

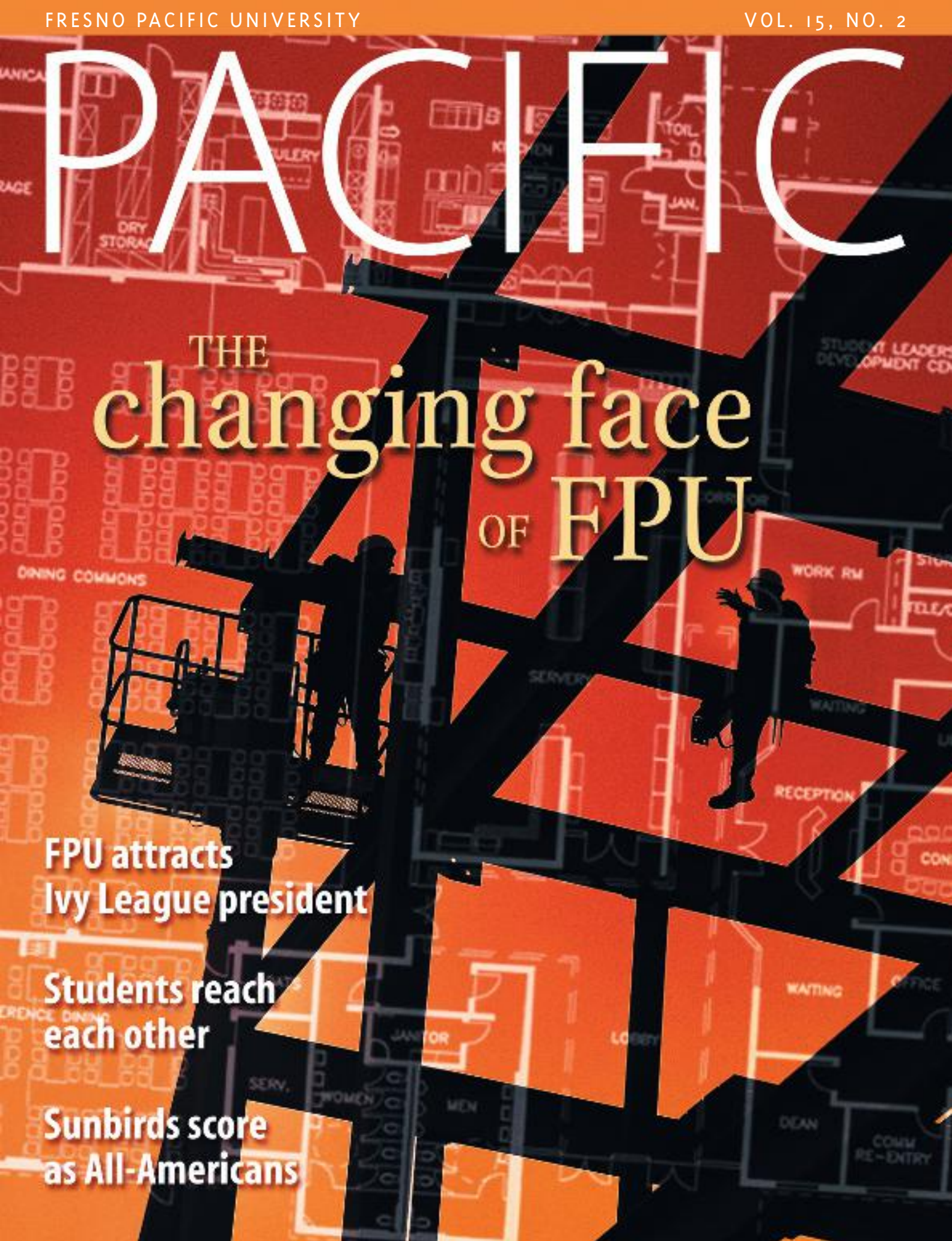
# PACIFIC

## THE changing face OF FPU

**FPU attracts  
Ivy League president**

**Students reach  
each other**

**Sunbirds score  
as All-Americans**





## A celebration of recollections of Harold Haak

A big part of the joy of working with Harold Haak as president of Fresno Pacific University has been simply...working with Harold. Along with his experience, education and talent, Harold brought a yet more precious gift to work each day—he brought himself.

*STORIES BEING HAROLD'S GREAT LOVE, HERE'S A SMATTERING OF STORIES ON HIM:*

"Almost daily, Harold could recount the most interesting stories from his past that shed light on our present activities (been there, done that). Even more amazing was his memory. On any particular occasion, he could refer to the most obscure and arcane book or article, and its author, that had bearing on the subject at hand. Once while discussing budgeting, he referred me to an article and its author from the 1930's ('The Lack of Budgetary Theory' by V.O. Key, Jr.) that directly touched on the subject. Truly amazing!"

—Larry Perryman, vice president for business affairs

"When he was asked to consider being president Harold immediately responded, 'You know, I've been in state academic institutions all my professional life; I'd enjoy the challenge presented by a Christian university.'

When we discussed FPU after he had done some background reading, Harold commented that he really liked the Fresno Pacific Idea. He viewed it as a marvelous statement of what a church-related university could be.



*Happy trails!*

Harold is well known for his penchant for bursting into song without warning. Once he and I were driving along the Rhine, and I was talking about the Lorelei. Suddenly Harold started singing, 'Ich weiss nicht, was soll es bedeuten....'

—Peter Klassen, chair of the board of trustees

"I'm always amazed at how easy it is to get Harold to break down into sobbing tears. Almost anything can do it. I've seen it happen in the cabinet at a particularly touching moment, and we all know how often that happens in administrative meetings. I've seen it happen when someone at a service club began to sing a sentimental song, and then Harold composed himself and joined in singing. It has been a real treat to have such a sensitive president, but we have all had to be careful that we didn't touch him too deeply."

—Steve Varvis, dean of the college

"Early in Harold's presidency we were in Bakersfield for a lunch to introduce him to some President's Circle members who lived in the area. In the group were Marvin and Nadene Steinert and their son and daughter-in-law, Max and Charlotte Steinert. Marvin is a past board member and chair, Max is assistant board treasurer, three of Marvin's sons—including Max—and five granddaughters are graduates, and their generosity has made possible Steinert Campus Center, Steinert Field and many other projects.

In his remarks after lunch, Harold totally missed the name of Charlotte Steinert, who was sitting on his left. We carefully corrected the president and then he turned to Nadene

Steinert on his right and gave her a brand new name, by mistake. When we corrected him again, he said, "I never have been good with names, especially women's, so it is a good thing I have been married to the same wife for over 40 years." Everyone laughed, including Charlotte and Nadene. Harold has a way of making everyone laugh, even at his own mistakes.

—Bud Dickerson, director of major gifts and capital campaigns

"Harold never turns down a snack; he's always searching for goodies and visits the office candy dish frequently.

He also keeps reminding us of how fortunate we are to have a Christian university of the Mennonite Brethren denomination. He claims we are far too apologetic about it and should state it proudly and NEVER let that heritage be diminished."

—Nancy Neufeld, assistant to the president

Fresno Pacific University exists to prepare students for faithful and wise service through excellence in Christian higher education, and to strengthen the church and improve society through scholarship and service.

PRESIDENT  
Harold Haak

VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
ADVANCEMENT AND  
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS  
Mark Deffenbacher

DIRECTOR OF MEDIA AND  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
Diana Bates Mock

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Wayne Steffen  
wsteffen@fresno.edu

DESIGN DIRECTOR  
Gail Enns  
genns@fresno.edu

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
Ken Isaak  
Brady Hilscher

CONTRIBUTING  
PHOTOGRAPHERS  
Wayne Steffen, Ken Isaak,  
Ryan Watamura, Allison Cockerham

*Pacific* is sent to alumni and friends of Fresno Pacific University and to members of the Pacific District Conference of the Men-nonite Brethren Churches.

OUR MAILING ADDRESS  
1717 S. Chestnut Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93702-4709

Alumni 559-453-2058  
Advancement 559-453-2080  
College Admissions 800-660-6089  
Graduate School 559-453-3667  
School of Professional Studies  
559-453-2015



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## Structure for Education

New facilities will give students, faculty and staff new ways to build the sense of community that defines FPU.

- 3 **New hand at the helm**  
D. Merrill Ewert assumes the presidency
- 10 **Don't call them "retirees"**  
Judith Hillen, Dalton Reimer, Larry Warkentin and Devon Wiens honored for careers of service.
- 12 **Around the green**  
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- 15 **Building our future**  
New tennis courts named for Harold and Betty Haak
- 16 **1717 South Chestnut Avenue**  
MCC volunteer looks at life in Washington, D.C.
- 21 **Sunbird Athletics**  
Spring brings a new harvest of All-Americans

## We love letters

*“Honest and earnest criticism from those whose interests are most nearly touched—criticism of writers by readers, of government by those governed, of leaders by those lead—this is the soul of democracy and the safeguard of modern society.” —WEB DuBois*

DuBois also speaks to the soul of the church, its institutions and their publications.

People who write letters to the editor show they care enough to read and react. Your alma mater (“fostering mother”) appreciates hearing from her children.

More important, dialog is necessary to discern the Spirit. Anabaptism, the branch of Christianity that birthed Fresno Pacific University, is founded on the idea that all can learn from each.

This university is a place of ideas, discussion and sometimes disagreement as we try to understand and live the truth together. This magazine participates by keeping alumni and other members of the extended family informed and involved.

FPU publishes *Pacific*. These days a fellow named Wayne Steffen edits *Pacific*. You who read this own *Pacific*.

Keep in touch.

—WES

*“Muslim speaker brings Christianity, Judaism and Islam together at peace event (Vol. 15, No. 1)”*

To the editor,

The very title of the article is false. You can’t bring together darkness and light.

