

PACIFIC



BRIDGING WORK AND THE WORD

— Students meet
need in Mexico

Retiring faculty embark
on new voyages

Shehadey commits
to Steinert Campus
Center

Valley Girls leave
record legacy



TAKING THE WORD TO WORK



THE FRESNO PACIFIC IDEA articulates the vision that drives this university.

It calls us to be a Christian university, one that functions as a community of learners and challenges us to speak and live prophetically. This issue of *Pacific* magazine shows how our students and alumni function as educated, prophetic Christians.

Our graduates take the Word to work and to the rest of the world.

A Valley entrepreneur told me he first looks to our university when searching for employees. Pointing out that the business programs of other universities are larger and offer more courses, I asked him why he still preferred our students. He laughed

and replied, “You pre-screen my employees for me!” While there is no shortage of graduates with appropriate training around, he has found our alumni not only possess the skills he needs for success, they also reflect the ethical and moral standards he seeks for excellence. They bring a Christian world view that shapes how they think and work in the marketplace.

Our graduates take the Word to work in ways that are authentic and real.

I’ve heard the same story from school principals, superintendents and school board members. They want to hire our graduates not simply because they’re well-trained and effective teachers—which they are—but

because these educational employers appreciate the values, as well as the knowledge, our students bring to the classroom work place. We graduate students educated in the liberal arts tradition who have learned to think critically and analytically.

Our graduates take the Word to work in ways that transform communities and society.

Faculty, staff and students take the Word to work, not because it’s a tool or part of our religious baggage, but because it’s a part of who we are as Christians, as members of a learning community, as those who speak and live prophetically. That’s what it means to carry out our vision, The Fresno Pacific Idea.

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.

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Pacific is sent to alumni and friends of Fresno Pacific University and to members of the Pacific District Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches.

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Reach out to others and you may find—and become—a mentor

TO THE CLASS OF 2003,

You may not know it yet, but college was a piece of cake.

Oh sure, classes were challenging. Studying wasn't always a good time and finals weren't fun. Your roommate did get on your nerves and not every faculty was your favorite. As for the food—well, no matter how well prepared or plentiful it was, can anyone really be expected to stay excited about eating three meals a day every day in the same place?

Still, in college if you had a problem or question there were people you could turn to. The buzzword is “mentor,” but their job title might be teacher, counselor, friend or work supervisor. Their qualification was that they were someone you trusted. Usually they had already been where you were then and could tell you what to do—or at least what not to do—based on their experiences, insights and observations. The best ones could give you a pat on the back, a shoulder to cry on or a kick in the pants, and had a knack for knowing which was needed when.

It won't be easy to find those mentors after you turn in your cap and gown for a dress suit or skirt and your diploma for a spot on, and probably near the bottom of, an organizational chart. No longer will it be anyone's job to even pretend to listen to why your work isn't done, just to let you know you will stay at your desk until it is.

If you have a question that isn't in the company manual, you will likely have to figure it out yourself. And spiritual development may be strictly on your own time. Perhaps you'll even find yourself wishing for College Hour.

“Ow!” you might say. “What's that's hard surface under my feet?” Sorry, that's the ground.

There are ways to maintain, even deepen, your spiritual journey through life while walking the corridors of the workplace. Many of these methods require making what is often a great sacrifice at any age: reaching beyond yourself to others.

—Wayne Steffen



COMMENCEMENT
2003





Ewert calls graduates to boldness, leadership

Though the weather moved the ceremonies inside, the mood May 3 was still festive for the 58th commencement.

A record 506 graduates, their families and friends gathered for the event, which was moved from Steinert Field to the Special Events Center due to rain during the week. Many guests watched on a video feed set up in the nearly completed Steinert Center.

Graduation for Fresno Pacific College, the traditional undergraduate program, was at 9:30 a.m. and involved about 207 students. The Fresno Pacific Graduate School and Center for Degree Completion (CDC) commencement took place at 6 p.m. and honored 170 graduate school and 129 CDC graduates.

President D. Merrill Ewert referred to the weather in his commencement address, noting that it also rained at his inaugural. “An African friend once told me rain was a blessing from God. The past few days I’ve been asking God to save some of my blessings for next week.”

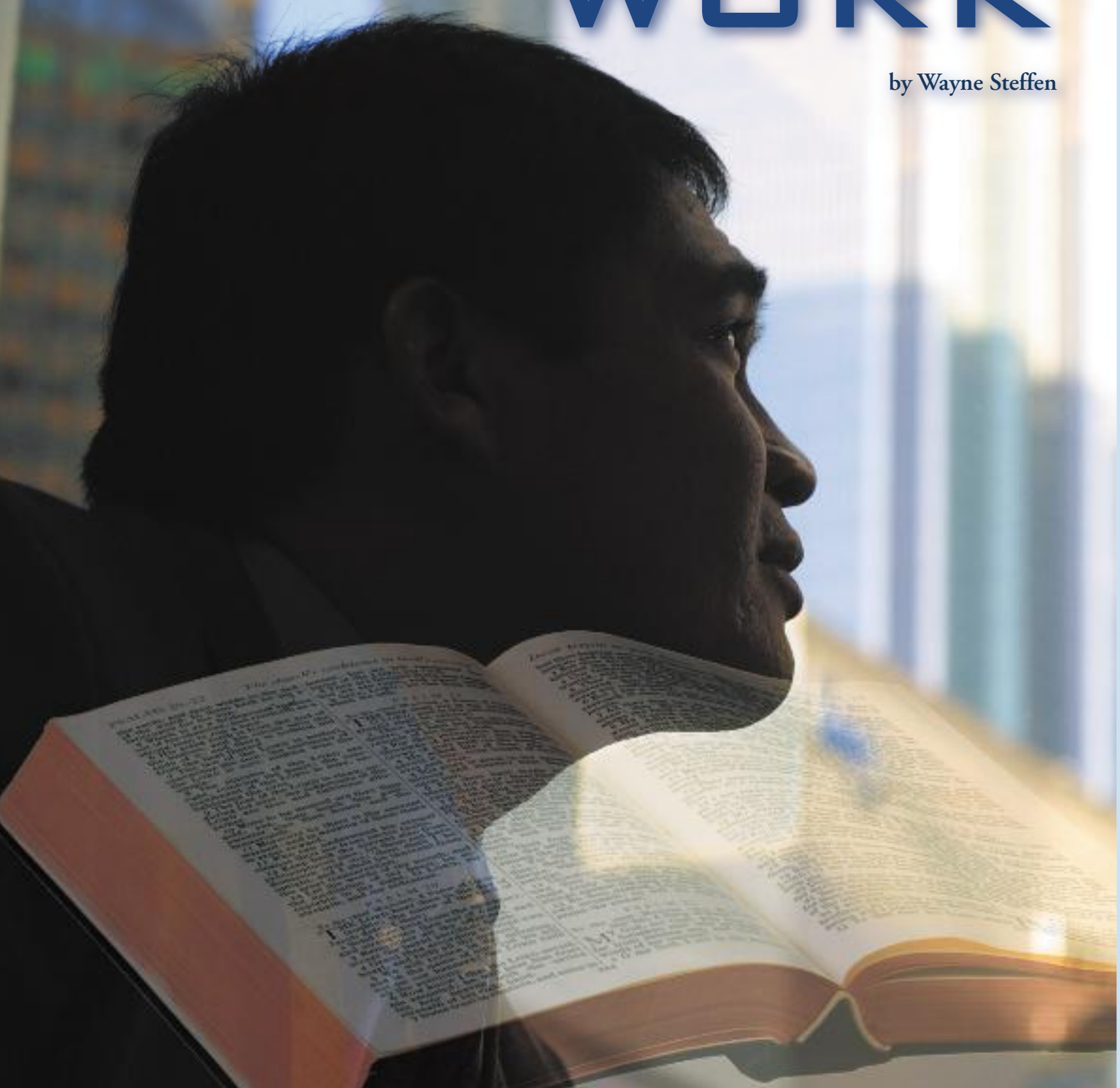
Ewert compared the relationship between faculty and students to that of Paul and Timothy. Paul wrote his last epistle to his student, Timothy. “Paul reminded Timothy that God gave a spirit of power, not timidity,” Ewert said. He called Timothy to boldness, to “guard the good deposit—the sound teaching and faith entrusted to you.”

