

PACIFIC

FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY | VOL. 28, NO. 2



EMPOWERING LEADERS

LEGACY P. 6

PLAN
FOR CHANGE P. 10

TRAIL
BLAZER P. 13



RICHARD KRIEGBAUM, PH.D.

president's message

PLANNING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The bold strategic plan that the Fresno Pacific Board of Trustees approved at its June 2015 meeting established the comprehensive set of desired conditions now guiding the development of specific goals and strategies across the entire university. The first item of that plan describes the purpose all the other desired conditions, plans, policies and programs of the institution must help bring to reality.

The plan calls Fresno Pacific not just to offer excellent programs and hope that something good comes of it, but to take the risk of holding ourselves accountable for who our alumni are and what our alumni do to actually embody the kingdom of Christ on earth. It is a plan to operationalize incarnational theology and to assess whether our alumni consistently demonstrate wise and effective ethical leadership, whether they are generous and compassionate in serving and leading. It is a plan that requires the university to rigorously evaluate the circles of influence around our alumni in the real world and use that information to constantly improve our educational efforts.

In this issue you will read some examples of ways we do that research. We solicit self-reports from and about our alumni, stories of what they feel God is doing in their lives and through their service to others.

We want to know the ways in which their Christ-

centered and biblically framed higher education at Fresno Pacific enables them to integrate the arts, sciences and professions for practical competency in solving real problems.

We want to understand the ways our alumni serve diverse communities that range from small local efforts to complex global networks.

We want to determine how often and how well our alumni build healthy communities of healing and human development in classrooms, corporations, churches, counseling centers, clinics and all the countless other places where authentic community overcomes physical, mental and spiritual isolation.

In a world too often controlled by the use of coercive power, we hold ourselves accountable for alumni who combine generous and compassionate servant-leadership with professional excellence to advance peace and reconciliation based on collaborative truth-seeking and the desire for the welfare of all.

The stories you will read here are not all of the stories, but they represent the difference we want a Fresno Pacific education to make in and for the kingdom of Christ on earth. We are a learning organization, so by such stories we learn what to do and what not to do. We invite you to tell us the stories we need to hear.

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

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WITH FPU!

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fresno.edu/news for:

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- Strengthening the Economy of the Central Valley business series

See what's happening at **fresno.edu/events**



Buller Heads Seminary Advancement

A churchman of many talents has been selected as director of seminary advancement.

Charles "Chuck" Buller comes to Fresno Pacific University and the Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary with a long history with both institutions. He graduated from FPU in 1979 and earned an M.Div. in 1985 from what was then the MB Biblical Seminary, serving as student representative on the seminary board. During his 20 years of pastoral ministry in Canada and the U.S., Buller returned to the seminary board from 1987-1995 (chairman 1993-1995). He was also on the board as executive director of the U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches from 2003-2006.

"Chuck's broad knowledge of the Mennonite Brethren constituency, extensive connections with both churches and civic organizations here in the Valley and embracing way of relating to virtually everybody make him ideally suited for his new role," said Terry Brensinger, president of the seminary and vice president of FPU. "That he is available and eager to join us when the seminary is expanding its vision is a gift of grace."

Buller entered fundraising in 2000 as director of capital ministries for Mennonite Mutual Aid (now Everence), became vice president for advancement at Palm Village Retirement Community, Reedley CA, then west coast development officer for FPU's sister school, Tabor College. Most recently he was interim pastor at College Community MB Church, Fresno.

"I am thrilled to have Chuck back at the seminary, where his leadership skills, care for people and faith-inspired optimism can build support for its new vision," said Mark Isaac, FPU vice president for advancement. 🏠

Latino Education Group Gives FPU National Award

A program to help students graduate college and succeed in science-related fields has won a national award.

Excelencia in Education named the FPU STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program as its Example of Excelencia for the Baccalaureate Category during the 10th Annual Celebración de Excelencia on September 22, 2015. "Fresno Pacific University is at the forefront of improving higher educational achievement for Latino students," said Sarita Brown, president of Excelencia in Education.

A nonprofit agency devoted to increasing higher education achievement for Latino students, Excelencia in Education gives one prize in each of four categories: associate degree, bachelor's degree, graduate degree and community-based organizations. "FPU is the top program among the 115 baccalaureate applications evaluated. We hope that many more Latino students will join us in this highly successful approach to achieving 'excelencia' in education," said President Richard Kriegbaum, Ph.D.

The STEM program is geared to low-income, Hispanic and/or first-generation students who are academically qualified but need help adjusting to higher education. The program features:

Summer Bridge. Students spend a week on campus before their freshman year, getting academic preparation, living in residence halls and meeting faculty.

The cohort. Participants take four classes together and support one another.

Supplemental instruction. Offered in several courses. So far the graduation rate for participants has been 91 percent, much higher than expected and above FPU's overall graduation rate, already one of the strongest in the region. Efforts are being made to spread elements of the STEM program throughout the general freshman experience.

Read the full story at fresno.edu/news/09/23/2015/latino-higher-education-group-gives-fresno-pacific-university-national-award 🏠

SCORE!

FPU earns marks for academic, financial value

Higher earnings and graduation rates, lower debt and strong opportunities for students from a variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds—especially those who are the first in their families to attend a four-year college or university—are the hallmarks of an education at Fresno Pacific University, according to a new federal "scorecard."

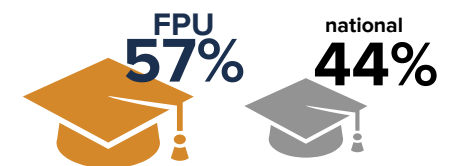
"These findings confirm and affirm FPU's strengths and what we're doing to serve Valley students and their families," said Stephen Varvis, Ph.D., provost/senior vice president.

The College Scorecard website was launched by the U.S. Department of Education to help potential undergraduate students and their families select a college or university. All findings are for students receiving federal financial aid, which includes well over 90 percent of FPU undergraduate students.

"We serve the students and communities of this region through high quality academic programs that prepare students for their future, hands-on learning experiences and ethical development in formats that are affordable and close to home," Varvis said. "They are our future leaders in business, schools and churches. When they graduate, they are ready to go."

See the full College Scorecard website at collegescorecard.ed.gov 🏠

Graduation Rate
(based on six years among full-time students)



First-year students that return for their second year,



Earnings
(based on former students)

10 years after enrolling



6 years after enrolling



Net Price

Annual Net Price after financial aid



Debt
(after graduation)

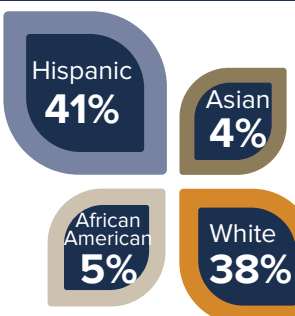
\$19,205 average FPU debt at graduation



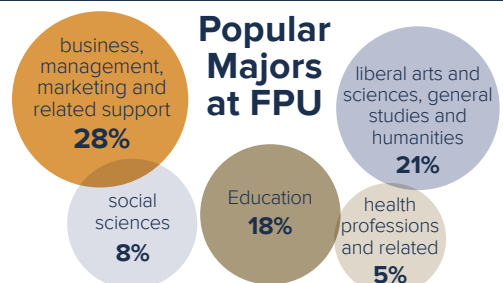
former students paying down their debt within three years of leaving school



FPU Undergraduates
(accordingly to federal categories)



Popular Majors at FPU



Income Levels

58% of students have a family income of **LESS THAN \$40,000** and receive income-based federal Pell grants

Lives of Service

Retirees' impact
reached beyond campus



Bev
Kopper

“I guess it was
my calling.”

Some people just do what needs to be done.

Bev Kopper (BA '71) started work at then-Pacific College as business office receptionist/secretary two weeks after she graduated. “I was hired for a temporary summer position, and it turned into an eight-year full-time job,” she says. When a regular staff member left for health reasons, Bev was considered for the position.

Her interview was brief. “Well Bev, do you think you can do it?”

Not only did Kopper do that job, she did the next one. And the next. Her positions had a habit of growing. “I have been given the opportunity to see a need and fill it,” she says.

The business office in the early 70s, for example, was home to something relatively new: student financial aid. Kopper found herself developing procedures, working with government applications and policies and assisting students seeking grants and loans. Eventually she became the first full-time director of financial aid.

By the time she took a break in 1979, her husband, Richard (BA '71, MA '82), was established in what would be a 38-year career as an elementary teacher in Hanford and Clovis. Bev stayed home with their two sons, Phillip (BA '03, TC '04) and Ryan (BA '08, TC '12) who are now both teachers. Their wives are Tiffany (Fabbian BA '03) (Phillip) and Heidi (Barnes BA '06) (Ryan), who also teaches.

When Kopper returned in 1990, she was alumni director...for awhile. Eighteen months later, when the person who processed donations was injured in an accident, Kopper was called upon to step into the breach and her career trajectory was set.

FPU acquired its first database in 1980 and moved to a more comprehensive system by Datatel (now Ellucian) in 1985. By the early 1990s, the school was raising money for McDonald Hall and the Advancement Division needed expanded capabilities.

In 1999 the rest of the university was due for a major upgrade. Kopper led a staff working group that oversaw the conversion, completed in 2001. An updated version of that system is still in use. The working group became more than a professional unit. “That was one of my best times here,” she says, “because of the collaborative effort of offices across campus.”

As director of advancement services, Kopper kept the names, addresses, graduation dates, spouses and children for alumni and giving history for donors. “Your mailing success and your marketing success are only as good as your records,” she says. Having the correct information about people is a sign of respect.

For Kopper, FPU has always been more than whatever job she was doing. “My freshman year I met Jesus here, and my sophomore year I met Richard,” she says, tearing up as she often does when talking about the university.

Growing up around Paso Robles, CA, Kopper had never heard of Fresno Pacific until someone in her church suggested she try Visitation Day. She immediately felt at home. “I guess it was my calling,” she says.

Dave Youngs never met a “mathphobe” he didn’t want to convert.

