plato's notion of being led by the uninformed: "Somebody will write popularizing books 'for the average person,'" Sider says. "If those with scholarly training will not do it, they should not complain when those with little expertise do it badly..."

"If I'm honest I have to admit that I am one of those who disdains such writing. So I then took this as a challenge," Dunn says.



**The real  
final frontier**  
**Death, Resurrection,**  
**and Transporter**  
**Beams**

Wipf & Stock Publishers, August 2014, **Silas Langley, Ph.D.**, *adjunct faculty in philosophy*

In a half century of exploring the final frontier and saturating media from television shows to movies, novels and comic books, Star Trek has never explained transporter beams. Captains Archer, Pike, Kirk, Picard and Janeway and their landing parties have beamed up and down from planets and other locations without a word of how or why.



"It's an excellent metaphor for death and the afterlife," says Silas Langley. "It seems to me we Christians don't always have a clear idea on death and the resurrection of the body."

Langley wants Christians to be able to give a consistent, biblical account of what happens to both soul and body after death. Neuroscience research seems to explain all we attribute to the soul to brain functions. "Many people are challenging an afterlife and the belief in the soul," Langley says. On the other hand, Langley examines several consistent accounts that point toward a soul. "We can have rational beliefs regarding life after death," he says.



**A first for children, educators and families**

**Welcoming Children with Special Needs**  
WestBow Press,  
October 2014, **Julie M. Lane, Ed.D.,**

*assistant professor of special education/  
**Quentin P. Kinnison, Ph.D.,** associate professor of Christian ministries*

Julie Lane had an educational mission: help Christian schools establish programs for students with special needs. "We kept recreating the wheel. The missing piece

was the purpose piece: the why do we do this piece," Lane says.

That piece fell into place when Lane came to FPU and met Quentin Kinnison. The duo first developed a class: Theology of Disability. "The partnership was a natural one," Kinnison says.

Kinnison wrote the book's "Purpose" section, while Lane addressed the "Policy" and "Procedures" portions. "There's nothing like it in the world," Lane says.

Christian schools face challenges in providing for special needs students. While there are no legal requirements, there is no public aid. "If they do it, it's because they feel called," Lane adds.

Dependent on donations and tuition, some Christian schools concentrate on college-prep programs attractive to well-to-do parents and supporters. Others try to be inclusive, but get in over their heads. "They don't know how to create the atmosphere to serve this kind of student," Kinnison says.

The book bridges the gap between how and why. "It's an academic work, but it's also a practical work," Kinnison says.



**Respectable Christianity?**  
**Rethinking Paul's Rhetorical Education**

**Society of Biblical Literature**  
September 2013

**Ryan Schellenberg, Ph.D.,** *assistant professor of biblical and religious studies*

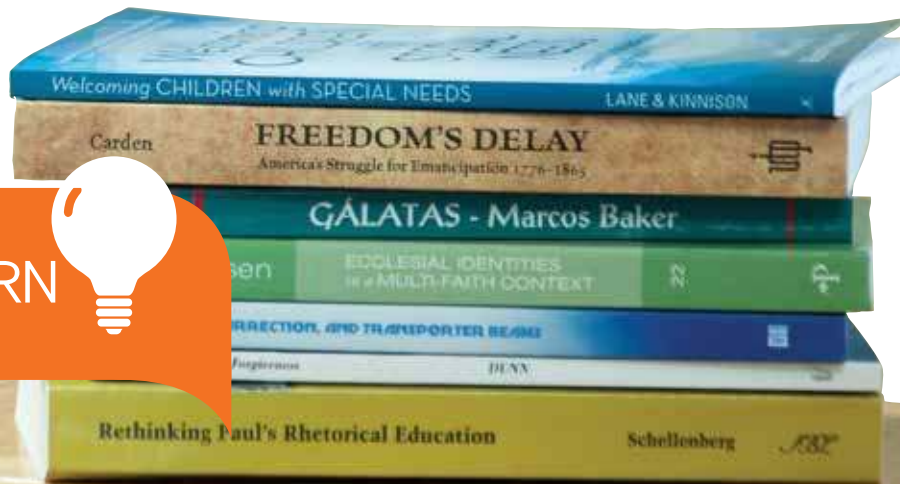
Paul was arguably second only to Christ in spreading the early Gospel—but who was he?

Traditional North American and European scholarship paints Paul as an educated—therefore wealthy—man who gave up everything. A lynchpin of this view is that Paul was trained in oratory. "If Paul had a rhetorical education, he was a person of social status," Ryan Schellenberg says. But Schellenberg argues Paul's rhetorical capacity was acquired through experience and practice—something he needed no wealth or status to access.

Schellenberg calls it telling that researchers in richer societies insist Paul was no mere tradesman, despite what he calls meager evidence. "We want Paul to be a respectable person," he says. Since Paul articulates the heart of Christianity, if he is of low status, for some Christians that calls into question the respectability of Christian doctrine. "I think it's ironic since Jesus himself questioned these very assumptions about wealth and power," Schellenberg says.