The older man also urged the younger one to continue in what he learned and take his place as a leader, Ewert told the graduates. “That’s the message of Paul to his student, and your teachers and mentors want the same for you.”

The morning student speaker was Jonathan Maher, president of Associated Students of Fresno Pacific College. In the afternoon, Scott Johnson spoke for the graduate students. Undergraduate honors went to Amy Crockett, who won the Academic Achievement Award, and Lisa Freeman and Christine “Chrisie” Gregory, who shared the Outstanding Graduate Award. Robin Perry won the graduate school Dean’s Award.

SPANNING FAITH AND WORK

by Wayne Steffen



THE QUESTION FOR CHRISTIANS IS NOT WHETHER TO SHARE FAITH, BUT HOW.

The gifts of the spirit are meant to be given among friends, between adults and children (and back again) in the neighborhood and around the workplace.

As clear as it is what we should do, commandments have a habit of being easier to hear than follow.

HERE'S HOW FOUR ALUMNI PUT HANDS AND FEET TO FAITH:

WITNESS EVERY DAY



DOROTHY AND LARRY POWELL

Dorothy (MA '87 reading/language arts) is retired from public education after 32 years as a teacher and principal.

Larry (MA '03 educational administration) is superintendent of Central Unified School District.

Dot: I presently supervise student teachers at FPU and coach new principals. I also mentor nine Hmong students in grades 4-6, and help Child Evangelism Fellowship set up Good News Clubs at elementary schools.

In all these roles I am joyfully able to build others up. The Bible tells us to spread the Good News and to bring the children to Jesus. As part of my mentoring, I take the students to church, tell them the salvation message and teach them to pray. We go to plays, read books, celebrate birthdays and do things to help them to grow as young women. As a coach, I look for ways to help new principals grow in confidence and I let them know I pray for them.

Encouraging people and helping them bring out their best is part of "love thy neighbor as thyself," a great commandment from the Lord.

Larry: I paraphrase Francis of Assisi, "You should witness every day, and sometimes even use words." In my everyday actions

and conversations, I try to demonstrate that my love for the Lord is the driving force in my life.

Most people are led to the cross, not driven. I trust the Lord to give me opportunities to demonstrate my faith in practical ways and I fully trust that the Lord will take my efforts and draw people to Him. When tragedy touches people around me I offer comfort and let them know Dot and I pray for them.

We started a district chaplaincy program with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office and Fresno Police Department. Chaplains are a gentle law enforcement presence, providing counseling, supporting good attendance and study habits and showing genuine friendship to students and families.

Mine is not an in-your-face Christianity, but a gentle, constant defense of faith through every interaction. Matthew 5 talks about salt and light. Salt preserves and flavors and light extinguishes darkness. I trust the Lord to use me as salt and light.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

The spiritual value most on my heart is building relationships. The second greatest commandment is to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matt. 22:39).

This is an issue I try very hard to work on, and in so doing, I find it's very easy to stumble. You see, I'm an overachiever by nature – always trying to exceed expectations. I have to remind myself people come before tasks and relationships outweigh checking off another subject on my “to-do” list. Despite the inevitability of deadlines, so much of my role in public *relations* revolves around reaching people. More than a line on a job description, I believe we're all called to extend the same care and concern to others Christ extends to us. Somehow, someday the work will get done.

Shortly after I was hired, a woman in my office came to me after a bad day. I thought, “What

a privilege that she's even willing to share this with me,”—me being so new to the office. I wanted to express my care in something other than words. On my way home I bought her some Hershey's “Treasures” (miniature Hershey's chocolates) and set them on her desk next day with a short note letting her know she was “treasured.”

About a year ago, a Saint Agnes volunteer was selected as a 2002 Winter Olympic torchbearer, and I planned to feature him in the staff newsletter. Then he asked me to be his guest at a celebration in honor of Valley Olympic torchbearers. Of all the people he could have invited, he chose me—an acquaintance he'd met just days earlier. My hope is that he realized my desire to write an article about him was only a side note. The real thrill and privilege was getting to



JAIME HUSS

Jaime (BA '01 English/writing; history minor) is senior communications specialist, corporate development at Saint Agnes Medical Center, Fresno.

know his life story and what filled him with such a giving spirit.

These examples represent very small steps. But I hope every one of my smiles, handshakes and moments spent listening make clear to people that *who* they are, not *what* they do, is what matters.



JAY ANDERSON

Jay (BA '01 biology/environmental philosophy) is manager of new technology and materials Five Oaks Homes, Cañon City, Colorado.

RESPECT CREATION

Over the past seven or eight years I've looked in vain for a cause with which to identify. I knew I cared about the environment, about our treatment and respect for our surroundings. So I majored in biology and took a minor in environmental studies. After graduating from FPU I didn't have a plan, so I got my EMT certification and worked on an ambulance for a while. But I never felt I was making the world better.

Meanwhile, the family business (Five Oaks Homes, owned by Jay's father, Dennis Anderson, BA '73) was thriving. Five Oaks is a design/build partnership that provides well-built entry-level homes to people in southern Colorado. I had worked for the business in the summers, but had never really felt the connection between construction and the environment (plus, I had some rebellion to get out of my system).

It may have been philosophy, family or a few Pacific experiences—notably Gary Nachtigall’s Urban Geography class and the personal influence of Michael Kunz—but something triggered the thought that *development and construction affect every aspect of the modern person’s life*. Resource conservation, land use/sprawl, waste and recycling, even personal and societal issues, are all affected by the built environment. With the realization I could make a dif-

ference in this field, I returned to Cañon City and Five Oaks Homes.

My present position allows me to research emerging “green” building methods and help ensure the houses we build are energy-efficient, make good use of space and are constructed with a minimum of waste. I influence the construction of homes that will be an appreciating source of equity for first-time home owners, retirees and growing families. It

is a rewarding feeling to know I have a part in making the dreams of hard-working people come true while using environmentally conscientious methods and materials.

It is an amazing feeling to go to work with the desire *and* the capability to make the world, at least in a small way, a healthier place. I don’t know what the future will bring, but I know that right now I am working to make it better.

BE UP FRONT ABOUT YOUR FAITH



T.J. JENNINGS

T.J. (BA '03 business administration with emphases in marketing and management/organizational studies) is currently working on a degree in communications.

I believe telling people of your faith up front is very important. I did an internship at MTV last summer (2002) in the public relations office in Santa Monica. That was a really big concern of mine, that I might have to compromise my beliefs. But I was up front with those who hired me and it worked. They understood and it was a great experience. I was not involved in anything degrading, and I was not aware of being passed by for an assignment based on my beliefs.

Their reaction was, “Thanks for letting us know in advance.” They appreciated that I didn’t surprise them with it later on.

I was also a sports intern at KSEE 24-TV, Fresno’s NBC affiliate, and I would share with the news director, who’s a Catholic. That made me feel better.

I plan to use the same strategy as I prepare for full-time employment. Again, letting them know that I’m from a Christian school and I have these values. My profes-

sional goal is to go into sports or entertainment broadcasting. My personal goal is to be a Christian in a secular industry and to do it for the art and the love and to reach lots of people. I want to let them know you can be a Christian on TV.