“My number one thing is not academic, it’s attitudinal,” says this teacher of teachers at the undergraduate, credential and master’s level. No matter the age, the problem isn’t that students aren’t smart enough to learn math, but that they think they don’t have the “gift” for it. “If I was able to help a student get over their math phobia a little bit, I felt I was being successful,” he says.

Youngs dedicated much of his 41-year career to disproving the myth of “math people” and “non-math people.” “There is a strong body of research that shows math phobia is passed from teachers to students,” he says.

Research indicates two culturally determined mindsets on learning: fixed and growth. The fixed mindset claims people have certain gifts and learn little in other areas. The growth mindset states those who work at something can become competent. “In this country we have a fixed mindset about math,” Youngs says. “It’s very acceptable to say ‘I’m not good at math.’ But you’d never admit to not being able to read.”

Not so in Asia. “Their culture has a view of math that is a growth mindset,” Youngs says.

Engaging students is the key for Youngs, who found like minds at FPU. In the 1980s, Arthur Wiebe, Ed.D., former Fresno Pacific president, and educator Larry Ecklund started the Activities in Mathematics and Science (AIMS) Education Foundation, which included a roadshow to Valley schools. Youngs’ Tulare, CA, classroom was one stop—and Youngs was hooked. “I was learning things you could turn around and use in your classroom. It was so much more interesting than the textbook approach,” he says.

In 1987 Youngs became an AIMS fellow. The next year he added mathematics/science education faculty to his duties.

FPU highlights include summer Math Festivals that brought hundreds of teachers to the main campus. “It was great to see teachers get excited about teaching math, which seems to be an oxymoron for most people,” he says.

Youngs began his career in 1974 with two years at American Community School in Tehran, Iran. After nine years in Tulare, he taught at the American School of Kinshasa, Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo) for two more years before coming to FPU. He has a B.A. from Fresno State University, an M.A. from FPU and a Sc.Ed.D from Curtin University of Technology, Australia.

For the future, Youngs will remain on the AIMS Foundation board. An avid bicyclist, he will also continue to ride with the Fresno Cycle Club, and travel further afield, such as to New England; this, in turn, feeds his photography hobby. Then there’s family time with wife Nancy (MA '97), a retired Fresno teacher, and the families of daughters Michelle Pauls (BA '00, TC '12) and Rebecca Nelson. “I’ve seen my grandchildren more in the last two months than I have in the last four years,” he says.



Dave
Youngs

Emeritus math/science education

“My number one thing
is not academic,
it’s attitudinal.”



Duane Ruth-Heffelbower

I saw law practice as a peacemaking practice.

Sometimes a march into the future starts with an about face. The Vietnam War was raging and Duane Heffelbower wanted to be a pilot, so he joined the U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer's Training Program (ROTC). "Just as I was about to start flight training, my eyes went bad," says the bespectacled professor, now known as Ruth-Heffelbower. The change was God's hand, "but at the time it was awkward," he says.

More awkwardness, for a military man, came when Ruth-Heffelbower attended Golden Gate Law School. "That's how I landed in San Francisco in 1971," he says, and the Kansas native may have thought he'd hit Oz.

He had already married a Mennonite—Clare Ann Ruth, the "Ruth" in "Ruth-Heffelbower"—with ideas about peace. "By the time I was done with law school I was a pacifist," he says.

But still an Air Force officer. After his enlistment, Ruth-Heffelbower opened a law office in Reedley, CA. This move was a natural step toward becoming an associate professor of peacemaking and conflict studies/business at FPU. "I always saw my law practice as a peacemaking practice," he says.

The office prospered, but Ruth-Heffelbower found himself taking some uncomfortable cases to pay the bills. He also had a powerful faith experience after his father and mother-in-law died within six weeks of each other. "That shook a lot of things loose," he says.

Closing his practice in 1985, Ruth-Heffelbower helped create Central California Mennonite Residential Services, a Fresno nonprofit serving adults with developmental disabilities. He and Clare Ann, who eventually each earned M.Div. degrees, planted and led Peace Community Church—Mennonite in Clovis from 1989-1996.

Ruth-Heffelbower joined FPU's Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies in March 1996 after serving on its advisory board. Two months later he landed a \$500,000 grant to work with refugees.

In 1995 Ruth-Heffelbower worked with unexploded ordnance issues, including time in Laos disposing of cluster bombs buried during the war. An agreement between the U.S. and Laos that eventually involved the United Nations and seven other countries was brokered. He and Clare Ann took peacemaking to Indonesia from 1999-2002, working with the Christian international development and relief organization Mennonite Central Committee.

Aside from the refugee grant, another FPU highlight is a mediation services contract with Fresno County Superior Court. The program lasted from 1999-2015 and was unique in the nation, providing paid internships to CPACS students. "It was quite glorious," Ruth-Heffelbower says. A continuing superior court project is the Community Justice Conference for juveniles, which boasts a 5-10 percent re-offense rate, as opposed to a 20-30 percent rate among youth with similar charges who do not participate.

Retirement for Ruth-Heffelbower will mean doing the same work, but not coming into the Townsend 8 office. Wherever the place and whatever the conflict, the issue is never what the people involved think it is. "It's pretty much always one person disrespecting another, and they didn't realize they did it," he says. 🏠



Elective Becomes Career for Educator of the Year

By Katie Fries

Karla Kirk (BA '07, MA '10) was named Teacher of the Year in higher education by Assemblymember Henry T. Perea for California Assembly District 31.

One of four honorees from Perea's district, which covers western Fresno County and is anchored in Fresno, Kirk is the lead faculty member for the African American Studies program at Fresno City College. "It was very humbling," she says. "I'm a relatively new teacher and I don't have anything close to the academic background a lot of my co-workers have."

What Kirk lacks in teaching experience she more than makes up for in persistence to get an education and passion for the subject matter. After graduating from high school she enrolled at FCC but left when she realized she wasn't ready to pursue a degree. At 27, she returned to pursue a degree in business, a field she'd been working in. But fate intervened.

"I was in an African American Studies class as an elective," she recalls. "My teacher asked me what I was majoring in and told me he wanted me to teach in the program because he liked the way my mind worked with the material." Kirk says she did the math. "But that's six more years of college," I said. "Yes," he said."

The final clincher? Her teacher told her he planned to retire in six years, so she needed to get to work.

Once Kirk set her mind to it, teaching history at Fresno City College became her only professional goal. She dropped her business classes and enrolled in African American history courses. Eventually, she transferred those credits to FPU to pursue her two degrees in history. She applied for the job before her final grades were posted.

Kirk teaches most of the 12 courses in the African American Studies program. Her now-retired mentor, Kehinde Solawzi—teaches the art class.

Since Kirk began teaching five years ago, she has pushed to make her courses more diverse and attract students of different ethnic backgrounds and ages. "The title is African American history but it's American history, it's history we all should know. I want it to be really inviting," she says.

Kirk credits her mentors—Solawzi at Fresno City College and Steve Varvis, Robin Perry, Ken Friesen and Rod Janzen at FPU—with guiding her as she developed her teaching style and philosophy. Varvis, Ph.D., now provost, has taught history; Perry, M.A., is an instructor in education; Friesen, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in political science/history; and Janzen, Ed.D., is a professor of history, formerly a professor of education. "All of them knew teaching here was my goal and they helped shape me as an educator, not just a historian," Kirk says. 🏠



KARLA KIRK



LEARN more

FPU is a university of choice in the education field. Visit fresno.edu/programs-majors/graduate/becoming-teacher

LEADING CHANGE WITH A PLAN

By Wayne Steffen

The first three desired conditions are:

The new Fresno Pacific University Strategic Plan is not a roadmap, a rulebook or a list of dreams. It is a 14-point answer to three critical questions:

- How will the church and the world be different if Fresno Pacific University succeeds at the business God has given it?
- What must Fresno Pacific University become in order to succeed at God's calling?
- How will the university know if it is succeeding?

Effective, ethical leaders

Wherever FPU 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 as expressed in the (Mennonite Brethren) Confession of Faith and the FPU Idea.

- integrating competency in the arts, sciences and professions,
- serving in diverse local and global communities,
- engaging communities of health and healing, and
- peacemaking through reconciliation and social justice.

A diverse university

The students, staff, administration, faculty and board will be characterized by racial, ethnic, socio-economic background, age, sex, abilities and Christian faith diversity, and these persons will feel they belong and have access to full and equitable participation in university life.

- continue as an HSI (Hispanic-Serving Institution) with a graduation rate for Hispanic students at least equal to the average of all baccalaureate students,
- students of diverse religious backgrounds will feel their beliefs are understood and respected,
- university life, structures, and organizations will embrace and value diversity, and
- recognized as an exemplar of research for, and service to, Hispanic students, families and communities.

Christ-centered community

As a Christ-centered academic community the university will model and will be known for its core values and beliefs.

- a diverse and hospitable community engaged in service to church and society,
- an appealing, welcoming and energetic Christian community,
- a supportive and joyful place to work, and
- highly preferred by those seeking an organization and community where they can exercise and develop their particular gifts and commit their energies.

At the heart of the plan is a set of 14 "desired conditions." "These are what we want to characterize this particular Christian university and its seminary," said President Richard Kriegbaum, Ph.D.

All areas of the university are providing leadership to make those conditions reality as administrators, faculty and staff develop, implement and evaluate strategies, and the board and administration monitor progress and modify methods. "Our programs and activities move us toward our desired conditions," said Stephen Varvis, Ph.D., provost/senior vice president and chair of the planning committee.

None of these conditions are now fully realized. "They are unlikely to ever fully exist without the wise selection of strategies to make them happen, plus the disciplined allocation of resources to the selected priorities, instead of to all the very attractive alternatives," Kriegbaum said. "Every 'yes' implies a long list of 'no's.'"

Achieving the conditions will strengthen FPU's existing foundation of academic quality, professional preparation and ethical development. "These intentions are at the core of the institution. They reflect deeply embedded commitments to our mission, vision, values, philosophy of education and confession of faith," Varvis said.