If Paul was always poor, it also throws a different light on his life after conversion. "Choosing poverty is usually considered more respectable than being poor," Schellenberg says.

*Editor's note: FPU wishes Schellenberg well as he joins the faculty of Methodist Theological School, Delaware, OH.* 🏠



FPU faculty pursue scholarship in many ways. See them all at [news.fresno.edu/articles/faculty-staff-focus](https://news.fresno.edu/articles/faculty-staff-focus)

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# Leading with our **STRENGTHS:**

## Relationships Lead to Success for STEM Students

*By Katie Fries*

**T**raditional values are helping a new generation of science students succeed at Fresno Pacific University.

An FPU education has always been about students building relationships with faculty and with one another that encourage learning. The Fresno Pacific Idea calls the university a “Community of Learners.” Techniques that have worked for students in education, business, psychology, ministry and other professions are being put to use in a fresh way in an emerging field.

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics—collectively known as STEM—is driving job creation throughout the nation.

President Obama launched Educate to Innovate, an initiative designed to catapult the United States from what he called the “middle of the pack” to the top in the fields of math and science achievement by 2020.

Reaching this goal means graduating students from groups traditionally not well represented in STEM-related majors and careers: Hispanics, African Americans and women, as well as those with disabilities, from low-income families and who are the first in their families to pursue higher education.

In short, most students at FPU and in the Central Valley. “The largest-growing work force [in the







nation] is Hispanic,” says Karen Cianci, Ph.D., dean of the School of Natural Sciences. “We’re one of the pockets with a higher Hispanic population. We can’t ignore 52 percent of our children.”

But social and cultural issues can provide roadblocks to success for these students. Among science majors, says Cianci, only 47 percent were passing (with a C or higher) the required introductory chemistry course. The success rate among Hispanic students stood at an even more dismal 24 percent, she adds. The goal became not just to recruit STEM students, but to keep them in the system all the way to graduation.

Since the cohort program began in 2010, results have been gratifying: the four-year graduation rate for the first cohort was 91 percent. Two students even graduated a semester early, and 84 percent of first-generation STEM students are on track to graduate in four years. Cohort students are also twice as likely to pass the required chemistry course as similar students not in the program. In all, 75 percent of STEM cohort

students remained in STEM majors between 2010, when the program began, and 2013.

The cohort accepts 20 Valley students each year and was established by a five-year, \$2.7 million dollar U.S. Department of Education grant. The grant is a cooperative effort between FPU and the College of the Sequoias community college. The two schools have developed articulation agreements to move STEM students from two-year to four-year programs. Although most participants come from Hispanic backgrounds, each cohort has included participants from Hmong and other groups.

Common roadblocks for low income, minority or first-generation college students include unfamiliarity with the academic culture and lack of parental or family support. These issues are first addressed before students even begin classes, with a one-week Summer Bridge program on the main FPU campus.

Everyone experiences a cultural shift from high school to college. “But for somebody from a blue collar background it is

another shift, and if you put ethnicity onto it, it’s a three-way shift,” Cianci says.

Any new student will find the academic community an alien environment with high expectations that many students, not just first-generation students, are not prepared to face. Students who did well in high school without cracking the books are often unable to cope. “We have kids walk in saying they’re A-students but they don’t know anything about studying,” Cianci says. “These are bright young people who don’t know how to work. The first step is mentally expecting the hours they will put in.”

Parents with no college experience are unable to help. “As a girl coming from a Hispanic family, it was difficult for my parents to understand I couldn’t go home every weekend, that I needed to stay to study. They didn’t have that experience, they didn’t understand the intensity of that workload,” says Yaneth Barreto, a member of the first STEM cohort, who graduated in the spring of 2015 with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry.





To overcome negative family reaction, parents are invited to the first day of Summer Bridge activities as well as two other socials during the school year where faculty and staff explain what is expected of students. These events, Cianci says, attempt to help parents see the university as part of their extended family.

The STEM cohort combines the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AACU) High Impact Educational Practices with FPU's "best practices." Students are placed in learning communities, take a first-semester course together and benefit from the mentorship of faculty and student mentor assistants. Cohort students also take 14 hours of their initial general education courses together.

Groups offer students a support system. "It is believed that learning is in community. Half of the students are residential, and they are put in the same residence halls. They are living and studying together and the commuters have a residential set of friends to hang out with," Cianci says.



“When you come out with a science degree from FPU...You know the material on a whole different level.”

- Michael Smith






Commuter students are notoriously unconnected to campus life wherever they are enrolled. Part of the grant money was used to convert the atrium of AIMS Hall of Mathematics & Science into a lounge where these students can meet and study. The message it conveys, Cianci says, "is that you are a full-time student."

Biology major Michael Smith credits the learning community with a huge role in his success, and was one reason he applied to FPU. "I knew I was not good at initiating things on my own and I needed some sort of accountability. It gave me a springboard to not be afraid to do things. I can lead study groups. I barely knew how to study before," says Smith, who became a mentor assistant.

