

# PACIFIC

A large saguaro cactus with two arms reaching out, set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The cactus is green with visible ribs and small spines.

## EXTENDING Our Reach

First December  
commencement  
a success

Dedications set  
for Alumni Hall,  
Haak Tennis  
Complex

Pair picked by  
the pros



# president's message

D. Merrill Ewert



## Reaching beyond Fresno

**Centers bring the benefits of FPU to new locations, more people**

NEW OFF-CAMPUS CENTERS in Visalia and Bakersfield (and shortly in North Fresno), put Fresno Pacific University in the thick of a challenge. Stated briefly: The South San Joaquin Valley needs options in higher education. Fresno Pacific University is a great solution.

Access to colleges and universities in California is actually declining for many students. The state's population is growing, raising the demand for higher education faster than academic programs can keep up. This is compounded in Tulare and Kern counties, where college graduation rates are already below state and national averages.

Centers are an especially effective way to reach today's students. Once a typical college student graduated from high school and immediately went away to a campus. Today, with growing numbers of older, working adults flocking to higher education, campuses must find ways to come to students trying to balance study with full-time jobs and family responsibilities.

FPU knows adult students—we've had degree-completion programs for more than a decade, and graduate programs since the 1970s. The curriculum in these areas offers academic rigor and professional preparation. Students develop language and quantitative skills, an appreciation for and understanding of science and the arts and the capacity to ask searching questions about the world. With the guidance of faculty knowledgeable in their field and generous with their time, students grow intellectually, think critically and better prepare themselves to grapple with the increasingly complex issues they will confront throughout their lives.

But there's more. What makes FPU unique among colleges and universities in this region is that our education doesn't stop at intellectual and career growth. While the course schedule does not contain Christian Chemistry 101 or Faith-based Physics 450, in all classes problems and theories are examined through the lens of belief in order to build our students as moral people. By wrestling with the ultimate questions of life—Who am I? What am I doing here? What's wrong with the world? What should I do about it?—as they study academic subjects, our students become better employees, church members and citizens.

Developing regional centers is one way Fresno Pacific University extends its influence far beyond the campus. For many people, we provide the only opportunity for an academically challenging Christian higher education.

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  
D. Merrill Ewert

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/EDITORS  
Ken Isaak  
Kristin Deffenbacher

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

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

Fax: 559-453-2033  
www.fresno.edu

Alumni 559-453-2058  
Advancement 559-453-2080  
College Admissions 800-660-6089  
Graduate School 559-453-2016  
School of Professional Studies  
559-453-2015



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## Community makes academics work at FPU

Once students at the institution that would be Fresno Pacific University all ate together, and anyone who didn't show could expect friends to swing by the dorm to see what was up.

That's what they called community—a force that's a lot more than good feeling at FPU. It's the heart of our academic, professional and ethical development.

Community is the faculty member who guides a student to graduate school. Community is the career counselor who helps a student land an internship that leads to a job. Community is the campus pastor who helps a student wrestle with a direction in life.

Each version of FPU has had to work community out differently. Pacific Bible Institute began with 28 students and seven staff members in one building. Pacific College moved into an old cotton field on South Chestnut and began building buildings—in some cases, sidewalk first. Fresno Pacific College reached out to more students and faculty from other Christian traditions and created different schools for students just out of high school, for older students with family and work responsibilities and for educators, business people and professionals.

Fresno Pacific University has formally opened regional centers in Bakersfield and Visalia to provide classes and services in one location designed and equipped specifically for educating adult students. Another center in North Fresno is coming, and other locations are possible. (I'm pushing for a Central Coast Center where I can wiggle my toes in the sand while writing my Sidebar columns.)

Multiple schools and multiple locations may seem to stretch community so far from that single table that it's bound to snap. Not so, but it will have to bend. Again.

While students in degree-completion and graduate programs want closeness as much as do their younger colleagues, they are not at the same point in life. Late-night dorm discussions, sports crowds or daytrips to the beach are less important than the group that stays together to complete a bachelor's degree or the program that provides professional credentials and graduate degrees.

However it happens, community helps students succeed, and is therefore worth pursuing.

—Wayne Steffen

# LIGHT THEME OF FIRST DECEMBER COMMENCEMENT



## FOG DID NOT DAMPEN THE WARMTH OF FEELING DECEMBER 17.



(Above) Honoring long academic tradition, Wendy Wakeman, dean of the graduate school and school of professional studies, placed a hood on each graduate student. (Below) President D. Merrill Ewert congratulated new graduates in ceremonies in the Special Events Center.

Degrees were presented to 30 students from Fresno Pacific College, the traditional undergraduate program, 80 from the Center for Degree Completion and 27 from Fresno Pacific Graduate School during the hour-long ceremony that began at 7 p.m. December 17. Christmas decorations lent a festive atmosphere to the Special Events Center, which only heightened the sense of celebration for degree recipients, their family and friends. Provost Patricia Anderson asked the new graduates to turn and applaud both the people in the stands and the faculty members sitting to either side, all of whom had shared the students' hard work and supported their efforts, she said.

In his commencement speech, titled "For All to See...", President D. Merrill Ewert reminded graduates that they represent the light of God. "Jesus didn't say 'you should be light,' he said 'you are light.'"

War, terrorism, crime, AIDS and poverty darken these times for many, Ewert said. Children without light are afraid of the boogeyman, but parents chase away that fear with a flick of a switch. "You know what? It's not so bad with the light on," he said. Graduates should go forward remembering that they are the light of the world, that light shines best in darkness and that one light on a hill, gathered with other lights, is a comforting sight.

Other activities included an invocation by Ernst W. Janzen, who completed his master's degree, and a Scripture reading by undergraduate student Joseph White and his father, Randy, national coordinator for urban projects for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Faculty lined up outside the SEC after the ceremony to shake hands with graduates, and people chatted and took photographs outside the SEC and inside the Steinert Campus Center.

The traditional spring commencement will be May 7.





## FPU OVERCOMES STATE BUDGET UNCERTAINTY TO ENROLL NEAR-RECORD CLASS

Solid returning classes and a large number of transfer students kept overall enrollment strong at FPU.

California's budget deficit and cuts in the Cal Grant program, the state's major financial aid fund, made predictions particularly difficult. "For the second year in a row, we had many undergraduate students apply but not complete their application. We think the negative press surrounding the Cal Grant program caused some students to leave their applications incomplete," said Cary Templeton, associate dean of enrollment services. "All in all it was a strong recruiting effort, especially in light of the challenges that had to be overcome."

Total fall university enrollment was 1,921. There were 977 students in the traditional undergraduate program, up from 965 in 2003. This year's new freshman and transfer total of 349 was the second highest in school history, behind only the 356 entering in 2003. Transfer students were up seven in 2004 to 160, but new freshmen were down 14 to 189.

The graduate school had 735 students in September compared to 760 at the same time in 2003. Some 209 working

adults were finishing their bachelor's degrees in the Center for Degree Completion (CDC).

All figures are based on the 16-day census and are considered official only for the traditional undergraduate program. Graduate school and CDC enrollment is considered a "snapshot" due to the differing academic schedules of those schools. The graduate school has three academic terms per year, and groups of CDC students begin and end their studies throughout the year.

The freshman class is still among the largest and best prepared academically in school history. The average student grade-point average is 3.61, and SAT scores for the top 25 percent averaged 1,220.

FPU also offers a rich mix of ethnic heritages and denominational affiliations. Students represent 27 countries and 25 churches, the largest groups being from Baptist, Mennonite Brethren (the university's sponsoring denomination), non-denominational and Catholic congregations. About 33 percent of incoming freshmen are students of color.



## FPU FINDS MANY WAYS TO BUILD A CULTURE OF PEACE

Prayers, speakers and performances were some of the ways Building A Culture of Peace Week was celebrated October 4-8, 2004.

Students, faculty and staff participated in a variety of events during the annual event, including:

- International Student Food/Culture Festival—Students cooked food and brought things from their home countries to share with others. There was also music and a presentation from Mennonite Central Committee, an international relief organization, on making school kits for children in Sudan.
- Speaker, Ruth Buxman, "Peaceable Farming"—Ruth and Paul Buxman farm near Dinuba. Ruth talked about how building a culture of peace extends to our treatment of the earth, to farming methods, to worker relations and more. Paul is an artist and Ruth graduated from Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary.

- Poetry from Iraq with Carmen Pauls Wiens—Wiens lived in Iraq between the Gulf War and the Iraq War. Her poems expressed the hopes and struggles of everyday Iraqi people.
- Performance Hour, "Sharing Our Stories"—Readings, stories and dramatic performances on themes related to cultural diversity and making peace by FPU students, faculty, staff and people from the community.
- Speaker, Joe Manickam, "Race & Race Relations"—Manickam is a doctoral student in intercultural studies from Fuller Theological Seminary and teaches and conducts seminars on building racial understanding from a biblical perspective. He also led a College Hour chapel service and a faculty and staff workshop on race relations.