Leading change

Change at all levels will be required to ensure the conditions occur. “The goal is to provide a practical definition of the vision that we believe God has given Fresno Pacific University and the Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary: faithfulness in wise and effective servant-leadership that advances the

kingdom of Jesus Christ,” Kriegbaum said.

These areas of development require consistent effort and concentration to make them a reality, but the benefits are huge. “The achievement of bachelor’s and master’s degrees in disciplines that lead to careers is the great need of the adult population of

this Valley. Education lifts individuals and families, and sometimes whole communities, out of poverty. We hope to see FPU graduates leading and serving in every community in the region. This has become central to our mission,” Varvis said.

Four areas of development are the highest priorities:

- Become a diverse community where all feel they belong and have access to full and equitable participation in university life.
- Develop academic programs to meet regional and student needs, largely in the professions, with a liberal arts foundation.
- Enrollment growth, especially in degree completion and online programs, to 5,000 students.
- A university-wide focus on simplifying and streamlining policies and procedures, both to use resources wisely and facilitate student achievement.

Years of preparation

The Strategic Planning Committee—comprising 18 faculty, staff and administrators representing all schools and the seminary plus areas such as student life, enrollment, alumni, development and regional campuses—convened in January 2015 after a similarly composed group laid the groundwork in 2012-2013. The final process included six campus-wide sessions open to all. “We got different perspectives and knowledge from all of our different constituencies,” Varvis said.

Just as there are “conditions” rather than “goals” in the plan, there is a process rather than a deadline. “It’s a rolling, developing plan,” Varvis said. “At the program and strategy level, we need to remain flexible in response to changing needs or opportunities. And the board will regularly review the macro-level desired conditions.” 🏠

THAT'S
NOT ALL!

See the plan online at
fresno.edu/strategic-plan



TRAIL BLAZER

Bryan Feil
starts
businesses
that change
communities

By Jaime Strmiska

Pursuing business studies seemed an easy choice for Bryan Feil (BA '07), thanks to the interest instilled by grandfather Arlyss “Arly” Feil (Pacific Bible Institute '53) and father Rod Feil (attended Fresno Pacific College in 1978). Arly is the founder and Rod the current owner/manager of Arly's Appliance in Shafter and Bakersfield, CA.

Following in the Feil footsteps was a natural fit, but as a founder and CEO Bryan blazed a trail from Fresno to Thailand that profited people on two continents.

After graduating from Fresno Pacific University in 2007 with a BA in Business Administration Management, Feil's next step brought business to light in a whole new view. An intensive 10-month stint with Fresno Institute for Urban Leadership's (FIFUL) Pink House Program entrenched Feil in lessons about urban life—poverty, racial and economic justice and more. He also got a taste for how business and urban ministry can go hand-in-hand. “I learned about the power of economics in under-resourced communities and how important it is for businesses to seek the ultimate good of the community,” Feil says.

Photo above right by Andrew Feil



“My life was transformed into realizing God’s heart for the under-resourced, and the opportunities that business has to change lives — and ultimately communities.”

— Bryan Feil

Not long after, opportunity knocked for Feil and a handful of others to put these lessons to work in a new and novel way. For several years, The Well Community Church had been building relationships within the central Fresno neighborhood surrounding Susan B. Anthony Elementary School near Blackstone and Olive avenues. The notion of creating a place where the local neighborhood could be linked to resources in a dignified way sparked the idea of a thrift store. Backed by support from The Well, Neighborhood Thrift (neighborhoodthrift.com) was born in 2008 with Feil as a co-founder and co-director.

Within 18 months of opening two things happened: Neighborhood

Thrift outgrew its first 2,000-square-foot home and moved to its current 20,000-square-foot location just a few blocks away at Palm and Olive avenues, and the economic crash struck. Fresno County’s unemployment rate hovered at 15 percent. “At first, we wanted to address the needs of the Susan B. Anthony neighborhood, but we saw the same issues also crippling the city as a whole,” says Anthony “AP” Armour, director of Neighborhood Industries, of which Neighborhood Thrift is a part.

That sobering reality impressed among Neighborhood Thrift leaders the need to create job development opportunities. Employing and holistically training local residents—which include many from backgrounds that are hard to hire—is one of Neighborhood Thrift’s main activities. Beyond day-to-day work, employees

train in “soft skills” development—like teamwork, punctuality, resolving conflicts and setting goals.

“What Neighborhood Thrift does well is find value in things that are discarded, whether that’s people in the community—unfortunately—or T-shirts in your closet,” Feil says. “Finding value and redeeming those things is what it’s all about.”

That investment is making a difference. Former Neighborhood Thrift employees are moving into regular fulltime employment. Often, former employees come back to share their new work experiences. “It’s affirmation that we’re doing something right,” Armour says.

Neighborhood Thrift has also continued to expand its vision. In 2013, a recycling program—Neighborhood Recycling—launched. Through this new endeavor, old textiles—like T-shirts and towels—can be made into car insulation, carpet padding and oil filters. That means added opportunities and less environmental waste.

Just as Neighborhood Thrift has experienced its own evolution, so too has Feil. In January 2015,

he made the leap from local to global development as CEO of Lanna Coffee Co.

While based in Fresno, Lanna Coffee’s origins trace back to the hill tribes of Northern Thailand. Among those tribes are refugees who have no legal citizenship. They’re among the outcasts and marginalized. This region is where Integrated Tribal Development Program (ITDP), a grassroots Christian organization, has been working village by village to provide a sustainable lifestyle free from the drug cartels and human traffickers that have plagued the region. Part of that partnership includes ITDP teaching villagers how to grow coffee crops.

That’s where Lanna Coffee comes in. ITDP staff provides the training, tree-seedlings and equipment to help participants maintain high standards and be competitive on international markets. Lanna Coffee works with ITDP to purchase hill tribe coffee—paying villagers well above the going rate.

“We want to be known as a company that creates a better world through our product,” Feil says.

To date, more than 25 villages—comprising 400 families—grow coffee, and all crops are fully owned by the villagers. One quarter of Lanna Coffee profits go toward providing educational and medical opportunities and infrastructure, such as clean water, for growers.

In January 2015, Feil got to witness firsthand the work of ITDP and Lanna Coffee. Among the many villagers he met, Bryan recalls one farmer who had come from a background in growing rice, but had barely made ends meet. Transitioning to coffee production pushed the family’s income above the poverty line for the first time—a change that will affect generations moving forward.

Whether on the streets of Fresno or in the hills of Northern Thailand, investing in the discarded and forgotten helps people on both sides of the transaction. That’s a lesson Feil saw nurtured during his time at FPU. “My life was transformed into realizing God’s heart for the under-resourced, and the opportunities that business has to change lives—and ultimately communities,” he says. 🏠

“We want to be known as a company that creates a better world through our product.”
— Bryan Feil



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John Quincy Adams said that if your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

In a time when wise and ethical leaders are needed more than ever, Fresno Pacific University remains steadfast in its commitment to produce graduates who will lead ethically, serve others compassionately and embody the kingdom of Christ on earth through professional excellence.

Meet five FPU alumni who exemplify servant leadership and show what it means to lead by example:



FPU Inspires ALUMNI TO

LEAD

BY EXAMPLE



Christopher Ekk

Chief, Hanford Fire Department

BA '05, Management and Organizational Development

Additional degrees: M.A. in Emergency Services Administration; California State University, Long Beach

Family: Married to wife Catina for 11 years. Son Maximus, 10; and daughter Zoe, 8

Christopher Ekk readily admits that he wasn't much of a student right out of high school. He laughs about the number of junior college credits he amassed while trying to figure out what he wanted to do when he grew up, but finding his way into firefighting was a game changer.

A Reedley native, Ekk worked as a dispatcher and EMT for American Ambulance before becoming a paid call firefighter for the Fresno County Fire Protection District. He was hired by the Hanford Fire Department after completing the Fresno City College Fire Academy, and was promoted from firefighter to

engineer after three years. It was his desire to keep moving up in the department that led him to Fresno Pacific. "Early in my career I knew I eventually wanted to become a chief, and many departments require a bachelor's degree," he says.

At the encouragement of a friend and fellow firefighter, Ekk enrolled in FPU's bachelor's degree completion program, taking classes one night a week and on the weekends with other adult learners from a number of different industries. "Learning alongside a diverse group of people helped broaden my view of management and leadership," he says.

He graduated in 2005, and in 2006, he was promoted to captain.

Empowered by the momentum he'd gained at FPU, Ekk enrolled in the master's program at Cal State Long Beach, followed by a four-year executive fire officer program at the National Fire Academy in Maryland. He credits his time at FPU with giving him the motivation to continue pursuing higher education.

"None of it would have been possible without FPU," he says. "They're responsible for so much of my professional growth and personal development."

Ekk was promoted to battalion chief in 2013 and, after the previous chief retired last year, was named chief in April 2015. Understanding his new

position, the politics that come with it and the pressure of being the final decision maker has presented its challenges, but Ekk enjoys putting what he's learned into action.

"FPU's philosophy of student leadership really shaped my leadership style," he says. "My personal philosophy is to invest in my people. I like to empower people to participate in moving our department forward."

He also relies on his faith to be the guiding principle behind his developing leadership style. "The basis of faith is treating others the way you want to be treated," he says. "That really is also the basis of leadership."

went up in flames following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but in spite of growing up in a place he describes as "challenging," he was a good student and never labeled himself as being less than anyone else. He decided in the ninth grade that he wanted to attend college in California. In spite of receiving little encouragement from his family to pursue a higher education, he saved up his money and bought a ticket for a Trailways bus after high school graduation.

Hall earned degrees from West Hills College, West Coast

Christian College (now closed) and Fresno State University. He went on to teach in the Fresno Unified, Tranquility and Chowchilla school districts, and began working on a second master's degree at Fresno Pacific so that he'd be eligible to teach at the community college level.

The FPU faculty and staff he encountered inspired Hall to become the kind of hands-on educator that he is. "They really listened to what I was saying, valued my opinions and helped get me to the next level," Hall says. "They were very compassionate towards their students."