Education at FPU has also always been about integrating knowledge and faith, which Smith and Barreto both appreciate. "The professors intertwine theory, ethics and morality into science in such a way that you feel what you're learning is to learn to uncover God's mystery," Smith says. "The more I focused on my area's

foundational theories and laws, the more I felt my faith increase," Barreto adds.

For the future, Barreto plans to earn a Ph.D. in soil science. Smith will spend the summer of 2015 doing an internship at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, working with alumnus Dean Lee, M.D., then return to FPU for his senior year. His ultimate goal is to become a pediatrician.

Both say the STEM cohort laid the foundation for deeper studies. "When you come out with a science degree from FPU, you don't come out with just a degree. You come out with reasoning skills, critical thinking skills. You know the material on a whole different level," Smith says. 

“The more I focused on my area’s foundational theories and laws, the more I felt my faith increase”

- Yaneth Barreto







20

students  
accepted

per  
semester

75%

of FPU STEM cohort  
students remained in STEM majors

91%

graduation rate for the first cohort

## Spreading the word of STEM success

Campus leaders are taking the story of FPU's success at retaining STEM students on the road.

Cindy Carter, Ph.D., associate provost for degree completion and institutional effectiveness, and Karen Cianci, Ph.D., dean of the School of Natural Sciences and undergraduate dean, traditional programs, gave a presentation at the 2014 Mentoring Conference at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

"Cultural Intelligence Elements in HSI STEM Learning Communities" examined FPU's success at doubling the retention of Hispanic and first-generation students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. Two students also took part in the presentation.

THAT'S  
NOT ALL!

See more about the  
STEM program at  
[experiencefpu.com/stem](http://experiencefpu.com/stem)

# 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



**Tim Haston (MA '14)** has done educational technology presentations for Central Valley Computer Using Educators (CVCUE) and the Association of California School Administrators. He is technology coach/athletic director for Earlimart School District. Tim and his wife, Amaris, have been married since 2002, and together they have two children: Cadence, 4; and Braedon 2.



FPU President Richard Kriegbaum ran into a familiar face—or at least a face familiar with FPU—on a January 28, 2015, visit to Congressman Jeff Denham's office in Washington, D.C. **Anthony Duhon (BA '13)** is a staff assistant for Denham, who is the U.S. Representative for California's 10th Congressional District. (From left: Duhon, Denham and Kriegbaum)



**Evon Mendrin (BA '13)** is a financial representative at Principal Financial Group.

**Andy Haussler (BA '01, MA '13)** was promoted to deputy city manager for the City of Clovis in February 2015.

**Eric Self (BA '13)** was appointed evening operations manager at Fresno Pacific University North Fresno Center in October 2014. Eric is a single parent who decided to go back to school in 2007, and in 2011 enrolled in the degree completion program, earning a B.A. in Liberal Arts. Upon graduating, Eric joined the LEAD master's program. He worked at NFC as an undergraduate.

**Mallorie Getto (BA '10)** is working with children with special needs at an elementary school in McCall, ID, where she is also the administrator of a home facility for children and coaches high school softball and basketball. In addition, Mallorie is working toward a foster care license.

**Eldar Moraru (BA '10)** graduated with honors in August 2014 from Western Seminary, Sacramento, with a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy. He has been an active member at Grace Church of Sacramento for three years, where he is receiving training in biblical languages

## IN THE NEWS

**Caitlyn Alford (BA '12, TC '14)** teaches English and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) at Selma High School and was featured in the *Selma Enterprise* newspaper for winning second place with her fourth-period sophomore class on a College Board contest. More at [hanfordsentinel.com](http://hanfordsentinel.com)

**Jerrod Bradley (MA '13)** published a *Valley Voices* opinion piece in *The Fresno Bee* on February 12, 2015. The article is on the Common Core math standards. Jerrod teaches math at Sanger High School.

**Brian (BA '97) and Kristen (FS) Ming** turned tragedy into triumph with a top-selling book on Amazon and a song that has been played on radio across the country. After helping others through the Poinsettia Fire in May 2014 near their Carlsbad, CA, home, Brian, Kristen and their three children lost their own house. Brian turned to his love of music, he majored in music education, and found a new vocation in writing that has blessed the family and others. Check out their Amazon page at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

**Ron Adams (BA '69)** was featured in *The Fresno Bee* on January 22, 2015. Ron has been a basketball coach for the past 47 years for teams such as FPU; California State University, Fresno; the Chicago Bulls; and currently as an assistant coach for the Golden State Warriors in the NBA.



## let's connect

- Update your info: [fresno.edu/alumniupdate](http://fresno.edu/alumniupdate)
- Like or comment at [Facebook.com/FPUalumni](https://Facebook.com/FPUalumni)

- Join the **FPU Alumni Association** on LinkedIn
- Advise/mentor students through Sunbirds CAN - [fresno.edu/Sunbirds-can](http://fresno.edu/Sunbirds-can)

- Sign up for weekly emails so you know what is happening: [events.fresno.edu](http://events.fresno.edu)

and theology with the goal of providing biblical counseling.