Organizers included Donna Callahan, social work faculty; Hope Nisly, acquisitions and cataloging librarian; Julia Reimer, drama faculty; and Amanda Rodriguez, office assistant and analyst for diversity.

## GRANT EXPANDS TECHNICAL SERVICES AND IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING

\$1.8 million comes from U.S. Department of Education

A five-year, \$1.8 million federal grant will help the university expand its technological services and deepen students' education.

Money for the grant comes from the U.S. Department of Education's Title III Strengthening Institutions fund. Provost Patricia Anderson described the grants as highly competitive. "With five years of funding, they can only give so many new grants per year," said Anderson, who wrote FPU's proposal.

The award is being used for two major themes, said Norman Rempel, vice president, chief information officer and registrar, who oversees grant implementation. "We want to use technology to facilitate and enhance the educational experience," he said.

The themes are:

- Build a solid technical support infrastructure to reduce system failures and improve hardware such as major servers, hubs and routers. Course management software will also be added to provide online resources for the regular classroom and to allow faculty to develop online courses. Many of these projects are already in the works, and the grant provides the means to speed them along. Like many universities, expectations for information technology have not kept pace with resources. "The issue has been not enough people and hardware," Rempel said.
- Help faculty use technology to improve learning. A designated faculty member and several student workers will lead this effort.

A faculty leader in technology for higher education from the American Association of Higher Education inaugurated the faculty development session. "For a small institution to have this moves us to the next level in integrating technology in the curriculum," Anderson said.



## 49ers legend Bill Walsh addresses area athletes at character conference

The success of the San Francisco 49ers was no accident. It was due, in large measure, to players with character.

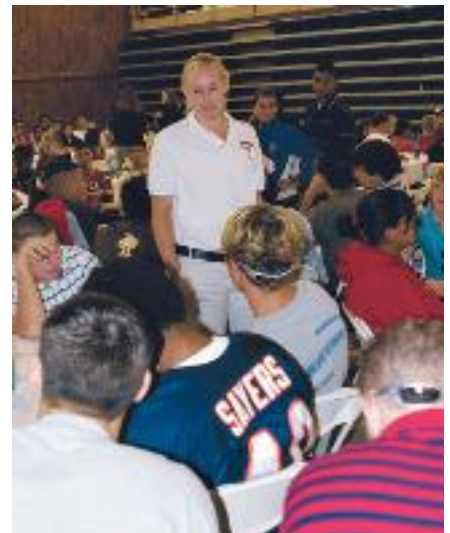
That was the message delivered to 750 high school athletes and coaches October 5, 2004, at FPU. The messenger was Bill Walsh, former 49ers head coach, general manager and president.

Walsh (above) gave the keynote address, "Perfect Blend of Teamwork and Selfless Team Play," at the second annual Character in High School Activities conference in the Special Events Center. His noontime talk capped a morning of events sponsored by FPU's athletic department in conjunction with the Champions of Character Initiative of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Bruce Brown, NAIA special presenter for the Champions of Character program, conducted training sessions and FPU athletes led morning discussions about core values.

Joe Montana, Jerry Rice and Ronnie Lott were all "character guys," Walsh said. "They played the game the way it should be played. They were graceful in victory and defeat."

Under Walsh's direction the 49ers won three Super Bowl titles, made seven NFC postseason appearances and claimed six NFC West division championships. He was twice named the NFL Coach of the Year and was later named the NFL Coach of the Decade for the 1980s.

The event was co-sponsored by Fresno, Clovis, Madera and Central unified school districts, the Fresno County Office of Education, Educational Employees Credit Union, DiBuduo and Defendis Insurance and Coca-Cola.



FPU basketball player Molly McAmis leads a session with athletes.



## FAITH AND RENEWAL BREAKFAST

Author and national advocate for faith-based community renewal Barbara J. Elliott spoke Friday, October 29, 2004, in Ashley Auditorium. Elliott is president and founder of the Center for Renewal, a resource for faith-based organizations working to renew American cities. She is the author of *Street Saints: Renewing America's Cities*, a book on best practices of faith-based initiatives nationally. She has been a senior fellow with the Hudson Institute and an associate fellow for the Sagamore Institute. Elliott presents both inspirational stories about unsung heroes and hard facts to document the results of faith-based programs treating social maladies in America. Her visit to Fresno was sponsored by One by One Leadership.



## faculty & staff FOCUS

**Zenebe Abebe**, dean of student life, co-wrote an article in the Fall 2004 *Direction* (Fall 2004, vol. 23, no.2). "Curriculum Transformation to Prepare Students for a Diverse World" was also written by Teshome Abebe, Zenebe's brother, professor of economics at Eastern Illinois University. *Direction* is a Mennonite Brethren journal.

**Rod Janzen**, senior scholar, received the Communal Studies Association publication award for his book *The Rise and Fall of Synanon: A California Utopia* at this year's fall conference in October. The book was published by Johns Hopkins University Press. Janzen edits the association's annual journal, *Communal Studies*. Janzen also published the book *Back to the City: Mennonite Community Church, 1954-2004* in October. **Billie Jean Wiebe**, English faculty, served as senior editor on the project.

**Duane Ruth-Heffelbower**, director of training and services at the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies, published the paper "Restorative Justice for nation-building: reconciliation of people groups" in the Proceedings of the International Seminar on Restorative Justice. The event was in Peshawar, Pakistan, in December 2003. A copy of the proceedings is available in Hiebert Library.

**Joel Wiebe**, 77, died December 16, 2004. He served at Tabor College, Fresno Pacific University (where he was a faculty member and later on of the board of trustees), Fresno Christian Schools and Heritage Academy in Bakersfield. He also wrote *Remembering... Reaching—A Vision of Service*, the 50th anniversary history of FPU. He was preceded in death by brother Elias and sister Phoebe. Survivors include wife Lucille; brother James; daughters Barbara Klein, and husband Ralph, and Pati Funk, and husband Don; son Jay, and wife Annette; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Services were December 21, 2004, at North Fresno Mennonite Brethren Church. Remembrances may be made to Fresno Pacific University.



## THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

More than 700 students, faculty and staff celebrated Thanksgiving Tuesday, November 23, 2004. The annual luncheon, which sold out, took place in the campus Special Events Center. The theme was "A God-Focused Life" from Mark 12:30: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." In addition to the traditional turkey meal, there was singing by the participants and the new university Gospel Choir, a message from student William R. Greene III, the ceremony of flags from the nations FPU students call home and awards for the best table decoration.



## CHARING CROSS ROAD COMES TO FPU

A New York writer and a London bookseller become friends without ever meeting in *84, Charing Cross Road*, a play based on the true story of Helene Hanff and Frank Doel. The play was produced by the university theater program November 11-13 and 18-20, 2004. The relationship begins in 1949 when Hanff answers an advertisement and orders several books. Doel, as polite and soft-spoken as Hanff is loud and overbearing, fields the request from his book shop. For the next two decades they correspond. Theater Faculty Julia Reimer directed. Andrea Baral played Hanff and Joshua Murdock was Doel. In keeping with the spirit of the play, used books were sold at intermission to benefit Mennonite Central Committee, an international relief organization. (Above from left are: Murdock, Melissa Arnold and Baral.)





# Steve Brandt

## Director of library services remembered

Steven Brandt, 55, gave his professional life to Fresno Pacific University. He sought knowledge everywhere—from Ivy League schools to the capitals and cafes of Europe—but he always brought what he learned home to his church and community. On August 30, 2004, friends and family remembered a man of many facets. Here is a tiny sampling of their thoughts:



Steven Brandt was born in Garden City, Kansas, in 1949. He earned a B.A. from FPU in 1971 and a master's in divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1980. Later that year he joined Hiebert Library, becoming director in 1982. He was also a member of the history faculty. At the University of California, Berkeley, he received a master's in library and information studies in 1982 and a doctorate in historical bibliography in 1992. He died August 25, 2004.

### THE INTELLECTUAL

Paul Toews, history faculty and director of the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies

"... Born and raised in the rural isolation of the heartland and within the narrow confines of Mennonite society Steve came to feel at home—at ease in Paris. He embraced the learning of the world and brought it back to widen the horizons of his people. ... He was drawn to the learning of Europe, to its tolerance, its revolutionary power, its grandeur and its cosmopolitan culture.