The ‘god’ of Islam is not the God of Christianity. One sees Jesus as being one with God, the other sees him as some prophet.

Likewise, Judaism does not see Christ as God. The two cannot come together until the time that Jews accept Christ as their Messiah.

They (Christianity, Judaism & Islam) do not worship the same God!

I am very concerned that FPU without editorial comment allows this false premise to stand. This is a very basic doctrinal issue that can not be compromised in the name “Peace.”

Vern Buller, Class of ‘57  
Loretta Riffel Buller, Class of ‘59

Donna Callahan, social work faculty and an organizer of the “Stop the Hate” week that included the speech addressed in the letter, responds:

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Buller,

In response to your letter to the editor regarding Ghassande Habib’s visit on campus, I would direct attention to the

fact that his talk was part of a week-long “peace” event designed to stop hate violence and promote respect and understanding. That does not in any way mean that we are compromising our belief in the one true God, who is triune Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It should be noted that we had many events during that week, including two devotional prayer services in which our students, faculty and staff openly professed their faith in an all-powerful, all-knowing and all-loving God who can bring peace back to our world, if we will just cooperate with His plan.

In inviting Mr. Habib to speak, we were aware of his respect for Christianity. His topic title was “Misconceptions about Islam.” He clearly focused his attention on dispelling the myth that all Muslim people believe in hate violence against the U.S., Christianity or Judaism. He was not attempting to convert anyone there to the Islamic faith. The very next day we had a panel of Christians lead a forum on the Christian viewpoint of peace and justice. While I understand your concern, I value the opportunity to hear speakers with other viewpoints. I am all the more convinced of my faith in Christ as the only way to truth and happiness. I would reassure you that those of us who organized the event are committed to teaching and learning in a Christ-centered university.

# PACIFIC standard time

This calendar is designed to present an overall view of activities at Fresno Pacific University. Individual events may be aimed at a specific audience, carry a fee and require advance registration. All events are subject to change. For the latest information, contact the sponsoring university department.

## JUNE

17-20 Girl’s basketball camp  
Grades 4-7, 8-12

## JULY

8-12 Girl’s volleyball  
Specialty camp #1

10-12 Girl’s volleyball camp  
Earlybird

11-13 Girl’s volleyball camp  
Specialty camp #2

15-19 Boy’s basketball camp  
Grades 3-12

22-26 Girl’s volleyball camp  
Comprehensive Skills

22-26 Girl’s/boy’s soccer camp  
5-12 years

26-27 Volleyball coach’s clinic

29-Aug. 2  
Girl’s/boy’s soccer camp  
5-18 years

## Letters

Fresno Pacific University values communication with alumni and other audiences and *Pacific* magazine welcomes letters from readers. In order to open the discussion to as many people and topics as possible, please observe the following guidelines: Letters must be signed, address issues or events raised in the magazine and not exceed 250 words. All letters may be edited for length or clarity. The editor may decide to publish a representative sample of letters on a subject or limit the number of issues devoted to a particular topic. While universities are places of discussion where people of good will do not always agree, letters deemed potentially libelous or that malign a person or group will not be published. Decisions whether to edit or include a particular letter will be made by the editor, who will respond to all letters received. Opinions expressed in *Pacific* do not necessarily reflect those of Fresno Pacific University.

# *new president*

## *Ewert brings community development and international experience*

*T*he next president plans to serve the community as well as the campus.

D. Merrill Ewert will become the university's 10<sup>th</sup> president in June. "FPU's vision resonates with my personal commitment to promote higher education, to strengthen communities and to build people and institutions in an increasingly pluralistic society," he said.

Ewert comes to FPU from Cornell University, where he served as professor, director and associate dean of Cornell Cooperative Extension. He was responsible for 57 county extension offices throughout the state of New York, a staff of 1,600 and a budget of \$107 million. He also advised graduate students and carried out research.

Harold Haak completes his presidency in May. Under Haak's leadership, the university has accomplished much in a short time. "Harold has been instrumental in strengthening our financial position, establishing long-term goals and directing our planning for programs and facilities," said Board President Peter Klassen "We appreciate his willingness to step in as a kind of special assignment at this point in his long and successful career."

The transition to Ewert from Haak will further build the university, which is already growing through record enrollment and an ambitious facilities

plan. "Merrill is an experienced professor and administrator with a heart for working with people across the spectrum and a passion for using the tools of education to improve the world," said Klassen, who headed the campus committee that engaged in a national presidential search.

The three themes that run through Ewert's life and work are education, community development and intercultural outreach. His other academic positions included assistant and associate professor of education at Cornell, director of extension and continuing education at Wheaton College and assistant professor of adult/extension education and cooperative extension specialist at the University of Maryland. Ewert earned a bachelor's degree at Tabor College, Hillsboro, Kansas, and a master of arts and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The canvas of Ewert's intercultural and community achievement stretches around the world. As a Fulbright Senior Scholar, he worked with farmers in the Philippines. He spent seven years in Africa with MAP International (Africa regional director, 1984-86), Mennonite Central Committee (project director, Democratic Republic of Congo, 1973-76) and Mennonite Brethren Board of Missions and Services (relief coordinator and extension educator, Congo, 1967-69). He also served as co-principal investigator for a national survey in the former soviet republic of Belarus and organized workshops and produced teaching materials for projects



*"FPU's vision resonates with my personal commitment to promote higher education, to strengthen communities and to build people and institutions in an increasingly pluralistic society."*

in Latin America, South Asia and the Caribbean.

Ewert is excited by the university's potential. "Though there are many things I can resist, a good challenge is not among them," he said. "Fresno Pacific University stands at the threshold of new opportunities for growth and development. It might eventually write the book on how Christian universities engage their scholarship with the needs of society."



# Many hands are needed to provide a structure FOR **EDUCATION**

by Wayne Steffen

**A**cademics are the head, spiritual development is the heart and facilities are the skeleton of the Fresno Pacific University body. Buildings exist not as monuments but as supports for the people—students, faculty and staff—who live the mission to “strengthen the church and improve society through scholarship and service.” The university is calling many people to map out, create and put to use new and renovated structures to better serve community goals. Like the parts of the body, these people have many gifts. The efforts of all are needed to provide the elements of education.



## THE plan

People in development survey the land between dreams and goals. In 1986 the Pacific Leadership Campaign was launched, “to provide for the future of the school,” said Bud Dickerson, director of major gifts and capital campaigns.

The first fruit of the campaign was McDonald Hall, completed in 1992 at a cost of \$3.5 million. That classroom and office building has become the university’s signature structure. Also in the original plan was a commons building to house improved dining areas and gathering places, as well as a fine arts building. Tacked on at various times were a math/science building, a residence hall, a track, tennis courts and other athletic projects.

By 1994-95 the total crested at \$22 million. While excitement was high, planning and other problems hampered efforts. “Donors did not come forward,” said Mark Deffenbacher, vice president of advancement and university relations.

An improved approach brought success. “This time we’re playing it low key and just saying that we have these projects,” Deffenbacher said.

Flexibility has proven a plus. “It allows us to change direction as needed,” Dickerson said.

In the past few years East Hall residence and office building opened and Cockerham Track and Ramirez Soccer Field went into operation. AIMS Hall of Mathematics and Science is set to open in the fall of 2002, Steinert Campus Center is under construction and a fine arts building is planned. Prog-

ress is also being made on additional athletic facilities and other projects.

There is no doubt the facilities plan is ambitious. Both Deffenbacher and Dickerson compare it in scale to the \$100 million Save Mart Center being built across town at California State University, Fresno, a school with 10 times FPU’s enrollment. “This is major stuff, but we’re not treating it like that,” Deffenbacher said. “We envision a very clearly defined fundraising effort that will open all the doors.”

Entrance may be gained in a variety of ways. Fundraising for tennis courts included a letter to alumni who had been involved in tennis as students. “Then we ask them who else might have a heart to get involved,” Dickerson said. “When we start on the fine arts building we will look for key donors with an interest in the arts.”

Securing a large gift can mean balancing donor dreams and university plans. “First, it’s got to be something the university needs or wants,” Dickerson said. But opportunity can move a project up the list. AIMS Hall is an example. The administration was focused on the commons, Dickerson said, “until the AIMS Education Foundation stepped up with a major gift.”

Through care and persistence, efforts are paying off. “We’re blessed by a cadre of very dedicated people—donors—who really want to see this university grow and better serve Christian families who are looking for a Christian education for their children,” Dickerson said.

While many doors have already opened, Dickerson and Deffenbacher find new ones to knock on. Just as then-president Edmund Janzen envisioned broadening the university’s base in 1984, development officers are widening the university’s circle of support in Fresno, the Valley, in churches in general and Mennonite Brethren congregations in particular. “No one area will do it all,” Deffenbacher said. Less than 100 alumni could give a \$1 million gift, even over a period of years, and most major gifts are \$5,000-10,000.

Reaching beyond alumni, Mennonite and other traditional bases brings both opportunity and challenge since people who give often wish to participate. While the campus can benefit from people of various backgrounds serving on boards and in other roles, including faculty and staff, the institution must keep a firm core. “We’ll have to be cautious to keep the mission and idea clear,” Deffenbacher said.

Contributions can come with compromising strings. “It’s the point where the Lewis and Clarks and Harvards failed as Christian schools—at the altar of exigency,” Deffenbacher said. “They don’t intend to compromise themselves, but they do. Is survival is worth compromising basic values? No.”

Fortunately FPU can back up to the Mennonite Brethren Church as a strong parent and enjoy the “strength, heritage and the generosity of people praying,” Deffenbacher said. “Many schools that have struggled have not had that level of denominational connection.”