**Christa Lehn Scott (BA '09, TC '11)** made an impact at the San Francisco Flute Festival in South San Jose November 8-9, 2014. She finished third in the competition, performed in a master class and won the People's Choice Award for her Youtube video. Christa teaches elementary music in Central Unified School District, Fresno.

In March of 2014, **Romee (Trottier MA '08) McAdams** became director of planning and development for SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) in Juneau, AL. Romee has been with SEARHC for nearly 14 years in various capacities.

**Bret Bailey (BA '04)** is an American Sign Language teacher at Jim Elliott Christian High School in Lodi, CA. Currently considered a teacher in training, he will take over class for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Shirley Esau (BA '88, MA '03)** was recognized on February 23, 2015, at the Association of California School Administrators Region IX

Celebration Dinner for her selection to receive the ACSA Region IX Elementary Principal Award.

**Felipe Hinojosa (BA '99)** has published articles in several peer-reviewed journals and chapters in books as well as presented in many conferences and symposiums, including at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. He published the book, *Latino Mennonites: Civil Rights, Faith, and Evangelical Culture* through John Hopkins University Press. Felipe, a history professor at Texas A&M University, and his wife **Maribel Ramirez Hinojosa (BA '98)**, a clinical psychologist, live in College Station, TX, with their two children, ages 9 and 7.

**Robin (Pettes BA '94) Stolle** has worked for Risk Placement Services since October 2004, and was recently promoted to underwriting manager. Robin lives in Washington with her husband Michael and their children, Jacob and Sarah.

**Dan (AA '62) and Gloria (Tillinghast BA '66) Reimer** are currently living in Concord, CA. They have three children and five grandchildren. Both Dan and Gloria are teaching at the local Diablo Valley College. In addition, they minister

at a convalescent home as well as at Harvest Church, Concord.

**Bill Dyck (BA '78)** is a counselor at Pacific Family Life and New Image in Vancouver, BC, and member of the board of directors/chair of the caregivers association at Tabor Home in Abbotsford, BC. Bill chairs the Multi-Nation Mission Foundation, which works with missionaries and orphans' homes in 15 countries, and is senior education officer/student counselor at New Image College of Fine Arts in downtown Vancouver. Bill has two children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



## MARRIAGES



**Joshua Rogers (BA '14)** married **Jane Peterson (BA '14)** on October 4, 2014 at Shaver Lake, CA. Jane is a tax associate at Grant Thornton LLP and Joshua is a sales consultant for Vivent.

**Christopher Dickie (BA '12)** married **Danielle Scholl (BA '13)** on September 13, 2014.

**Samuel Kelly (BA '12)** married **Kathryn Hetherington (BA '11)** on September 7, 2014, at Sugar Pine Christian Camps in Oakhurst, CA.





**Mandi (BA '15) Michaelides** and husband Chris announce the birth of son Ezra Dale on December 28, 2014. He weighed 8 lbs., 15 oz. and was 20.5 inches long.

**Dustin Johnson (MA '14)** and wife Reylene announce the birth of daughter Claire Elizabeth on September 5, 2014.



**Derek (BA '02, TC '03, MA '12) and Julie (Uhl BA '02, TC '03, MA '13) Stutzman** announce the birth of daughter Allison June on January 18, 2014. She was 6 lbs., 5 oz. and 19.5 inches long.

**Felicia (Burrell BA '05, MA '12) Mitchell** and husband Oliver announce the birth of twins on October 21, 2014. Son Zacharia Reuben weighed 5 lbs., 8 oz., and daughter Zanabrea Rachelle weighed 5 lbs., 10 oz. In memory, we remember their sister Sartasia Monique, February 5, 2011.



**Joey (BA '07, TC '10) and Lisa (Avery BA '05, TC '06) Pursell** announce the birth of son Trenton Joseph on August 26, 2014. He joins brothers Nathan, 6; and Colten, 2.

**Nicolas (BA '05, MA '07) and Britni (Goertzen TC '09) Allen** announce the birth of daughter Sadie on December 22, 2014. She weighed 7 lbs., 1 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. She joins sister Makenna.



**Ivan (BA '09) and Sandy (Sinner BA '06) Petrich** announce the birth of son Thomas Johnathan on September 16, 2013. He weighed 10 lbs. and was 23 inches long. He joins sisters Elisabeth, 7; and Yulianna, 5; and brother Donald, 3.

**Scott (BA '08) and Jane (Chakhlasyan BA '08) Metcalf** announce the birth of daughter Felicity on October 18, 2014. She weighed 7 lbs., 5 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. She joins sister Addysin, 2.



**Adriana (Martinez-Vilanova BA '08) Willey** and husband Jeremy announce the birth of son Isaac Jeremiah on November 18, 2014. He was 7 lbs., 13 oz. and 20 inches long.