Hall credits his mentors with giving him the tenacity to land a job teaching English at West Hills while pursuing a doctorate from Fielding Graduate University. In 2005, Hall was named associate dean of educational services at West Hills Lemoore, and in 2010 vice president of student services at the Coalinga campus. "My goal at the time was to be president at West Hills Coalinga, but I believed that could only happen if I left and came back," he says.

So leave he did. Following an arduous interview process, Hall was hired as the superintendent/president of Lassen Community

College in Susanville in 2012.

"It's been a very good learning experience, but some days it kicks your butt," he says. "Basically, every important decision is thrown on your desk."

Striving to follow in the footsteps of the faculty at FPU, Hall maintains an open door policy and enjoys engaging with students. "What's important to me is seeing students walk across that stage and graduate, knowing they've achieved what they wanted to achieve," he says.



Kevin McPhaill

Chief Executive Officer, Sierra Bancorp, Porterville

BA '96, Management and Organizational Development

Additional degrees: MBA from Fresno State University

Family: Married to wife Cindy for 23 years. Daughter Grace, 15

Kevin McPhaill did his first solo flight in an aircraft on his 16th birthday, seemingly well on his way to pursuing a career as an airline pilot. But as is so often the case, God had a different plan that he was simply waiting for McPhaill to discover.

Born and raised in Visalia, McPhaill got a job as an assistant teller at a community bank while attending College of the Sequoias. He initially viewed the job as a pit stop on the way to bigger and better things, but 25 years in the banking industry

later, he realizes that he was lucky to find his calling early on.

"If you can find something to do that you're passionate about, everything else follows," McPhaill says. "If going to work is drudgery, you'll find it hard to advance."

McPhaill completed the Fresno Pacific bachelor's degree completion program. He credits FPU's collaborative approach with preparing him for the reality that few work projects are solo projects. And then, there was the writing. "Every teacher loved to

have us write, write, write, and that really helped me hone my writing skills, which I use all the time," he says.

After spending 14 years at Porterville-based Sierra Bancorp, the holding company for Bank of the Sierra, McPhaill took over as chief executive officer on April 1, 2015, following the retirement of the bank's founding president. As head of the largest independently owned bank headquartered in the South Valley, McPhaill oversees 450 employees in branches from

Fresno to Bakersfield and in Ventura County.

McPhaill says he likes to think that, if asked, his employees would describe him as a collaborative leader who motivates people to work together toward a common goal. And being a Christian in a position of leadership prompts him to lead by example. "It's important to be passionate about doing your job well, be honest and have integrity," he says.



Marlon Hall

Superintendent/President, Lassen Community College

MA '97, Reading/Education with English as a Second Language

Additional degrees: A.A. in Journalism, West Hills College in Coalinga; B.A.s in Biblical Studies and Journalism/English, West Coast Christian College and Fresno State University; M.A., Education Administration, Fresno State; Ph.D. in Education Leadership, Fielding Graduate University

Family: Married to wife Mary for 22 years. Son Marlon Hall, Jr. died in a car accident in 2007 at the age of 25. Hall awards an annual scholarship in memory of his son.

Marlon Hall has come a long way from his old Chicago neighborhood. His career has been a tireless journey to

become a college president—a goal he achieved in 2012. And although he finds himself in a position of leadership, he says

he doesn't have a management style.

"You don't manage people," he says. "You lead people like

Christ led them: the first shall be last and the last shall be first."

When he was only 10 years old, half of Hall's neighborhood



Toni Pauls

Vice President of Adult & Graduate Studies, Bethel College

BA '92, Marketing Management
Additional degrees: M.A. in Organizational Behavior, California School of Professional Psychology; Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership, Regent University

Family: Married to husband Galen for 35 years.
Daughter Charissa, 33; son Cameron, 32;
daughter Janelle, 26; and daughter Tessa 21

When Toni Pauls decided to go to college to advance her career, her parents didn't understand why she couldn't be happy to embrace a woman's traditional family role. But from the time of teen youth group, people around Pauls saw potential in her, and eventually, she began to see it in herself.

Pauls enrolled at Fresno City College after high school, but getting a degree wasn't a priority until not having one cost her a promotion at her job at a local bank. Back to City College she went, taking classes while continuing to work and raise a family that eventually grew to four children. When she became a financial aid counselor at FPU,

she began working toward her bachelor's degree.

After graduating in 1992, Pauls enrolled in the master's program at the California School of Professional Psychology. As an adult learner and university employee, Pauls enjoyed opportunities she otherwise may not have had. "I had deeper relationships with a lot of the faculty, and they began to identify in me qualities that would benefit the institution," she says.

When Pauls was invited to teach in the FPU degree completion program, she discovered God's calling. "I really fell in love with teaching and the academic side of education," she says. "It changed the trajectory of my life."

That love led to a faculty position at Indiana's Goshen College, where she became the director of adult programs. She went on to serve at several other colleges around the country before finding herself back in Indiana at Bethel College in Mishawaka.

She loves seeing lives transformed. "My job is very missional to me in that we're serving students in a way Christ expects us to serve others," Pauls says.

Thanks to years of hard work and her family's unwavering support, Pauls has successfully climbed the collegiate ladder. The question is whether being a woman will prevent her from climbing all the way to the top.

Only nine of the 121 schools in the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities have women presidents, she says.

"I can't tell you how many times I've been in a board room or faculty meeting and been the only woman," she says. "Some institutions won't hire women for certain positions."

But Pauls focuses on the strengths that come with being a woman in leadership. She's able to relate to students trying to find that elusive work/school/life balance, and enjoys mentoring young women. "Every person is as special to God as I am, and knowing that helps me be compassionate and see the bigger picture, that God is in control," she says.



Jason Salazar

Chief of Police,
City of Visalia

MA '13, Leadership Studies and Organization
Additional degrees: A.S. in Administration of Justice, College of the Sequoias; B.S. in Organizational Leadership from Mountain State University

Family: Married to wife Christy for 20 years.
Daughters Katie, 15, and Ali, 14

If there's any line of work that's under a microscope these days, it's that of police officers. But Jason Salazar, Visalia Police Chief, says that police work itself is essentially the same. What's different is the need to change how split-second decisions are made and the public perception of law enforcement officers.

Thanks in part to what he learned about transformational leadership at Fresno Pacific, Salazar believes he is uniquely qualified to lead his department through the challenges ahead.

"There are always going to be things that happen that are out of your control, but my faith helps me keep a state of mind

that we're here to help and serve people with the utmost integrity," he says.

Salazar grew up in a law enforcement family and began his career with the Visalia Police Department as a community service officer when he was only 19. He was hired as a sworn officer two and a half years later.

He earned his bachelor's degree online, but enrolled in Fresno Pacific for his master's in hopes of advancing his career. "I think education is important at any level of law enforcement, but especially in leadership roles," he says.

When he graduated in 2013, the possibility of becoming chief

continues on page 30

LIVES transformed | HOSANNA MUKAWA

A Home for Life

By Michaela Parker

Hosanna Mukawa has lived many places—Fresno, Chicago, the Congo—but she, and her family, have always had a home at Fresno Pacific.

Hosanna's FPU journey started at the age of two when her family lived in seminary housing while her father, Nzuzi, studied there. After he graduated the family moved to Chicago, then the Democratic Republic of the Congo, then back to Chicago during her senior year of high school. Hosanna came full circle by enrolling at FPU as a freshman.

Every move was an adjustment, but any hesitation Hosanna felt vanished as she walked onto campus. "FPU is quite a welcoming place and the willingness to help students is awesome, from regular school work to finding a job," she says.

Now a senior, Hosanna has grown as a student and as a person. As she looks forward to graduation, her younger brother, Jireh, is finding his place on campus. "There's so much about myself that I was able to discover while being at FPU, I know the kind of person that I am and I've developed various interests and capabilities that will help me in the next phase of my life," Hosanna says.

Because family is far away, Hosanna appreciates the support and love of the community that has encouraged her, listened to her and helped her grow in her walk with the Lord. Hosanna has leaned on the wisdom from Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." "I don't know where I'd be without that verse," Hosanna says.

No matter the miles, the Mukawa family can always come home to the corner of Chestnut and Butler avenues.

EDITOR'S NOTE!

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

ALUMNI
PROFILETIM
SCHELLENBERG
BA '01Having It
Both Ways

By Katie Fries



Tim Schellenberg (BA '01) came to Fresno Pacific University torn between music and science—his life since then has been about balancing them. Well that, writing original software, being a husband and father and working on a Ph.D.

Unable to choose between music and science as an undergraduate, Schellenberg took classes in both, sang with the FPU Concert Choir and played piano with the Jazz Band. Ultimately, he majored in music. The switch to science—engineering, in particular—would come later.

After graduation Schellenberg spent a year in Cambodia as an English teacher with Christian international relief organization, Mennonite Central Committee, before furthering his education at Fresno State University. Electrical engineering and computer science won out when it came time to choose a profession. “I knew I wasn’t a great musician,” he says. “I’ve tried to have it both ways—music and engineering.”

Once he received his master of science, Schellenberg interned with NASA. Now, as part of his doctoral work, he is writing software for calculating electromagnetic problems. In what may seem a strange way, his music background has helped. Even as an undergrad, he was able to find the similarities between his two disciplines. “I’ve always been into music theory—what makes music interesting,” he says. Theory is about picking music apart and analyzing it—“that’s really valuable in engineering, too,” Schellenberg adds.

Pursuing an engineering doctorate at the University of Bremen in Germany is not an odd choice for Schellenberg, who spent much of his childhood in that central-European nation while his father, Tim, was a pastor there. Today the elder Tim (SEM '83) is a hospice chaplain in Newton, KS. His mother, Jill (BA '01, MA '03), a former assistant professor in criminology and restorative justice at FPU, is director of the

“I knew I wasn’t a great musician. I’ve tried to have it both ways — music and engineering.”

—Tim Schellenberg

new criminology and restorative justice major at Tabor College.

