School's not out in SUMMER

Steinert Campus Center open

University spreads to South Valley

Homecoming
Join us October 8-11
Coaches have told me that the most important minutes of a game, match or race often come just before the opening whistle blows, the referee lifts the ball for the tip-off or the starter’s gun goes off. The same is true of universities. What happens over the summer sets the course for the new academic year.

Fresno Pacific University was alive this summer. Hundreds of young people participated in basketball, volleyball, soccer camps and other programs. Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a variety of courses ranging from biblical studies to science education. Degree-completion students finished classes and took major steps toward their degrees. And teachers came from all over the country to further develop their skills as part of the Activities Integrating Mathematics and Science Education Foundation (AIMS) Training of Trainers program. As in summers past, this place was hopping as people—young and old—from near and far came to study, learn and grow.

The most exciting (and visible) change on campus was the completion of the new Steinert Campus Center. Student life moved its offices from McDonald Hall to the Steinert Center; food service shifted from Alumni Hall to the Larry A. Shehadey Dining Room. Elsewhere, facilities staffers were busy painting walls, repairing plumbing, replacing carpet and remodeling some offices while the grounds crew replanted the gardens around several buildings and tended to the landscape.

Although less visible than the physical transformations going on around the campus, the summer was also a time of intellectual and spiritual renewal for many. Some faculty completed doctoral dissertations, presented research papers and wrote journal articles. Others updated course content, revised syllabi and developed new and innovative teaching strategies for their fall courses. Faculty carried out research projects and attended conferences where they discussed the issues of the day in their respective disciplines. This combination of reflection, preparation and scholarship rekindles the spirit and renews the soul.

Meanwhile, the admissions staff was busy finalizing the freshman class and bringing in community college transfers while those in residence life made sure the newcomers had places to live. I just hope everyone also took some time to smell the flowers….

At a Christian institution, the summer of preparation also includes inviting God to work in our own lives, in our classes and in our places of service. Fresno Pacific University’s mission statement calls us “…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.” Preparing for that is what this summer was all about!
STILL SERVING ALL SUMMER LONG

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“Good sleeping weather.”

With those words Stu the sports guy annually announced autumn’s arrival to the newsroom at one of the Mid-west daily papers I used to call a paycheck. Stu was our balding and bespectacled Capistrano swallow. No Punxsutawney Phil, he, predicting what weather might be. Stu was a reporter, not a pundit. He spoke when the temperature dropped. Not before.

We fellow staffers considered this pronouncement part of the fall ritual, right up there with the turning of the leaves and the opening of the sweater drawers. It confirmed that life went on and was sometimes regular. Sure, we made jokes, but we’d have missed Stu’s words had he stayed silent. I miss them now.

Cycles are what weather is all about, and no one knows that better than people in and around agriculture. Even city folks in the Valley learn to keep one eye on the sky and one ear on the TV or radio reports. Fall and spring may rush by as fast as downtown Minkler, while summer drags like root canal in overtime, but each season contributes to the rhythm of the year.

Time can change rhythms, however. The agricultural calendar once designated summer as downtime for education. With lots to do on the farm, every hand was needed in the field—time enough for school in winter when there’s little to do but water the livestock.

Today we measure time in seconds rather than seasons and there’s always plenty to do everywhere. Especially at FPU. While some faces become scarce around campus in summer, others stay and new ones appear. Graduate and degree completion classes continue at the same rate, and special programs bring fresh opportunities to minister in new ways. No summer siestas here.

For every time there is a season. 
The time to fulfill our mission is always because our values are ever in season.

—Wayne Steffen
Steinert Campus Center opened slightly ahead of schedule, but just in time for faculty, staff and campus guests. Student life staff members moved in July 8, 2003, and meals began in the Larry Shehadey Dining Room July 23. The dedication of the $5 million project will be among the highlights of Homecoming October 10-11. For more on Homecoming, see the FPU website www.fresno.edu/dept/alumni/events.

FPU THANKS MAJOR DONORS

Special thanks to the following friends for their support of Steinert Campus Center:

Arthur & Rita Block
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Max & Charlotte Steinert
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Al & Dotty Warkentine
Paul & Joline Wasemiller
Summers is a time for snapshots—digital, print, disposable—the moment matters, not the format.

Kodak and Polaroid made fortunes from the idea that not every picture has to be perfect. Reasonable focus, recognizable faces and no thumb over the lens keep most people happy. Just capture the action.

In that spirit we present a look at summer at Fresno Pacific University. Here’s Terry Bese setting up and taking down technology festivals for area teachers. There’s Silvia Rojas riding herd on high school sophomores thinking about college. Look at Dennis Janzen talking character as well as volleyball. Check out all the students at Speak Spanish Seminar looking at language in a new way.