Living your faith is also important in basketball. So many people take winning so much to heart. While winning is the goal, there are important lessons in defeat. Your conduct on the court, your demeanor, sportsmanship—that’s huge. So are the relationships you have with teammates and coaches.

We talked about these things in Business Ethics. That class really put it into perspective that you can be a Christian at work—that people are faced with the dilemma of doing something they don’t believe in or losing their job, and also ethics in everyday areas as small as sneaking into movies. It’s a struggle if you’re one person at home and another at work. I try to be a light at work.

Finding the “A-ha” moment

by Kristen Kleyn

FPU has a history of faculty for whom teaching is more than a vocation—it is a voyage of discovery for themselves as well as their students.

While Adina Janzen, Edmund Janzen, Richard Thiessen and Ted Nickel may retire from full-time teaching, they will continue to loom large in the lives of the students whose eyes they opened to the magic of education.

Adina Janzen — 8 YEARS

Adina Janzen was a school administrator when very few women were in the field. Coming to FPU in 1991, Janzen used her talents to teach adults how to be good teachers. Across the cozy round table in her neat, uncluttered office, Janzen recounted her first impressions of the graduate school’s teacher education program.

“It was such a joy to work with adults who were interested in learning,” she said. After a year of filling in for the director, who was on sabbatical, Janzen’s cross-town commute lengthened to a daily drive to the university’s Bakersfield Center.

Janzen saw the trip as an opportunity, not a chore. “When you drive to a job, you’re anticipating and reviewing your plans. When you’re coming back, you’re processing,” she said.

“Students like her a lot,” said acting graduate dean Rod Janzen. “She’s a great counselor. I only hear positive things about Adina.”

A law school graduate, Janzen developed and taught classes on how law pertains to educators. Two years ago, Janzen felt that the Bakersfield program needed to be operated by local people, so she returned to Fresno.

Retirement will be another phase of life Janzen will enjoy. “I look forward to having more control of my time, to actually do so many things that I’ve always wanted to do,” she said. As many other retired faculty have done, Janzen will also come back to teach occasional classes. “I still enjoy my job. But I promised myself that I would quit while I was still having fun,” she said.

Truly meaningful for Janzen was the chance to have an impact on students. “It’s who we are more than our subject matter that really makes a difference,” she said.

Richard Thiessen — 16 YEARS

“I am first of all a teacher, and then a mathematician,” said Richard Thiessen, director of the graduate mathematics, science and educational technology program. Thiessen has been teaching for 40 years, coming to FPU in 1987. In 2000 he became president of the Activities Integrating Math and Science (AIMS) Educational Foundation, a position he will maintain. “I’m retiring because I can’t do both of those things,” he said.

Math frightens many, Thiessen admits, but he loves turning fear to joy. “My biggest challenge and the thing that I enjoy the most is in a sense turning people on to math,” he said.

Thiessen’s passion for teaching is evident to his colleagues. “Richard is a great teacher, a great presenter and very entertaining,” Rod Janzen said. “He is contributing to an understanding of math and science.”

Enthusiasm marks Thiessen’s words as he pulls creative math workbooks for children off the shelf to explain some of AIMS’ influence. “We are in very significant ways impacting thousands of teachers and kids. I find that gratifying,” he said.

A regular, exciting occurrence for Thiessen is when the teachers he works with take ideas developed in class and adapt them to their classrooms. “I saw the fruit of my labor. I’ve gotten class work from their students addressed to me – as teacher of their teacher,” he said.

FPU has been a place for Thiessen to build friendships with his students and establish rapport. “There’s something different that happens teaching in a Christian university. The context of relationship is easier,” he said.

Although Thiessen’s will be a working retirement, he hopes having only one job will allow him more time for vacation and travel. “There are lots of things that interest me. I could walk away from here and stay very busy,” he said.



ADINA JANZEN AND RICHARD THIESSEN



TED NICKEL AND EDMUND JANZEN

Ted Nickel — 17 YEARS

“I almost never go to class grudgingly,” said psychology faculty Ted Nickel. “I’m anxious to get there, anxious to share what I have. If I see someone hint they’ve had an ‘a-ha’ experience, that makes it for me.”

Psychology textbooks and academic journals are stacked on file cabinets and shelves, complemented by several Peeper Awards (including the old, brightly painted models) that FPU annually gives to outstanding students and faculty. With a sharp snap and twinkle of humor, Nickel talks of living by reversal and doing what is unexpected. “Always use your credit card. Use it to pay for everything,” he said. Nickel also advises students to get the credit card with the highest interest rate, and pay it off immediately.

Nickel leans back in his chair as he reflects on his history at the university. He started as the dean of the graduate school in 1986. In 1990 he moved to the undergraduate college. “Then I became an undergrad professor – hopefully, a teacher, too. To me that is a higher calling.”

For Nickel, a professor merely dispenses knowledge, while a teacher infects students with the love of learning. “I am in tune with Georgi Solti, [former] conductor of the Chicago National Symphony, who said, ‘Yes, I am a good conductor, but even more important to me, I am a good teacher.’”

While Nickel still loves to teach, he looks forward to the flexibility retirement will offer to perhaps travel the United States and work again with Mennonite Central Committee. It’s important to leave before colleagues begin to hint it might be a good idea, according to Nickel. “I want to retire while there’s still steam in the kettle.”

Stephen Varvis, dean of the undergraduate college, summed up the thoughts of many students and faculty about Nickel and Edmund Janzen. “Both Ted and Edmund are deeply loved by students, and they deeply care about students,” he said. “Both of them have worked at being good teachers to the very end of their careers. Sometimes that’s rare.”

Edmund Janzen — 35 YEARS

“From early on I signaled I would step away. I did it from that philosophy that vision that is so critical needs to be articulated by younger people. Vision is from youth,” said Edmund Janzen, whose vision for FPU led to the development of the undergraduate contemporary Christian ministries (CCM) major and the beginning of the graduate school. Janzen’s words are well crafted and loaded with gentle meaning as he explains his belief that change should happen. “People at retirement age can still do wonderful service in ministry, but they tend to hang on too long,” he said. “Don’t overstay, because that does not serve the college well. One needs to be gracious and make room.”

Janzen began his 35-year career at FPU as adjunct faculty while a student at Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary. After he finished graduate school, he taught a variety of biblical studies classes full-time.

For Janzen, teaching is not doling out information, but shaping and molding character. “[It is] the results, the ‘a-ha’ moment, the lived moment when the light goes on for someone.” This experience becomes more meaningful at a Christian university. “Christian teaching is transformational and relational. There’s a certain emphasis in presence, being engaged in thinking. I relish so much the joy of seeing someone break through to a wider place, and I have this moment, too,” he said.

From 1975-1985 Janzen served as university president, a position he took on reluctantly but poured himself into. “A lot of my work was invested in building bridges and building integrity,” he said. Janzen still found time to teach one class each semester. “I have enjoyed it always,” he said.

When Janzen left administration in 1985, he and his family moved to Kansas, where he taught at Tabor College. He returned to Fresno a year later when the next university president, Richard Kriegbaum, invited him to return. “This place always fascinated me because it collected a few old presidents and deans,” he said.

Kristen Kleyn is a senior majoring in English.



At left, Terri Weyrauch (center) and FPU freshman Josh Blair (right) help Juanito (left) and Armando start seedlings. Below, Josh Blair.



Mexico mission trip blesses students and children alike

by Terri Weyrauch

People spiritually affected by missions trips want to share what they have been through. Unfortunately, it is impossible to completely express what we undergo: we tell stories and show pictures, but can never fully make others understand. Nonetheless, God does amazing work through these experiences.