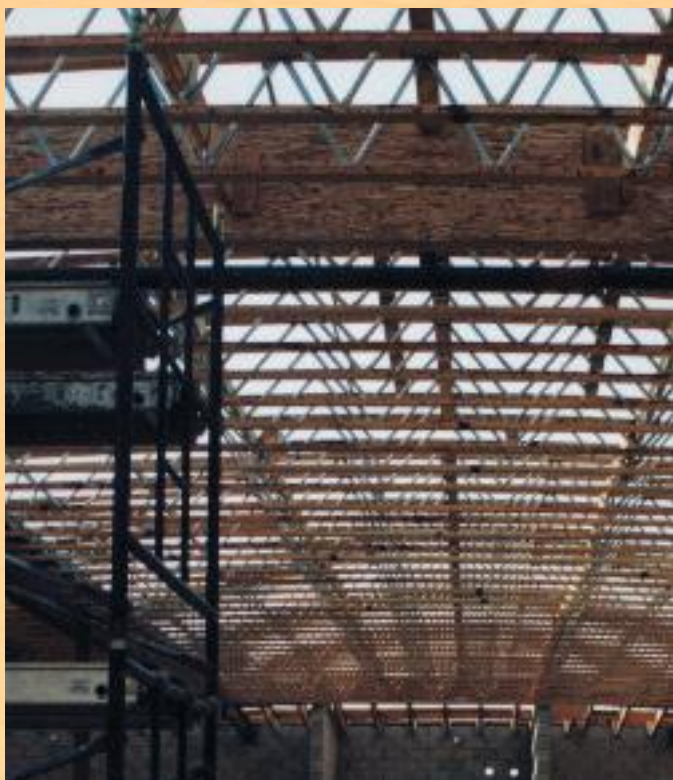


# THE projects

People in operations navigate the shoals of details required to make buildings out of blueprints.

The projects are going well, according to Larry Perryman, vice president for business affairs. AIMS Hall is on schedule and on budget, but timing will be tight to be ready for the return of students this fall. "That only gives us the month of August to move in," he said. Steinert Center is also on track, though some flexibility was needed with the size and site preparation schedule: a 3,000 square-foot student lounge was added and site work, originally set to begin in early April, was delayed until after May's commencement due to parking concerns. Completion is still set for June of 2003. "That gives us some cushion to get it ready for students," Perryman said.

Once dining shifts to Steinert Center, Alumni Hall will be renovated to accommodate the mail center, an expanded Pacific Bookshop and a new coffee bar. While the goal is clear, the details are not yet set in stone. "We need to pro-



## *AIMS Hall of Mathematics and Science*

The two-story, 20,097 square-foot facility will feature laboratories for computers, general science, physics/electronics, chemistry and research as well as classrooms, offices, a library, conference room and storage for chemicals and specimens. The lobby will be home to the only Foucault Pendulum between San Francisco and San Diego. The project is estimated at \$9 million for construction, equipment and a maintenance endowment. Construction began in the fall of 2001 and classes are to open in the fall of 2002. AIMS (Activities Integrating Mathematics and Science) Education Foundation provided the major gift.





vide a space that will meet the needs of our students as well as keep current with student trends,” said Glendon Becker, director of auxiliary services and bookshop manager. The final product must serve graduate, degree-completion and commuter students as well as traditional residential undergraduates.

Some envision a cross between a private library and a classic coffee shop. Others wonder if something like a 7-11 would be a better investment. Research by the National Association of College Stores shows the most popular shopping destination of traditional college students is a “superstore” such as Kmart or Wal-Mart and the number two destination is a convenience store. “Their interest is getting what they want fast,” Becker said. Whatever is done, expanded food service with an emphasis on convenience is important to people crunched for time, he added. “So many of our students need a quick bit of sustenance before they hit the classroom.”

Beyond the projects are the ramifications of the work and the growth that creates the need. Perryman said much of his work is driven by the undergraduate college goal of 1,250 students.

As classroom and dining needs are better addressed, parking and housing become the next major issues. Located

in what is now a student parking lot, Steinert Center will cost about 100 spaces. While housing should be fine this fall, “we are going to need to add beds by the fall of 2003,” Perryman said. Long-term options being explored are to build a larger version of East Hall just north of that building, or purchase Twilight Haven senior community. For now Twilight Haven has agreed to rent the university both parking and bed space.

Predicting housing needs is hardly an exact science. “It’s amazing we get as close as we do,” Perryman said. Despite a fourth year of enrollment increases, for instance, 2001-02 saw less demand than planned and some rooms slated for triple-occupancy were returned to double. Presently 55 percent of students live on campus, including 78 percent of freshmen and sophomores. “We would like to get that up to 60 percent,” he said. “We are a residential college.”

Living on campus enriches the educational experience. “It’s so much easier to develop community when students live on campus,” Perryman said.

Community will get a boost when the bookshop, mailroom, classrooms, residence halls and athletics all surround the Campus Green. “I suspect the green will be the hub of the campus,” Becker said.

That hub will be where community is built, and just as the green will be at the center of campus, community is at

## *Steinert Campus Center*

This single-story building will contain general dining for students, faculty and staff as well as separate dining for special events and a student lounge. Student life offices and a student development leadership center are also included. Construction began in May of 2002 and occupancy is planned for the summer of 2003. Cost of the project is \$5 million. Plans also include an amphitheater for outdoor events.

## *Alumni Hall renovation*

Alumni Hall cafeteria will be converted into a book shop, coffee bar and gathering area. Project cost is estimated at \$200,000, including a large donation of furniture, bookshelves and other fixtures by Barnes & Noble Booksellers. Work is to begin in May of 2003 and finish the following fall.

## *Fine arts building*

A center for music, drama and visual art is in the development stages. Al and Dotty Warkentine provided the major gift to honor Larry Warkentin, music faculty emerita.







## Steinert Athletic Complex

Construction began several years ago and continues in phases. Final project will include everything listed below in addition to a field house, seating and landscaping. Estimated cost is \$2.5 million.

Cockerham Track: Dedicated April 7, 2001. Don Gregory provided the major gift to honor Bill Cockerham, track coach and biology faculty.

Ramirez Soccer Field: Dedicated October 27, 2001. Located inside the Bill

Cockerham Track. Max and Charlotte Steinert provided the major gift to honor Jaime Ramirez, soccer coach.

Harold and Betty Haak Tennis Complex: Located between Steinert Field and Cockerham Track. Plans call for six competition courts and one practice court to be playable in the fall of 2002.

Steinert Field lights: Eight poles for evening soccer can be expanded for baseball if needed. Set for completion in the fall of 2002.

## Housing and physical plant

The present physical plant, located next to the Special Events Center on Winery Avenue, will grow from 1,000 square feet to 2,300 square feet to provide heating, cooling and power to AIMS Hall and the Steinert Center and better regulate temperatures in Hiebert Library and some other existing buildings. Construction began in

the spring of 2002 and will be completed by fall. Estimated cost to the university will be \$500,000 after donations by Quiring Corporation for construction, Valley Air Conditioning and Repair for boiler and equipment and Temple-Andersen-Moore Architects LLP for design.

Options for future student housing include building a residence hall similar to East Hall just north of that facility or purchasing Twilight Haven senior community, located across Winery from the Special Events Center. The university board has approved a new dormitory if needed and the university is negotiating with the retirement center.



the center of FPU. "Community is what distinguishes us from other universities," Becker said. "We learn as a community just as we are called to believe as a community."

It's fair to say no building gets built without Jim Slentz. As construction manager and director of facilities management, he represents the university with architects, builders and contractors from concept through completed construction. "I am a liaison between the people who will use the building and those who are designing and constructing the building," he said.

Planning begins long before spade meets earth:

- A department or other entity requesting a building must present its case to the Campus Master Planning Committee, made up of most upper-level administrators and student, faculty and staff representatives. "Our primary function is to prepare new plans for review by the university board and approve recommendations from project-specific

committees," said Slentz, who chairs the group.

- Once the board approves the idea, a project-specific committee is appointed to set overall specifications without designing the building. Slentz advises all committees.
- The project-specific committee works with an architect to match dreams and reality and determine the general shape and size, known as the "footprint," of the structure.
- The project-specific committee passes this plan back to the master planning committee, which approves the size and location.

Many issues come up during planning. For example, AIMS Hall is going up on the location once set aside for the fine arts building. Parking was a problem at that site, however, since concerts, plays and other performances require easy access for off-campus audiences and the closest lot was in front of McDonald Hall.

Faculty help determine equipment and furnishings. "What do they want

to teach with as far as equipment is concerned? We go through it room by room. Then it's my job to actually purchase the equipment or have our shop make it," Slentz said.

No one with Slentz's mix of practical power and professional responsibility can ever please everyone, "which points out the need to try," he said. "That's why I try to involve as many people in the process as I can."

Much of that involvement is informal as he visits with people around campus during his daily travels. One example of this practice is the glass panels and booths that allow year-round outside dining at Alumni Hall and increase the strapped facility's capacity. "I visited with lots of people on that," he said. He and Becker could have made the decision themselves. "Is that the right thing to do? I don't think so. If you involve the people who are going to be involved in the result, you get the best project," Slentz said.





## THE benefits

With walls erected, desks and chairs arranged and lights on, those who bring the students to campus and the ones who teach them begin kindling the fires of learning in the most important people of all—students.

While facilities themselves do not determine academic quality, they do illustrate it to prospective students, and especially their parents, according to Jon Endicott, director of college admissions. “AIMS Hall will be a visible sign of the academic quality we already have.”

Appearance is the first impression when students and families visit the university. “They like the Campus Green, they like the trees, they are always impressed by the beauty of our campus,” Endicott said.

Facilities can help the university grow, and growth definitely piques the interest of prospective students. The university serves about 1,900 students and Fresno Pacific College, the traditional undergraduate program, has increased enrollment 50 percent since 1997 to 905 students. The college could see another 25 percent rise in next four-five years, Endicott predicted, as the school achieves its goal of 1,250 students.