Fresno Pacific College, the traditional undergraduate program, registered more than 100 students, nearly all part time. Fresno Pacific Graduate School offered more than 100 courses in addition to the festivals. The Center for Degree Completion had 15 groups going, serving 215 students.

The gallery of faces is hardly complete. Festivals wouldn’t happen without Ron Koop, Dave Youngs and Richard Thiessen. Jaime Ramirez and Mark Yoder hosted camps in their sports. Mary Ann Larsen-Pusey helped lead Speak Spanish Seminar. Staff members and service workers from all over campus backed them all up in ways too numerous to mention.

You get the picture: plenty of life, plenty of movement, plenty of mission.

This was our summer.
Volleyball camp

Volleyball camp is about performing at the pinnacle, on the court and in life. “Volleyball very much mirrors our spiritual lives,” said Dennis Janzen, Sunbirds head coach.

Campers learn early there’s no way to the top except from the bottom.

By 9 a.m., the junior high and high school girls are warming up in a long oval on the Special Events Center gymnasium floor. They sit and stretch their legs, then stand and wave their arms. They range in height from less than five feet to well over six. Some are nervous rookies, others cool veterans of years of camps and competition. They talk, of course, quietly and in pairs, while doing exercises by instinct.

Coach Matt Terra speaks up. The announcement turns adolescents into athletes as laserlike focus replaces casual multitasking. Players line up to practice their sport’s six basic skills.

Hitting is first. Three steps, jump, slam. Again. Again. Again. Sneaker soles chirp on the hardwood floor like a thousand crickets on their third cup of coffee. Then passing, setting, serving, digging and blocking. Terra keeps the pace quick. “Do not walk.”

Sunbird players work through the crowd to help individuals. “You’re first step was good, but you went like this,” said Shailey Jones, demonstrating a weak follow through. “Left, right, left. Bigger steps.”

So begins the day for 30-40 participants at one of three July volleyball camps. As the week goes on, the schedule shifts from individual drills to team play to tournaments. The focus of the camp also widens. “What we strive to be every year is one of the best camps to learn volleyball,” Janzen said. “If we can wrap that around God, it’s a powerful week.”

That wrapping up comes in the form of several camp sayings that apply beyond volleyball. “You’re free to fail. Keep on swinging. It’s all about the next ball,” Janzen said. Even the best miss, and success means getting beyond momentary mistakes. “God forgives us, but God also expects us to continue striving for excellence in His plan,” he said.
Campers Kendra Glendenning and Heather Tyler hear both messages. Glendenning, Clovis, a seventh grader who has played on school and club teams for three years, is at her fourth Sunbird camp. “They’re really good at teaching and explaining stuff and you work on a lot of skills,” she said.

A first-time camper at FPU, Tyler is a sophomore from Reedley with two years in school and club competition. “They talked about commitment and how God gave you the ability to play and you should thank Him.”

After practice all campers participate in recreational activities and character presentations by Janzen and FPU students. Those who stay on campus overnight get additional time with Sunbird athletes. Janzen is struck by the issues young people face. “They may have a wonderful smile and look great, but down deep they’re going through some things,” he said. “There’s no question camp is a tremendous ministry opportunity.”

Speak Spanish seminar

Fourteen men and women file into the lounge on the first floor of East Hall. Chatting, refilling coffee cups and taking a last longing look at the buffet table, they find places on stuffed chairs, leather-looking sofas and the carpeted floor. Before the students are two women, a CD player and a wood panel that will soon be the center of attention.

Gloria does the talking. As outgoing as her tangerine skirt, she is animated about her subject: flamenco. More than a dance, it is a cultural expression, an attitude and a way to both survive and enjoy life. Her words weave the history of the art and the stories of the people who created and lived it. At the end of this verbal overture, she flips on the CD player and turns to Laura.

Laura does most of the dancing. Dressed in black with a touch of white, she sits still while Gloria speaks, the picture of calm dignity and confident maturity. With the music she stands and begins—slowly, then faster she clasps her hands, stamps her feet and swirls her dress to the rising and falling rhythms of the recorded guitar.

The stillness is gone, but the dignity remains as her movements lives Gloria’s words. Finished, Laura sits again; still silent. Later she will smile a little, the braces on her teeth a surprising sign of youth.

Speak Spanish Seminar teaches Spanish as more than just a way people speak. All sessions of the July 14-25 event are conducted in Spanish, including meals and worship.

Students’ goals are as varied as their backgrounds and levels of proficiency. Jim Susee, pastor at Dinuba Christian Church, wants to reach out to his community. Kathryn Garcia, Ridgecrest, wants to major in Spanish in college and learn more about her father’s heritage. Connie Paschall, a teacher at Lemoore Naval Air Station, finds herself teaching Spanish to teachers of Hispanic students.