I know.

Over President's Day weekend, I led one of three groups of FPU students to San Luis, Sonora, Mexico. This trip has become a tradition over the last three years, growing from about 11 students at one site to 36 students in three groups.

The neatest thing about participating in this trip repeatedly is the relationship that builds between us and the people we go to serve. This year I saw several familiar faces as the children came to church, and was amazed they remembered the three of us who had come before. Several children had papers and notebooks that had the names and signatures of all the students from last year.

I was truly blessed by the children and the members of my group. As we went through our schedule of worship, lessons, meals, crafts and games, the interactions were incredible. Of the 11 FPU students in the village group, only three could speak and understand Spanish well. This did not keep us from communicating. The Lord enabled us to break the language barrier through our fluent students, through the bit of Spanish some of the rest of us knew and simply through our presence.

The most profound blessing came from conversations with José Patiño, the church pastor at one site. When we arrived he had been in bed for five months after an accident left him unable to walk. I was humbled to hear him talk about how God blessed him through his accident. He now realized he could minister through conversation, instead of just his preaching in church.

He talked about how he had been blessed through us in previous trips. He said he used to keep back from

the kids when he was dressed nicely, but realized from watching us play in the dirt with them with no regard to what we wore that children are more important than clothes. The pastor was an example to all of us, as he continued to praise God for the way He was using him, despite his situation.

The Lord worked in the hearts of the children, too. "Sometimes when we sing, I get so happy inside I feel like crying," one little boy, Andres, told translator Luis Jaramillo, a sophomore. Then Andres started crying happy tears and asked why he felt like that and what he was supposed to do. We talked about how the Holy Spirit fills us, and how we are to respond in prayer and praise to Jesus for saving us.

I pray I will be able to see the pastor again. I pray the spiritual seeds we planted in the kids will grow like the flower seeds we planted in the craft cups, so all, like Andres, will get so happy inside that when they sing they feel like crying and be filled with the Holy Spirit. I pray we blessed them half as much as they blessed us.

Terri Weyrauch is a senior majoring in business administration/marketing.

New peace project gathers students from throughout the world

Teaching people to make peace locally and globally is the goal of a new program at the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies (CPACS).

The International Peace Education Development Project will begin in the fall of 2003. Three students will come from overseas to study at the center so they can combine an education in nonviolent conflict resolution with their knowledge of the local conditions to build a culture of peace.

The project will help teachers and leaders connected with Christian higher education institutions in their own countries receive training at FPU. CPACS faculty will also provide support for the graduates when they return home. The aim is to “help build institutions’ capacity to train their own people,” said Dalton Reimer, project coordinator and a senior associate at the center.

“We can send people from North America to teach overseas, but local teachers work with a level of cultural sophistication that outsiders take longer to master,” Reimer said.

Mennonite Central Committee’s (MCC) Peace Office committed \$19,500 to the project for 2003-2004 and \$20,000 for 2004-2005. The amount is enough to pay for one full-time student in FPU’s graduate program. The center is looking for ways to combine the grant with other sources to help more than one student, Reimer said.

During its first year, the program will recruit students from Brazil and Ethiopia, which have Mennonite colleges or universities, as well as Vietnam.

The program could help build Mennonite higher education around the world. “Mennonite colleges and other institutions were born and flourished in North America in the last century, and I believe in the 21st century we’re going to see a duplication of that in the international arena,” Reimer said, citing schools in Congo, Paraguay and Indonesia that began as Bible schools and are now transforming into universities.



INVASION OF THE MUBOX BUGS— They’re hairy, they’re friendly and they’re invading FPU. Mubox bugs are the discovery of former President Harold Haak, who captured the creatures and put them in a children’s book. Haak signed copies of the book April 15 in front of Alumni Hall. *The Mubox Bugs* was illustrated by Jenny, Tommy and Dan Nadaner and published by AIMS (Activities Integrating Mathematics and Science) Education Foundation. A musical setting of the book by Larry Warkentin, faculty emeritus, was part of Warkentin’s “Music of Love” recital May 18 in Butler Church. (Above, Haak signs a copy of his book for Dee Robb, assistant to the college dean.)



SCHOLARSHIP DINNER— About 69 students and 42 sponsors gathered April 10 for the annual scholarship dinner in Ashley Auditorium. The event gives students who receive scholarships from individuals and families the chance to meet those who give, while keeping donors in touch with students’ lives. Above, Naomi and Edwin Wiens chat with Kristy Smyth, a junior majoring in liberal studies.



STUDENTS REACH OUT IN MEXICO—

Members of Amigos Unidos continued a four-year tradition by spending Martin Luther King weekend ministering at El Faro Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. The student organization brought music, crafts, games and a puppet show as well as food, toys and clothing to the children in the orphanage and people in the surrounding community. Many items were donated by students, staff and faculty. Yammilette Gutierrez, assistant director of college admissions, and Efrain Tovar, electronic admissions counselor, are Amigos Unidos advisers. (Left, Raul Trejo, senior, clowns with one of the children)

faculty FOCUS

Ron Claassen and Duane Ruth-Heffebower, Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies, were elected president and secretary, respectively, of the Association for Conflict Resolution Central Valley chapter. ACR is the largest conflict resolution organization, with chapters worldwide. Ruth-Heffebower also serves on the ACR family section training committee.

Larry Dunn, Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies, led a workshop simulation as part of a program titled "Peace Learning: An Afternoon of Conflict Study, Mediation, and Transformation" April 9 sponsored by Pacific Lutheran University's Wang Center for International Programs. His workshop was titled "Between Silence and Violence: Conflict Transformation for Revolutionaries and Resolutionaries."

Richard Wiebe, philosophy/history, attended the 14th Navajo Studies Conference in Tsaile, Arizona, April 1-6. The conference title was "Beyond the Sacred Mountains: Dine (Navajo) and the Global Village." He was also a research-associate-in-residence at the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff, Arizona, May 12-29.

Rod Janzen, education/curriculum and teaching, will be a consultant on a planned PBS documentary on Synanon. Filmmakers Thomas Wenland and Cassi Feldman have a contract with PBS, New York City, to do a two-hour program on the Synanon Foundation. They intend to use the title of Rod's book, *The Rise and Fall of Synanon: A California Utopia* (Johns Hopkins, 2001), as the title of the documentary. The book is the only full-scale historical and sociological study of the Synanon community.



Wendy Wakeman named graduate dean

Wendy Wakeman will serve as graduate dean beginning July 1, 2003. Wakeman has been dean of Fresno Pacific School of Professional Studies since coming to the university in 1997 and will also continue in that capacity.

"We are pleased Wendy has agreed to this extra assignment," said Patricia Anderson, provost. "She brings many strengths to this position, including her leadership of professional studies."

Wakeman joined FPU after eight years at Bethel College in Minnesota, where she was founding dean for the Bethel College Center of Continuing Studies. Prior to that Wakeman spent 16 years working in elementary-high schools as a school psychologist, director of special education and gifted and alternative school programs.

Wakeman earned an Ed.D. in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University and an Ed.S. in school psychology from Michigan State University. Her master's degree in educational psychology is from MSU and her bachelor's degree in psychology is from Wheaton College.

Rod Janzen, acting dean during the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 school years, will return to the faculty as the university's first distinguished scholar. Joining Wakeman will be Kathyryn Hitchcox, who will serve as associate dean of both schools. She has a Ph.D. and master's in English from Rice University and a bachelor's in English and communication arts from California Lutheran College.