**Matthew (TC'03, MA '05) and wife Anita (Gonzales BA '01) Cockrum** announce the birth of daughter Faith Loraine Vera on August 1, 2014. She weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. and was 19.75 inches long. She joins brothers Matthias, 8; Thaddaeus, 5; and Nathanael, 2.

**DeAnna (Romero BA '04) Molinar** and husband Andrew announce the birth of daughter Autumn Leigh on October 31, 2014. She weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz. and was 20 inches long.







**Kathryn (Hendrix BA '99) Farmer** and husband Shawn announce the birth of daughter Alexis Louise on August 6, 2014. She weighed 6 lbs., 4 oz. and was 19.25 inches long. She joins brother Tyler, 12; and sister Whitney, 10.



**Eric Snook (BA '99)** and wife Tara announce the birth of son Corban Matthew on October 1, 2014. He joins his sisters Taylor, 7; and Michaela, 4. Eric works for Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab as a veterinary anatomic pathologist.



**Linda (Pigg BA '87) Buschman** and husband James announce the birth of their first granddaughter, Madison Grace, in January 2013. She is the daughter of Daniel and Allie Buschman. The proud great-grandparents are **Ken (PBI '56)** and **Jodell (Owens PBI '56) Buschman** and Clinton and **Karon (Henry TC '03) Pigg**.



**Allison (Steinert BA '98) McNeely** and husband Kevin announce the adoption of son Max Jacob, born March 28, 2010, and adopted from Shaanxi, China, on February 10, 2014. They have adopted three children and are raising two birth daughters; the youngest, January Joy, was born August 12, 2014. She was 8 lbs., 7 oz.



**Jared (BA '02)** and **Sara (BA '02) Christensen** announce the birth of daughter Willa MaryKay on June 13, 2013. She joins siblings Noah, 8; Lucy, 6; and Miles 4. In February 2014, Jared began serving as senior director of undergraduate enrollment at North Park University, Chicago, IL.

**Ken Johnson (SM '13, adjunct)** and wife Tara announce the birth of son Hunter Raymond on August 26, 2014. He was 12.5 weeks premature, weighing only 2 lbs., 3 oz. Later he weighed 7 lbs.

**Tina (Romero BA '06, MA '09) Gutierrez** and husband Leo announce the birth of daughter Christianna on September 18, 2014. She weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz. and was 19 inches long. Tina is a degree completion academic advisor at the Fresno Pacific University Visalia Campus.

**Jerrold (MA '13)** and **Becky (Kruse BA '06) Bradley** announce the birth of daughter Hannah Grace on November 17, 2014. She joins sister Kendall. Jerrold is a math teacher at Sanger High School and Becky works in the Fresno Pacific University Communications and Marketing Office.



FACULTY / STAFF



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grandchildren, nieces,  
nephews and young  
friends of FPU alumni.*

**Joy Lynn (Handwerker SEM '05) Champion**, 66, died February 12, 2015. She had suffered from metastatic breast cancer. Survivors include husband Darrell F. Champion, two daughters, one son and four grandchildren. She taught in the Lodi Unified and Modesto City school districts and was active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She earned a master's degree in Christian ministry from what is now Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, and a bi-vocational ministry license from the Evangelical Covenant Church. She attended and served at River Oak Grace Church, Oakdale; Modesto Covenant Church; and on the Southwest Conference of Evangelical Covenant Churches Executive Board. Services were February 16 at Modesto Covenant Church. Contributions may be made to: the Joy Lynn Handwerker Champion Endowed Scholarship at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, 1717 S. Chestnut Ave., Fresno, CA 93702; the Joy Champion Oakdale FCA Sports Camp Scholarship, 5724 N. Fresno St., Fresno, CA 93710; and the Modesto Covenant Church Building Renovation Fund, 913 Floyd Ave., Modesto, CA 95350. More at [legacy.com/obituaries/ModestoBee/obituary.aspx?pid=174140249#storylink=cpy](http://legacy.com/obituaries/ModestoBee/obituary.aspx?pid=174140249#storylink=cpy)

**Kandy (Barr BA '90) Holt** died of cancer on November 10, 2014. Kandy was a first grade teacher at Dunlap school and lived in Miramonte, CA.

**Charlotte (Martens BA '79) Dyck** died on April 27, 2013. Charlotte and husband **Bill (BA '78)** both received their Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Counseling from the seminary, then moved to Vancouver, BC, Canada, and founded Pacific Family Life and New Image.