“I’m in a county that’s 76 percent Hispanic and many of those are Spanish-speaking only,” Susee said. “Being a pastor, your job is to care for people and it’s hard to care for them if you can’t talk to them.”

“I would like to speak Spanish because I would like to be a translator or missionary,” Garcia said.

“I think it’s a valuable skill to speak Spanish in a country where there are many Spanish speakers,” Paschall said.

The immersion style is scary, but helpful.
“I took five years of Spanish and never had a conversation,” Garcia said. “I went on missions trips and never spoke it. I always became friendly with our interpreter,” she said.

“The goal is to speak Spanish, not to know it,” Susee said. People with vocabulary may be too afraid of making a mistake to carry on a conversation. “This bridges that fear gap,” he said. “If they (instructors) know what you want to say but you’re not saying it right, they’ll help you.”

Paschall did need to alter her original expectations. “(I thought) I would be fluent in two weeks,” she said. “I found out Spanish is very complicated.”

Culture sessions such as the flamenco demonstration deepen the instruction. “The language involved in different aspects of culture is different than you study in the classroom,” Paschall said.

“In religious services you are using words that are not in a textbook.”

“It gives me a better understanding of my dad’s family,” Garcia said. “There’s so much more depth than I thought.”

Knowledge leads to respect, Susee said. “Stereotypes get handed down by ignorant Anglos,” he said.

Terry Bese’s office has the look of a man who loves technology without worshipping it. Despite his wife’s valiant attempt to give the room in Wiebe Educational Center a theme with a woven mat and wall paintings of palm trees, scattered laptop computers still dominate the décor. “I usually have five or six in here,” Bese said, glancing around. He cheerfully admits more may lurk under his desk or amidst piles of paper.

As director of the graduate educational technology program, Bese has charge of the summer technology festivals, which teach educators to integrate the Internet and other tools into their own classes and help colleagues do the same. “It’s really desirable for people who are in charge of tech at their site,” he said.

The three five-day events overseen by Bese are part of six math, science and technology festivals in June and July. This year more than 200 teachers came to campus for the program, sponsored by the graduate school and Activities Integrating Mathematics and Science (AIMS) Education Foundation.

For the technology festivals, Bese does all the planning and some of the teaching. “I drew on my experience as district tech coordinator (four years at Sierra Unified School District) to see what all they would need to know.”

Most participants are at least moderately skilled. “They’re typically the tech leaders at their site,” Bese said. Many are library media teachers, some are working on their master’s in educational technology and moving up to district coordinator. All add to the mix. “I always find I learn from those students as I teach,” he said. “When the talk turns to troubleshooting, everybody has some experience to draw from and the stories come out.”

That sharing makes for a class that’s more than just teaching software applications. Participants also have several computers to take apart and rebuild into one working unit. “For some people that was their first time getting their hands inside a computer,” Bese said.
Days are packed. “It doesn’t feel like you’ve been sitting in a class for seven hours, but by the end of the day you’re wiped out,” Bese said.

Festivals are a big part of the math, science and technology graduate program, said Ron Koop, mathematics education director. A new direction for the festivals and the overall program is the cohort system. The idea began several years ago when Visalia Unified School District won a National Science Foundation grant to create a staff development curriculum in partnership with a college or university. “They came to us with that and we put together a way to get an M.A. in education with an emphasis in mathematics education,” he said.

The support teachers give each other helps them succeed. “In the first cohort 63 people started the program and 60 finished,” Koop said. Overall, at least 90 percent are finishing the three-year program in three years.

Courses are taught by Koop, AIMS President Richard Thiessen, Dave Youngs, director of the integrated mathematics/science education program, and adjuncts. Like Bese in technology, they demonstrate in their teaching what they want their students to take into their own classrooms. “We’re about hands-on activities in the classroom and we try to model that.”

The Visalia effort is on track to graduate around 100 teachers, and word has spread through the Valley. Fresno and Clovis unified school districts each began cohorts, and eight smaller districts joined to form a fourth group.

During the year teachers meet in their own districts and FPU faculty go to them. Participants are also asked to take four-six units on campus in summer. “That’s sort of our chance for crossfertilization. So a teacher from Clovis can see what a teacher from Visalia or Selma is doing because they’re sitting around the table with them,” Koop said.

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Summer Academy

The time the rocket builders have worked for arrives. They gather at Steinert Field for liftoff. Pfffffftttttttttttt. Rockets smoke from the ground in a rush for the sky. Hundreds of feet up in the cloudless blue, they reach the peak of their flight. The effort pays off. The experiment is a success.

For Summer Academy students the lesson for today is the lesson for the week: Hard work, the right preparation and the courage to look beyond today can launch your life toward success as surely as a rocket streaking for the summer sun.