Ron Claassen, Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies, presented two workshops at a symposium titled "Crime, Punishment and the Common Good in California" in Los Angeles March 15. The conference was sponsored by the Justice and Peace Commission, Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The first workshop focused on the principles and practices of restorative justice and the second, co-presented with Roxanne Claassen and Sr. Kathleen Drilling (peace and conflict studies master's students), focused on school discipline that restores. He also traveled to Washington, D.C., October 15-17, 2003, to speak at a United Methodist Church conference titled "Gathering on the Local Church as a Neighborhood Center for Reconciliation, Just Peace, Restorative Justice, and Conflict Transformation." Claas-

sen was invited to provide input on victim offender reconciliation programs (VORP) and restorative justice as well as present a paper, "A Peacemaking Model." Claassen returned to Washington November 11-12, 2002, to serve on an advisory committee for the Prison Fellowship International project called Restorative Justice City. The goal of the project is to create a computer simulation of how a city or county could deal with all criminal situations in the most restorative way possible.

Richard Rawls, history/philosophy, wrote a review of John J. O'Meara's *The Young Augustine: The Growth of Augustine's Mind Up to His Conversion*. This review was published in *Review of Biblical Literature* on March 8.

Duane Ruth-Heffelbower, Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies, published "Local Capacities for Peace Meets Conflict Resolution Practice" in the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development*. The journal is a joint publication of the Center for Global Peace of American University and South North Center for Peacebuilding and Development, Harare, Zimbabwe. He also published "Restorative Justice: The Journey" in *Conciliation Quarterly*, vol. 21, no. 4, Fall 2002. The article deals with the use of the Internet in restorative justice. He presented "Restorative Justice for Emerging Democracies: Macro Application of RJ in Cases of Societal Breakdown" at the Victim Offender Mediation Association annual conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, September 26, 2002.

Larry Warkentin, music faculty emeritus, was at Goshen College October 24-27, 2002, for the premiere of his latest composition, "Eleven Little Love Songs," for baritone and piano.

Breck Harris, business, presented a paper titled "The Importance of Creating a Sense of Community Within an Adult School Cohort" at the 31st Annual National Society for Experiential Education (NSEE) Conference October 2, 2002, in Las Vegas, Nevada. He also presented this paper at the 22nd Annual Adult Higher Education Alliance/American Council on Education (AHEA/ACE) Conference on October 10, 2002, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This paper was published as part of the AHEA/ACE conference proceedings and placed for review on the ERIC database.

Cary Templeton, assistant dean of enrollment services, was named University Educator of the Year in May by the Fresno Association of Mexican American Educators.



Rod Janzen to pioneer Distinguished Scholar program

A respected teacher, author and administrator will lead a new effort to encourage faculty scholarship.

Rod Janzen, education and history faculty, has been appointed FPU's first Distinguished Scholar. The five-year post allows Janzen to split his time evenly between writing/research and teaching.

"Scholarship is the coin of the realm in higher education, and universities serve society as an educational resource," said President D. Merrill Ewert. "We want people to turn to our faculty for research-based answers to difficult questions."

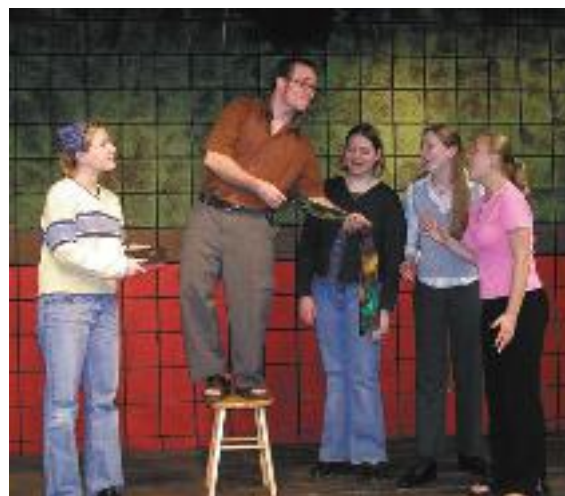
Janzen already has a record of research. His most recent books are *The Rise and Fall of Synanon: A California Utopia*, and *The Prairie People: Forgotten Anabaptists*.

A faculty member since 1989, Janzen works across the university. His current activities include serving as acting dean of the graduate school and as a consultant for Teaching American History, a project designed to use technology to improve the teaching of history. The program is a partnership between FPU, Clovis Unified School District, the Fresno County Office of Education, Microsoft and the Library of Congress.

Teaching duties include American history, social science education and curriculum studies in both the graduate and traditional undergraduate schools. Janzen earned a doctorate from the University of Southern California, a master's from the University of California Santa Barbara and a bachelor's from FPU.

Ewert called Janzen a good person to initiate this tradition. "We anticipate this program will grow in the years ahead. Rod was appointed because of his record of scholarship—the research he has done, the books and articles he has written and the leadership he is taking in his field."

BOOK OF ACTS—Historical travelogue, morality tale, personal testimony—the spring play told a unique story in an unusual way. *The Book of Acts* was performed April 10-12 at Mennonite Community Church. The play used five actors in contemporary dress playing a multitude of characters to illuminate the story of the early Christian church. The cast comprised FPU students Chelsea Christensen, Sarah Cram and Beth Wiens; Ryan Wilson, a student at Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary; and Megan Steinert, an FPU graduate. Julia Reimer, head of the theater program, directed. (From left, Steinert, Wilson, Cram, Christensen, Wiens.



Board addresses growth in revenues, facilities and off-campus programs

A new budget, new off-campus facilities and the beginning of a new look at organization were on the agenda for the board of trustees March 7-8.

The budget for 2003-2004 was set at \$27.4 million, up from \$25.3 million in 2002-2003. Net revenues increased around \$500,000 in each school, with the college at \$10.2 million, the graduate school at \$5.5 million and the school of professional studies at \$6.9 million.

Major spending increases came in personnel, technology, facilities and marketing. Faculty and staff earned pay raises in each of the last two years, information services will receive \$100,000 over the regular increase and maintenance and utility costs were included for Steinert Campus Center, scheduled to open in August, and the first full year of operation for AIMS Hall of Mathematics and Science. An additional \$75,000 was set aside for university marketing.

Budget plans also include a \$400,000 surplus and a contingency fund of \$554,000 as a cushion against unexpected expenses. Any unused money from this fund could add to the surplus.

The board also looked at ways to aid the university's off-campus centers. Administrators will look for buildings to lease in Visalia and Bakersfield that will bring together graduate and degree-completion programs now scattered among several rented spaces in those communities. This centralization will

allow for larger, permanent facilities to make present programs more effective and encourage growth.

Looking at the future of the campus, the board asked the administration to begin developing policies and an organization to speed FPU's evolution as a university. Plans are to take into account suggestions made by Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), which accredits the university, and the university auditors. Recommendations are to come to the board at its June meeting.

The long-term contributions of three faculty were honored as Edmund Janzen, Ted Nickel and Richard Thiessen were granted emeritus status. Janzen, a member of biblical and religious studies faculty, came to the university in 1968 and served as president from 1975-85, during which time he wrote "Broadening the Base," a plan to expand FPU programs and outreach. Nickel is a member of the psychology faculty. He began work at the university in 1986 and served as graduate dean until 1990. Thiessen teaches in the mathematics/science/educational technology division and succeeded Arthur Wiebe as president of Activities Integrating Mathematics and Science (AIMS) Educational Foundation. Thiessen joined the faculty in 1987.

In other action, the board:

- approved a \$2 million line of credit for one year with Bank of the West. This action will help cover the completion of Steinert Center until all

pledges are collected.