So much of his life was spent abroad that Schellenberg joined the International Club at FPU, where he met other students working to fit into American life. He is also a big fan of studying abroad. “It’s a good thing to put yourself into a position where you don’t understand the culture,” Schellenberg says.

For now, though, Schellenberg is stateside, because life happens en route to a doctorate. He and wife Carol are

in Philadelphia, where she works as a dietician. They dated mostly online, he says, and spent the early part of their marriage in Germany. Today Schellenberg’s primary job is not the Ph.D. but taking care of their son, two-year-old Toby.

But even with his other responsibilities, Schellenberg still makes time for that other love: music. He performs with Chorale Arts Philadelphia, an award-winning chamber choir, and directs a choir at his church, West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship. He also plays piano at the church.

“For me,” Schellenberg says, “it’s important to have a way to unwind. It’s my hobby, but it’s also something I can share with others and do with others.”

1946
FAMOUS FOUNDATION

By Kevin Enns-Rempel, Director, Hiebert Library

On January 30, 1946, classes were dismissed at Pacific Bible Institute so that the entire community could help move the campus from Van Ness Avenue to 2149 Tuolumne Street in downtown Fresno. The new campus was located in a former



YWCA recreation center originally built in 1924. It featured a central courtyard flanked by French doors and arches, a spacious auditorium, cross-beamed ceilings, fireplaces with tile detailing, small balconies in front of the second-story windows and a full-size heated swimming pool in the basement.

Few of those moving into the new PBI home, however, likely knew its connection to Julia Morgan, perhaps the most renowned and prolific woman architect in American history. The designer of over 800 buildings during a career spanning from 1904 until her death in 1957, Morgan is best known as the designer of the magnificent Hearst Castle on the Central California Coast.

Born in 1872 in San Francisco, Morgan graduated from the University of California and then studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. After returning to the Bay Area in 1902, Morgan opened her own architectural firm in 1904. She first received widespread recognition for rebuilding the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco after it was damaged in the 1906 earthquake. In addition to designing many buildings for William Randolph Hearst, Morgan was named the official architect of the YWCA for the Western United States. She designed the Asilomar Conference Center near Monterey, as well as YWCA buildings in cities across the West. Morgan designed two YWCA buildings in Fresno: a residence hall on M Street (which today is on the National Register of Historic Places) and the recreation center on Tuolumne.

The Julia Morgan building served as PBI’s entire campus until May 1959, when the first building was completed on the Chestnut Avenue site. The school operated at both locations until December 1960, and the Tuolumne Street building was sold in 1962. It was drastically remodeled by the new owner in 1964, and today is almost unrecognizable as the work of one of America’s most renowned architects. 🏠

From the
Archives...

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Alumni Plaza—The Forest—is the outdoor gathering place on the main FPU campus. Faculty, staff and students meet around tables in sun and tree-dappled shade for lunch, study and social breaks. Sometimes someone brings a guitar.

Use and misdirected sprinklers left many tables worn over the years, and when elected leaders of the class of 2015 were looking for a legacy, the choice was obvious. The Undergraduate Students of Fresno Pacific University organized the

vote and the traditional undergraduate students agreed to contribute \$90,000 from an account funded by student body fees to purchase:

- **Recycled plastic tables to replace the original wooden ones; four are wheelchair-accessible**
- **An underground irrigation system that waters plants from below to protect the tables and save water**
- **Decomposed granite walkways**
- **Drought-tolerant trees and other colorful plants**

Work began in July and was completed as classes started in August. The students worked with Robert Lippert, chief financial officer; Gary Metcalf, director of facilities management; Marc Gilpin, grounds supervisor; Michael Kunz, professor of biology/environmental science; Deanne Bell, assistant professor of biology; and Richard Vaillancour, part of the Fresno firm Robert Boro Landscape Architect. The work was done by Briner & Son Landscape Management, Fresno. 🏡

Alumni couples celebrate two kinds of golden anniversary

A half century does not fade some friendships.

Eight couples from the class of 1965 put on a 50th reunion June 20, 2015, at the Fresno home of Dr. Garth and Tammy Schmidt. Most of the 16 met their spouse at what was then Pacific College and overcame the scheduling challenges of being in one another's weddings to marry shortly after graduation.

Members of the group stayed in touch over the years here and there, but “this is the first time we’ve all been together,” says Paul Neufeld.

The seeds for this event were planted at the 40th graduation reunion. Those sitting around the table in AIMS Hall of Mathematics and Science on the main campus realized they were all married in 1965. The real organizing started through email two years ago.

The 16 retirees and semi-retirees eating, laughing and enjoying the early summer sunshine represent nearly a

fifth of the entire 1965 student body. “At the time we were at Pacific there were only about 100 kids,” Neufeld says. It was the kind of school where so many students were in choir that when the group went on tour classes were canceled.

Roy Klassen pointed out that PC received its first accreditation just before the May graduation. “They had to be very trusting that their work would be worth something,” he said of his fellow alumni.

So what have these experts to say from their 400 years of marital experience?

Jonell Harms: “Forgive and forgive and forgive again.”
Galen Harms: “Listen. And listen to the stuff that’s not being said.”

Judy Neufeld: “We’re all Christians and we understand that our commitment is to God as well as each other.”

Roy Klassen: “Just because we’re Christians doesn’t mean we don’t screw up and need forgiveness.” 🏡

Lloyd and Mary (Neufeld) Gardner, Clovis
Married April 12, 1965, in Shafter MB Church
They met in high school. Their first date was to see *The Parent Trap* at a drive-in theater. Lloyd was a junior high and high school teacher, coach and pastor. Mary was an executive secretary for schools and medical facilities.

Gene and Geri (Martens) Sperling, Fresno
Married June 24, 1965, in Lustre (MT) Mennonite Brethren Church
Gene is an associate pastor at New Hope Community Church in Clovis and Geri is a part-time medical receptionist.

Garry and Lois (Bartel) Schmidt, Arroyo Grande, CA
Married June 26, 1965, in First Baptist Church, Shafter
He asked her to the Fresno County Fair on a dare. Garry worked in special education and Lois was an elementary teacher. Both were also missionaries for nine years in several countries.

Garth and Tammy (Jones) Schmidt, Fresno
Married July 10, 1965, in Bethany MB Church, Fresno
Met at Bethany Church. Garth was a dentist and Tammy was the bookkeeper for his practice.

Galen and Jonell (Guenther) Harms, Dallas, OR
Married August 14, 1965, in Kingwood Bible Church, Salem, OR
Galen was teacher and school administrator and Jonell was a registered nurse.

Roy and Paula (Payne) Klassen, Clovis
Married August 20, 1965, in Reedley MB Church
Met at the Pacific Talent Show, where his group won first place and she won third. Roy was a music professor at FPU for over 30 years and in 2016 will retire as director of the San Joaquin Chorale. Paula was an elementary teacher.

Bob and Carol (Becker) Friesen, Fresno
Married August 21, 1965, in Shafter MB Church
They met at Pacific when Bob helped Carol put up a poster for her campaign for school office. Bob was an administrator for low income housing and a photographer. Carol was a junior high and high school teacher.

Paul and Judy (Garner) Neufeld, Bakersfield, CA
Married August 28, 1965, in Butler MB Church, Fresno
They met when Paul was playing chess with some guys and then Judy and he played. She won, with a little help from the guys, and Paul asked her to the Valentine banquet. Paul was a general contractor and founder of a Christian school. Judy was an elementary teacher.

From left: Garth and Tammy Schmidt, Lloyd and Mary Gardner, Gary and Lois Schmidt, Bob and Carol Friesen, Roy and Paula Klassen, Galen and Jonell Harms, Paul and Judy Neufeld and Gene and Geri Sperling. (Photo by Brett Nelson, BA '02)



Happy 50th Anniversary

TOUCH with ALUMNI

SUNBIRDS 4 LIFE

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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jessica Sosa (BA '14) is now in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, spending a year with the Serving and Learning Together (SALT) program sponsored by Christian international relief organization Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). She will be the program assistant for Precious Women, a Christian organization with a vision for a Cambodia free of sex trafficking and exploitation. Offering counseling, vocational training, mentoring and fellowship, as well as temporary shelter for women coming out of the sex trade, Precious Women sets out to give new hope and life to the women they work with.

Amdetsion Woldeyes Sisha (MA '13), of Ethiopia, returned to the national peace office of the Meserete Kristos Church upon completion of his Master of Arts in Peacemaking and Conflict Studies, and was appointed to the faculty of Meserete Kristos College to anchor the development of a peace education program.



Brandon Dorman (MA '13, TC '07, BA '05), a teacher in Fresno Unified School District since 2006, accepted a job as lead content curator of the website OpenEd.com in June 2015.

In addition, Brandon and wife Meagan also celebrated the birth of daughter Madelyn Christina in September 2014.

Anthony Duhon (BA '13) is now project coordinator of strategic initiatives for the Republican National Committee.

Kirill Sinitsyn (BA '13) received a Master's in Global Politics from Durham University in England, one of the top 80 universities in the world. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Cyber Politics while on a tennis scholarship at the same university. In addition, Kirill led Durham's tennis team as both a player and head coach to its first national men's tennis championship in 2015.

On November 22, 2014, **Steve Karcher (SEM '13)** was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church, a position which he holds while transitioning to the Episcopal priesthood. He is presently assigned to St. Paul's, the largest Episcopal parish in the southern portion of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin. He preaches two to three times a month, and assists at every service, including working as the presider, gospelier and eucharistic minister. Steve



also continues as a self-employed attorney, handling business, real estate and litigation.

Connie Pulmano (SEM '11) is director of social work and chaplain services at Hind's Hospice, Fresno.

Ember Hilvers (BA '11) has been offered a job with Public Health Wales as an information analyst with a focus on working with GP data

on notifiable diseases. Public Health England/Wales is, essentially, the United Kingdom's version of the U.S. Center for Disease Control. With time and experience, Ember could achieve her goal to become an infectious disease epidemiologist. In addition, the University of Birmingham, England, where she received her Master's in Public Health, wants to feature her once she finishes her dissertation, and use her as a guest lecturer in the upcoming school year.