"... From the moment Steve arrived at Fresno Pacific in the late 1960s one sensed that he enjoyed the life of the mind, that he was going to undertake the disciplined study required to become a learned person. He was drawn to the study of the Renaissance, a period when the human spirit broke through the conventions of the past and expressed itself with force and insight that still shapes us today. From long immersion in the great literature and art of the human experience Steve developed a refined sensibility, broad sympathies, judicious judgments, reasoned analyses and a deep understanding of the human condition. ..."

### THE PROFESSIONAL

D. Merrill Ewert, FPU president

"... When he became Director of Hiebert Library ... [Steve] built the academic side of the library, carefully selecting those books and materials that people needed for their courses and research. One faculty

colleague told me that most faculty members probably didn't realize how much Steve had done for them by building the collections they needed for their work. Steve was pro-active, not waiting for people to come to him with their list of wants; he went to them with resources and opportunities. Some of our new faculty members have noted with some surprise that we have more materials in our library than they had anticipated. ... Steve could pull these together because his colleagues trusted his judgment in making selections. ..."

### THE MENTOR

Richard Rawls, former student, history/philosophy faculty

"... When I came to college as an 18-year-old, I believed the university's photos and propaganda about campfires and barbecues with one's advisors. It was part of what Steve jokingly referred to as "Camp Chestnut." If you knew Steve, then you knew he was no wiener-roasting mentor. The disconnect that I experienced was slowly replaced as I related to him. His class on early modern European history struck me as one of the most valuable classes I ever took. He was instrumental in helping me think about attending Princeton Seminary.

"... When I returned to Fresno Pacific as a faculty member, I found it a surprisingly lonely place. A university hires faculty because they specialize in a specific area. We are trained into loneliness. ... It was at this time that I discovered that I could relate to Steve in new ways. Our conversations ranged

over a broad scope of topics: ... foreign films, the jazz of Miles Davis, European politics, philosophical theology, American politics, French philosophy, the history of Fresno real estate. ... Steve's friends found a remarkably fertile mind, a welcoming spirit and an intellectual willingness to engage people where they were..."

### THE FRIEND

Paul Quiring, classmate and president of Quiring General Corporation

"... I remember your eyes scanning the horizon when we were at Monterey Bay a couple of months ago. You were still a bit out of breath from the short walk when I asked: "What do you think about your choices, about the investment of your career in Fresno, about what you have been able to do?"

"... [Y]ou did not hesitate...but said confidently: "I do not look back. I look forward." And then we talked about what you wanted to do in the future.

"... Steve, you were not a fashionable friend maker. We entered your world cautiously, and in time you brought us close, closer and at times very deeply into your life. ... What a pleasure to recall a memory, to argue for the practice of just making a well reasoned point, or more likely, to dream how we could all be better, more accomplished and expect more of each other. Steve, it was a delight to laugh with you, but it was a greater gift to cry with you and hold you close, especially in these recent days. ..."

For retiring school psychology director Dale Michael Matson,

# life's race is physical, intellectual & spiritual

by Kristin Deffenbacher

**D**ale Michael Matson knows what it means to run a good race. At age 38 Matson was working as a plumber in Wisconsin when he dedicated his life to Christ and decided to turn his feet in the direction God was leading.

"All you have is time—what are you going to do with it?" Matson said. "Give it to God and God will do extraordinary things. You need to run a good race."

The first lap was to finish his bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. He then completed an M.S.E. in school psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Marquette University.

At Marquette, Matson prayed God would use his skills to serve and heal. During a class at the Catholic university, Matson saw a crucifix on the wall and knew he wanted to teach at a school where he could minister openly. In 1992, after teaching for two years in

Wisconsin, Matson braved his first flight in 25 years to interview at Fresno Pacific University for the school psychology program that Bob Wilson had started the year before. "When desires are God-inspired, God guides and gives guidance in increments," Matson said.

For the last 12 years Matson has continued to rely on God to guide him as he has ministered as a faculty member, director of the school psychology program and head of the graduate school's pupil personnel division. Matson incorporates a personal touch with students and desires to provide experiences they can't get in a book or on the Internet. "At Fresno Pacific I can pray with students, pray over students, anoint them. I couldn't do that as a psychologist or at a state school. Here I can be a Christian and a professor," he said.

Matson also brings his faith to his field. All school psychology programs in California adhere to a set of standards. Matson helped write the standard on how individuals develop in ways beyond the cognitive, such as the spiritual and physical.

Running a race and keeping fit are not just metaphors for Matson; they're a way of life. At the same age Matson gave his life to Christ he began walking for exercise. Over the past several years Matson has trained for and participated in the Western States 100-mile endurance run, the Ironman World Championships in Hawaii, the Boston Marathon, the Climb to Kaiser and other competitions. "If it is worth doing, it is worth overdoing," he said.

Supporting students spiritually and challenging himself physically are two ways Matson models what he teaches. Diane Talbot, director of the school counseling program and interim director of the school psychology program, said Matson is "very spiritual and open to talk about God. He is honest, easy to be around and provides a safe environment that allows individuals to feel vulnerable." The atmosphere he created while building the school psychology program has made it a growing program on its way to national certification, she said.

Transparency in manner is important to Matson. His office, stripped of credentials and awards, reflects his belief in humility. He is the last to mention his honors, such as the Fresno County Board of Supervisors proclaiming October 16, 2004, "Dale Michael Matson Day."

Although Matson retired in July he continues to teach Wellness as Intervention and mentor students. He has more athletic contests on the horizon as well as time with wife Sharon, family and friends. Matson is also becoming a deacon in the Episcopal Church and says one of his greatest joys is to serve parishioners, pray over them and give them communion. "When you are living in the right, the best parts of you come out," he said. "Publications and awards mean nothing. If you lead a virtuous life you will be a powerful person."





# SOUTHBOUND

FPU makes California 99 the higher education highway

FRESNO PACIFIC  
UNIVERSITY

EXIT



## Team effort opens centers in Visalia, Bakersfield

by Wayne Steffen



**G**uests arrive to the sound of guitar and the sight of orange and blue. Orange and blue birds of paradise hover above orange gerber daisies and day lilies and blue iris. Orange and blue streamers poke from rows of glasses set on tables as souvenirs. Orange and blue

pens, pencils and pennants are displayed in oak cases.

Orange and blue—the colors of Fresno Pacific University—first reached Bakersfield and Visalia more than a decade ago through classes in churches and other temporary locations. Now for two days in January the university and the communities celebrate the opening of permanent centers in each city. After welcomes are extended and accepted by local officials and campus leaders, ribbons are cut by the chambers of commerce and visitors chat with faculty and staff, FPU's reach is more deeply extended into the South Valley.

"To welcome Fresno Pacific University here and offer a Christian education with a full-service center—How great is that? It doesn't get any better," Harvey Hull, mayor of Bakersfield, tells about 70 people.

Visalia Mayor Bob Link speaks to more than 100: "The dedication of the Fresno Pacific University Center is the fulfillment of a long-term goal." Residents can now start studies at the College of the Sequoias (a community college) and finish a bachelor's degree, master's degree or teaching credential without leaving Visalia, he says.

Proclamations and certificates from elected officials illustrate how much FPU is needed. The college graduation rate in Kern County, where Bakersfield is the county seat, is 13.5 percent, and the percentage in Tulare County, where Visalia is the county seat, stands at 10.5. These figures are

well below state and national averages. Estimates are that people over 25, the very group the centers are meant to serve through bachelor's degree completion and graduate programs, will make up 47 percent of future college students.

FPU President D. Merrill Ewert plants the university squarely in the region and outlines the gifts it brings. The academic rigor, professional preparation and ethical development that epitomize an FPU education are the keys to making good citizens and productive workers, he says. "We're a Valley university," Ewert adds. "That's our commitment."

### Heading out

Like most important days, January 25 and 26, 2005, started early and ended late.

Harry came in to Avenue of Flowers before store hours to ready the bouquets. In Fresno, Arlene Mack picked up copies at Kinko's at 7:20 a.m. Down in Bakersfield, Matt Gehrett hung signs at the center at 6:25 a.m.

At 8:55 a.m. on Day One Cindy Steele's Explorer hit the road with Mack, the flowers and the university seal. They were the first of several waves of staff bringing blue and orange from the main campus to the Bakersfield Center.

"We're excited," Steele said on the two-hour drive down California 99. "We've been eating, sleeping, breathing this." Mack, assistant to the dean of the school of professional studies and graduate school, stayed on the cell phone to the dean, Wendy Wakeman, the centers and the campus.

Centers offer a chance to bring the university's strengths in academics and ethical formation to a broader audience, Wakeman said later. "It's an opportunity for us to expand our outreach and make the programs more accessible."





