

HALCYON TIDINGS

A Newsletter of FPU's University Scholars Program



Luke 12:48: "To whom much is given, from them much is expected."

October 2025

Greetings, University Scholars Community!

The end of October brings up important days in the Church year for those of us in liturgical traditions: All Hallows Eve, All Saints Day, All Souls Day. Whatever your tradition, we hope the pleasant fall weather is a blessing to you and your family!

November will bring many notable activities, from our annual Grad School Symposium, to a Town Hall with Fr. Greg Boyle, to the Annual FPU Thanksgiving Community Meal! If you are interested the Fr. Boyle outing, please let Judith or Marshall know.

This month we look back on some wonderful activities, foregrounding especially the moving Honors Banquet through the eyes of Angelina Vang! We also get to read about a fascinating Town Hall and a great Wilderness trip.

We have the usual resources at the end of the newsletter, but please note especially the opportunity to check out the Voice of the Sunbirds the *Syrinx* and to contribute to the FPU literary magazine the *Green Light*.



Fall 25 Dates of Interest

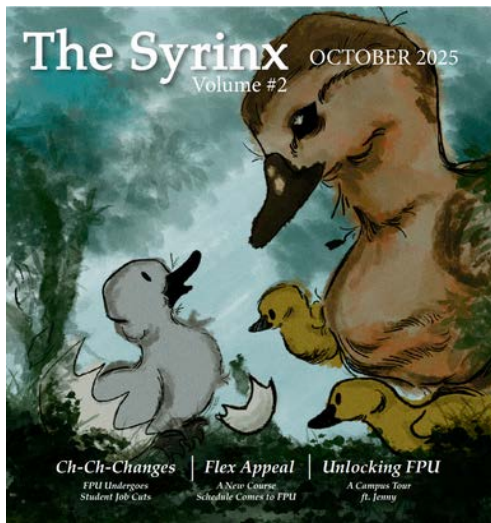
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| October 30 – November 9 | "In Color': An Original Musical" *See flyer on page 9 for more details |
| November 6 | Graduate School Symposium @ BC Lounge during Activity Period/College Hour |
| November 19 | Town Hall Event: Talk w/ Father Greg Boyle "Belonging Gone Right: The Path to Gang Rehabilitation" @ William Saroyan Theatre 10:00 AM |
| November 20 | 2025 Thanksgiving Luncheon @ Special Events Center 11:45 AM |
| November 24-28 | Thanksgiving Break |
| December 8 – 11 | TUG Finals Week |

The Syrinx is Back: Use this link for video content!
[The Syrinx - YouTube](#)



To watch "New Beginnings" Choir Concert,
[click here](#)

Syrinx Issue No.2 is out now! Find your copy around campus.



Verse of the Month

Paragon Scholar Leonie Gottwald meditates on Psalm 37: 3-6 as she prepares for month of November: "Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun."



Leonie passing the time at the HUB while delighting us with some tunes.

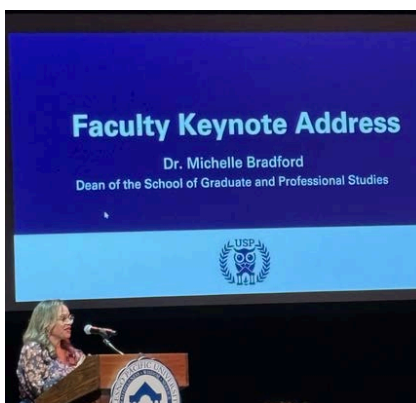
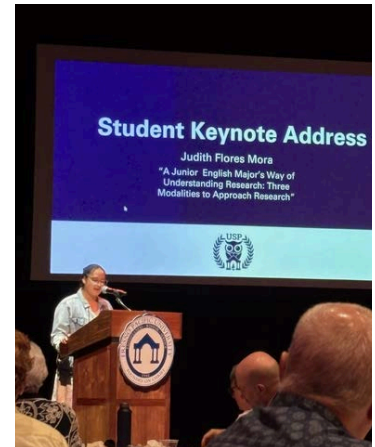
Feeling Honored at the Honors Banquet

by Angelina Vang



Have you ever wondered why you are honored or even what honors you deserve? As Dr. Marshall said at the banquet, we all are honored and have honor within us. This was such an empowering and inspirational day of just hearing stories of how we are not the only ones who are struggling with things in life or not feeling like we belong. Even when it comes to being confused about what your future is supposed to be, just know that you are not the only one who is struggling with this! Every leader goes through something to be who they are today.

When Judith was talking about how she became the USP assistant, it really broadened even more horizons for me. It's so relieving to know that at some point, we were all stuck and felt like we didn't know what we should do like we had a clue but also at the same time we didn't. She spoke on her leadership as she achieved so much such as being the editor of *The Green Light* and even helping write so many things that incorporated the Bible and other things like Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. One thing she said that will stick with me for a long time is that you should always use your passion and interests and feed your creativity, curiosity, and faith!



Dr. Michelle Bradford was just an island girl who moved to New York and back to the islands. She experienced diversity. She always had one person there for her no matter what and that was her grandma. This made me question myself: who's always there for me? She made me realize that our leadership journey doesn't always start off perfectly. Life seems to be so limited at some points but when you keep your faith and trust in God, great things start happening in your life. Dr. Michelle

never knew how one place can open so many doors for her. Ever since arriving at FPU, she has grown in herself in her faith. I reflected on how FPU has opened so many doors for me as well, and I'm sure many others feel the same.