**Timothy Bergdahl (SEM '87)**, 55, pastor of the Madera Avenue Bible Church, died January 8, 2015. He had battled cancer for three years. Born in Castro Valley, CA, Tim was a resident of Kingsburg, CA, from 1999 to 2007, and of Madera, CA, for the past seven years. He was also a missionary in Pakistan for five years and a member of the FPU Board of Trustees. He is survived by his wife, **Janine (SEM '87, TC '99)**, and their daughters, Kayleigh and Pradnya, all of Madera; his parents, Robert and Beverley Bergdahl, of Gilbert, AR; and his sister, Deborah, and her husband, John Teats, also of Gilbert. Remembrances may be made to the Kroeker-Bergdahl Memorial Scholarship at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary. More at [usmb.org/departments/Christian-Leader/article/Bergdahl-remembered-as-mission-leader-pastor.html](http://usmb.org/departments/Christian-Leader/article/Bergdahl-remembered-as-mission-leader-pastor.html)

**Peter John Funk**, 100, died January 11, 2015, in Dallas, TX. Born on September 25, 1914, in Russia, he emigrated with his parents to Reedley, CA. In 1937, Peter married Martha Driedger, Reedley, and opened an insurance and real estate business. His church service included financial administrator of the missions program for the U.S. Mennonite Brethren Church Conference; board member of Pacific Bible Institute, Pacific College and Fresno Pacific College (all now Fresno Pacific University) and Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary (now Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary); and assistant to the seminary president for fundraising/constituency relations. Martha passed away in 1989. Peter was married to Ruth Wiens for two years (until her death) and Hilda Linda for more than 9 1/2 years (until her death). Peter is survived by daughter Miriam Sommers and son Jim Funk, and his wife, DeLores. Other survivors



are grandson **Greg Sommers (BA '89)**, his wife, Susan, and sons, Christian, Peter and Philip; grandson Michael Funk, his wife, Jennifer, and children, Taylor, Megan and Nick; grandson John Funk, his wife, Sally, and children, Hannah, Sam and Abby; and grandson Matthew Funk. 🏠

It's so easy to let your classmates and friends know what's happening in your life - job, marriage, children, new address and awards.

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WHAT'S  
GOING ON?



# VOICE OF THE ALUMNI



## PURPOSE

Provide, encourage and communicate opportunities for FPU alumni to stay informed, interested and active in the FPU community



## VISION

To promote an active community of engaged FPU alumni

The Alumni Council has a vision, a purpose and a group of members who want to keep alumni connected to Fresno Pacific University.

### Members

**Angela Mannino** (BA '14), creative designer at Morgan Hill Bible Church

**Bobby Martin** (BA '12), FPU undergraduate admissions counselor

**Joan Minasian** (MA '10), FPU director of annual giving

**Christina Morris** (BA '06), director of customer service for Valley Fleet Clean


**Lisa Ovalle** (BA '02, TC '03, MA '13), seventh grade math teacher for Fowler Unified School District

**Mattie Parker** (BA '15), vice president of Associated Students of Fresno Pacific University

**Ali Sena** (BA '88), FPU director of alumni development

**Chuck Spencer** (BA '70), broker/agent at Barlocker Insurance Services

Not pictured:

**Phillip Mackey** (BA '06, TC '07) middle school math teacher for Madera Unified School District 



Back row, from left: Spencer, Ovalle, Morris and Martin.

Front row, from left: Sena, Parker, Minasian and Mannino.



## WHAT the council needs!

### Suggestions from you!

Contact Ali Sena, at [ali.sena@fresno.edu](mailto:ali.sena@fresno.edu), 559-453-2236 or at Fresno Pacific University, 1717 S. Chestnut Ave. Fresno, CA 93704

### Rx for the Future of the Valley - Continued from page 3

recruiting for the Valley," Cianci says.

Now is an exciting time to become a pharmacist. The need is great, salaries start at \$128,000 in the area and California law has elevated pharmacists to provider status. "They can't diagnose, but they can manage," says Clegg, associate professor of administrative sciences at CHSU.


Recent trends, including Obamacare, require each physician to oversee more

patients, delegating some tasks to other medical professionals, including pharmacists. At the same time, people are looking to pharmacists for more than just medications. "They're asking, What can I do to lower my blood pressure?" Clegg says.

Pharm.D. graduates are ready to work in community and hospital pharmacies, prisons, the military and at pharmaceutical companies in sales or research and

development. "It's a pretty broad field, there's a lot of opportunity," Clegg says.

"We're starting right now to change the face of pharmacy in California."

*Editor's note: Shortly before this article went to press, David Hawkins announced his retirement from CHSU, effective in July 2015. Wendy Duncan, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, will serve as interim dean of pharmacy until a replacement is found.* 



## ALUMNI PROFILE



## OBADIAH GUTIP

BA '74

## Friendship feeds career as educator, church leader

By Katie Jerkovich

A friendship developed over lawn tennis led to a trip halfway around the world and contributed to a career of more than 30 years for one alumnus.

Obadiah Gutip (BA '74) was already a trained teacher when Phil Hofer (BA '67) came to his native Nigeria in 1968. Gutip would become a teacher and leader in church and public schools. Growing up in a village in an area with few schools, Gutip was fortunate to attend a small school run by the Sudan United Missions. SUM was established by British missionaries from different denominations who together created the Church of Christ in Nations ([cocin.org/](http://cocin.org/)). Today the denomination has more than 2 million members and belongs to the World Council of Churches.