Adding admissions and administrative functions to the academic sites better serves students. “Many of our adult students work during the day and would be unavailable to drive to Fresno to take classes in the evening,” she added.

That’s the big picture. Steele is regional center project manager, so logistics—the art of getting what’s needed where it needs to be when it needs to be there—are her life.

Steele talks a lot about teams. The first team came together in March 2004 and included Paloma Development and BJ Perch Construction, which built the Visalia Center especially for FPU, the Kern County Office of Education in Bakersfield, and campus representatives from academic programs and technical offices. “It’s been an exciting challenge,” Steele said before the trip, “pulling all these people together.”

FPU has had off-campus classes since at least 1991, but centers make sense even for those who commute to Fresno since adults prefer to go to class within 15-20 minutes of home. “They would much prefer going to school close to their home rather than close to their business,” Steele said.

Enrollment in Fresno won’t be affected much, according to Steele. “Chances are if you’re in Bakersfield... you’re probably trying to find a program closer to home,” she said.

## Getting there

The Bakersfield Center is on the corner of Truxton and L streets, in the midst of a downtown of filled storefronts and

clean sidewalks that truly is the center of this city of around 400,000. Across Truxton is the Kern County Courthouse and down L is the Kern County Office of Education.

The Visalia Center is two turns off 99 in a growing commercial development. Students can grab a quick dinner at Subway or leave their car at Valvoline.

Even on an average day the sight of blue and orange is strong at the centers. The cases with university products are permanent, as are outside signs bearing the university logo. In addition, Visalia features an exterior design patterned after the brick Romanesque rounded arch/vault and the gabled roof of McDonald Hall, the signature building at the main campus.

Center decor is corporate comfortable, speaking to the workplace tastes of the adult student. Reception desks give the impression of a professional office and each facility features a break area with refrigerator and vending machines. In Bakersfield the inside walls are plum with a touch of butter-nut; in Visalia, linen.

Classrooms focus on group learning. Instead of sitting alone, students gather at round or rectangular tables. Other classes have tables in a large U so students can see one another as well as the instructor. Degree completion classes are designed for 22-24 students and graduate classes are designed for no more than 30. Bakersfield is set up with four classrooms and Visalia six, but each center has two rooms that can be joined into one

larger space. Teaching staff at both centers are a mix of FPU faculty and local adjuncts.

Taking a break from open house preparation, Bakersfield Center Director Matt Gehrett talked about lighthouses. He sees the center as a beacon for education and faith. “Our degree completion programs are a light in a dark tunnel,” he said. Many school administrators have already gone through the administrative services program, the first graduate courses in Bakersfield. “We have a lot of little lighthouses in schools all over,” Gehrett said. In an office hangs a map of Kern County covered with pins showing where each FPU-educated administrator works.

Other programs have the same potential, Gehrett said. Though there is a California state university campus and other satellite programs in the city, Gehrett expects full classes. “We really do have a great reputation here,” he said. “There’s just such a big demand.”

Gehrett and Vyacheslav “VT” Tsvirinko, Visalia Center director, both believe the centers must become integral parts of their communities. Each regularly meets with city leaders to find ways to expand the university presence. They explore ideas for new academic programs, listen to ideas for professional development courses or seminars and invite groups to use the facilities for daytime activities.

Visalia officials have worked for years to bring higher education to the city of 100,000-plus, which has no four-



year campus. "I cannot express how Visalia accepts us. They love us and are happy we are there," Tsvirinko said before the open houses. The mayor and city manager were impressed at the lack of red tape at FPU. "They were brought to people at the top," Tsvirinko said.

## Setting up

Steele's open house team included main-campus staff Mack; Sharon Rye, North Valley recruiter; Charity Brown, lead degree completion admissions advisor; and Amanda Stovall, degree completion admissions advisor. MaryJo Burchard, South Valley recruiter, has an office in both centers and will help with each event, as will the center directors. Diane Daley, food service director for Pioneer College Caterers, the university service, leads a three-person refreshment team.

Set up went quickly at both sites. "We've done this so often we could do it in our sleep," Stovall said, smiling. She, Rye, Brown and Burchard are veterans of many college fairs and recruiting events.

As preparations in Visalia went on, Vickie Bigler, director of the local teacher education program, took time out before her afternoon class. Having the center here, she said, "It's huge."

The center dovetails with the two goals of the FPU teacher education program: Treating teaching as a calling as well as a profession and improving the education of children. "All classes are located in Visalia and we can grow our ministry in the South Valley," she

said. "The mission is being firmly planted here."

Chuck Morehead, Jenny Rogers and Hector Tirado are three of Bigler's students. All live in Visalia and reflect the mix of younger and returning students the center attracts. Morehead is studying special education as a career change. He has a bachelor's degree in criminology and licenses as an insurance and real estate agent. Studying at the center offers, "more effective use of my time, with quality instruction still available," he said.

Rogers is a recent graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara. "I don't have to travel up to Fresno for all my classes," she said. "Being able to student teach in the community is really big."

Tirado is an FPU grad, with a B.A. in liberal studies. As an undergraduate he lived on campus. "(I like) just having the staff here to communicate with," he said.

## Final details

About an hour before each open house the staff changes from set-up blue jeans to reception business suits and Steele leads a last run-through of who will staff tables, who will spot VIPs and get them to the president and who will direct traffic from front entry to main hall to program. When the bus and final cars with President Ewert, Provost Patricia Anderson, faculty and other campus representatives arrive at about 3 p.m., preparations are complete.

After an hour of meeting and greeting, formal programs begin at

4:30 p.m. Aside from Hull and Link, proclamations and certificates are presented by Christy Fitzgerald, for Ray Watson, Kern County Board of Supervisors; Kathy Prout, mayor pro tem of Shafter, for Mayor Fran Florez; Juan Cerda, for Assembly Member Nicole Parra; Zack Scrivner, Bakersfield City Council Member, for Congressman Bill Thomas and Assembly Member Kevin McCarthy; Brian Thoburn and Connie Conway, Tulare County Board of Supervisors; Charlie Norman, mayor of Exeter; Mike Santana, mayor of Farmersville; Porterville Council Member Cameron Hamilton for Mayor Pedro "Pete" Martinez; and Justin Stoner, for Congressman Devin Nunes.

Hallway and buffet buzz at both open houses is upbeat. Fred Mora has taught degree-completion courses in several locations, one about an eighth the size the classroom he sits in now. "They were never really designed to be classes," he says of the old spaces.

Mora—who along with Dennis Langhofer will teach degree completion classes at both centers—says the facilities provide homes for the programs and tell the communities that FPU is here. "I think that's an important statement," he adds.

## Where we've been

After all the action, Larry Perryman put the open houses in perspective with a look at how FPU came to Bakersfield and Visalia. As associate dean of the Fresno Pacific School of Professional Studies and director of the Center for Degree Completion, he oversaw the





## SIMILAR PROGRAMS AT OTHER CCCU SCHOOLS

Christian schools nationwide pursue off-campus education

National University and the University of Phoenix are the names that come to mind in multi-campus education, but Christian schools also offer off-campus programs. Here are a few examples of the trend:

### Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, California

**SITES** Ventura, Los Angeles, Victorville, San Bernadino, Orange, Murrietta, San Diego

- DEGREES**
- Doctorate in educational leadership
  - Master's in education (physical education, educational technology, curriculum, school psychology, school counseling, school administration, special education, teaching) master of divinity, Asian studies, Christian education, pastoral studies, religion, applied computer science, clinical psychology: marriage and family therapy and worship leader
  - Bachelor's degree-completion programs in organizational leadership, management information systems/computer information systems, Christian leadership, human development and the RN to BSN degree program
  - Credentials in special education, administrative services, multiple-subject teaching, school counseling, school psychology and single-subject teaching
  - Certificates in intensive English program

### Biola University, La Mirada, California

**SITES** Chino, Inglewood, Orange County, Thousand Oaks, Palm Desert, San Diego County

- DEGREES**
- Master's in education
  - Bachelor's degree-completion in organizational leadership and psychology
  - Credential in education

### Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

**SITES** One of 14 institutions involved in the Regional Learning Alliance in Cranberry, Pa., near Pittsburgh. Other participants range from Penn State regional campuses to DeVry University to the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and Butler County Community College.