Growth, reputation and quality are intertwined. “Having 1,250 students allows us to staff a full faculty (at least two in every discipline) and allows us to offer multiple course sections,” said Stephen Varvis, dean of the college. More faculty

mean more educational perspectives and more classes mean more scheduling flexibility. More people also mean a more active academic life. “There will be a broader discussion of academic affairs,” Varvis said.

One thousand is also a magic number in recruiting. “Twice as many students will consider attending a university of more than 1,000 students as will one of under 1,000,” Varvis said.

A study by the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities says students associate academic facilities and academic quality. Varvis sees some justification in this perception. “If you’re studying science you need facilities capable of performing experiments. If you’re in music you need rooms with proper acoustics so you can develop your ear. If you’re in drama you need dedicated space to experiment with lights and sets,” he said.

AIMS Hall, Steinert Center and the fine arts building fit these criteria. “They are in many ways the buildings we need to carry out our academic work,” Varvis said. “We have a very talented faculty and capable student body. We

need spaces for them to learn and create.”

Michael Kunz, biology faculty and AIMS professor in science, is looking forward to space, time and students in AIMS Hall. The new facilities will welcome science majors and non-majors alike. “Up until now they would probably feel we’re a step down from high school,” he said. “I think it’s going to generate some interest in science.”

Extra labs will allow for more than basic experiments. “If you want to do anything more extensive, you can’t just set it up right before lab and take it down at the end of class,” he said. The botany class, for example, measures the development of photosynthesis. “The equipment takes an hour to set up,” he said.

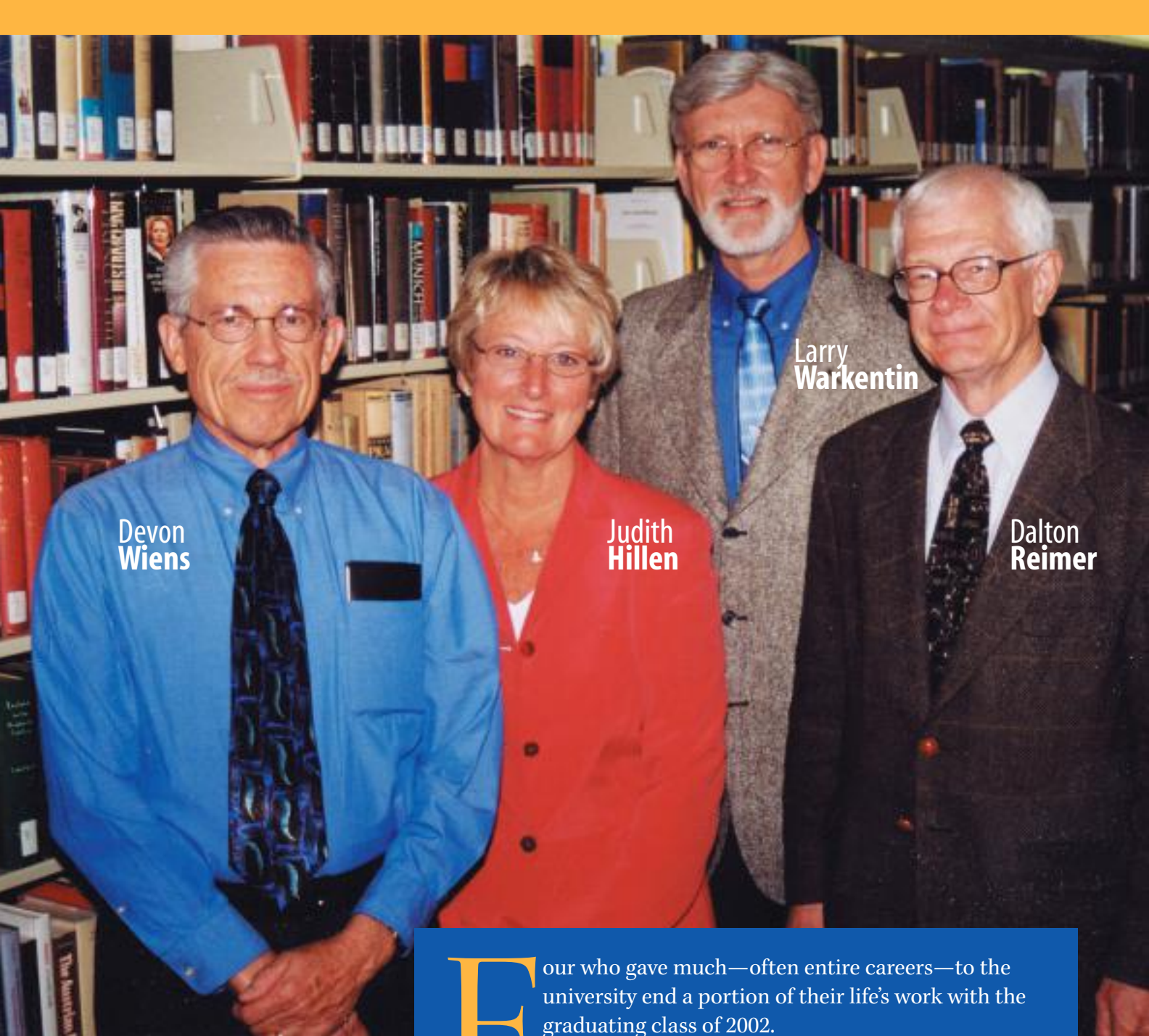
Conference rooms, library and study space will increase opportunities for students and faculty to interact. Simple things, like grouping faculty offices together and providing chairs for students who come for appointments, will have a big impact. “That’s always been a pain in Marpeck (the current science building),” Kunz said. “If a student needs to wait to see a faculty they have to sit on the floor. It’s not very inviting.”

Education won’t stop at the AIMS Hall door. Long-term plans include outdoor plantings to reflect different habitats. “So not just the building will be educational, but also the grounds, eventually,” Kunz said.

Good structures aid good teaching in all areas. “If we want to be a strong liberal arts program we need strong facilities,” Kunz said. “I’m glad that things are moving.”

Effort at all levels is aimed at presenting FPU as the quality school it is. “That’s the students’ first choice,” Endicott said.





Devon  
Wiens

Judith  
Hillen

Larry  
Warkentin

Dalton  
Reimer

## Commitment personified

by Brady Hilscher

Four who gave much—often entire careers—to the university end a portion of their life's work with the graduating class of 2002. Dalton Reimer, Larry Warkentin, Devon Wiens and Judith Hillen accept the accolade of faculty emeriti, though “retirement” may be too strong a word in all cases as the campus community has a way of calling people back, its members have a way of finding excuses to stay.

The university and graduate school today are largely the result of the efforts of these people. They have, in the words of Arthur Wiebe, who had a hand in hiring them all, “seen the college struggle through the beginning hard times and then rejoiced in those struggles. It is that group of people who are, in a sense, now graduating.”



## Dalton Reimer | 42 years

"I taught many subjects in the first decade: drama, history, geography and political science," Dalton Reimer says laughing, remembering the hodge-podge of courses required in the early days. Retirement is an interesting word, he says, but not accurate as he continues to be involved with the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies (CPACS). "What is more descriptive of this phase in my life is another transition," he said. "The volunteer basis has framed my life: I began volunteering here and I will end this way."

Reimer's resume includes stints as undergraduate dean, academic dean of the college, and international student director as well as his most recent work as co-director of CPACS. He also taught several of those he calls colleagues today.

In his softly lit office at the center, surrounded by books and an orderly desk, Reimer remembers the beginning. "There were several nuances to why I chose Fresno Pacific University, but above all, people have the freedom and space to be creative and to contribute. That is part of the genius of the place," he said, one hand covering his chin in a contemplative pose.

Titles have not always reflected Reimer's influence. "Dalton is a forensics expert, an idea man. He could out think you and in his very soft-spoken language he could out-do you," said Edmund Janzen, biblical and religious studies faculty, smiling. "I was president in the 70's, but with a small part. Reimer ran the ship."

As a lover of ideas and knowledge, Reimer has been a great example of what it means to be a scholar. "He essentially built his house around his library," Janzen said of Reimer's love of books.

Many of Reimer's contributions had far-reaching effects. Through CPACS, he built connections for FPU in South America, Lithuania and India. On campus he developing the "module" design for student housing, complete with doors facing an inner courtyard, as well as the collegiums that provide

freshman with a community.

"He's a master of the art of communication. He listens to people intently for a while and then makes observations and outlines alternative ways that lead to deep and thoughtful conclusions," Wiebe said of his friend, colleague, nephew and first hire as president. "He listens and engages in significant conversations with the students and has been a real pioneer and key player...he's the embodiment of the Fresno Pacific Idea."

## Larry Warkentin | 39 years

Larry Warkentin's musical talents and abilities have created a name for the music department and, in turn, shaped his own role as a teacher.

"In 1962 I recruited Larry out of Tabor College because we needed strength in the music department and he has made a tremendous contribution," said Wiebe, president from 1960-75. "He has won the respect of the music community and his musicianship has given a lot of credibility to the institution."

"We worked terribly hard because everyone on the faculty thought the future of the institution depended on us, and with the blessings of God our efforts have been successful," Warkentin said.

Warkentin's work as a composer has been recognized in four National Endowments of the Arts awards as well as honors ranging from state music groups to the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). He has also directed choirs at the university and in several churches in the Central Valley and Los Angeles and conducted many works with the Saroyan Theater, the Fresno Philharmonic and the Tulare symphony.

As a teacher, music chair and colleague, Warkentin's commitment to the university and to music have illustrated his faith. "He is a very sincere Christian person and he shows a lot of that in his compositions," Wiebe said.