Summer Academy gives students the tools as well as the dreams. The program welcomes high school sophomores from Firebaugh, Mendota, Tranquility, Kerman, Caruthers and other communities. This year 80 students spent the days and nights of June 16-20 on campus learning time management, English, math, writing and their way around a university campus. Sylvia Rojas hopes they realized higher education is a possible dream. “This is a great chance for them,” she said. “They take away skills they can use to succeed.”

Rojas, an admissions counselor, is Summer Academy coordinator. The program is free to participants and funded by the West Side Educational Consortium. FPU contributes facilities and people. Motivational speakers and people in professions augment classes and participants receive books and other school supplies.

Rojas sees the academy as an extension of her recruiting. “For me it was really important to connect with them,” she said.

“I wanted to be here to let them know we are here and FPU is not just for kids who come from wealthy families and have 4.0 GPAs.”

She also takes the opportunity to be a mentor. Rojas talks particularly to the young women about being a woman and carrying yourself with dignity. “Including that my faith is not just my faith, it’s my lifestyle,” she said. Education may also lead your life in new directions. “Your dreams, goals and abilities change as you grow as a person,” she said.

And, she reminds them, as your life takes off, help launch the next person. “As you’re climbing the ladder, don’t forget to bring someone else,” she said.
into trouble. Avoid any behavior that would get them prayed with their eyes open, trying to copied verses in their textbooks and conducted Bible studies by concealing in Ethiopia. Students hid their Bibles, Endayelalu was a university student orthodox Christians. When Endayelalu became an evangelical Christian at 15, his family refused to support him and faced by family and community, he lived off the generosity of other students. Firm in his decision, he was forced to find food and education on his own. Firm in his decision, he faced by family and community. After his adoption of evangelical Christianity he faced by family and community. After his adoption of evangelical Christianity. In Ethiopia, said Endayelalu, "Christianity is illegal," said Julia Ciupek-Reed, student organizer. Reed, student organizer.

A student at Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, Endayelalu spoke at "Night of Persecution," April 2 at FPU. The event simulated experiences of the persecuted church around the world. "The program was designed to give students just a sample of what it is like to live in a country where Christianity is illegal," said Julia Ciupek-Reed, student organizer.

Endayelalu spoke about the rejection he faced by family and community after his adoption of evangelical Christianity. In Ethiopia, said Endayelalu, evangelical Christians are not persecuted by Muslims or Communists, but orthodox Christians. When Endayelalu became an evangelical Christian at 15, his family refused to support him and he was forced to find food and education on his own. Firm in his decision, he lived off the generosity of other Christians.

The persecution continued when Endayelalu was a university student in Ethiopia. Students hid their Bibles, conducted Bible studies by concealing copied verses in their textbooks and prayed with their eyes open, trying to avoid any behavior that would get them into trouble.

As Endayelalu spoke to about 40 FPU students, the classroom was kept dim with flickering candles to emphasize the necessity for secrecy many persecuted Christians face. We watched a video from an organization called Open Doors about the persecuted church that encourages Christians in America to help by using political influence and prayer.

After Endayelalu spoke, leaders split us into three groups. They gave each group a campus map with a specific point we had to get to without being captured by other students playing police.

My group spots a policeman across the green shortly after leaving the classroom. As we take the long way around the campus, we can hear occasional running and yelling. The cold wind is blowing the clouds away from the moon. I anxiously look in every direction for a dreaded police officer.

As we walk along a row of parked cars, a man in black appears and we hide. He discovers my companions first, and I listen breathlessly as he interrogates them and puts them in the van. Then the policewoman finds me.

After my release, I make it to the meeting place and share my experience with my original companions and several other Christians who have walked through danger to get here. We read Scripture, pray and sing, all with the edgy awareness that these very activities could create more fear and pain. In the middle of a prayer, the lights go off and police storm in, yelling, "Kiss the ground!" They order our leaders to stand while the rest of us lie down. I cannot bear the ignorance and look up just slightly as our leaders boldly stand and let the police lead them away. Someone sees me and hollers, "Face to the ground!" Police bang on the tables above our heads and scream that our Jesus must not be real, for he is certainly not helping us.

Event leaders wanted to create empathy for persecuted Christians. "I was hoping that the students on campus would get a reality check," Ciupek-Reed said.

Other students don’t believe the simulation is the best way to remember persecuted Christians. "I feel like it makes a mockery of what really is happening in the world," Natalie Askew said. "In American culture, where we don’t even live Christian lives most of the time; we play a game to help us realize it."

Leaders said the presence of international students from persecuted countries and the poignant viewpoints they shared made the experience more genuine. "Students do make light of it, and they shouldn’t," Ciupek-Reed said. "We do our best to make them understand it’s real. Our actions and prayers affect Christians in other countries."