- DEGREES**
- Master's in organizational leadership
  - Bachelor's degree-completion program in organizational leadership

### Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana

**SITES** Fort Wayne, Indianapolis (2), Kokomo, Columbus and Shelbyville, Indiana; Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio; and Louisville, Kentucky—as well as 70 locations offering at least one class

- DEGREES**
- Associate in business studies and computer information systems
  - Bachelor's degrees in accounting, business administration, business information systems, management, marketing and nursing
  - Master's degrees in business administration, counseling, management, education, ministry and nursing; a doctorate in organizational leadership
  - Licensure in transition to teaching, school principal and special education
  - Certificates in communication, criminal justice, human services and religious studies

Indiana Wesleyan University enrolls more students in off-site centers (7,457) than on campus (2,653.) Off-site programs were originally conceived as a complement to the traditional undergraduate program. "We recognized that if we did it well it would be successful and would provide a significant revenue stream, which it did," said Alan Miller, director of university relations.

Off-site education helped build the main campus and traditional program. "We have a surprising number of students whose only tie with the university was that one of their parents went through the adult program," he said.

Like the other schools contacted, Geneva College sees its off-campus center as a ministry. "It's a kingdom thing," said Jeffrey Schindel, director of public relations and marketing. "We have a Christian world view that needs to be represented."

## Bakersfield Center

1330 Truxton Avenue, Suite A, Bakersfield  
661-864-1515 • [www.fresno.edu/bakersfield](http://www.fresno.edu/bakersfield)

Matt Gehrett, director  
John Birkhauser, program director  
Molly Smith, admissions advisor  
Karen Watson, administrative assistant  
MaryJo Burchard, South Valley recruiter

Office hours:

8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday,  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday

Present location since June 15, 1998

January enrollment: 67 in graduate  
(degree-completion programs begin February/March)

Alumni: 531 graduate

### Bachelor's degree programs for working adults

- organizational leadership
- liberal studies

### Master's degrees and education credential programs

- administrative services
- library media
- educational technology (summer 2005, classroom/online)
- school psychology/school counseling (fall 2005)

## Visalia Center

5429 W. Cypress Avenue  
559-622-9958 • [www.fresno.edu/visalia](http://www.fresno.edu/visalia)

Vyacheslav Tsvirinko (VT), director  
Vickie Bigler, teacher education director  
Adam Penner, admissions advisor  
Jennifer Huerta, administrative assistant  
MaryJo Burchard, South Valley recruiter

Office hours:

8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday,  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday

Present location since August 4, 2003

January enrollment: 56 degree completion,  
182 graduate

Alumni: 573 degree completion, 1,149 graduate

### Bachelor's degree programs for working adults

- business management
- liberal studies
- organizational leadership

### Master's degree programs

- administrative services
- curriculum and teaching
- leadership and organizational studies
- math education
- special education

### Education credential programs

- special education
- teacher education





centers from July 2003 to June 2004, paying for a new car with the mileage he earned—30,000 miles in one year.

Perryman spent most of his time at the Visalia Center because, “that’s where we had programs,” he said. On weekly visits to Bakersfield, he remembered, “I was running around town telling people we were coming.”

There were classes in Bakersfield. Adina Janzen taught graduate administrative services and Dennis Langhofer taught degree completion courses at Laurel Glen Bible Church and in schools. Silas Bartsch, a pioneer in FPU’s graduate and education programs, actually started teaching administrative services in Bakersfield in about 1990, recalled Janzen, who retired in 2003. Health concerns forced him to cut back. “It was just sort of left there,” she said.

While acting administrative services director, Janzen heard many requests to restart the work. The university asked her to check out the possibility in the spring of 1992. “By fall I had classes going,” Janzen said.

“I started out with 22 the very first class I had,” she said. Enrollment averaged in the 20s, with one class going to 36. Janzen was impressed with the response, not only from students but from the city. “We had a sister community there,” she said.

Langhofer, director of the degree completion program from 1991-1998, was used to being a one-man show. He taught the first courses in Fresno and Visalia before coming to Bakersfield in 1996.

He saw potential in the South Valley when about 30 percent of the first Fresno class was from Visalia. “That was true with every class we did,” Langhofer said. “In some cases we had more people from the south than we did in Fresno.” Counselors at the College of the Sequoias have been instrumental. “They have been magnificent in sending us their students,” he said.

Later FPU rented space from the Kern County Office of Education, first in the main building and then at the present center site. Offices, a conference room and classrooms could be had for \$15 per hour per room. “It was a very good deal,” Perryman said. Visalia sites varied.

Early efforts in both cities could not be self-sufficient because Western States Association of Schools and Colleges, which accredits FPU, required students to take a percentage of classes within 25 miles of the main campus. “So we’d bring them back to Kingsburg,” Perryman said. “It

cramped our style and wasn’t good for students.”

In 2003 WASC approved full-service centers for the university. “That changed everything,” Perryman said. Bakersfield programs, in their present facility since 1998, could expand.

Visalia was different. “We tried and tried to find suitable space, and we couldn’t find it,” Perryman said.

That dream came true in August 2003, when Visalia Unified School District opened El Diamonte High School. The school began with only freshman and sophomore classes, so there was space. But everyone knew the deal was temporary, since the school would expand to all four grades.

The timing was beautiful and VUSD was gracious, Perryman said. But that didn’t make the going smooth. “Our office was a classroom. We sat there for months without office furniture,” he recalled, laughing at the memory of university staff sitting at school desks and folding chairs. They also heard school bells and fire drills. “They couldn’t turn it off for one classroom,” he said. There were also problems on days when the high school was closed but the university office was supposed to be open. “Here we’d come to work and the gates would be locked,” Perryman said.

Most noticeable to FPU students was when the heat and air conditioning went off in the afternoon when the high school schedule ended. To make matters worse, the system was centrally controlled at another site, where staff went home at 4 p.m. “The graduate teachers and degree completion teachers were very accommodating,” Perryman said. “Anything to make it work.”

So the centers were a blessing. “What a relief. We have no one to blame but ourselves if something goes wrong,” Perryman said.

## The way back

Except for one microphone glitch and a cranky video, nothing goes wrong at the open houses. At 7 p.m. on Day Two, Steele and her crew stow the flowers and pack the proclamations in the Explorer for the last trip to Fresno.

Much of the talk on the drive back is of everyone who makes the centers a success and who will keep showing the blue and orange in the South Valley. “Boy, what a team,” Steele says. Mack agrees: “No one person could do what we did.”



## ALUMNI PROFILE

## PASCAL KULUNGU

BA '97, MA '98  
KINSHASA, CONGO



# Humble servant becomes Global Leader

BY KRISTIN DEFFENBACHER

**P**ascal Kulungu returned to Fresno Pacific University in the fall of 2004 to continue the work he began as a student 10 years ago.

While attending FPU in the 1990s, Kulungu became involved with the university's Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies. Under the center's sponsorship, he returned to Fresno in October and November as alumnus in residence to renew himself professionally and find new ways to develop peacemaking in Kinshasa, Congo, particularly with the Christian University of Kinshasa, where he is chief financial officer.

Kulungu grew up in the Republic of Congo at a mission built by Mennonite Brethren missionaries from Canada and the United States. In 1994 Kulungu was managing a hospi-



tal when his church chose him to attend FPU. He accepted the commission and traveled to Fresno, California, with wife Therese and the youngest two of his six children. At the time, Kulungu said, he hoped to return to his home with the ability to "share my expertise with

others and practice what I learned."

Despite a degree in English and African sociology, and positions as an educator and headmaster as well as hospital administrator, Kulungu was willing to work any job on campus to get by. "[He] accepted the position of dishwasher as readily as the peacekeeping intern position. Pascal shows humility and willingness to do what is needed to be done to reach larger goals," said Dalton Reimer, FPU faculty emeritus and CPACS associate.



Not only willing, but grateful. "I thank the Fresno Pacific community who helped me learn," Kulungu said. He enjoyed the socialization on the campus, the sports and the way people greeted one another as they passed along the pathways. Kulungu built many friendships, especially with families from Butler Church, who welcomed and helped his family adjust to a new culture. "What keeps Fresno Pacific in my mind is how people have been helpful to me," he said.

Kulungu credits the education he got at FPU for helping him take peacemaking and justice to a global level. Through his job at CPACS he translated the peacemaking curriculum into French, one of the seven languages he speaks. After earning a B.A. in business in 1997 and an M.A. in administrative leadership (emphasis in conflict studies and peacemaking) in 1998, Kulungu returned to Congo with the curriculum and the capability to implement it.

Humility and resourcefulness typified Kulungu's work in Congo. He started the Center for Peacebuilding, Leadership and Good Governance with the goal to build peace and develop leaders in Congolese society. Seeing a great need, Kulungu started the center without permanent financing and was prepared to teach with or without modern conveniences such as overhead projectors or computers. He had large canvas scrolls made with the important peacemaking graphs imprinted on them. When training at places without electricity Kulungu unrolls the scrolls and has students hold them so those attending can see.