Any investment he made has been returned many times over, according to Warkentin. "I was like a missionary

in the sense that I have gained as much as I have given," he said in his office, which, appropriately is dominated by a grand piano. The work has also kept him young. "For 40 years I have been at the forefront of what 20-year-olds are thinking. It has forced me to consider the newest trends and ideas and I will miss this dynamic interaction."

Wrapping up one chapter, Warkentin begins another with plans to enjoy a new grandson and work in his garden. Also on the schedule is a 40-year anniversary trip to Europe with wife Paula, where he wants to enjoy some of the sights he experienced with the university choir.

"It was in these settings that I learned to know and love many students. We sang together, prayed together and endured long bus rides together," he said.

FPU was the couple's first choice. "I feel guilty for having such a good time and getting paid for it. I always looked forward to Mondays," he said, laughing out loud.

## Devon Wiens | 31 years

"We look critically at Biblical interpretation, but the term 'critical' is a neutral term," Devon Wiens said to the class, standing with hands in his pockets and mouth slightly ajar in a smile. His eyes race from face to face, and he is met with stares. Wiens continues his flood of ideas.

Wiens' career began amid the peace-loving and open-minded students of the 60's. "I had a goatee, and a chain with a cross on it," he said. "I had a student that told me I looked like the devil once!"

Though his passion for wisdom was deep, his choice of discipline began with a shrug. "While I studied things like trigonometry and astronomy in high school, I had a hard time settling on a major at college. I was a bit more hang loose I guess, (and decided) what the heck I'll just say Bible," Wiens recalled.

"I have mixed feelings," Wiens says of retirement as he glances up at his thinning shelves. "Cleaning out my

*continued on page 20*

## Student volunteers reach out to classmates

*"Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12*



FPU, but they're not sure what to do," said Kim Johnson, (at left with Sterns) an SOS volunteer. "When they hear about SOS, they say, 'Oh, that's exactly what I had in mind'."

The goal is to address problems and build relationships. "It's easy for people to slide through the cracks if nobody's looking," said Rod Reed, campus

pastor and interim dean of students. "Volunteers are assigned to look with the eyes of Christ at their peers."

Volunteers try to be friends, not experts. SOS is the first link in a chain of assistance. "If it's something I see I can't help them with, I'll ask them if I can go with them to Rod or Trevor," Johnson said. Students who need more may go to Esther Klassen-Isaak in the Counseling Office. "Volunteers can consult with me if they're not sure what's needed," Klassen-Isaak said.

Reed is pleased with the rate of growth and the foundation that has been laid. "I didn't know what to expect," he said.

A service where students minister to one another taps the power of peers.

Began in 1999 as the student chaplains program with about a half-dozen volunteers, Students of the Shepherd (SOS) today involves about 26 students. The goal is to have volunteers for all living areas, clubs, teams and the Commuter House.

SOS offers students understanding by experience. "This ministry is great because people who are going through college together are ministering to one another," said Trevor Stearns, assistant campus pastor.

Students want to minister to one another. "Sometimes someone feels God has called them to minister at

## faculty FOCUS

A number of faculty and administrators serve on the advisory committee for The Biophilia Society, an environmental group. They include **Will Friesen**, biblical and religious studies; **Michael Kunz**, natural science; and **Peter Wasemiller**, advancement. Three alumni also serve on the advisory committee: **Stephen Hanselman**, vice-president, editor and publisher for HarperCollins, San Francisco; **Martin Brady**, CEO of Schools Insurance Authority in Sacramento; and **Karen Keeney**, chief administrative officer of Trimin Investments in Vancouver, B.C. The society's annual meeting was February 28-March 1 at Montana State University, Bozeman. **Richard Wiebe**, philosophy, is co-executive director of the society.

**Larry Warkentin**, music, adjudicated the Oakland International Open Piano Competition February 19-20. He also served as a composition evaluator for the California Music Teacher's Association in March and, on May 5, he adjudicated the Bertha Stever Auditions at California State University, Sacramento.

**Richard Wiebe**, philosophy, was appointed research affiliate of The Center for Dine (Navajo) Studies at Dine College in Tsaile, Arizona, and a research associate of the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff. He will work on a field ethnographic and archival research project assessing the effectiveness of the center in inculcating Navajo values and traditions within the context of the college.

**Wayne Huber**, music, served as adjudicator for Fresno Unified School District's Fresno's Finest Music Competition December 10.

**Donna Callahan**, social work, testified before the California Assembly



▲ **CINEMA COMES TO LIFE** "Let's Go to the Movies!" January 25-26 in Sunnyside High School Performing Arts Theatre gave audiences a welcome break from the winter blahs and the university Concert Choir a chance to cut loose in skit and song a bit different than its usual formal fare.



▲ **CHRISTIANS 1 CEASAR 0** Androcles and the Lion was the spring mainstage production March 21-24 in Ashley Auditorium. The play, by George Bernard Shaw, is set in Rome during the time of the gladiators and persecution of Christians. Androcles, played by David Akina, is a mild-mannered Christian about to be thrown to the lions for his religious beliefs. Other cast members included Melissa Van Der Zee as the lion (above, with Akina).



Human Services Committee during hearings on social work education and the social worker shortage November 14. Among the panel's interests were the contributions possible from colleges and universities not currently accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). FPU was one of 16 such schools that took part in a University of California, Berkeley, study on the subject and was the first studied school to present to the committee. The university fulfills all the requirements for accreditation except the minimum number of social work faculty and students. Legislators were interested to find FPU offers all required classes and has a strong field experience program.

### Avakian directs graduate leadership program

Peggy Avakian has been appointed director of the graduate leadership program.

A member of the faculty since 1996, Avakian brings 20 years of experience to the graduate school. Avakian received her M.S. degree in human and organization development from the University of San Francisco.

She has presented and published in the field of Internet technology in education and her current research involves individual and community leadership that tends to the soul.

The degree is called the master of arts in leadership and organizational studies—formerly known as the master of arts in administrative leadership or MAAL program. The revamped curriculum offers concentrations in management and peacemaking, human resources and organization development, financial management, community development and leadership in multicultural settings. Students may also continue to take a variety of approved individual classes instead of a concentration, or work with faculty to create an area of emphasis of their own.

Several new adjunct faculty bring breadth and depth in profit and non-

profit leadership. "We have a nice blend of academic folks and we also have this other expertise in the community," Avakian said.

### Duane Ruth-Heffelflower returns to FPU, continues to make peace

Duane Ruth-Heffelflower may have been on leave from the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies (CPACS)—but he was still making peace.



Ruth-Heffelflower returns to campus after more than two years on leave in Indonesia. From

August of 1999 to December of 2001 he helped set up and operate a peace center at Duta Wacana Christian University and volunteered with Menno-nite Central Committee (MCC), an international relief and development organization. His wife, Clare Ann, served as MCC Indonesia country director.

Among Ruth-Heffelflower's new duties will be to teach, develop a business plan for CPACS and work on web sites for the graduate school and center.

During his time in Indonesia, Ruth-Heffelflower was an active peacemaker as well as teacher. One mission took him and a team from Duta Wacana to assist Gereja Injili di Tanah Jawa (GITJ) a synod of the Javanese Evangelical Church, which split 10 years before. The synod is the oldest and largest Menno-nite group in Java, with about 50,000 people in more than 100 congregations.

Personality conflicts and personal offenses were the main problems. "There was enough hurt and blame for everyone," Ruth-Heffelflower said. "They knew they needed to get back together, but they just couldn't do it."

The traditional method of solving conflict in Java is to seek the advice from a person of status. In this case, however, the people of status were the ones fomenting the conflict. "They just

didn't have that wise person," Ruth-Heffelflower said.

Meeting with leaders from all sides, Ruth-Heffelflower and his team focused on what people needed, not what they wanted. "As they thought through those things, the number of things they needed got really small," he said. The team's work led to the synod electing a single board. "We created an opening for the Holy Spirit to work," Ruth-Heffelflower said.



▲ **BOOK SIGNING** The publication of *Closing the Achievement Gap*, a new book by David and Yvonne Freeman with Sandra Mercuri, (above, from left) was celebrated with a book signing March 14 at Pacific Bookshop. The book, published by Heinemann Publishing, looks at ways teachers can help students with limited-English skills. The Freemans, education, put together Excellent Education for English Learners (EXCELL), the nation's first graduate program to prepare teachers for dual-immersion classrooms. Mercuri works with the program.



▲ **LIFE MAKES ART** Pain, struggle and hope were explored in an exhibit by Robin Dolarian, art, February 1-24 at Gallery 25. "Innards" was a dual show with Barbara Beasley Eggbrouwer. Dolarian's mixed media compositions chronicle his experiences on hemodialysis and his eventual kidney transplant. Beasley-Eggbrouwer's ceramic heart sculptures deal with damage and healing in relationships. Dolarian also exhibited at Fresno Art Museum in March and April as part of "Four Generations of American Armenian Artists in Fresno."



## Kreiders bring good news of the demise of Christendom

Christendom in Britain is dying—giving Christianity a chance to be reborn.

This was the message two former missionaries brought to the Believers Church Lecture Series March 20-22. Alan and Eleanor Kreider spent 26 years in England with the Anabaptist Network and the Mennonite Board of Missions. “The demise of Christendom is good news for Christianity,” Alan said.

“There’s Life in the Roots,” was the name of their series, which consisted of three presentations at Butler Mennonite Brethren Church. The overall theme was that “Anabaptism is a major resource to Christianity in post-Christendom,” Alan said. What is often called the decline of Christianity is actually the decline of “Christendom,” or the partnership between government and church, Eleanor said.