An Undoubted Miracle: Woodruff's Town Hall

by Judith Flores Mora

A bomb goes off. The streets start to fog up with smoke. Tanks start rolling in. People are collapsing to their death all around you.

This is the scene that former war correspondent Bob Woodruff experienced as he stood in Tiananmen Square on June 6, 1989. Woodruff was only serving as a “tour guide” for a colleague that day. Witnessing the events that took place that Friday changed the direction of his career, therefore his life. From then on, he began to get involved in covering international conflict, becoming a correspondent for ABC News and eventually a co-anchor. Then the U.S.Iraq War intensified.



On January 29, 2006, Woodruff was once again presented with a life-altering experience. While he and his cameraman, Doug Vogt, were traveling along a valley in Iraq, their tank was struck by an improvised explosive device (IED). Woodruff's entire left side was penetrated with metal shards and rocks. Both Vogt and Woodruff were taken to the nearest hospital by helicopter. Woodruff suffered a major brain injury that left him in a coma for 36 days. Since the near-death experience,

Woodruff took a new direction. His compassion for veterans who have been injured in the line of duty grew; he, with the help of his wife, started the Bob Woodruff Foundation, which that assists in closing the gap between federal and family support for veterans.

Although Woodruff refuses to call his recovery a miracle, hearing him share his story solidified two things for me. For one, God's will and mercy prevails. And two, what we say or plan is not always guaranteed. Before becoming a reporter, Woodruff had a career in law. Eventually, he became a humanitarian. The shifts in our lives are inevitable, hence why we must always be ready for life's interruptions.

Click on this link to learn more about Woodruff's story: [Oprah: Bob and Lee Woodruff](#)

Exploring Utah!

by Sarah Jenkins



First hike- Arches National Park



Arches National Park



*Exploring the Arches
(Featuring Professor Ray Winter)*



*Exploring Pools at
Zion National Park*




Bryce Canyon National Park



*Zion National Park—last
hike!*



Submit to the student publications!



THE VOICE OF THE SUNBIRDS

The Syrx is a publication that amplifies and illuminates perspectives, and highlights the shared reality of the Fresno Pacific University experience. Our goal is oneness, not one voice; to achieve this, we need your help!


Interested in being a contributor? Email us at fresnosyrinx@gmail.com



THE GREEN LIGHT
FPU's Literary Journal

The Green Light is an annual publication that aims to share and celebrate creative writing in the FPU community. Students from all areas of study are encouraged to submit creative works including fiction, poetry, art, creative nonfiction, and more!

Interested in submitting your creative work? Email us at green.light@fresno.edu



You can become a published author!
Submission deadline for creative works are December 31st.

More on Sunny's Blog

Also, check out USP Scholar, Ary Guzman's post about her experience in Costa Rica while studying abroad: "Finding Faith, Friendship and Adventure in Costa Rica"! [Click here for Sunny's Blog](#)



Grab your ticket!



"In Color": A New Musical



Grad School Symposium



Thinking about what you will do after you graduate? Join us for this year's Graduate School Symposium, hosted by Graduate Admissions, Alpha Chi, and the University Scholars Program! You will hear from faculty, including Dr. Daniel Nelson, Dr. Nick Saleh, Professor Laura Hand, and Professor Leann Lo. Snacks will be provided! Contact Marshall.Johnston@fresno.edu or jzf35@students.fresno.edu for more information.

Apply to CalFresh

Link embedded within the image. Click on image to apply!



For more weekly announcements, check out
The Scoop or the *Sunbird Spotlight*!

Visit the Wellness Center!

Food Pantry
Your stop for essential food staples!

Community Chest
A free thrift store!

Sensory Room
Escape and de-stress

Schlichting Building
Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
3652#



Shalom, Judith, Marshall, and the University Scholars Team

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The FPU Honors Council:

LaKosha Wharry, Program Assistant; Quentin Kinnison, SAS Dean
W. Marshall Johnston, USP Coordinator; Judith Flores Mora, USP Student Assistant
SAS: Chris Janzen, Brian Schultz, Pamela Johnston, Daniel Larson, Andrew Sensenig
GPS: Sharon Starcher, Jon Clark

HONOR SOCIETIES

To learn more about the interdisciplinary **Alpha Chi Honor Society**, please visit:

<https://www.alphachihonor.org>.

Advisor: Dr. Daniel Larson

To learn more about the **Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society** for History, please visit:

<http://phialphatheta.org>

Advisor: Dr. Pamela Johnston

To learn more about the **Kappa Mu Epsilon Honor Society** for Mathematics, please visit:

<http://www.kappamuepsilon.org/pages/a/index.php>.

Advisor: Dr. Jeremiah Ruesch

To learn more about the **Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society** for the Social Sciences, please visit:

<http://pigammamu.org>

Advisor: Dr. Daniel Nelson

To learn more about **Theta Alpha Kappa Honor Society** for Biblical Studies, please visit:

<http://thetaalphakappa.org>

Advisor: Dr. Darren Duerksen

To learn more about **Alpha Alpha Alpha Honor Society**, for our first-generation scholars:

<https://www.1stgenhonors.org>

Advisors: Dr. Sharon Starcher; Brianna Martinez

To learn more about **Phi Alpha**, for our most outstanding Social Work students:

<https://phialpha.org>

Advisor: Sai Mounaoutoua, MSW

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Why the name “*Halcyon Tidings*” for our newsletter? Whenever we have discussed a merit scholarship in the program, the name “Halcyon” has always come up, because it evokes a calm and peaceful place, that center that we have in our community, founded in Christ. “Tidings” worked as a nicely learned and archaic word for news.