The police suddenly leave and I get up and turn on the lights. I am surprised at how scared I still feel as others stand up and look dazed. We know the event is over and it is time to go back to the classroom to discuss our experiences. But I think of all the places in the world where Christians cannot remove themselves from the threat of death and pain. I have taken too much for granted.

Kristen Kley is a senior majoring in English.
A partnership between FPU and Heritage Bible Church brought help to a village in the Philippines.

John Culaniban, pastor of the Filipino-American ministry of the Bakersfield congregation, organized a trip to Quezon on the island of Palawan in July. Palawan is the westernmost island of the Philippines, a Southwest Pacific nation of more than 76 million people and 7,000 islands.

Duane Ruth-Heffelbower, director of training and services for the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies (CPACS), was among the participants. The group also included Culaniban, six doctors, two dentists and three nurses, two of whom are from the Bakersfield congregation, and a praise band from Manila.

Funds and contributions for the trip came from the church, King Benevolent Fund, Inc., and other sources.

The goals of the trip were to bring medical and dental services, provide resources for pastors and other leaders of area evangelical congregations and host a nightly crusade. More than 2,000 people came for health services and many others attended the evening services.

Ruth-Heffelbower led a workshop July 14-17 on church leadership and conflict for about 80 pastors. He used cross-cultural material developed by CPACS on cycles of conflict and ways people commonly respond to help participants come up with solutions that work within their culture.

“One of the big tricks is always to avoid imposing ideas,” he said. “It’s a fairly sensitive process of making sure you don’t impose something that’s too Western.” His goal was to draw from people what they already knew and give them new ways of thinking so they could better use the resources they had.

Introducing the elderly to the Internet was among the projects that put FPU students on top in this year’s regional Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) competition.

The team was named regional champion and member Brandon Dorman earned the Presidential Distinguished Service Award at the April 4 event in Los Angeles. Dorman works with Senior Citizens Village, located adjacent to the university, to provide computer training and equipment for residents. Also representing FPU were Christopher LaSance, Heather McCaig, Annalise Nickleberry, Kate Turpin and Carolyn Wallace. Advisors are Dean Gray, accounting faculty, and Mary Willis, director of the university Career Resources Center.

FPU has placed in each regional competition it has entered, winning for the first time in 2002. Contestants gave multimedia presentations on activities they designed and implemented on campus or in the surrounding community. Business and community leaders judged teams by results, creativity and innovation, use of resources and documentation of activities. SIFE was founded in 1975 and is active on more than 1,400 campuses in 33 countries.
FPU celebrates reaccreditation

An association of fellow educators gave FPU its highest vote of confidence, reaccrediting the university for 10 years.

FPU has made progress in finances, enrollment and leadership, according to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). “The team found a university deeply committed to teaching excellence and student support, operating in a climate of collegiality and dialogue on important issues,” the commission stated in a letter to President D. Merrill Ewert. “These are important accomplishments that provide a strong foundation for the future of FPU.”

The university has been accredited since 1965. “WASC could not have given us a stronger affirmation,” Ewert said. “Ten years is the longest term that can be given.”

Ewert credited faculty and staff for their work. “Many people were involved in researching and preparing documents and meeting with the review team. It couldn’t have been done without them,” he said.

JOHN WOODEN TO SPEAK AT FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

A legend in sports and leadership is coming.

John Wooden, author, speaker and former UCLA basketball coach, will speak October 7-8, 2003.

On October 7, Wooden will address more than 1,000 athletes, coaches and members of pep and cheer squads as part of the Character in High School Activities conference. His lunch speech will cap off a morning of events sponsored by the Bartsch Institute of Character and Civic Education in the Special Events Center.

On October 8, Wooden will speak at the FPU Business Forum Breakfast. Now in its fifth year, the forum brings together business leaders and university students and faculty. The event begins at 7:30 a.m. in the Fresno Convention Center New Exhibit Hall.

In July Wooden was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He has also earned the Reagan Distinguished American Award and is the first sports figure to win the Bellarmine Medal of Excellence, whose other recipients include Mother Teresa and Walter Cronkite. An All-American and basketball player of the year as a college student at Purdue University, he is the only person inducted into the national basketball hall of fame in more than one category (player and coach). He was college basketball coach of the year seven times and named Sportsman of the Year by both The Sporting News and Sports Illustrated, which also put him on its “40 for the Ages” list. ESPN calls him the greatest coach of the 20th century.

His records include consecutive college coaching victories (88), NCAA championships (10), consecutive NCAA championships (7), consecutive NCAA tournament victories (38), undefeated PAC 8 seasons (8) and full undefeated seasons (4). Over the course of a 40-year career that ended in 1975, his teams won 81 percent of their games.