An experienced communicator, Kulungu has traveled in South Africa, Zambia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Germany, Canada and the United States to promote the need for peacemaking. He mediates, trains and speaks at seminars and workshops. "Pascal is highly respected and is sought out to discuss issues and significant conflicts," Reimer said. In Nairobi, Kenya, more than 100 people from 12 countries came to hear Kulungu speak.

Back at FPU this fall as alumnus in residence at CPACS, Kulungu presented seminars on campus and in Canada. His topics ranged from politics to religion in Congo, but the underlying theme remained consistent: the need to carry on the conversation regarding peacemaking and see how the peace center in Congo can continue to grow.

Kulungu helps fulfill the mission of the university and CPACS by using what he learned at FPU to address peace and justice concerns on a global scale through teaching and helping others.

## MCC SALE APRIL 1-2

**Friday, 4 – 8 p.m.**

**Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Come enjoy good food, fellowship and an opportunity to raise money for world relief. Remember to purchase a cup of gourmet coffee from the FPU Alumni Café.

### Choir Alumni Reunion

AIMS Hall Foyer

Reconnect with old friends and sing with the current FPU Concert Choir as part of the MCC Sale entertainment. Rehearsal at 10 a.m. Saturday, performance at 11:30 a.m. Also get information about a choir alumni tour of Great Britain in 2006.

### Volunteer to be an Alumni Ambassador

Ever wondered how you could give back to your alma mater with your time and expertise? The FPU Alumni Association is looking for individuals to serve as Alumni Ambassadors and share wisdom and experience with current and prospective students. The university offers a variety of opportunities for involvement and levels of commitment, including student recruitment, career development, advising on academic programs and serving as a guest lecturer. Please let us know how you would like to help our students achieve their dreams.

**Fill out the application now at [fresno.edu/dept/alumni](http://fresno.edu/dept/alumni)**

## FPU ORGANIZES TSUNAMI MISSION

FPU is planning a summer mission trip to the region hit by the tsunami. The team will serve mid-May through mid-June for approximately three to four weeks. There are several ways to be involved:

**PRAY for the team**

**GIVE financially**

**GO with the team**

For more information contact Terry Maldonado, director of outreach & service ministries, at 559-453-7153 or email [trm@fresno.edu](mailto:trm@fresno.edu).



## GENERAL NEWS

**Norma (Funk FS'62) Beck** retired from California state government service (the department of water resources) after more than 30 years. She lives in Sacramento and looks forward to traveling and spending time with her son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter.

**Bruce L. Thiessen (BA'83)** aka Dr. B.L.T., released two new CDs. In November 2004 he released *Right-wingers Need Love Too*, a humorous depiction of events leading up to the 2004 presidential election, written from the perspective of a conservative Christian, and in December 2004 *Dr. B.L.T.'s Greatest Prospective Christmas Hits*. Songs can be downloaded free at [www.drblt.com](http://www.drblt.com).

**Dean Lee (BA '87)** is one of four pediatric hematologist/oncologists in the country selected to participate in the Clinical Research Training Institute of the American Society of Hematology, and one of five in the country to receive the Young Investigator Award by the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

**Julie (Holliday BA'88) Hilliard** and husband Sheffie live in Fresno. Julie is home schooling her three children Jeremy, 10; Megan, 8; and Garrett, 4. She is active with New Covenant Community Church and home school events and is building a home in Coarsegold.

**Todd Decker (BA'89)** is now a second year Ph.D. student in historical musicology at the University of Michigan. He presented three papers in the spring, including "Delivering Miss Otis's Regrets: Performers and Arrangers Tackle Cole Porter's Tale of an Unlikely Lynching" and two papers on Domenico Scarlatti. Decker received the Presser Music Award for his proposal to visit libraries in London, Naples, Dresden and Munster, where he spent the summer doing initial research for a doctoral dissertation on Scarlatti and the social contexts of solo keyboard performance and performers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Suzette (Kessler BA'89) Benally** and family moved to Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, where husband Attlee is completing his residency in Philadelphia.

**Jason Blanchard (BA'92)** is pursuing an M.A. in counselor education at San Jose State University, finishing his first semester in December 2004.

**Felipe Hinojosa (BA '99) and Maribel Ramirez Hinojosa (BA'97)** live in Edinburg, Texas, where Felipe has begun a Ph.D. program in history at the University of Houston. Maribel is finishing her dissertation to complete her Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

**Caty Massey (BA '99)** was named director of development for the Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno. Massey served as interim director for three months after four years as associate director. She is a graduate of Leadership Fresno Class XIX and a charter member of River Park Rotary Club, where she has been club service director and president. Massey also belongs to the Association for Fundraising Professionals. She will marry Alex Perez on September 17, 2005. He is the director of information services for CSUF. They both live in Fresno.

**Ellen King (BA '01, TC '02)** is head of the social science department at Fresno Christian High School.

**Miguel Rea (BA'03)** is in a two-year Mennonite Central Committee assignment as youth community organizer in Fresno. He is a member of University Vineyard Church, Fresno.

**Mary LeBeuf (BA'03)** will serve in a mission position as a guidance counselor at Rain Forest International School from 2004-2006.

**Monica Baez (BA'04)** moved to Ecuador early in the fall of 2004. She is working as an MFT in Quito, her city of origin. Contact her at [monibc@fpu.edu](mailto:monibc@fpu.edu).

## MARRIAGES

**Rick San-Martin (FS '88)** and wife Tresha celebrated their first anniversary on August 2, 2004.

**Julie (Blain BA'01) Bowling** and Jason Bowling married in March 2003.

**Heidi (Halverson BA'01)** married Ryan Leach on December 4, 2004, at North Fresno Mennonite Brethren Church. They

met on a blind date set up by friends Tyson and Iris (Heiss BA'01) Wellcome.

**Jeremy Pusey (TC '01) and Marcy (Walters BA'02) Pusey** married on July 17, 2004. Marcy returned from a mission trip with Youth Mission International in Paraguay in June 2004. Jeremy teaches fourth grade at Edison Bethune Elementary and Marcy is a case manager for California Psychological Institute.

**Megan (Roberts BA'01) Richard** married Erik Richard on June 5, 2004 in Fresno.

**Jesus "Chuy" Ortuno (BA '02) and Jessica Hackler (BA '02)** married on August 14, 2004.

## BIRTHS

**Keith Hoover (BA '83)** and wife Carol announce the birth of Koda Samson on August 9, 2004. He weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces and was 19 inches long.

**Esther (Peters BA '87) Gubiotti** and husband Estanislau announce the birth of Vanessa Alessandra on June 23, 2004. She joins Priscilla Helene. They live in Abbotsford, B.C., Canada.

**Bob (BA'88) and JoAnn (Hiebert BA'91) Heidebrecht** announce the birth of Elisa Joy on July 28, 2004. She weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces. Elisa joins Karis, 7; and Connor, 4.

**Don (BA'89) and Carolyn (Wiens BA'92) Warkentine** announce the birth of Daniel Mark on July 3, 2004. He weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 inches long. He joins David, 3.

**Michelle (Heinrichs BA'90) Carty** and husband Curtis announce the birth of Sidney Grace on June 6, 2004. She weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 ½ inches long. For more news about the family and lots of pictures, visit [www.cartyfamily.com](http://www.cartyfamily.com).

**Deanna (Gibbs BA'90) Campbell** and husband Tim announce the birth of Chloe Carissa on October 4, 2004. She weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 ½ inches long. She joins Cody, 8; Kayla, 5; and Caitlin, 2. Deanna is a second grade teacher in Dinuba.

**Andy (BA '91)** and **Amber Herrick** announce the birth of **Kenai Charles** on June 29, 2004. He joins sister **Denali Rose**, 3. They live in **Scottsdale, Arizona**.

**Amanda Lewis (BA'92)** and husband **Stephen** announce the birth of **Calvin Stephen** on September 3, 2004. He joins **Nadine**, 18; **Araidne**, 6; **Kyrie**, 4; and **Peter**, 2. **Kyrie**, **Peter** and **Calvin** were all born at home. **Stephen** is planting a church with the **Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)** in **Salem, Oregon**, while **Amanda** home schools and teaches art classes to community children.

**Jeremy (BA'93)** and **Kara (Reitsma FS'93) Vogt** announce the birth of **Koen Jeremy** on October 16, 2004. He joins **Katie**, **Micah** and **Jeffrey**.

**Monique (Miller BA'95) Ehrenberg** and husband **David** announce the birth of **Riley Mischelle** on July 18, 2004.

**Daniel McDowell (BA '95)** and wife **Christine** announce the birth of **Aidan Thomas** on April 30, 2004. He was 6 pounds, 13 ounces and 18 ½ inches long.