After graduating from FPU with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, **Stephanie Aguirre (BA '10)** received her Master's in Social Work at CSU Bakersfield. She graduated with honors and participated in developing a community garden in Southeast Bakersfield with a classmate. They ended up turning their community work into a research project and spoke at a national conference in Syracuse, NY. Their research will be published. Stephanie is employed with the County of Riverside, where she works with youth in the extended foster care program.

Virginia Cercado (MA '10, BA '03), a teacher for 13 years, has published her first children's book, *The Runaway Tamale!*, with Tate Publishing. This story was inspired by a classic tale, but adds a Mexican flavor. The release date was August 25, 2015.

Melissa Bergen (SEM '09, BA '04), a Mennonite Brethren pastor, received the "Educational Partnership" award in May 2015 from the Richland School District Board, a district serving 3,200 students in Shafter, CA. Melissa works with Richland teachers and staff to help students from her church reach their academic goals. She serves in a unique sister church partnership between

Iglesia Compañerismo Cristiano and Shafter Mennonite Brethren Church.

David Tsvirinko (MA '08, BA '01) was honored by the Fresno County Office of Education with the Employee of the Year award. He is a human resources systems analyst.

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

Nathan Gift (SEM '01) received a pastoral appointment to serve three congregations beginning July 1, 2015: Stafford (KS) First United Methodist Church, St. John First United Methodist Church and Antrim United Methodist Church.

Silas Langley (BA '93) wrote a series of articles on LinkedIn.com regarding educational technology. He is currently working on creating an app for teachers that will help them with syllabi, grading, scheduling and more. All of his articles can be accessed on his blog at silaslangley98.wordpress.com/

Lori (Wall MA '91) Hamada has come full circle in her career. Lori has been in education for the past 30 years, and about a year ago she was recruited to launch the reorganized AIMS Center for Math and Science Education. Based on the FPU main campus, the center's mission is (according to its mission statement) "dedicated to understanding existing research on how children 'come to know' their mathematical and scientific knowledge; to use what is learned from research to inspire teachers to deeply ponder how to change their own classroom practice—passionate, reflective teachers who will take their students' thinking

seriously; and to broadly share that which is learned with the educational community." AIMS instructors offer a "think tank," but are also committed to go a step further and translate what they learn for teachers in the Valley.

In April of 2015, **Greg Sommers (BA '89)** received the Willis Tate Distinguished Teacher Award from the Southern Methodist University Student's Senate. The award recognizes a faculty member for outstanding teaching, service and giving unselfishly to the students and the university as a whole.

Hrvoje (BA '00) and Lisa (Villalobos TC '01, BA '99) Maglic are both teachers, Hrvoje in Sanger Unified School District and Lisa in Fresno Unified School District in the area of curriculum and instruction. They have 2-year-old twin boys, Luka and Niko.

instructor and basketball coach at the high school and college levels.

Frank Austin (FS '70) retired from teaching special education at Tulare Union High School in 2010 after 38 years.



Patricia McPherson (FS '85) is a manager in higher education. She is married with two boys, ages 16 and 14.

Reiner Lorenz (SEM '83) has studied at the University in Tübingen, Germany, and at the Theological Seminary of the Baptist Convention in Hamburg, Germany. He is currently a Baptist pastor in Germany and a member of the European Board of Jews for Jesus.

Hilary Malveaux (BA '11) was promoted to the position of business manager with Bertz-Rosa | Strategy & Creative, Fresno, on July 1, 2015.

Jamie Anderson (BA '81) was hired to spearhead the resurrection of the men's basketball program at Life Pacific College in San Dimas, CA, after 34 years as an English



WHAT'S
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It's so easy to let your classmates and friends know what's happening in your life - job, marriage, children, new address and awards.
Fill out the online form at fresno.edu/alumniupdate

Allison Ens (BA '15) was featured on **usmb.org** in May 2015. The Kansas native pursued music and biblical and religious studies. She currently plays for the Tulare County Symphony and aspires to use her gifts to help tackle the urban issues in Fresno.

Jordan Litz (FS '15) has been making a name for himself in Fresno musical theater, starring in productions including *West Side Story*, *South Pacific* and *Dogfight*. He was featured in *The Fresno Bee* at: fresnobee.com/entertainment/performing-arts/article28440031.html

Vicky Xiong-Lor (MA '13) is a candidate for a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Fresno State University. Vicky was born in Laos and moved to America at the age of seven, the oldest of nine children. Her parents supported her in her academic pursuits, and after graduating from McLane High School in 1991, she attended Fresno State and received a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies, the first in her family

to graduate from college. She earned her teaching credential and has taught in Clovis Unified School District for 19 years. In 2013 she received her Master's in Mathematics at FPU. Throughout her academic journey, Vicky has continuously pushed for education in the community, taking part in many advocacy programs for youth and Hmong youth especially, including the Southeast Asian Task Force and the California Association for Asian Pacific Bilingual Education. Vicky was featured on ABC 30 News: abc30.com/society/asian-pacific-american-heritage-month/706545/

Efrain Tovar (MA '06, BA '95) is an English teacher at Abraham Lincoln Middle School in Selma, CA. He was featured in *The Hanford Sentinel* article "Technology changing the face of education," for integrating technology into his classroom. See the article at hanfordsentinel.com/selma_enterprise/news/article_d8b2fba0-8dbb-59c0-b588-bd2a570115b6.html

Linda Ewy (MA '99) received an award from the Nursing Leadership Coalition as the Nurse of the Year in the Advanced Practice Category. She was featured in an article on June 27, 2015. See the article at communitymedical.org/news-events/blogs/news-views/valley-nursing-coalition-honors-two-our-rns

Sandy (Wiebe BA '79) Alvarez was awarded Citizen of the Year in 2014 by Igiugig Village Council (IVC) in Alaska. Sandy is the chief financial director at IVC, and for 27 years she helped to build this multi-million dollar empire of an organization in every capacity possible: as Head Start director before Igiugig had a preschool, as water operator, electric utility clerk, accountant for all IVC business and secretary of all meetings. See the article at igiugig.com/latest-news/communtiy-news/123-sandy-alvarez-citizen-of-the-year-2014



Alexander (BA '15) and Lokelani (Lindsey) Wilson (current student) announce the birth of son Amos Lindsey on July 21, 2015. He was 7 lbs., 11 oz. and 19.5 inches long.



Angela (Young MA '12, BA '08) Somawang and husband Andrew announce the birth of son Oliver Mitchell on April 4, 2015. He was 8 lbs., 13 oz. and 21.5 inches long.

Jessica (Nessmith BA '12) Martin and husband Michael announce the birth of son Mason on March 13, 2014. He was 6 lbs., 7.5 oz. and 19 inches long. He joins sisters Juliana and Talina, both 13; and Sarah, 11. Jessica was hired as a first grade teacher in Visalia, CA.



Tyler (BA '11) and Grecia (Madriz BA '11) Enns announce the birth of son Luke Daniel on December 27, 2014.

Brigitte (Craig BA '10) Barnes and husband Phillip announce the birth of daughter Laney on February 28, 2015. She joins sister Cora, who was born December 7, 2013, and placed in Brigitte and Phillip's arms through adoption that very day.



Chris (BA '09) and Mandie (Hardy MA '13, BA '10, FPU Residence Director) Wall announce the birth of daughter Evie Selina on May 14, 2015. She was 7 lbs., 13 oz. and 20.5 inches long. She joins brother Kai.



Jennifer Becerra (MA '09, TC '06, BA '02) and husband Robert announce the birth of daughter Luciana Emily on February 28, 2015. She was 6 lbs., 9 oz. and 19.75 inches long.



Sheila (Kamps BA '04) Frowsing and husband Nathan announce the birth of son Gabriel Jacob on March 11, 2015. He was 8 lbs., 7 oz. and 21 inches long.



Kim (Johnson BA '02) Haroutunian and husband Paul announce the birth of daughter Hannah Joy on October 31, 2014.

Lucas (BA '07) and Marciela (TC '05, BA '04) Anderson announce the birth of daughter Maya Dee on May 5, 2015. She was 8 lbs. and 5 oz. She joins sister Audrey, 5; and brother John, 2.



Elena (BA '02) Karnaukh and husband Oleg announce the birth of son Avdey James on November 16, 2014.



Amanda Patterson (TC '03, BA '01) and husband Steve announce the birth of daughter Elizabeth Marina Abigail on January 2, 2015. She joins brother Samuel Bruce, 2; and sister Adeline Lee, 6.

Janine (Selph TC '97, BA '96) Jenista and husband Todd announce the birth of son Theodore Everett on December 19, 2014. He was 10 lbs., 9oz. and 21 inches long. Theodore joins sister Sophia, 9; and brother Wesley, 7.



Annie Fujikawa (Psychology Faculty) and husband Derek announce the birth of daughter Arianna on April 30, 2015. She was 7 lbs., 10 oz. and 21 inches long.



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The Flock is for children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and young friends of FPU alumni.



Luke Bese (BA '15) married **Ashley Spinelli (Current Student)** on Saturday, June 6, 2015, at North Fresno Church MB.



Chase Conklin (BA '15) married **Emily Broomfield (BA '15)** on May 23, 2015, in Hanford, CA. Emily is a residence director at FPU.



Steven Waite (MA '15, BA '13) married **Catherine Michaelis (TC '14, BA '12)** on August 10, 2014, in Le Grand, CA. Catherine is a math teacher for Sanger Unified School District. Steven is working as an adjunct for both the kinesiology department at FPU and also the physical education and health department at Clovis Community College.



Nicole Marshall (BA '14) married **Aaron Jacobsma** on July 10, 2015, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Visalia, CA.