He is the author of the books Modern Practical Basketball and They Call Me Coach. He co-wrote Beyond Success: The 15 Secrets to Effective Leadership and Life Based on Legendary Coach John Wooden’s Pyramid of Success and Wooden. Born October 14, 1910. Wooden and wife Nellie, who died in 1985, have two children, seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

For more information, check the FPU website at: www.fresno.edu/campusnews/wooden.
Rawls and Varvis take on new administrative roles

FAMILIAR FACES ARE BEING SEEN IN NEW PLACES THIS FALL. Janita Rawls, business faculty, begins a one-year term as interim dean of Fresno Pacific College, the traditional undergraduate program. Stephen Varvis moves from dean of the college to director of business and civic relations for the Advancement Office. “Putting the right people in the right positions is the recipe for success,” President D. Merrill Ewert said of the appointments, which took effect in August. “We have certainly done that here. Janita and Steve have the ability, the experience and the commitment that this university needs in these important roles as we move into the future. They have much to contribute, and I look forward to working with them.”

Rawls joined the business faculty in 1997 and has headed the department since 1998. During this time she led business-university partnerships between faculty and business leaders and expanded connections between undergraduate and graduate business and leadership programs. Rawls has a bachelor’s degree from California State University, Fresno (CSUF), an M.B.A. from Rider College and a Ph.D. from Georgia State University.

Varvis served as dean from 1997-2003. He came to FPU as business manager in 1985, becoming full-time history faculty in 1992. In his new position, Varvis will expand relationships between FPU and businesses, corporations and civic groups. He will also continue to teach half time in the history department. He has a bachelor’s degree from CSUF and a doctorate from Claremont Graduate University.

FACULTY AND STAFF HONORED

Faculty and staff were honored for the quantity and quality of their service during the annual spring appreciation dinner.

Distinguished service awards went to Wayne Huber, music faculty; Adina Janzen, administrative services faculty; Stephen Varvis, college dean; and Judy Cockerham, music staff.

Four were honored on their retirement from full-time teaching: Edmund Janzen, biblical studies faculty and former president, served 35 years; Ted Nickel, psychology faculty and former graduate dean, served 17 years; Richard Thiessen, graduate math/science faculty served 16 years; and Adina Janzen, graduate administrative services faculty, served eight years.

The following were noted for more than 25 years of service (years are listed in parentheses): Gary Nachtigall (42), athletics director/geography faculty; Richard Unruh (35), political science faculty; Louise Quiring (34), graduate school staff; Paul Toews (34), history faculty; Wayne Huber (29), music faculty; Richard Wiebe (28), philosophy faculty; Bill Cockerham (27), biology/physical education faculty; and Roy Klassen (26), music faculty.

Two faculty returned from leaves to earn doctorates. Doreen Ewert directs the Intensive English Language Program and Laura Roberts is biblical and religious studies faculty. Roberts has been at Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, and Ewert has been at Indiana University.

Korey Compaan is director of financial aid after a stint as information specialist in the graduate school. Compaan began work at FPU in 1999 as an information specialist, first with enrollment services and then the graduate school. His bachelor’s degree is from Westmont College.

Rod Janzen, education, curriculum and teaching, has had an article accepted for publication in Christian Leader, the publication of U.S. Mennonite Brethren Churches. Currently titled “The Importance of Scholarship for Mennonites,” the article is slated for fall.

Breck Harris, professional studies, published “Application of Curriculum Outcomes from an Adult Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program” in The Journal of Continuing Higher Education, vol. 51, no. 2. He also published “The Power of Creating a Spiritual Learning Community” in Adult Learning, the journal of the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education, vol. 12, no. 3.

Michael Kunz, biology, and Richard Wiebe, philosophy/history, spent June 9-10 in the southern Sierra Nevada and the Mojave Desert working on a photo documentation project of the California Native Plant Society. The project covers over 1,000 rare, threatened or endangered plants in California. Wiebe also gave a lecture titled
FPU welcomes a new dean of students and faculty in mathematics, music, science and education

Zenebe Abebe is dean of students. He has a Ph. D. from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; an M.S. from Northern Illinois University, Dekalb; a B.A. from Goshen (Indiana) College and an A.A. from Hesston (Kansas) College. Recent positions include vice president for multicultural education and psychology faculty at Goshen College and assistant dean for student development and psychology faculty at Manchester (Indiana) College.

Dylmoon Hidayat teaches mathematics. He has a doctorate from the University of Iowa, Iowa City; master’s degrees from the Institute of Technology of Bandung, Indonesia, and the University of Iowa; and a bachelor’s from Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta, Indonesia.

Steven W. Pauls teaches mathematics and science. He has a master’s of divinity from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard, Illinois; a master of arts from George Washington University, Washington, D.C.; and a bachelor of arts from Central American University (UCA), Managua, Nicaragua. Other study includes a licenciado en humanidades from UCA and a diploma in theology from The Baptist Theological Seminary of Nicaragua.