**Amanda (Craft BA'95) Maze** and husband **Stan** announce the birth of **Annika Elaine** on August 28, 2004, in **Palm Desert**. She weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches long. She joins **Tyler**, 4½.

**Charlie (Herrick BA'98) McCorvey** and husband **Johnnie** announce the birth of **Caton Kaiya** on August 19, 2004. He joins **Zachariah**, 4; and **Makenna**, 2.

**Amber (Blain BA'99) Koetsier** and husband **Ronnie** announce the birth of **Ronald Lee III (Trey)** on November 20, 2002. He joins **Dylan**, 3.

**Michael (BA'99, TC '00)** and **Sarah (Watters BA'00) Johnson** announce the birth of **Alina Stephanie** on March 22, 2004, in **Cairns, Australia**. The family is halfway through a two-year commitment with **Wycliffe Bible Translators** in **Papua New Guinea**.

**Dave (BA'01)** and **Erin (O'Hare FS'99) Obwald** announce the birth of **Kirrah Michelle** on January 19, 2005. She weighed 7 pounds.

**Ericka Sanders (BA'02, TC'04)** and husband **Dean** announce the birth of **Wyatt Dean** on June 3, 2004. He weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces. **Dean** is currently working as a fire fighter with the **Fresno Fire Department**.

**Samara (Furgison BA'03) Barajas-Miranda** and husband **David** announce the birth of **Victoria Elizabeth** on September 11, 2004.

## DEATHS

**Dean (BA'78) Ervin** died August 25, 2004, after a long illness. He was a history major and member of the track team in 1977 and 1978. He is survived by wife **Carrie** and their two children.

**Victor E. Becker** passed away on Thursday, January 6, 2005, in **Reedley**. He was born in **Fairview, Okla.**, on January 27, 1919. **Becker** was a pastor of **Mennonite Brethren churches** in **Oklahoma, Kansas, California, and Minnesota**, and a **Mennonite church** in **Enid, Okla.** Sister **Wilma** preceded him in death. Two brothers, **Harrison** and **Lynford**, and one sister, **Betty Hamm**, all of **Oklahoma**, survive. His love for his family and interest in the church are carried on by **Ruby**, his wife of nearly 64 years; daughter, **Robyn Brandt**; and sons **Dennis** and **Glendon**. He had five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Mary (Marci BA'00, TC '01) Bishop** was killed in a car accident in March of 2004. Her friends and family remember her as

a strong Christian and a fine example of what it meant to be called into the teaching profession.

## PRAISES AND PRAYERS

**David (BA '03)** and **Shannon (BA'04) Beyerle-Cole** would like to express their gratitude towards **Fresno Pacific University**. The couple met as students in the **Visalia 27 Management and Organizational Development (MOD)** class. They married March 29, 2003, in **Morro Bay** and live in **Visalia**. "FPU not only allowed me to earn my degree while working full time and being a single parent, the classes also gave me an unexpected and immeasurable gift," **Shannon** wrote. "We went in as single parents and came out as life partners with joined names and families." The children are **China, Harley, J.C., Nicholas** and **Natalia**.

**Brent Bailey (BA'03)** would like to share some of the blessings God has bestowed upon him since his graduation from **FPU**. He applied to **San Francisco State University's** visually impaired credential program and the **Kings County Office of Education** hired him on an emergency credential. Working with the blind and visually impaired has been such a blessing. To see their faces light up when they are introduced to new technology for making their lives better is priceless! **Brent** thanks God daily for his mother, his friends and **FPU** for their guidance and for the job He has placed him in.

IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

HOME TELEPHONE

WORK TELEPHONE

EMAIL

GRADUATION YEAR

OCCUPATION

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



Glendon Becker, auxiliaries director and Pacific Bookshop manager, looks over plans for Alumni Hall inside the reconstructed building. Right, machinery at the Haak Tennis Complex included a rig that can pour concrete anywhere on the site from one location.



## Tennis courts, Alumni Hall dedication April 1

No foolin'—dedication of the reconstructed Alumni Hall and the new Harold and Betty Haak Tennis Complex will be April 1, 2005. Winter and spring have seen solid progress on the two projects: Pouring of the concrete for the seven tennis courts began December 13. In February drywall was going up in Alumni Hall, bringing to life the new design that features the new Pacific Bookshop, coffee bar, convenience store, fireplace lounge and mail center.

Tennis courts feature an adjustable cable system that allows tension to be placed on the courts after the concrete is poured to help dry and strengthen the playing surface. Zaino Tennis Courts, a Southern California company, is overseeing the work. Quiring General is the contractor for Alumni Hall.

### Join us for the dedication ceremonies

11 a.m. at Alumni Hall and  
11:45 a.m. at Harold and Betty  
Haak Tennis Complex, near  
Cockerham Track.

Admission is free.  
No RSVP required.



*The Sunbird Association will host its*  
**12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
SUNBIRD GOLF CLASSIC**  
Saturday, May 21, 2005, at  
Brighton Crest Golf and Country Club.

All proceeds support Sunbird athletics.  
To reserve a spot or for more information, contact  
JT Thiesen at 559-453-7180 or [jthiesen@fresno.edu](mailto:jthiesen@fresno.edu).



### DESSERT CONCERT

Members of the President's Circle gathered November 12, 2004, for a concert and dessert in Steinert Campus Center. The program included selections from the Musica Pacifica Baroque Orchestra, directed by music faculty Wayne Huber, as well as solos by students Blake Quinn, Tiffany Nyberg, Krista Moore and Douglas Sumi. Above: Janet and Cecil Hill, chairs of Creating the Future—Today, Alumni Hall Student Center Reconstruction, (left) chat with Mark and Judi Deffenbacher. Mark Deffenbacher is vice president for advancement and university relations.





OSCAR HIRSCHKORN



NEIL CASTRO



JT THIESEN

## NEW FACES AND EXPANDED ROLES BROADEN ATHLETICS STAFF

### *Coaches for new teams and new blood for the Sunbird Association have been added to the athletics roster.*

#### **CASTRO COACHED TENNIS, HIRSCHKORN HEADS BASEBALL**

Neil Castro will oversee both the women's and men's tennis teams, while Oscar Hirsch Korn will lead the men's baseball team.

Castro, a native of Fresno, earned Central Valley Conference tennis player of the year honors at Fresno City College in both 1991 and 1992. He transferred to California State University, Fresno, where he helped the Bulldogs to the NCAA Region VII Team Championship in 1994. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in kinesiology in 1996.

Castro served as the assistant men's tennis coach at CSUF from 1997 through 2001. He also served as director of tennis and head tennis professional at Copper River Country Club from 2000 to 2004.

"To be at the ground level and build an intercollegiate tennis program is a great challenge," Castro said. "To have the opportunity to do this at a Christian university like FPU makes it that much more special. I think we can attract the right kind of student-athlete and... be competitive in our first season."

Hirsch Korn, a native of Kerman, was selected by the San Diego Padres in the major league baseball amateur draft in both 1993 and 1994. He elected to play baseball at Kings River College, where he earned an associate degree in 1995, and California State University, Chico, receiving his B.A. in 1998 and his master's in 1999, both in physical education.

Hirsch Korn, a pitcher, led the Northern California Athletic Conference in wins in 1997, the same season he led Chico State to the NCAA Division II national championship. He then served as an assistant coach at Reedley College from 1999 to 2000 and as the head coach at Caruthers High School in 2001 before moving to Sanger High School. At Sanger he inherited a team that was 4-23. Three years later he guided the squad to the school's first postseason appearance in more than a decade.

"The opportunity to coach baseball and be a part of the Fresno Pacific University community is my dream job," Hirsch Korn said. "I have been preparing for this for 15 years. I am excited about the possibilities of coaching young men to reach their full potential as students, athletes and citizens. I am eager to build another winning athletic tradition at FPU, and I am grateful for the opportunity."

"In addition to their considerable talents on the field, Oscar and Neil represent the highest level of personal integrity and character," said Athletic Director Dennis Janzen. "That combination is exactly what we need to begin intercollegiate baseball and tennis. We are thrilled to have them join our team."

The tennis teams will practice and compete at the Harold and Betty Haak Tennis Complex. The baseball team will conduct practices and home games at local area high school diamonds until a facility is constructed.

#### **THIESEN BRINGS ENTHUSIASM TO SUNBIRD ASSOCIATION**

Participation is what it's all about for Jon "JT" Thiesen (BA '96).

As cross country coach at Edison Computech Middle School, Thiesen attracted 120 students to the squad. "We had about one seventh of the school on the team. It was great," he said.