Separation of church and state, a basic tenet of Anabaptism, is good for the church, the Kreiders said. Anabaptists patterned their faith after early

Christians, creating a community of believers who studied the Bible, baptizing only willing adults and renouncing violence. Most of all, they put Christ at the center of their everyday lives. “It always boils down to that,” Eleanor said.

On the other hand, centuries of state churches, compulsory prayer and other official links between government and religion have failed to make people more pious. In England, for example, only 7.5 percent of the people go to church.

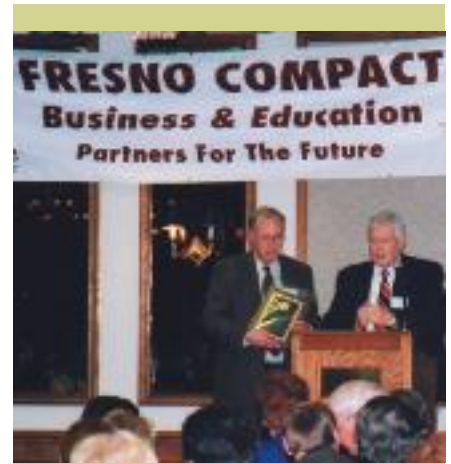
When the church blends with government the church becomes coercive, the Kreiders said. For example, so many people have been scarred by forced evangelism that they reject all evangelism. “Anabaptists were evangelistic while allowing for choice,” Alan said.

Though the United States is built on separation of church and state, many Americans support practices, such as enforced prayer in schools and laws requiring stores to close on Sunday, that smack of Christendom. “Christianity can’t rely on the state. It must rely on the Holy Spirit,” Alan said.

The wisdom of voluntary worship is gaining hold. In England people from many denominations are embracing Anabaptist ideas and carrying them to their own churches. Anabaptism’s gift to the wider church is that it was around before Christendom, and can serve in its aftermath. “There’s life in Christianity, but it’s the life in the roots. There’s life in Anabaptism because we’re from the roots,” Alan said.

Since returning to the United States in 1991, the Kreiders serve as mission educators for the Mennonite Mission Network and as adjunct faculty at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana. Alan is the author or editor of 11 books and Eleanor of three. Together they wrote *Becoming a Peace Church*.

The Believers Church Lecture Series is funded through an endowment established by Herbert and Jessie Penner, Bakersfield.



## COMPACT HONORS HAAK

In deciding to honor educators, Fresno Compact honored President Harold Haak. The creation of the Harold Haak Business Partnership Educator of the Year Award was announced March 6 during Fresno Compact’s Business-Education Shareholder’s Luncheon. The honor will be given each year to an educator with an outstanding record of building partnerships between business and education. Haak was chosen because his work exemplifies what the award stands for. “Harold has been a giant in education. He has been president of two universities (FPU and California State University, Fresno) and was the first executive director of the compact,” said Bill Stewart, executive director of Fresno Compact.

“It was a pleasure to play a part in the birthing of the Fresno Compact and now to see the compact’s maturation as a vital force in supporting and improving public education in our region. I am deeply touched by the naming in my honor of the Business Partnership Educator of the Year Award,” Haak said. Fresno Compact is a coalition of business, community and education leaders committed to long-term improvements in the achievements and skills of young people.



## Board approves program to help community, brings back major

A new budget, a new major and a new way to serve the community were approved by the board of trustees.

The university joined Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, Mennonite Brethren Mission and Service International and Butler Mennonite Brethren Church to form the Southeast Fresno Community Development Corporation. Its first project was the expansion of Small World Preschool at Butler Church to include more local children.

Beginning in the fall the political science program will again offer a major as well as a minor. The major was begun in 1964 but discontinued 10 years later. Political science is one of the major disciplines within the liberal arts and provides an excellent background for many careers. Richard Unruh, political science faculty, stated in his proposal to the board.

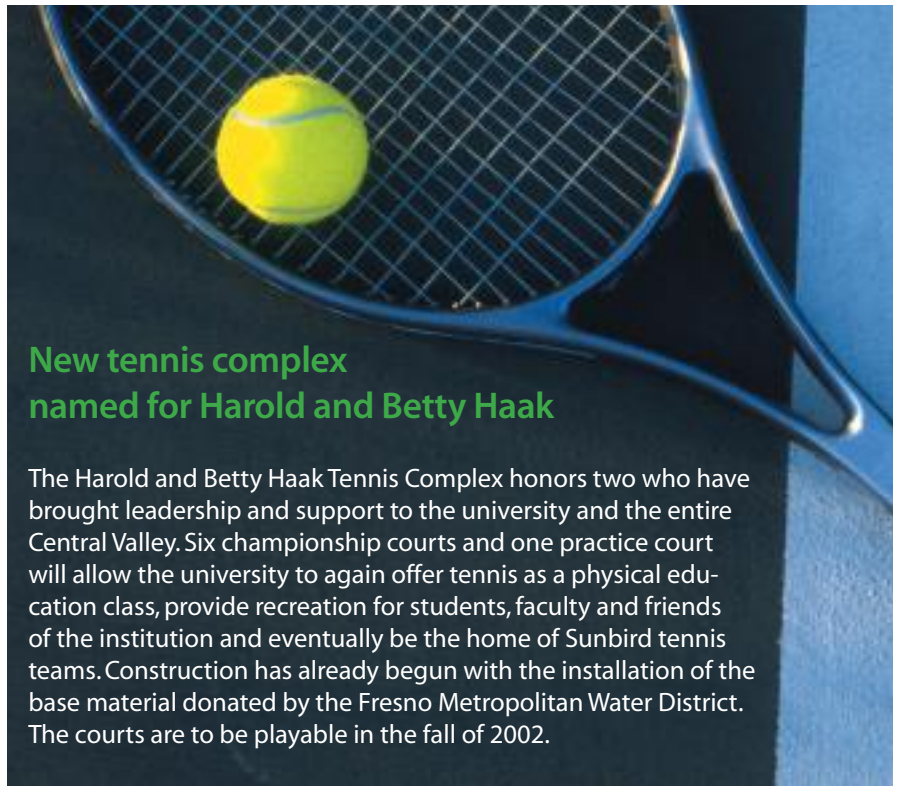
The board approved a \$23,082,225 operating budget for 2002-2003. This is almost 10 percent more than the 2001-2002 figure. The first objective of the new budget is to provide a 7.5 percent raise for employees effective January 1, 2003. There is also a 3 percent increase in program budgets for academic improvement.

Several items requested by faculty and staff were also approved as part of the budget. They include two full-time undergraduate faculty positions, additional marketing and financial aid help in the graduate school, a financial aid counselor in the school of professional studies, a half-time position dealing with the university web site and help with collections and digitization in Hiebert Library.

In an attempt to change behavior rather than raise money, several student fees were increased. The fees are for services such as late registration, special processing, late payments and withdrawals, reinstatements and some applications and credentials. The idea is to encourage students to file paperwork on time so as not to put extra stress on staff in the affected offices. "With any luck, our revenues will go down," said Larry Perryman, vice president for business affairs.

In other action, the board appointed John Birkhauser administrator of the Bakersfield Center, succeeding Bill Williams. The center offers credential programs and master of arts degrees in administrative services and library media.

The board met March 8-9 on campus.



## New tennis complex named for Harold and Betty Haak

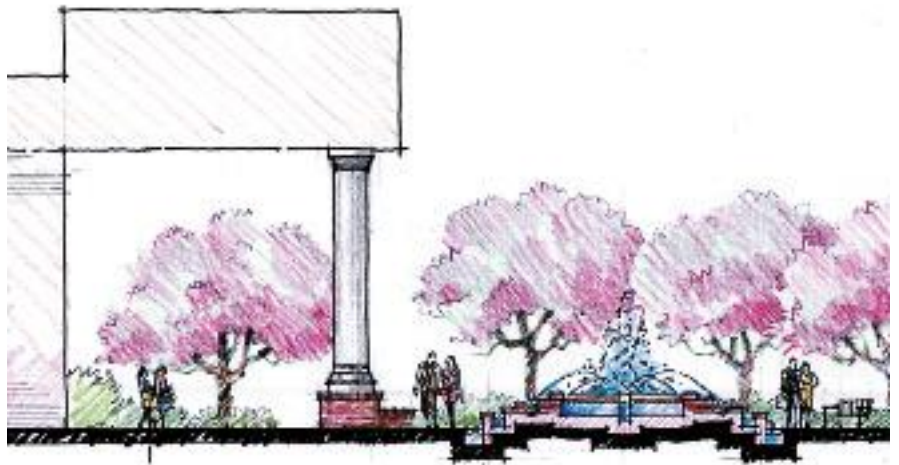
The Harold and Betty Haak Tennis Complex honors two who have brought leadership and support to the university and the entire Central Valley. Six championship courts and one practice court will allow the university to again offer tennis as a physical education class, provide recreation for students, faculty and friends of the institution and eventually be the home of Sunbird tennis teams. Construction has already begun with the installation of the base material donated by the Fresno Metropolitan Water District. The courts are to be playable in the fall of 2002.

In order to be a community, a university must be a place of beauty and recreation as well as study and thought. Several projects are underway or in development to meet this need.

**Lights on Steinert Field** Steinert Field will be lighted to meet today's demands and tomorrow's dreams. Eight poles will be equipped for evening soccer and can be expanded for baseball, which is planned as a club sport.

**Fountain on the Green** Inspired by the vision of the Class of 2002, the fountain on the green will give students, faculty, staff and visitors a refreshing place to come together. Stretching from just outside McDonald Hall to Alumni Plaza, the finished project will consist of geysers, pools and a footbridge. Special lighting and seating will invite people to enjoy the area by day or night.

For more information, please call the Advancement Office at 559-453-2080.