- set the housing rate for students living in Ranchwood Condominiums at \$1,350 per semester per student in 2003-2004. The apartments feature full kitchens as well as access to a swimming pool and other facilities.
- raised the undergraduate degree application fee for 2003-2004 from \$50 to \$65 to match the existing graduate fee.
- moved up the date of the independent studies fee increase to May 1, rather than September 1. Fees will rise from \$84 to \$88.
- broadened the board nominating process: The board vice chair will serve as chair of the nominating committee and the board executive committee will nominate four additional members who may take nominations from the floor. The board will elect four members to prepare a slate of officers to be elected by the full board.
- selected members Jim Aldredge and Larry Martens to serve with the personnel committee to revise the faculty handbook.

In separate meetings March 7-8, the Fresno Pacific University Foundation Board agreed to have Wells Fargo Trust Company take on management duties of more than one half the foundation's trusts. The company will oversee many day-to-day operations.

GARABEDIAN GRANT SUPPORTS MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

A new grant from a familiar donor will help keep the music playing at FPU.

The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation donated \$15,000 for music scholarships. Students who are graduates of Roosevelt or Sierra high schools, have a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average and are involved in music at FPU are eligible. This grant is in addition to the regular support the foundation gives to Roosevelt Revolution Soccer Club, a university outreach program serving more nearly 200 community children each year.

The private Garabedian foundation primarily aids Central California charitable organizations including those serving education, health, human services and the arts.



Larry Shehadey gives half-million dollars for Steinert Campus Center

Longtime Fresno business leader Larry A. Shehadey is contributing \$500,000 to Steinert Campus Center.

“We are proud to name the dining room of our new campus center for Larry A. Shehadey,” President D. Merrill Ewert said during a campus reception March 28. “His generosity will help generations of students enjoy the benefits of Christian higher education.”

Steinert Campus Center will open this fall to provide student dining and recreational facilities as well as a new home for the Student Life Office and a leadership development center. The surrounding grounds will feature

an amphitheater for plays and other activities. Construction began on the single-story structure in May of 2002. The \$5 million project also includes the renovation of the current dining area, Alumni Hall, into an expanded campus bookshop and coffeeshop/lounge.

Shehadey is the owner of Producers Dairy, one of the largest independent dairies in the Western United States and among the few locally owned dairies in California. The company was founded in 1932 and Shehadey became general manager in 1951. Holdings include production facilities in Fresno and the Bar 20 Dairy Farms, with more than 3,000 cows.



SHEHADEY SPEAKS TO FACULTY AND STAFF



L TO R: PETER KLASSEN (FPU BOARD CHAIR), LARRY SHEHADEY AND D. MERRILL EWERT

Irvine grant spurs diversity efforts

Increasing racial and ethnic diversity among students and faculty is the goal at FPU—and a grant from the James Irvine Foundation will help achieve that purpose.

The three-year, \$350,000 award is to help the university:

- enroll students from underrepresented groups in proportion to regional high-school graduation rates, graduate those students at the same ratio as other students and send more of those students to graduate school.
- hire faculty and attract guest scholars from underrepresented groups.
- build a campus culture that values diversity while enhancing critical thinking.

Methods will include promoting the university among various ethnic groups, developing enrollment targets, supporting ethnic clubs and encouraging faculty-student research, new and revamped classes and other academic projects.

Currently about 22 percent of traditional undergraduate students are Hispanic, 3.4 percent international, 3.1 percent Asian-American, 3 percent African-American, 0.9 percent American Indian. More than 27 countries and 30 Christian denominations are represented.

While the university has made progress in attracting a student body as diverse as the community it serves, there is a great need to recruit faculty of color, said Consuelo Meux, an organizer of the FPU Diversity Task Force. “It helps to give students a more realistic picture of the world they will live in,” she said. “People of different backgrounds do bring different perspectives. Research shows that.”

A diverse faculty will provide role models for students of color and help all students—no matter what their background—understand people of other ethnic and racial groups. “It will make FPU a more attractive, comfortable and welcoming place for every-

one,” Meux said.

The campus task force is made up of faculty and staff. Student organizations such as Cultural Awareness and Knowledge Enrichment (CAKE) have also been active in diversity efforts, attending and hosting conferences on the subject.

The James Irvine Foundation is an independent grant making organization dedicated to enhancing the social, economic and physical quality of life throughout California, and to enriching the state’s intellectual and cultural environment. The foundation was established in 1937 by James Irvine, the pioneer whose 110,000-acre ranch in Southern California was among the largest privately owned land holdings in the state. With assets of \$1.2 billion, the foundation expects to make grants of \$51 million in 2003. For more information, please visit www.irvine.org.

DAVID PAULS | BOSTON | B.A. 1966

Pacific influences David Pauls' scientific career & personal life

by Nicole Linder



Many people hope to help others—a handful have a gift that guides generations.

As scientist, teacher and author, David Pauls is one of that handful. Among the most well-known researchers on the genetics of child neuropsychiatric disorders, Pauls directs the Psychiatric and Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital, a teaching hospital of Harvard University. He heads a team of 30 professionals researching the neurogenetics of Tourette's syndrome, attention deficit disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, autism, specific reading disability (dyslexia) and bipolar affective disorder. The goal is to learn more about genes that affect these disorders and the development of children.

For Pauls the journey of learning is one of a lifetime. After receiving bachelor of arts degrees in natural science and mathematics from Pacific College in 1966, the same year older brother Adonijah earned his in social science and history, David Pauls went on to a doctorate in genetics and cell biology from the University of Minnesota. He then returned to Pacific from 1971-1977 to teach biology, genetics, statistics, biochemistry and mathematics.

Recruited by Yale University, Pauls spent 20 years in the Child Study Center as professor of psychiatric and neurobehavioral genetics before going to the newly created position at Mas-

sachusetts General in 2001. Over the course of his career he has made many presentations and written hundreds of articles and book chapters.

His children also followed in his footsteps of higher education and research. Son Scott is a professor of mathematics at Dartmouth College. Jonathan "Jed" is completing his master of arts degree in education at the University of Vermont and teaching science and mathematics at a school for adolescents with severe emotional and psychiatric problems.

Pauls' decision to attend Pacific College was easy. "I was the youngest of 10 children in a Mennonite Brethren family from just outside Dallas, Oregon. My parents gave me the option of going to Tabor College or Pacific College. My brothers and sisters chose Pacific College, so I knew about the school," he said. Indeed, it was a rare year in the 1950s and 60s when a Pauls was not at Pacific Bible Institute/Pacific College. In addition to David and Adonijah, who also graduated from PBI in 1959, there were Melvin (PBI '52), Vernon (PBI '53) and Deloris (PBI '60).

David Pauls said the deciding factor for him was that he thought, "California would be a much better place to live than Kansas."

Fond memories include the summer he and Roy Klassen, now FPU choir director and music faculty, dug a ditch for electrical conduit from Sattler Hall to Hiebert Library. Pauls also appreci-

ates the opportunities Pacific provided to be involved in activities beyond academics that might have been out of reach at a larger institution. He was a member of the basketball team for three years and student body president his junior year.

Dan Isaak, biology professor, and Arthur Wiebe, mathematics professor and Pacific president, were particularly influential. Isaak introduced Pauls to genetics and taught him to be curious. Wiebe first challenged him to do research. "He would present mathematical problems with no known solution and encourage the class to figure it out," Pauls said. Both inspired Pauls to go on to graduate school.

Pacific's influence on Pauls did not end with choosing a professional path. Instead, it persisted beyond graduate school to permeate his life. "I have tried to follow the principle espoused by the early Anabaptists that it was not appropriate to use force and coercion to achieve one's goals in life. Usually, pacifism is thought about only in terms of being against war. For me, it means more than that. For me it means when I interact with people in my life I make every effort to live and work in peace with them. If that is not possible, then it is important to treat them with respect and justice."