The former Sunbird basketball point guard and son of Reedley High School basketball coach John Thiesen (BA '71) started competing in the long jump four years ago when friend enticed him to help with a coach's clinic with the offer of \$100 and a free pair of shoes. That led to a spot as assistant track and cross country coach at FPU in 2003-2004, which in August 2004 developed into a full-time position with the addition of duties as associate athletic director and head of the Sunbird Association.

Participation is also the key to success for the Sunbird Association, which was founded in 1984 and now has about 80 members. Recent activities include raising money for the web cast of the NAIA Women's National Volleyball Championships in December. The group will also host the 12th annual Sunbird Golf Classic in May. For the future, Thiesen hopes to bring back the Cadillac dinner, which brings together athletes and donors. "Our goal is to do everything we can to support Sunbird athletes," he said.

Thiesen's goal is to help student athletes excel academically, athletically and as young people in Christ. The last point is the most important, Thiesen said. "Nobody remembers what a good athlete you were. When the Lord welcomes you in, that's what matters."

## Pro soccer teams draft

*Orlando Ramirez, Gaston Cignetti*

### *Sometimes good things come in twos.*

That's certainly the situation for Orlando Ramirez and Gaston Cignetti who became, respectively, the first and second Sunbirds to be drafted by professional teams.

Senior striker Ramirez was selected by the San Jose Earthquakes in the 2005 Major League Soccer (MLS) SuperDraft January 14. On January 22 Cignetti, a senior midfielder, was picked by the Rochester Raging Rhinos of the United Soccer

League's (USL) First Division. The first division is the top level of minor league soccer in North America, one step below MLS.

The Earthquakes used the seventh pick in the third round, 31st overall, to draft Ramirez. Cignetti was chosen ninth overall.

A senior majoring in liberal studies, Ramirez is the son of Jaime and Laura Beth (Wiebe) Ramirez. Jaime Ramirez is FPU's head soccer coach. Orlando Ramirez is a four-time All-Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) and three-time National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) All-America



**GASTON  
CIGNETTI**

honoree. He recorded 76 goals and 48 assists in 80 career matches, leading the Sunbirds in scoring in each of his four seasons. Ramirez tallied an FPU-record 31 goals while leading the Sunbirds to a national championship runner-up finish in 2003.

Cignetti, a native of Cordoba, Argentina, is majoring in international business. He started 55 matches for the Sunbirds, scoring 22 goals by the end of his junior year. In 2002 he shared the team's Most Valuable Player honor with Ramirez, was named to the All-GSAC and NAIA Region 2 teams and earned an honorable mention in the NAIA All-American competition. Cignetti missed half of the 2004 season because of injuries, but qualified for the draft since he had played two seasons with the Fresno Fuego in the Premier Development League.



**ORLANDO  
RAMIREZ**



#### **NINE SCHOLAR-ATHLETES**

Nine Sunbirds were named NAIA All-America Scholar-Athletes. Winners must be juniors or seniors, carry a 3.50 grade-point average and make a significant athletic contribution. Back row, from left: Jennifer Strid (volleyball) senior, natural science/pre-physical therapy, Visalia; Shailey Jones (volleyball) junior, physical education, Kingsburg; Erin Mazmanian (volleyball) senior, psychology, Madera; Gera Bahr (volleyball) junior, liberal studies, Clovis; Jon Perez (cross country) senior, natural science/pre-physical therapy, Sonora. Front row, from left: Liz Burns (soccer) junior, liberal studies, Fresno; Jessica Rumsey (soccer) junior, pre-med, Clovis; Aaron Breen (soccer) senior, international business, Fresno; and Maggie Clayton (cross country) junior, natural science/pre-health, Bakersfield.

#### **NAIA ALL-AMERICANS**

Six Sunbirds made NAIA All-America teams. From left: Eddie Gutierrez (senior) second team soccer, Porterville; Lira Xavier (junior) first team volleyball, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Mesha Wimer (senior) third team volleyball, Sanger, California; and Orlando Ramirez (senior) first team soccer, Fresno. Not pictured are Lorena Zuleta (junior) first team volleyball, Cali, Colombia, and Fabricio Codeceira (senior) first team soccer, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



# No regrets for volleyball seniors... well, maybe one

by Ken Isaak

## THEY WERE BRIGHT-EYED AND UNTESTED.

None of them knew what to expect.

That described Lisa Enns, Erin Mazmanian, Jennifer Strid and Mesha Wimer, freshmen volleyball recruits in August 2001.

"FPU was always an option," said Enns, whose father, Richard Enns, was FPU's first volleyball coach. "But I wasn't sure."

"The opportunity to attend FPU opened very late for me," said Mazmanian, from Buchanan High School. "I thought I might end up somewhere else."

## THREE'S A CHARM

No one expected much of us that first year," said Strid. "We surprised some people," added Wimer."

With seven new faces on the roster, the Sunbirds won the Golden State Athletic Conference and NAIA Region 2 titles before losing a controversial semifinal to Columbia of Missouri.

It was more of the same in 2002: another GSAC title, a runner-up finish in the regional and a national semifinal loss to National American of South Dakota. In 2003 the Sunbirds had some old scores to settle. Conference and region titles paved the way for another championship run. They swept Dickinson State in pool play, National American in the quarterfinal, Dordt (Iowa) in the semifinal then dispatched Columbia 3-1 in the championship to claim the title.

"We were a revenge team," Mazmanian said with a smile. "We were given a second opportunity with teams that had ended our seasons in previous years. It was great to get those wins and get a little pay-back."

"It was great to win the championship," Enns said. "But for me, the highlight of my FPU experience will be my graduating in May with my degree."

## DEFENDING CHAMPIONS

FPU entered the 2004 national tournament as the defending champion and number one seed with a sparkling 33-1 record. The Sunbirds had been ranked number one in the NAIA pre-season poll and throughout the entire season.

Starting slowly, FPU looked better each time out on the court. Pool-play sweeps of Iowa Wesleyan, Cedarville (Ohio) and Saint Mary (Nebraska) earned the Sunbirds a spot in Friday's quarterfinals. Only a seemingly meaningless pool play match remained against eighth-seeded Madonna of Michigan.



From left: Jennifer Strid, Mesha Wimer, Erin Mazmanian, Lisa Enns.

FPU's hopes for a second consecutive championship dimmed late in game three against Madonna when junior hitter/setter Lira Xavier crashed into a concrete wall and metal railing that bordered the court. Xavier was eventually helped off the court and in short order the Sunbirds lost for the only the second time all season. Forced into a make-shift lineup without first team All-American Xavier, FPU's promising season ended with a 3-1 quarterfinal loss to fellow GSAC member Concordia.

## A SPECIAL GROUP

For Enns, Mazmanian, Strid and Wimer, the 2004 team, their final team, was different. Special. From the moment they first took the floor together in August, "We had four new faces on the team, but it felt like we had known each other for 10 years," Mazmanian said.

And that is what made the end so hard. "When that last ball hit the floor I started crying—not because we lost, but because I hit me that this was the last time I would play together with this special group," she said. "I will never forget this team. We connected like no other."

"We had our ups and downs," Wimer chimed in. "We learned about life together. We banded together. I have no regrets—well maybe one: That we didn't repeat as champions."

All nodded agreement.

## CAREER SUMMARY

In the past four seasons FPU racked up 154 wins in 165 matches for a winning percentage of .933 and one NAIA National, three NAIA Region 2 and four GSAC championships.

| YEAR  | OVERALL RECORD | GSAC RECORD | REGION 2 RECORD | NATIONAL RECORD |
|-------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2001  | 35-4           | 19-1        | 2-0             | 5-1 (Third)     |
| 2002  | 41-2           | 20-0        | 1-1             | 5-1 (Third)     |
| 2003  | 42-2           | 19-1        | 2-0             | 7-0 (Champion)  |
| 2004  | 36-3           | 19-1        | 3-0             | 3-2 (Fifth)     |
| Total | 154-11         | 77-3        | 8-1             | 20-4            |

# Now serving...



The reconstructed Alumni Hall & the new Harold and Betty Haak Tennis Complex serve up a good cup of coffee, a great game of tennis and a lot more.

**Dedications April 1 [see page 18 for more]**

## ALUMNI HALL

### New-and-improved home for Pacific Bookshop

- expanded display area
- larger selection of FPU merchandise

### Gourmet coffee bar

- favorite coffee drinks and beverages
- fast snacks, sandwiches and more

### Extended-hours fireplace lounge

### Full-service mail center

## HAAK TENNIS COMPLEX

### New lighted tennis courts

- meet U.S. Tennis Association competition standards for tournament play
- also available for recreational use

### New sports teams start fall '05

- men's and women's varsity tennis
- men's baseball

### New opportunities for scholar-athletes



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