Jessica, left, shows sister Julie (BA '02) around Washington

Jessica Uhl | Bakersfield | B.A. 2000 | Teacher Education 2001

## Jessica Uhl puts service before TV and Taco Bell

*Jessica Uhl is currently serving a two-year term with Mennonite Central Committee in Washington, D.C. MCC is a service and relief organization operated by Mennonite and other churches.*



**M**y first Mennonite Central Committee impulses began in response to a fear of settling into a routine.

I imagined myself getting a grown-up job, acquiring more money than I had been used to and sitting home watching the Thursday night NBC line-up while eating Taco Bell take-out. The thought of this scared the heck out of me! Is there more to life than this?

My interest in MCC, and service in general, began at FPU with the MCC Relief Sale on campus every spring.

Internationally, people are drawn to MCC because it seeks to care for the whole person. I wanted to be a part of something that sought to address and meet needs so nobly. I also wanted to align myself more closely with my religious heritage in the Mennonite Brethren church.

As I began to feel prompted toward MCC, my life became very dualistic: I was preparing for something that I wasn't going to pursue (at least in the immediate future) and I was considering making a complete life change for which I was not the least bit prepared. In the midst of this strife and uncer-



tainty, the still, small voice of God breathed sustaining peace into me. As I embarked on my new adventure, I was scared but confident that God would take care of me.

Taken care of me, He has. Kept me from difficult times? Not quite. I've had my ups and downs. I am now working in organization number three since I arrived in Washington, D.C., in September of 2001. There were days when I wondered if TV and Taco Bell in familiar Fresno weren't such a bad option. Fortunately, God graciously sent little reminders of His presence through my community, friends or a note of encouragement from a ladies Bible study at home.

The agency where I found a home is the D.C. Rape Crisis Center. I began by coordinating crisis hotline and hospital advocate shifts. In mid-March, after completing 65 hours of training, I became a hotline counselor and hospital advocate for survivors of sexual assault. My job can be emotionally draining.

Washington has brought some unexpected twists to my original purposes for serving with MCC. I have encountered much more liberal Christians in the East, which has been both interesting and challenging. I have also been exposed to the differences between Mennonite Brethren and Mennonite Church USA. I really resonate with the importance Mennonite Church USA places on social justice and a broader knowledge of the world beyond ourselves and the United States. I am learning, with the help of a fabulous seminary class on ethics, how to ascertain what I believe and to apply it to my life practically so I can live more faithfully. I will cherish this experience because it has precipitated so much growth.

I have been challenged, time and again, to think beyond what I've been taught and open myself to listen to and glean wisdom from others. The result is a thorough and ongoing sharpening of my self, my soul and my character.

Harriet Huggins | Fresno | B.A. 1985

## Clovis West teacher says

# 100 pints of blood is a 'gift'

by Heather Kulterman

**W**hen Harriet Huggins (BA '85) turned 40 on Feb. 21, she asked friends and family to give a little of themselves—a pint of blood to be exact.

To celebrate her landmark birthday, Huggins, a Clovis West High School health teacher, wanted to have at least one pint for every year of her life given to the Central California Blood Center on Cedar Avenue in Fresno.

Not only was Huggins' real goal of 75 pints achieved, but by the end of the night, more than 100 pints of blood had been donated in honor of her birthday.

If it weren't for requirements of iron and overall health, Huggins said they would have given more, but a handful of donors were turned away.

Huggins admits this was an unconventional party. At first, Huggins said, many of her friends and family were surprised to hear her idea.

"I, as I think all of her friends did, went, 'huh?' But, as soon as she told me about her goals, it made sense," said Ruth Anderson, Clovis West social studies and psychology teacher. "I started to get just as excited as she did."

Both Anderson and Huggins have been donating blood for years. It was this long-time commitment and the stories of blood recipients that inspired Huggins to have a blood-drive birthday party.

Saying she already has everything she needs, Huggins knew she wanted to celebrate by giving rather than receiving.

"It was sort of a faith thing, I really wanted to find a way to incorporate my desire to give back without it being intimidating to people who don't share my beliefs," said Huggins. "In some respects, this was not too intimidating."

To ease what can be an unnerving experience for first-time donors, Huggins gave out movie passes as added encouragement.

That encouragement came in handy for some, like friend and fellow Clovis West teacher Kathy Brandes.

Heart racing and temperature up, Brandes tried to hide the fact that she was a little nervous giving her first pint of blood.

"I had told Harriet, 'Only for you.' Yeah, I was nervous but in the end I was all right. I didn't faint or feel light-headed," said Brandes, who will now be a regular donor.

Of the more than 100 donors at the party, many had never given blood before. That was the case for Huggins' niece, who drove from Kerman with a car full of friends from high school.

"That is the kind of thing people did at my party and is reflective of the people I have in my life," Huggins said. "They're all good, quality people."

Friends of friends and co-workers she has never met came to give.

"I even saw a janitor from Clovis Unified whom I don't know, sitting in the lobby, waiting to give blood. It was very special to see so many people come out," said Huggins.

And Huggins made sure that everyone who came left with a prize.

Several local businesses and organizations provided gift certificates, T-shirts and electronic equipment.

One gentleman, a stranger to Huggins who just happened to be giving blood that day, actually walked away with the biggest prize of the party—a DVD player.

"I think we made a permanent donor out of him," Huggins said.

Courtesy of *The Clovis Independent*.

## Blackwood joins staff as alumni and church director



The advancement division is pleased to welcome Matthew Blackwood as the new director of alumni and church relations.

The 1998 graduate began work April 1. As a student, Blackwood majored in Biblical and religious studies and was involved in the gospel choir.

"We are very excited Matthew has agreed to be part of our team," said Mark Deffenbacher, vice president for advancement and university relations. "His infectious energy and broad experience in the business and church worlds give him a strong base from which to serve our alumni and church supporters. He truly sees everything he does as a ministry."

Before joining the university staff, Blackwood served as youth and college pastor at God's Family Church, Fresno. He has also been in management at Enterprise Rent-A-Car, director of youth ministries at Pentecostal Tabernacle Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and a home county caseworker for Mid-Cumberland Community Service Agency, Gallatin, Tennessee.

## GENERAL NEWS

**Louise Bennicoff-Nan (MA '96)**, Visalia, was appointed assistant superintendent, Educational Services for the Dinuba Unified School District.

**Koby (BA '97 and Stacy (BA '96) Johns** moved to Pasadena, where Koby is studying for a master's degree in divinity at Fuller Theological Seminary. Stacy teaches second grade at Hamilton Elementary in Pasadena Unified School District.

## MARRIAGES

**Marcia Heinrichs (BA '77)** married Greg Sorini on November 3, 2001. Greg is a research librarian for Qualcomm and Marcia is a program specialist for Safe and Drug Free School in San Diego Schools. The Sorinis live in San Diego.

## BIRTHS

**Benjamin (BA '97) and Wendy (Haley) (BA '96) Wilson** announce the birth of Elizabeth Marian, October 21, 2000.

**Karen (Enns BA '89) Loewen** and husband Konrad, Linden, Alberta, Canada, announce the birth of Mackenzie Reid on November 30, 2001. He joins big sister Samantha Joy (born September 16, 1999). Konrad is lead pastor at the Linden Mennonite Brethren Church while Karen enjoys being a stay-at-home mom.

**Mark Crawford (BA '96) and wife Sarah (Dodrill) Antelope (UG '94-97)**, announce the birth of Zachary Allen on November 12, 2001. Zachary was 9 pounds, 7 ounces and 21 1/2 inches long. Mark currently works as an accounting supervisor.

**Kathryn Marie Lesedi Smith Derksen (MA '98)** and husband Daniel announce the birth of John Clair Loc Smith Derksen in Uganda, where the couple serves with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

**Amber (Blain BA '99) Koetsier** and husband Ronnie announce the birth of Dylan Blain Koetsier on March 17, 2001. Dylan was born 6 pounds, 13 ounces and 20 inches long.

## DEATHS

**Arthur Nan**, a student in the master of arts in leadership and organizational studies program, died in an automobile accident February 1, 2002. A passion for education, a bright smile, an incredible wit and a love of the Lord were among Nan's gifts, said Program Director Peggy Avakian. "Throughout our brief time together, Arthur openly shared his life experiences, trials and tribulations with his friends and col-

leagues. Faculty and students similarly connected with Arthur as he gave so freely of his spirit." Fellow student Brian Monty called Nan a wonderful asset to the program. "He had valuable insight and a wealth of information he was always willing to share with the entire class. I thoroughly enjoyed classroom discussion with him, especially when he and I did not see eye to eye. I thank God for letting Arthur's path cross mine." Nan's vision of servant-leadership exemplified the educational vision of the graduate leadership program, according to Avakian. "His journal entry for November 12, 2001, read, 'Since we are only here a short time, then we must lead with love and understanding. Fight the good fight while we are here, walk in Christ's footsteps.' ... 'Leaders of the future should be servant-serving as opposed to self-serving.'"

**Leo S. Wiens**, longtime pastor and university staff member, died February 6, 2002, following a brief illness. He joined FPU as institutional advancement officer and served as college relations officer and director of church relations. He worked full time until January 1, 1987, and continued part time until the end of 1990. Mark Deffenbacher, vice president for advancement and university relations and director of planned giving, called Wiens a "gentle giant." "The advancement and university relations team is pleased to follow in the footsteps of Rev. Wiens, as we give priority to eternal values, treating every donor with respect as we demonstrate integrity in all of our activities," Deffenbacher stated. "We thank God for those who have led the way before us with dedication and sacrifice." All four children of Leo and his wife, Alma, attended the university: Roger graduated in 1966, Bonita (Piepgrass) in 1972 and Eugene in 1976. Gerald attended in the early 1970s. Grandson Seth Piepgrass is a current student. Services were February 12 in Butler Mennonite Brethren Church. Cards may be mailed to Grayson and Bonnie Piepgrass, 536 Nichols Ave., Dinuba, CA 93618.