Felix Lopez teaches graduate foundation and curriculum. He has a master’s of divinity from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard, Illinois; a master of arts from George Washington University, Washington, D.C.; and a bachelor of arts from Central American University (UCA), Managua, Nicaragua. Other study includes a licenciado en humanidades from UCA and a diploma in theology from The Baptist Theological Seminary of Nicaragua.

Diane Talbot, school counseling, was elected president of the California Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors for 2003-2004, and appointed treasurer of the H.B. McDaniel Foundation Board. She also facilitated two workshops for Clovis Unified School District.

“Navajo and their Distant Kin: Zen Buddhists and Anabaptist Christians” in late May at the Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, where he had been a research associate in residence.

Dalton Reimer, Center for Peace-making and Conflict Studies, spent about two weeks in Japan. He visited faculty emeritus Bob Enns and his wife, Ruth, who are currently in ministry there, and traveled to the ancient capitals of Nara, Kyoto and Hiroshima. He also conducted a seminar on peacemaking and conflict management on Easter Sunday in the Mennonite Brethren Nosegawa Church and a one-day seminar at the MB Evangelical Biblical Seminary, both in Osaka. In addition, he participated in a seminar of the Tokyo Anabaptist Fellowship on the American church’s response to the war in Iraq, and preached the Sunday morning sermon at Honan-chi Mennonite Church.

Lawrence R. Wilder heads the music department and teaches piano, theory and composition. He has a doctorate of music arts and a master’s in music from Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, as well as a bachelor’s from Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. He has taught and served as department chair at Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon.

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CPACS brings restorative justice to Caruthers Elementary School

The four seventh grade boys were having a bad year. They lived the stereotype of teachers’ terrors.

When they called one teacher a nasty name in front of the class, principal Diane Garrigus and mediator David Vecchio knew they had to act. The students got a choice: conflict resolution or punishment. Two of the students decided to meet with the teacher to discuss what went wrong. The students felt the teacher was demeaning; the teacher thought the students were disruptive. “They kept their word and started building more trust,” Vecchio said.

At Caruthers Elementary School, teachers and students talk about disagreements so playground disputes and classroom conflicts become opportunities for reconciliation. A program sponsored by the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies (CPACS) is the reason why.

The Caruthers STOP Project (Students Targeted with an Opportunity for Prevention) is funded by a federal grant through the Fresno County Probation Office. The project employs three people from FPU: two conflict resolution specialists full time and one graduate student part time. In both classroom presentations and office confrontations they stress that people must cooperate to solve disputes. “The goal is to bring the students and teachers together to make some agreement,” Vecchio said.

STOP is required for sixth graders and is an elective in grades seven and eight. Teachers and staff train peer mediators to work with kindergartners on the playground.

In conventional punitive discipline the crime is defined not as against the person but as against the law, and punishment is doled out accordingly. In contrast, STOP’s method of restorative discipline emphasizes the people and relationships that have been violated, according to Ron Classen, CPACS director.

Garrigus sees restorative discipline’s emphasis on perspective as important in working through arguments. Children tend to immediately blame others, she said, but restorative discipline teaches them to listen. “The kids start seeing their part in the conflict and take responsibility for it,” she said.

The seventh-grade boys learned something about responsibility. They remembered their agreement and went from hardly being able to look at their teacher to buying him candy.

FPU rated a BEST VALUE by U.S. News & World Report

The nation’s most popular college guide gives Fresno Pacific University high grades for value.

U.S. News & World Report placed FPU fifth as a best value among Western universities—master’s category in the 2004 edition of “America’s Best Colleges.” “This is an affirmation not only of our overall excellence, but of our commitment to reach as many students as possible with a quality education,” said President D. Merrill Ewert. “We have always known we do a good job—it’s nice when others recognize that.”

Value means students and parents get a high return on their educational investment. “It doesn’t do any good to offer great programs and faculty, as we do, if people can’t afford to attend,” Ewert said.
Project VOICE helped educational aides become teachers

The impact of Project VOICE will resound through Valley schools for years to come.

Project VOICE (Valuing Owning Identity through Collaboration and Excellence) increased the number of Spanish- and Hmong-speaking bilingual teachers. Of the 79 people served by the program, 16 have already earned credentials, 21 are in the FPU teacher education program and 42 are in the university’s undergraduate program.

The program recruited teacher’s aides, also known as paraeducators, who wished to become teachers. Virginia Cercado was one. “I would get together with my peers and find out they were going through the same thing as I was. I was not alone,” she said.

In 18 years as an aide, Cercado tutored migrant students, assisted a special education class and acted as liaison between Spanish-speaking families and the school. Since beginning Project VOICE, the Visalia resident has completed her bachelor’s degree and teacher education program and is now working to qualify for a credential.