Education was already a family tradition when Gutip went to school. "My parents sent us to school because

my uncle was influential in bringing the missionaries to our town," he says.

In December 1968 Gutip married Nanwul, his friend since childhood. That same year he went to a teacher training college in the community of Gindiri. Here he met Hofer, who taught English. "We had fun, and we played a lot of lawn tennis and became friends," Hofer says.

Hofer returned to the United States in 1970. After he got a position at what was then Fresno Pacific College, Hofer encouraged Gutip to apply for a scholarship and come as a student. Gutip came alone to the U.S. and enrolled in 1972, working as a college janitor to earn money. Two years later he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Biblical Studies. While the college offered Gutip money for Nanwul to attend the ceremony, she was involved in her own coursework and couldn't make the trip.

So it was 40 years later that Nanwul finally got to FPU, and Obadiah returned for the first time since graduation. The two enjoyed lunch October 24, 2014, in Steinert Campus Center with Hofer, former director of the FPU Office of International Programs and Services; his wife, Joy, former FPU director of communications; Arnie Prieb, current IPSO director and another Fresno Pacific friend who was raised in a missionary family in Congo, southeast of Nigeria; Emeritus Communication Professor Dalton Reimer, Ph.D.; and President Emeritus Edmund Janzen, Ph.D.

Today, many people hear "Nigeria" and think of Boko Haram, the violent Islamist group that targets Christians. In 2014 more than 7,000 people were killed in Nigeria, and so far in 2015 the death toll is over 2,000. "We really didn't have a strong Muslim presence until recently with the Boko Haram incidents," Gutip says.

International students and experiences enrich education at FPU. Visit [fresno.edu/departments/ipso](http://fresno.edu/departments/ipso)

LEARN  
more





“Some Muslims are secretly coming to the Christians because, they too, are upset about Boko Haram.”

—Obadiah Gutip

Deadly church bombings have not kept people from worship. “They still keep coming to learn,” Gutip says.

As 9-11 brought Americans together, the terrorism of Boko Haram is actually increasing unity among the faithful in Nigeria. “Some Muslims are secretly coming to the Christians because, they too, are upset about Boko Haram. In our own country the different denominations are coming together praying for each other, which would not have taken place if not for Boko Haram,” Gutip says.

Retired since 2009, the Gutips live in Jos, a city of about 900,000 in central Nigeria. The couple has three daughters and one son, as well as four granddaughters and five grandsons.

Looking back, Gutip says Fresno Pacific made him grow. “They taught me diligence and hard work. I know without a higher education I wouldn’t have gotten the principal jobs. I learned a lot from FPU,” he says. “The Christian community I found here was very interesting. I found a large community, a concerned community that cared for other people.”

# 1965

## FIRST ACCREDITATION

By Kevin Enns-Rempel, Director, Hiebert Library



The morning of Monday, May 10, 1965, didn’t feel like a normal day at Pacific College. Classes met as usual, but both students and professors likely were inattentive. The reason for the distraction? This was the day Pacific College learned if it had received accreditation for the first time as a four-year liberal arts college. President Arthur Wiebe and Dean Elias Wiebe were in Los Angeles to meet with accreditation officials, and would send word to the campus as soon as they got the news.

When word arrived on campus that Pacific had indeed received its accreditation, everyone rushed out of classes to prepare for meeting the president and dean at the Fresno Air Terminal. Students converged on the airport for an impromptu “demonstration” in front of the terminal building, marching up and down the sidewalk while holding aloft signs to celebrate the event.

As the president and dean descended the stairs from the plane, they were greeted on the terminal pavement by members of the faculty and a crowd of cheering students. This was, of course, a time long before airport security measures that today would make such an event impossible.


The president, dean and two members of the board rode from the airport back to the campus in a 1965 Chevrolet Impala station wagon provided for the event by a local auto dealer. Their lead car was followed by a parade of cars driven by students and faculty members.

Back on campus, President Wiebe addressed the students, reporting on what they had learned at the meetings and what this new status meant for the college. That night members of the college community met at Butler Avenue Mennonite Brethren Church to offer thanks for their accreditation status, and to dedicate to God the new senior college.

It is hard to overstate the importance of this event in the development of FPU as we know it today. The college had completed the transition from a Bible institute preparing workers for a narrow range of church vocations to a fully recognized institution of higher education. Graduates of Pacific College now could use their degrees as a springboard to graduate schools and professions in a way that previously had not been possible. It truly was an accomplishment worthy of a parade. 🏠

## From the Archives...





“Emilio is like a younger brother to all of us on the team.”

—Davy Vartanian

By Michaela Parker

## A PERFECT GAME:

### This season one Sunbird baseball player left an impact for his work off the field.

Emilio Gomez, age 11—on the roster as a 5' 2", 100-pound third baseman—was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma in February 2014, but rather than dwell on his medical condition, the Fresno turned his attention to the larger cause of making people aware of childhood cancer. Starting with his jersey number, 46, the number of children diagnosed with cancer each day.