Nicole Linder is associate director of events and alumni programs.

Kathryn Smith Derksen combines passions for politics & peacemaking

Most students, even high achievers, are happy to break new ground in one area during their college careers. Kathryn Smith Derksen's story is that of one student and two firsts.

As an undergraduate she is credited with being FPU's first political science major, expanding what was then a minor. Smith Derksen double-majored in music, playing in such ensembles as the baroque orchestra. "There was no overlap," she said of her areas of study. "It was a lot of work."

In 1998, whether hungry for another challenge or driven by circumstances, Smith Derksen became a member of the first group to complete the master of arts in peacemaking and conflict studies. Sue Kliever, director of human resources at FPU, and Diane Diestal were her classmates.

Though she had studied the theory of politics, a job showed Smith Derksen the practical promise of peacemaking. "I was with VORP (Victim Offender Reconciliation Program) of the Central Valley at the time and Ron Claassen exposed me to conflict management ideas." Claassen, today director of the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies, helped Smith Derksen see her longstanding interest in a new light. "I liked how conflict management addressed problems I saw in the political scene," she said.

As administrative assistant for the restorative justice ministries program, Smith Derksen helped organize the first Restorative Justice Conference, now in its ninth year, and participated

in mediation. "As I got into more of the core of mediation I got more interested in conflict management," she said.

Her continuing passion for politics led Smith Derksen to spend 10 months in Belfast, Northern Ireland, researching her master's thesis. "I wanted to look at how democracy and conflict interface," she said. What she found was that democracy is useful, but not by itself sufficient to solve conflict. "The situation in Belfast was that some used the democratic system to continue the conflict," she said.

As the century turned Smith Derksen and husband Daniel combined peacemaking, service and politics in a three-year Mennonite Central Committee assignment in the Republic of Uganda, where they were attached to the Church of Uganda, which is Anglican. During this time variety became not only their spice of life but their main course: both did some conflict management training, while she did research and wrote, acted as office support, drove for funerals and took pictures at rallies. He worked with youth in areas such as teaching English and computer training. "Peacemakers do whatever comes across their desks," she said.

Uganda, a nation of 20 million people located in east-central Africa, is in a civil war. The Lord's Resistance Army is trying to overthrow the current government, which itself is the product of armed revolt, Smith Derksen said. The rebel army is thought to be 95 percent abducted children, with 5,000 children taken between June



and March alone. On the other side, government forces are guilty of rape and other crimes. "The people are in a lose-lose situation," she said. Though an amnesty law was passed in 2000, neither side's leaders want to talk.

The Pacific Northwest is the next stop for the former Palo Alto resident and her family, which includes John Clair, born in Uganda in June of 2001, and a second child due at the end of May. "We plan to try Seattle and see if I can find a job," Smith Derksen said. Whatever their next step, peacemaking is part of the long-term plan. "We'd like to do more service work," she said, "maybe in a year or two."

GENERAL NEWS

Cherelyn Willet (BA '01) will receive her master of fine arts (MFA) degree in creative writing from Antioch University Southern California, Los Angeles, in June 2003. She is an English instructor at Madera College Center.

Sarah Bergen (BA '02) is student teaching in Sacramento and will graduate with a secondary credential June 12, 2003.

Charisse (Allen) Hastings (BA '00) is currently teaching fifth grade at Tulare City School District.

Mary (McKinzie) Konow (BA '99) completed her master of science degree in career counseling from California State University, Sacramento, in December of 2002. She works as the director of career services with ITT Technical Institute in Rancho Cordova.

Jason Blanchard (BA '92) is working on a master's degree at San Jose State University in the department of counselor education.

Caty Massey (BA '99) will become president of Fresno River Park Rotary on July 1, 2003.

Rose Caglia (BA '80), special education teacher with Roosevelt High School, was honored in May by the Fresno Association of Mexican American Educators.

Larkin Hand (BA '02) began a job in Sacramento on January 21, 2003, where she directs an after-school program for inner-city children. The program, called Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning (CORAL), is funded by a seven-year Irvine Foundation grant. Her first responsibilities included hiring a staff and implementing the already planned program. After the initial few months she expanded her work into developing programming and recruiting new partners. CORAL has been successfully implemented in Pasadena, Long Beach, San Jose and Fresno. The program will have six sites in Sacramento and Hand serves as site coordinator of the Northern Sacramento site. "God has been faithful and has

answered my prayers for a job that would allow me to work with children and use my business skills," she said.

Juan Ayala (BA '98) is currently studying at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, working on a Master of Divinity. This is part of his formation to become a Roman Catholic priest and a missionary with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Robert E. "Bob" Nikkel (BA '69) was named administrator of the Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services in the Oregon Department of Human Services. Bob spent 15 years working with mental health clients before becoming a manager. Before being named administrator he held several management positions including community services manager for the agency's former Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

MARRIAGES

Melinda DelGiorgio (BA '02) will marry Andre Ramos on July 26, 2003.

LeAnn (Morine) Baker (BA '99) married Daniel Baker on January 11, 2003, in Fresno. The Bakers are living in Lincoln, Neb., where Dan is an assistant pastor at Rosemont Alliance Church.

Takeshi Sakamoto (BA '95) married Hiroko Daido on May 17, 2003, in Japan.

BIRTHS

Sybil (Blaauw) Kolbert (BA '97) and husband Matt announce the birth of Ashlyn Faith on January 18, 2003.

Carmen (Ens) Owen (BA '95) and husband Andy announce the birth of Isaac Jonathan on March 20, 2003. He joins brother Connor, 3 years old.

Karianne (Pool) Kraetsch (BA '99) and husband Scott announce the birth of their first child, Benjamin Andrew on July 23, 2003.

Kellie (Fry) Thomson (BA '91) and husband Bob announce the birth of Sarah Beth on June 26, 2002.

Ron (BA '81) and Bonny (Wheaton BA '86) Thiesen announce the birth of Joshua Joel on January 21, 2002. Joshua joins twin sisters Jessica and Nicole, 3 ½ years old.

Jennifer (Plinck) Wall (BA '93) and husband Mickael announce the birth of Joshua Michael on January 3, 2003.

Bernie Esau (BA '94) and wife Angela (current student) announce the birth of Benjamin Johann Esau on May 12, 2003.

Todd (BA '97, MA '03) and Sarah (Steckling BA '97, MA '03) Friesen announce the birth of Paul Todd on April 22, 2003.



FPU DOES THE ZOO—Over 350 students, alumni, friends, faculty and staff attended Zoo Night April 25 at Fresno's Chaffee Zoo. Participants enjoyed dinner, the petting zoo, the rain forest exhibit and Winged Wonders Bird Show as well as face painting with Sunny the Sunbird and music from the FPU Jazz Band and Christian band "Somewhere Outside."



SAVE THE DATE
HOMECOMING
2003

Plan to join us Friday
 and Saturday,
 October 10-11, 2003

This year's Homecoming
 highlights will include:

- Steinert Campus Center dedication
- Edmund Janzen retirement event
- Alumni-student soccer/volleyball
- Pre-volleyball tailgate BBQ

Contact Nicole Linder
 for more information
 or to volunteer.
nicole.linder@fresno.edu

For up-to-date
 schedule and events, visit

www.fresno.edu



MCC SALE DRAWS THOUSANDS TO FPU—The annual Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Relief Sale attracted alumni, students and others from throughout the Valley to campus April 4-5 and grossed \$255,000 to help people around the world.

ABOVE
 Visitors to the MCC Sale enjoyed a special concert by FPU choir members past and present. About 40 alumni joined the current Concert Choir under the direction of Roy Klassen, music faculty.