James Barnes | Visalia | B.A. 1971 | M.A. 1987

## Grad is two-time Olympic torchbearer

You could say James Barnes carries quite a torch for the Olympics.

The alumnus was among the torchbearers for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was also a bearer for the 1984 games in Los Angeles.

His recent run began at 10:26 a.m. Sunday, January 20, 2002, on the shore of Donner Lake near Tahoe. Two feet of snow sparkled and friends and family cheered along the two-lane road, but Barnes had his mind on more than the scenery that crisp and sunny morning. "It was an emotional run as I dedicated my 'leg' to my younger brother, Jeff, who has been in a coma since neck surgery on December 27," he said. That evening Barnes accompanied 22 other torchbearers in South Lake Tahoe from the Nevada border to Heavenly Valley Ski Resort. "It was tiring but thrilling to observe others thrilled with their brief moments with the flame," he said.

Barnes also participated in a photo session and a gala at World Sports Café. He was given the torch he carried and the uniform he wore as well as a certificate, medal, personalized sweatshirt and torch pin.

The first run for Barnes, a resident of Visalia, who teaches fifth grade at Hurley Elementary School, took place July 18, 1984, in Paso Robles. He is also involved in Team In Training, a running group that raises money for research to cure blood-related cancers. Barnes' 2002 Olympic run was sponsored by Liberty Chevrolet, Selma, and Coca-Cola Company.

Barnes earned a bachelor's degree at FPU in 1971, completed a teacher credential program in 1975 and a master's in 1987.

### FPU hosts new concert band

Unpack your percussion, re-reed your woodwind and polish up your horn for a new music ensemble.

Alumni are invited to join students, faculty, staff and community members in the FPU Community Concert Band. Rehearsals will be 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays on campus beginning August 27. Patricia DeBenedetto will direct. For more information, contact the Music Office at 559-453-2267.

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Information for Pacific Magazine:

*continued from page 11*

books has been an emotional process—these books have become very good friends, and it is hard to part with friends.”

Gardening and travel top his new to-do list. Over the years, Wiens has taken students to Israel and speaks fondly of those memories. He plans to rekindle that flame.

For most of his students, Wiens has been a spiritual guide as well as teacher. Chad Plantenberg, a senior transfer, wishes he had the opportunity to take more of his classes. “Dev’ is one of our silent rebel faculty and I think it’s fun to see his passion for learning,” he said. “I see how much the school will be losing with Dev’; he has this sort of brilliance.”

This same respect is felt in the faculty. Will Friesen, chair of the biblical and religious studies division, spoke of Wiens’ retirement with slight hesitation. “I’m dreading it. Devon has represented both academic integrity as well as academic professionalism. He is a mentor to us as colleagues.”

“I had Devon my first semester here back in ’83,” said Richard Rawls, history and philosophy faculty. “I’m going to miss him deeply and we’ll be hard pressed to find someone to replace him.”

Hence Friesen’s hesitation. “Devon is a quintessential teacher-scholar,” he said. “That is what we hope for here, and you don’t replace that.”

## Judith Hillen | 19 years

For Judith Hillen, who joined the graduate school when it was still a division, finding FPU was a matter of meeting the right people. “I came because I thought it would make me a better science teacher. It changed my whole life because Arthur Wiebe asked me to stay,” she said.

Fellow public school teacher Frieda Neufeld suggested Hillen try FPU for graduate study, and Hillen saw a newspaper advertisement about scholarships available through a National Science Foundation grant written by AIMS co-founders Wiebe and Larry Ecklund.

AIMS began as part of the graduate school and became an independent foundation, creating curricula and other aids for math and science teachers. Hillen was one of the foundation’s first program directors, a position she will keep when she leaves the graduate school. “I’ve had two full-time jobs for 19 years—I’m hoping to go to one and a half,” she said.

One group of people drew Hillen to the university; another kept her here. “We pray for each other, we teach each other,” she said of the graduate science and math faculty. “We enjoy being together and we care about academic excellence and teaching.”

That commitment to excellence occasionally caused worry, but never panic. Wiebe recalled Hillen was very apprehensive about giving her first workshop. Rather than waste time with worry, she rehearsed her role. “It didn’t take her very long to acquire self confidence and do a very good job,” he said.

Richard Thiessen, AIMS president and director of the graduate school’s mathematics, science and educational technology division, cited her many contributions. “She has been influential in the lives of many teachers,” he said.

Thiessen noted Hillen’s work with elementary teachers, which Hillen said often involves changing teachers’ attitude toward math and science as well as students’. “So many of the teacher education candidates I have had said they hope the math course they take from me will be their terminal course—wouldn’t it be wonderful if they felt differently?” she asked.

You don’t have to be a mathematician or scientist to teach. “I just know how to help people learn,” Hillen said. Colleagues Thiessen, Dave Youngs, Ron Koop and Linda Hoff know more. “I just walk in their footsteps,” she added.

In fact, Hillen credits these people with all her success at FPU. “If I’ve done anything good it’s because I’ve been nurtured and taught and supported by them.”

*Brady Hilscher is a 2002 graduate who majored in biblical studies and English.*



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## MEN’S BASKETBALL

A pair of guards, gifted both in the classroom and on the court, were the season highlights of head coach Mark Yoders men’s basketball team.



Joe Aiello

Joe Aiello, a 6’ 4” senior from Fresno, started each of the Sunbirds’ 29 games, appearing in 122 match-ups over his four-year career. Aiello averaged 10.2 points, 3.3 rebounds

and 2.6 assists per game in 2001-2002. In all he accumulated 927 points, 327 rebounds and 238 assists during his four-year collegiate career. A liberal studies major, Aiello earned a 3.51 grade-point average (GPA) and plans to teach elementary school.





**T.J. Jennings**

Richard T. "T.J." Jennings III, a 5'10" junior majoring in business, earned a 3.54 GPA while starting 16 of 29 games this season and averaging 6.1 points, 2.6

rebounds and 3.3 assists per game.

After a season-opening 91-67 exhibition win over non-accredited California Christian College of Fresno, the Sunbirds dropped 11 straight games. They picked up their first win December 19 at home against Tabor College. The Sunbirds were 9-9 over their final 18 games, but their 9-20 record, 6-14 in the Golden State Athletic Conference, did not earn the team a postseason berth.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Teresa Kamps was determined to make her Sunbird swan song one to remember. With the help of her teammates, Kamps, a senior 6'0" forward from Ripon, did just that. Averaging 16.8 points and 9.0 rebounds in 30 minutes of action per game, Kamps led the squad to a 27-8 record that included a GSAC championship banner and a trip to the NAIA National Championship Tournament in Jackson, Tennessee.



**Teresa Kamps**



Diane Wiese was named the GSAC women's basketball coach of the year. This is her second such honor, which she also won as a rookie in 1996.

Elimination by Freed-Hardeman of Tennessee in the opening tournament round put hardly a damper Kamps' brilliant season and career. Appearing in all 131 games of the past four seasons, she became the first Sunbird, and only the second player in GSAC history, to amass more than 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds. Kamps finished with 2,156 and 1,124 respectively, as well as 310 steals. These are just three of her 19 FPU records.

Kamps is the only Sunbird to be named to the All-GSAC team in each of her four seasons of competition. She was named the GSAC player of the



**Annie Taylor**

year this season, and to the NAIA All-American second team.

A 3.93 grade-point average propelled the business finance and marketing major to the NAIA Scholar Athlete team for the second consecutive season. Teammates Annie Taylor and Maurecia Clark also did their bit for the team and were named scholar-athletes. Taylor, a 6'2" senior center from Visalia, averaged 11.4 points and 7.4 rebounds per game this season and is a liberal studies major with a 3.59 grade point average. Clark, a 5'9" junior point guard from Santa Maria, is a physical education major with a 3.53 grade point average. She averaged 12 points, 4.7 rebounds and 3.9 assists per game in 2001-2002.

The Sunbirds earned their first GSAC championship since 1996, and seventh overall, with a 16-4 conference record. The honor was shared with Asuza Pacific University, which amassed an identical GSAC tally. FPU's



**Maurecia Clark**

overall total of 27 wins was just one short of the school record set in 1987.

## TRACK & FIELD

The university was well represented at the NAIA National Indoor Track Tournament February 28-March 2 in Johnson City, Tennessee. Ten Sunbirds competed and two, juniors Chrisie Gregory and Kari Weinmann, earned All-American honors.



**Chrisie Gregory**

Gregory ran away from the field to win the 3,000 meters championship in an FPU record time of 10:13.70. Her margin of victory was more than five seconds ahead of the next runner. A junior from Fresno, Gregory is the only the second Sunbird woman to win a national championship. She follows Nicole Munro, who won the outdoor shot put title in 1988.

The victory earned Gregory her fourth NAIA All-American honor. Her first came one year ago with a sixth-place finish in the same event. She became FPU's first-ever cross country All-American earlier this year when she finished 24th in a field of 238 at the nationals. A mathematics major with a 3.78 grade-point average, Gregory was also named a cross country scholar-athlete in 2001. She qualified to compete in the 5,000 meters at the national outdoor championships in May and will be named a track and field scholar-athlete for 2002.

Weinmann, a thrower from Bakersfield, placed sixth in the 20-pound weight throw. Her mark of 51' 11" is a new Sunbird record. She recently extended her FPU outdoor hammer throw record to 158' 7" and qualified for the May outdoor championships.

In the 5,000 meters senior Kristin Fairley placed seventh with a time of 18:03.68 and junior Jennifer Toler finished 12th with an 18:34.24 mark. Fairley qualified to compete in the marathon and Toler in the 10,00 meters at the outdoor games.

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