Emilio has been under treatment at Valley Children's Hospital, but ask him about hospitals and he'll tell the story of his helicopter ride to Stanford, and how next time he wants to ride up front. This leaves his mother, Tracy, to fill in the fact that the ride was necessary due to complications from chemotherapy.

Tracy and Emilio's father, Jaime, learned about Team IMPACT ([goteamimpact.org/](http://goteamimpact.org/)) through a friend of a friend on Facebook. Kelsey Burke, regional manager for the non-profit Christian agency, helped bring Emilio together with the FPU baseball team, making the Sunbirds one of 600 collegiate squads across the nation that have added a member with medical issues to their roster since 2011. The idea is for players like Emilio to

participate on the teams as much as possible. In Emilio's case FPU hosted a Draft Day where he signed a letter and threw out the first pitch of the day's game.

The team has embraced Emilio. "From the moment they were connected, the team has consistently reached out through email and phone to let Emilio and his family know he is in their thoughts. Emilio will continue to support the team in their quest to make it back to the championships and they will support Emilio as he continues to battle his illness," Burke says.

Players had to go through training and commit to stay in touch with Emilio throughout the season. Five members were given the responsibility to make sure that Emilio felt welcome and was included. "The athletic department is focused on specifically and intentionally serving our community," says Leslie Schuemann, FPU director of athletics.

Davy Vartanian, a junior outfielder from Visalia, became the Team IMPACT student ambassador, sharing the bond that has formed between Emilio and the team. Games are now about more than wins and losses.



"Emilio is like a younger brother to all of us on the team and we look forward to guiding him as he grows older," Vartanian says. That guiding already extends beyond the friendly confines of the diamond. When Emilio posted to Facebook that he was having a difficult time, that same night four emails were sent encouraging him.

At the same time, Team IMPACT and Emilio have made an impression on FPU. Schuemann is working on a

pairing with the women's volleyball team. Partnerships like this are an outgrowth of the culture of service in athletics, where last year student-athletes completed more than 3,000 service hours and were rewarded with the PAC West community service award. "The partnership gives us something much bigger to play for," Vartanian says. 🏠

## The story of a Valley boy and FPU baseball



**FPU** World Series  
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The Sunbirds define  
"Champion." More at  
[www.fresno.edu/emilio](http://www.fresno.edu/emilio)



LIVES  
transformed | JOHN BRINSON

# FALL to Rise

By Michaela Parker

When the pistol sounded John Brinson left the starting blocks with 300 meters and his entire life before him. The Clovis East High School track and field star just had to finish his senior year in the top five in California to be able to pick from the many colleges and universities courting him.


The state meet was the last obstacle. But John's world crumbled when he clipped a hurdle and fell in the final 100-meter stretch. "I got up, realizing that my final race was in that moment, and began to cry—hard," he says.

Four years later, John sees a reason for that fall. "I do not know if I would have come to FPU had I made top five," he says, "and that would have caused me to miss out on all of the great, life-changing events that came about."

Skeptical when he heard about FPU from a Sunbird track and field athlete, John visited just to keep his options open. "I went on a recruitment trip and checked out FPU, and loved it. All of the athletes on the team welcomed me like I was already on the team," he says.

Today John is thankful to be part of a team with coaches and teachers that mentor him in life as well as on the track. "When I first started coming to FPU, I could not understand why or how people could be so compassionate," he says. "I grew up having to learn and do things on my own, so it was a change of pace to see that people cared."

Growing up, the Goldsboro, NC, native had little direction. Once at FPU, John found his faith and found his way. "I love how FPU is founded on Christ, and that has been big for me over the years. So big that I decided to accept Christ my freshman year," he says.

In May John started another lap in life when he graduates with a B.A. in Social Work. The struggles haven't stopped, but now John has a reason to race. He remembers Romans 8:38-39, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." 



Do you know a student who has been transformed at FPU?  
Contact Wayne Steffen at  
[wsteffen@fresno.edu](mailto:wsteffen@fresno.edu)

EDITOR'S  
NOTE!





*Leaving a legacy:*

## The Ross McNeely Memorial Annual Scholarship



Ross and Connie McNeely put the future of young people at the center of much of their 42 years of marriage, as college and career sponsors at North Fresno Church—Mennonite Brethren and in their work for the FPU Advancement Office and Foundation.

When Ross died in May 2012, Connie, as FPU scholarship coordinator, knew just how to honor him and support the students they both loved. The Ross McNeely Memorial Annual Scholarship provides help with books and other essentials and is supported by friends and co-workers of Ross and Connie. Every gift benefits those who give as well as those who receive.

*"It just seemed  
natural."*

*-Connie McNeely*

For more information, contact Connie at [connie.mcneely@fresno.edu](mailto:connie.mcneely@fresno.edu) or 559-453-7139.



# THANK YOU!

TO ALL WHO SUPPORT FPU



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