Melissa Reynolds-Bate (MA '05), 46, died July 22, 2015. Born in Hanford, CA, she was a lifelong resident of Kings County, residing in Lemoore for more than 20 years. Melissa taught grades K-6 in the Hanford Elementary School District. She was also an intervention specialist, a student support coordinator and an academic coach at Corcoran Unified School District, Reef-Sunset Unified School District and Farmersville Unified School District. Among her survivors are

husband Chip and children Justin, Ty and Charlize; and siblings Buddy Reynolds and Paula Reynolds. More at hanfordsentinel.com/obituaries/melissa-jean-reynolds-bate/article_1d3b14d1-ab0c-5f0d-94fa-5e22c3522119.html

Randall Mark Penner (BA '76) died of cancer on September 7, 2015. He was born on November 13, 1953, in Steinbach, Manitoba. A graduate of San Joaquin College of Law, he practiced law in Fresno

for 33 years and was a member of the FPU Foundation Board. He is survived by his wife, **Debbie (Ellis BA '75)**; three sons, Nicholas and his wife Melissa, Ryan and his wife Molly, and Matthew; five grandchildren Carson, Madison, Joseph, Nathan and Amelia; one sister, Loreena; and two brothers, Gary and Mike. More at legacy.com/obituaries/fresnobee/obituary.aspx?pid=175787853#sthash.TgW6G6J3.dpuf

Alumni to Lead from page 20

seemed a long way off, but when a cancer diagnosis led the previous chief to retire earlier this year, Salazar was one of three captains that applied for the position. He was officially sworn in on July 6, 2015, and says his time at FPU was instrumental in preparing him for this new role.

"It gave me a bigger toolkit with which to address what's happening in an organization and across disciplines," he says. "The focus on transformational leadership and how to lead

through change is crucial for law enforcement leaders."

In addition to overseeing 140 sworn officers and 68 professional staff, Salazar is heavily involved with the city's leadership team. "In my profession, you're a community leader who has to work across many disciplines," he says.

When he was hired, *The Fresno Bee* touted Salazar as "Visalia's first Latino police chief," but he doesn't want that to be what defines

him. "I'm proud of where I come from and who I am, but my focus is on representing the community and the department the best I can, regardless of my heritage," he says.

To Salazar, being a leader means having an inherent drive to help others. He says he was secure in his Christian faith before attending FPU, but his time there taught him valuable lessons about how his beliefs can translate into servant leadership. "Ultimately, we're here to serve," he says.

FPU approved for active NCAA membership Sunbirds to fly in the NCAA Division II

Four years of effort came to fruition July 31, 2015, when the National Collegiate Athletic Association approved FPU for active NCAA membership in Division II.

The final step was ratification by the NCAA Division II Management Council of a recommendation by the Division II Membership Committee. The 14 Sunbird teams became eligible to compete in postseason championship play and enjoy full NCAA membership privileges effective September 1. "The committee appreciates the dedication and commitment shown by your institution during the membership process," wrote Deborah Chin, chair of the Division II Membership Committee.

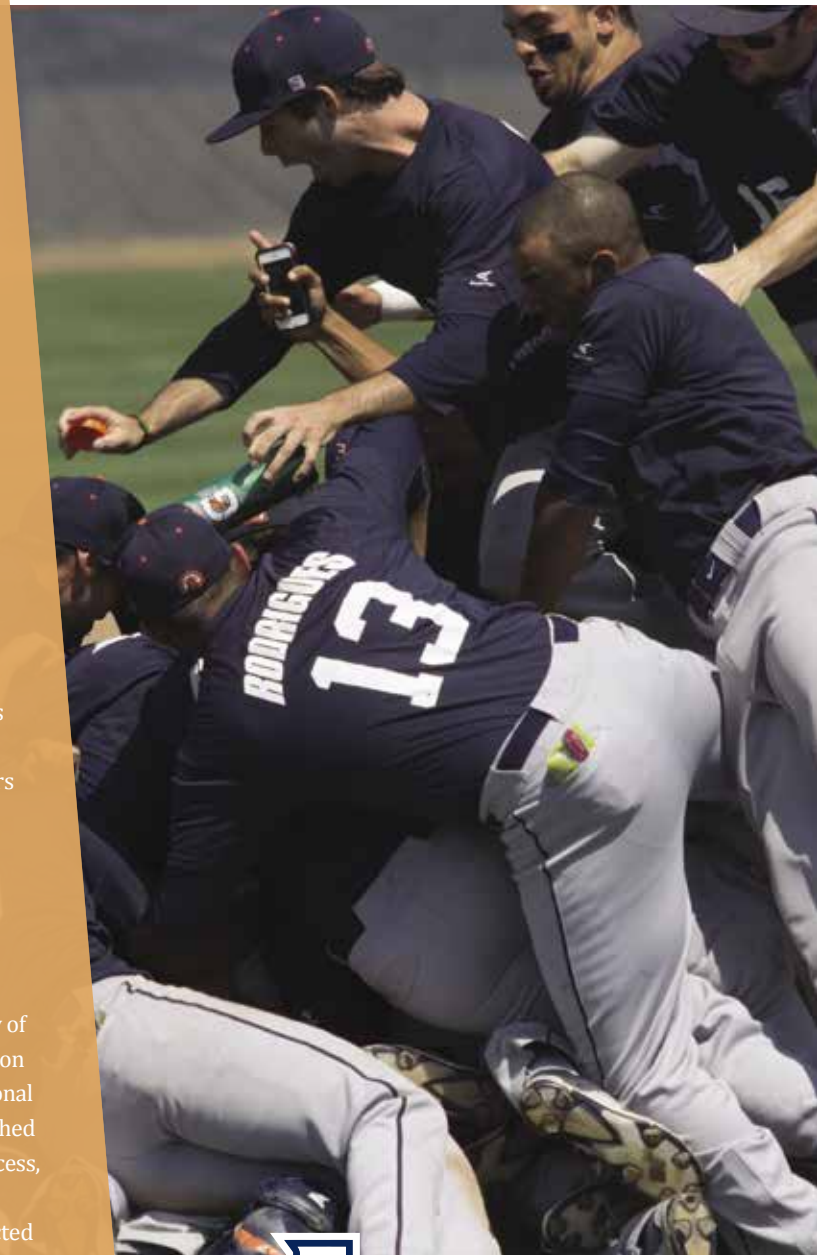
"Fresno Pacific University is justifiably proud to be recommended for active membership in the NCAA Division II," said President Richard Kriegbaum, Ph.D. "The NCAA membership process was appropriately rigorous and required changes that have helped us become an even better Christian university with a strong athletics program that represents our core academic, servant-leadership and spiritual values. The NCAA Division II supports our FPU commitment to highly competitive sports teams that develop each student-athlete as a whole person, prepared to lead and serve with excellence in all areas of life."

FPU has competed in the NCAA Division II Pacific West Conference during the past three seasons, winning conference championships in men's soccer and men's track & field, and taking home the conference's community engagement award in back-to-back years. Additionally, more than 300 FPU student-athletes received PacWest academic honors during that span.

The Sunbirds became the 12th active NCAA member in the 14-team conference. Fellow PacWest member Holy Names is currently in the membership process, as is Concordia, a former Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) rival, which will play its first season in the PacWest this fall.

FPU was originally accepted into the NCAA membership process in July of 2011, capping off a highly-successful 47-year run in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) that saw the university capture 13 national titles, including 11 in its final five years of membership. The Sunbirds finished in the top five in the NACDA Director's Cup, measuring overall athletic success, in four of their last five seasons in the NAIA.

The decision to apply to the NCAA began in 2009 with a study conducted by FPU and other GSAC schools. The FPU Board of Trustees voted unanimously in June of 2010 to push for membership. Read more at FPUathletics.com/news/2015/7/17/GEN_0717153409.aspx



Volleyball, soccer, water polo — catch all the action and enjoy features that get you behind the scenes at FPUathletics.com



in step with the
SUNBIRDS

Coles qualifies for Olympic trials



Fresno Pacific's Wesley Coles qualified for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials in the 100 butterfly in July.

Coles, who finished his junior season, accomplished the feat at a meet in Clovis, CA, with a time of 54.58. The 2016 trials cut is set at 54.79 in the 100 fly. It marks the first such accomplishment in his career.

"Wesley has been the rock of our program over the past three years and I'm so excited to see his hard work pay off," said head coach Josh Christensen. "This will motivate every student-athlete in our program to dream big and then go out and put the work in to earn those dreams."

Coles finished behind FPU alumnus and current assistant coach Carl Weigley, who swam 53.9 and qualified for the U.S. Trials for the second time. Coles, a native of Lindsay, becomes the fourth Sunbird to accomplish the feat. In 2012, Weigley, Jordan Litz and Cheyenne Coffman all swam at the Trials.

Read more at FPUathletics.com/news/2015/7/10/SWIM_0710154752.aspx



FPU Selects Alumnus as Director of Athletics

Aaron Henderson

Aaron Henderson (MA '09, BA '08) returned to his alma mater as director of athletics September 8, 2015. Henderson, who spent seven years at FPU in roles including assistant athletics director and men's basketball coach, had been athletics director at Immanuel High School in Reedley.

"When one of our own alumni is selected in a national search, we are doubly pleased and honored," said FPU President Richard Kriegbaum, Ph.D. "Aaron has a broad and strong reputation among FPU alumni and other supporters, a vital Christian commitment, a passion for holistic student-athlete success, a heart for serving both the FPU campus and the Central Valley community, and the skills and personality to make great things happen."

Joining Immanuel in 2013, Henderson oversaw 18 sports and supervised nearly 60 coaches. "I am incredibly humbled that President Kriegbaum and the search committee have entrusted me with the great responsibility of serving our campus, our staff and our student-athletes in this role," said Henderson. "I'm extremely thankful that I've been blessed with amazing mentors, both at FPU and Immanuel, who have encouraged me, challenged me and given me the opportunities that have uniquely prepared me for this position. I couldn't be more excited about returning to my alma mater as we begin active NCAA membership and continue to establish ourselves as a leading Christian university that serves its student-athletes academically, athletically and spiritually."