RIGHT
 The Alumni Office appreciates everyone who stopped by the Alumni Cafe for gourmet coffee and interesting conversation. Special thanks to Bob and Carol Friesen for coordinating and running the gourmet coffee booth and to the alumni volunteers: Renee Singh-Boucher, Harlan and Debbie Elrich, Tim Franz, Tiffany Friesen, Dina Gonzalez, Audrey Hindes, Harriet Huggins, Roger Nord, Teri Piper, Asia Smith, Chuck Spencer, Derek Stutzman, Julie Uhl and Peter Wasemiller. (From left, Hindes, Spencer and Uhl keep the coffee coming.)

ALUMNI DIRECTORY

The FPU Alumni Association is pleased to announce it will publish a new Alumni Directory in 2004—just in time for the school's 60th anniversary. The university selected Harris Publishing for the project, and a company representative will contact you to get your current information. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to having this useful tool to reconnect with former classmates and friends.

IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI 1717

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME TELEPHONE _____ WORK TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____ GRADUATION YEAR _____

OCCUPATION _____

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?
 Information for Pacific Magazine: _____

Fer sure—Valley Girls wind up career of records, friendships

by Ken Isaak

For Eric Schwab, women's track and field coach, and his five "Valley Girls" Saturday, May 24, ends an era: their last day of collegiate competition. The day has been circled on their calendars for weeks now. All five have qualified to compete in the 2003 NAIA National Outdoor Track & Field Championship in Olathe, Kansas. May 24 will be the last time they will wear those white jerseys with 'FRESNO PACIFIC' in blue block letters across the front.

The five all call the San Joaquin Valley home, and over the past four years all have significantly raised the bar for future Sunbirds. They own nine of FPU's 13 individual track records and all seven relay records. In the throws Kari Weinmann has both the hammer and weight marks. Annie Sippel holds the pentathlon record. That's 19 of 30 records. Not bad for a group that was overlooked and under-recruited.

"These kids are not the most talented in the world," Schwab said. "But they have a great work ethic. They are great students and quality people."

The Valley Girls also have a pile of NAIA national honors: ten All-America awards, six All-America honorable mentions and 16 All-America Scholar Athlete awards. Add to the list Chrisie Gregory's back-to-back indoor national championships in the 3,000 meters (2002 and 2003).

It is all about opportunity, hard work and friendships—and not necessarily in that order.

"The best thing about my experience at FPU is the relationships I've built," Toler said. Kristen Buckley agrees. "In high school Jen and I competed against each other," she said. "We have



The Valley Girls are (from left): Chrisie Gregory, Jennifer Toler, Kristin (Fairley) Buckley, Kari Weinmann and Annie Sippel.

become best friends—Jen was my maid of honor."

For Sippel those relationships mean the most when you are in trouble. "My mom had been sick for a long time of 2002, but when she got real sick in September, I didn't think I would compete again," Sippel said. "When she died on September 11, 2002, the first anniversary of the World Trade Center tragedy, I was a mess. But my teammates were so supportive. They rallied around me."

May 24 has come and gone. So have these five outstanding young women. Gregory plans to compete in Spain this summer with Athletes in Action, then work for a year before entering graduate school. Buckley, who wants to compete in the Boston Marathon someday, has completed a teaching credential. Sippel will be back at FPU to pursue a teaching credential in the fall. Weinmann, was hired by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Fresno. Toler will attend Fuller Theological Seminary next year in pursuit of a doctorate in clinical psychology.

"They are a very special group," Schwab said with a smile. "It has been a privilege to coach them. The records they have put up may take years to bring down. But they have accomplished and contributed much more than that."

Ken Isaak is FPU sports information director

Kristin (Fairley) Buckley
Hometown: Clovis
Parents: Carol and Tim Fairley
High school: Clovis (1998)
Home church: Clovis Hills Community
Major: Social science (GPA 3.9)
Favorite class: Latin (Richard Rawls)
Career goal: High school government and history teacher
Spouse: Michael Buckley (married May 5, 2002)

Chrisie Gregory
Hometown: Fresno
Parents: Rose Anne and Michael Gregory
High school: Clovis (1999)
Home church: Sunrise Church
Major: Mathematics, secondary teaching emphasis (GPA 3.87)
Favorite class: Principles of Math (Wilbert Reimer)
Career goal: College mathematics teacher

Annie Sippel
Hometown: Lemoore
Parents: Sue and Robert Sippel
High school: Lemoore (1999)
Home church: Lemoore First Baptist
Major: Mathematics, secondary teaching emphasis (GPA 3.66)
Favorite class: Principles of Math (Wilbert Reimer)
Career goal: High school mathematics teacher

Jenifer Toler
Hometown: Fresno
Parents: Judy and Mike Toler
High school: Clovis West (1999)
Home church: Hope Lutheran
Major: Psychology (GPA 3.81)
Favorite class: Abnormal Psychology (Ted Nickel)
Career goal: Child therapist

Kari Weinmann
Hometown: Bakersfield
Parents: Cheryl and Cregg Weinmann
High school: East Bakersfield (1999)
Home church: Heritage Bible
Major: Social work (GPA 3.66)
Favorite class: Becoming a Change Agent (Shirley Keith)
Career goal: Social worker



Spring Sunbird awards went to eight student-athletes. Hector Santillan and Shailey Jones were named outstanding freshmen. Annie Sippel won outstanding senior honors. Jane Gillespie, Chrissy Gregory and Jennifer Toler were top scholar-athletes. Gillespie and T.J. Jennings received Sunbird awards. Back row (from left): Sippel, Jones, Santillan and Toler. Front row (from left): Gillespie, Jennings and Gregory.

Award reminds Ramirez of the reason he coaches

by Ken Isaak



Jaime Ramirez was dejected. His FPU men's soccer team had just failed to lock up the GSAC championship and postseason home-field advantage. Instead the Sunbirds lost 1-0 to rival Biola University. He headed home to watch the game video to try to unravel what went wrong.

"We clearly were the more talented team," Ramirez said bluntly. "But we squandered a golden opportunity."

Waiting in the day's mail was another envelope from the California Youth Soccer Association. Ramirez had received hundreds of letters over his nine years as the coaching director of the Roosevelt Revolution Youth Soccer Club. It takes a lot of paperwork to administrate 12 teams and nearly 200 boys ranging in age from 9 to 17. He laid it aside.

When he finally opened the envelope, it was no ordinary form letter from the Northern Region in Sacramento. This was an announcement that Ramirez had been selected the CYSA Region VII Coach of the Year.

"It put things back in perspective," Ramirez said. "I was upset and disappointed because we had just lost an important game. But soccer is so much more than wins and losses. The letter helped me remember that."

The surprises weren't over. There was more in store February 1 at the CYSA North Region annual meeting, where Ramirez accepted his district award.

"I was one of nine coaches to be honored. One from each district," Ramirez continued. "We each took our turn at the microphone, were presented with our plaques, then returned to our seats. I was shocked again when I was called back to the podium to accept the North Region Coach of the Year Award."

This time Ramirez was speechless.

"I had just spent 10 minutes telling people how proud I was of our kids, our coaches and our parents. I was so shocked I had nothing left to say. I think I managed a feeble 'thank you' and sat down," he said.

"I have enjoyed the great good fortune to play collegiate soccer," he said. "Now I have an even greater responsibility as a coach. What a privilege it is."



Individual GSAC track champions are (from left): Kim (Eames) Morgan, 400-meter; Chrissy Gregory, 3,000-meter, 5,000-meter; Ben Bogdanof, javelin; and Tahnee Emerson, long jump.



Eric Schwab was named 2003 GSAC Women's Track and Field Coach of the Year. The Sunbirds came in third at the conference championships April 24-25 at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego.

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