Transferring to FPU in 2006 from College of the Sequoias in Visalia, Henderson was a member of the Sunbirds men's basketball and the track & field teams, becoming a full assistant men's basketball coach while still an undergraduate. As lead assistant, Henderson provided consistency under three head coaches during the most successful seven-year stretch in university history. The Sunbirds went 139-81 during his tenure with two single-season records, including a record 26 wins in 2009, and three national tournament appearances.

Upon graduation in 2008 Henderson added events management director to his coaching and was later promoted to assistant athletics director. He oversaw events including the NAIA men's soccer national championships and the NAIA baseball World Series Opening Round. He also taught for two years as adjunct faculty in the FPU Department of Kinesiology.

A native of Exeter, CA, Henderson competed in basketball, water polo, tennis and swimming at Exeter High School. While at COS he landed his first job in athletics, returning to his high school to coach with the girl's basketball team and leading the school to a Valley title and the best season in program history.

Henderson replaces Leslie Schuemann, who resigned in June to become the associate commissioner of the Heartland Conference.

See the full article and catch up with all the Sunbird athletics news at FPUathletics.com/news/2015/8/26/GEN_0826154709.aspx

Two head coaches join the Sunbirds



Men's basketball

Tim Kisner began as head men's basketball coach after four years as associate head coach at Lake Superior State (MI), a nationally-ranked NCAA Division II program.

At LSSU Kisner helped deliver the school's most successful two-year stretch with back-to-back conference championships and NCAA tournament bids. The team posted a record of 53-13.

A four-year starting point guard for NCAA Division I Central Michigan University, Kisner captained the team that took home the 2001 Mid-America Conference championship. Following college, Kisner played two seasons in the Continental Basketball Association (CBA), earning player of the year honors with the Grand Rapids Hoops in 2003, then moving to Europe and playing in more than 350 games in seven countries.

Kisner added C.J. Haydock (BA '07) to his staff. Haydock comes to FPU from Immanuel High School, where he led the Eagles to back-

to-back Valley championships and was named the 2015 Fresno Bee High School Coach of the Year.

Women's Soccer

Rob Podeyn is head women's soccer coach. Podeyn comes to FPU after leading Southwest Baptist (MO) to a Top 25 national ranking and back-to-back NCAA Division II tournament berths.



During six seasons at SBU, Podeyn orchestrated a turnaround that included the team earning its first conference tournament championship and finished sixth in the nation in scoring. Over a 13-year coaching career, his record is 109-98-20 and his teams have averaged more than 2.5 goals per game.

Podeyn began coaching after a seven-year professional career as a goalkeeper with the Long Island Stars of the American Soccer League, earning league MVP honors twice. The author of seven books on soccer, Podeyn will also teach kinesiology.



FPU Knows the Meaning of “Generosity”

gen.er.ous
[jen-er-uh s]
1. liberal in giving or sharing; unselfish;
2. showing a readiness to give more of something than is strictly necessary or expected.

Synonyms: liberal, lavish, magnanimous, munificent, openhanded, bountiful, unselfish, indulgent, bounteous

The Fresno Pacific community has always had a giving spirit—showing generosity in a variety of ways. This new column in *Pacific* will highlight some of this unselfishness in hopes of inspiring even more.

Generosity is part of the educational experience at FPU, says President Richard Kriegbaum: “Because you and I have experienced the generosity of God in Christ and through thousands of others, we can lead and serve and enjoy being generous.”

Every member of the university’s Board of Trustees gives to FPU.

Every member of the Executive Cabinet gives to FPU.

500 vacation hours were donated by employees to other employees last year to cover time missed due to illness.

Our athletic teams spent more than 3,000 hours serving in our local community earning the Pacific West Conference Community Engagement Award—again.



Helping Students: A New Year’s Tradition



With each new year, Norma Bickmore honors her late husband and helps students at Fresno Pacific University. “I do that in January,” she says of the check she writes for the Edward C. Bickmore, Jr. Memorial Business Endowed Scholarship.

In 1984, the Bickmores opened a small consulting business as a solution to the public entity insurance crisis then crippling California. Bickmore is now the second largest firm of its kind in the nation. The \$2,500 scholarship passes on her husband’s love for education and encourages recipients to succeed in business. “It seemed like the right thing to do,” she said.

Mrs. Bickmore especially appreciates letters of thanks from recipients. “They always write to thank me.” The fortunate students appreciate Mrs. Bickmore too.



“This scholarship has helped with covering the cost of my education for my senior year. With rising expenses every year, it has been a major relief for me to know that for the first time ever, I didn’t have to take out any additional loans. I’m very thankful for the scholarships I receive.”

Allisha Gold



“It is such a blessing for me to be able to attend FPU, but I would not be able to do so without the financial assistance from scholarships. It is apparent to me that God has led me here and continues to provide the means for me to complete my education at such a great school.”

Zac Mizner

Gifts to FPU serve students, professions, congregations and communities. Show your support by contacting Connie McNeely in the Advancement Office: connie.mcneely@fresno.edu or 559-453-7139.

LEARN more



Donors, Dollars & Students FPU Annual Report | 2014-2015

Your Dollars Accomplished

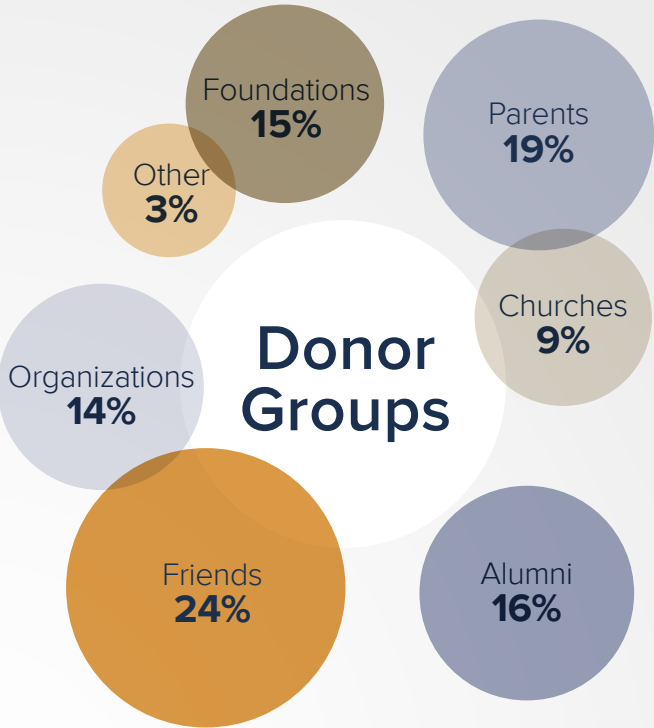
10 new SCHOLARSHIPS totaling over **\$100,000**

7 NEW CHURCH AND NON-PROFIT MINISTRIES STARTED
Christ-centered Social Business as a result of CCT’s Spark Tank

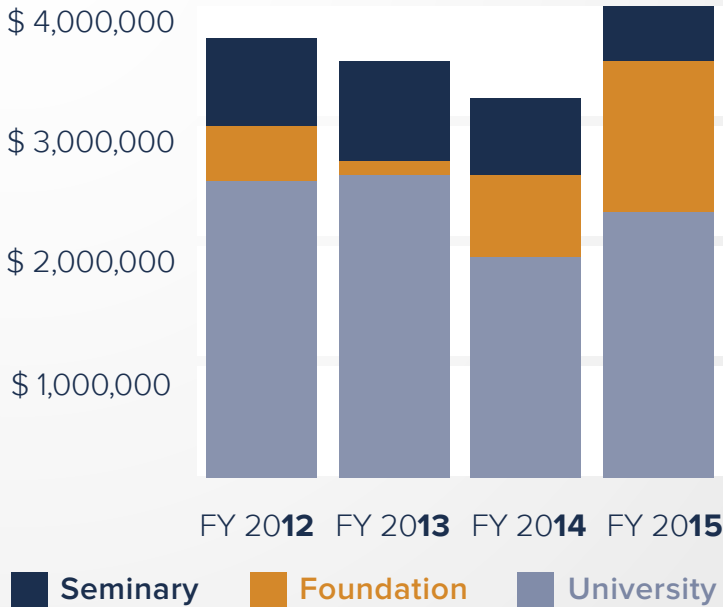
acquired **2.5 ACRES** to EXPAND OUR CAMPUS FOOTPRINT

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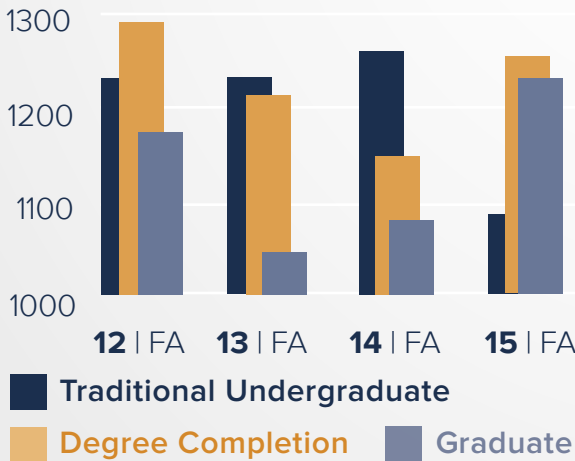
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Many Kinds of Homes

"Now having entered the 'retirement' season, our needs and capacities have changed. Our contribution will go to a long-sought home for the fine arts at Fresno Pacific."

- Dalton Reimer



For Dalton and Beverly Reimer, Fresno Pacific has been a home, as has the house they designed and lived in for 44 years.

Today the Reimers are using one home to benefit the other, making a bargain sale of their house to benefit the university. In a "bargain"—or "donative"—sale, a donor sells appreciated property to a charity below fair market value, receiving tax deductions and making a gift of the difference.

The Fresno Pacific University Foundation can help you consider ways planned giving can combine tax and retirement advantages with a legacy to Christian higher education.



For more information on bargain sales and other planned giving options contact the foundation.

Mark Deffenbacher, CFRE
Executive Director
Fresno Pacific University Foundation
559-281-2374 | mdeffen@fresno.edu
fresno.edu/foundation