Financed by a five-year, $172,575 grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the program—a partnership between FPU, seven school districts, Fresno City College, Reedley College and the Fresno, Kings and Tulare county offices of education—began in 1998 and ended August 31, 2003. Henrietta Siemens was project coordinator.

Siemens’ guidance was crucial for Cercado. “I see Henrietta as my guardian angel. She told me how it was,” she said.

For her part, Siemens hands the credit back to the students, pointing out that 43 maintained a grade-point average of 3.0 on a four-point scale, higher than the 2.75 required by the teacher education program. Participants were required to be full-time students and work part or full time. Most were parents and nearly all were between 25 and 40 years old. Some also had to travel a long way to classes and finances were often a factor.

Balancing competing responsibilities was Cercado’s biggest challenge. “I was trying to have time for family and studying, but the studying would overwhelm me and I would have to spend more time with that,” she said. Her youngest daughter, now nearly five, is used to sharing mom with a book. “She will say, ‘Do you need to read now Mama?’ and close the door and go away,” Cercado said.

Despite the difficulties, retention was good once students got to FPU, Siemens said. The university helped smooth the bumps. “Registrar, financial aid and business office personnel have been very understanding,” Siemens said.

Project VOICE succeeded in part because of the kind of place FPU is. “I have no doubt this project stands out because it is part of a Christian university,” Siemens said. “It’s very service oriented. It reflects the university.”

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Toews earns Fulbright Scholarship to travel to Ukraine

A Fulbright Scholarship will allow a faculty member to impart American history while rescuing Mennonite history.

Paul Toews, history faculty and director of the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies, will be in the Ukraine September 1 to June 30 on a Fulbright lecture-research award. He will teach at a university and do archival research.

The Fulbright program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. For 57 years this international educational exchange has sent Americans to study, teach and do research abroad, and brought international scholars to the United States.

Toews’ research will look for documents relating to Mennonites in Russia, a story forgotten by the very archivists who store the records. Mennonites came to Russia at the request of Czarina Catherine II to farm the Ukraine. They were later persecuted and those not imprisoned left the country. Classed by the Soviets as “national minorities” along with Jews, Tartars, religious dissenters and other groups, they were treated officially as though they never existed.

In one and sometimes two trips per year since 1996, Toews has searched archives throughout the Ukraine, working to identify and secure reproduction rights for a consortium of five archives. What he and other Mennonite scholars are doing “will ultimately reshape the Mennonite story,” Toews said. His work has also sparked the interest of Ukrainians themselves. “This is part of their history, as well,” Toews said.

At Zaporizhzhia State University, Toews hopes to teach a mix of U.S. intellectual and political history, as well look at how American history has been interpreted. The university enrolls about 8,300 students, 4,800 full time and the rest by correspondence, in 31 fields.
The Fresno Pacific University Visalia Center opened August 4, 2003, for fall semester. The center allows FPU to provide more complete programs for graduate students and working adults seeking to complete their bachelor’s degree.

A master of arts degree in mathematics education, a master’s and credential in special education and a credential in teacher education will be offered through Fresno Pacific Graduate School. Bachelor’s degrees in liberal studies and organizational management and development and Christian ministries will be offered through the Center for Degree Completion, part of the Fresno Pacific School of Professional Studies.

Classes meet at the new El Diamante High School for the 2003-2004 school year. The university plans to move to a permanent campus in the summer of 2004.

“The need for expanding our Visalia Center has been apparent for quite some time,” said Larry Perryman, Visalia Center director. “We are excited to be able to serve the South Valley with more complete programs.”

FPU started a part-time teacher education program in Visalia in the fall of 1996 in partnership with the Visalia Unified School District. The goal was to provide district teachers with the quality education for which Fresno Pacific University is known. In addition, some degree completion courses have been offered in Visalia at various sites. The new center brings the entire program to a centralized location.

The Bakersfield Center will expand its offerings. Beginning this spring, Fresno Pacific University’s Bakersfield Center will bring full-time programs for students seeking to complete their bachelor’s degree, graduate degree or credential. All classes are designed for working adults.

Degree completion programs will be offered in management and organizational development as well as liberal studies. Students will meet one night a week. Graduate degrees and credentials will be offered in administrative services and library media. Evening and weekend classes will vary according to program.
FPU is expanding its presence in Visalia and Bakersfield.

“The need for expanding our Visalia Center has been apparent for quite some time. We are excited to be able to serve the South Valley with more complete programs.”

—Larry Perryman
FATHER’S LIFE SPURS COMMITMENT TO FPU

Paul Evert’s life and interests reach beyond the ordinary

by Wayne Steffen

If an office can reflect a life, Paul Evert has lived enough for several people.

A 140-year-old vegetable dyed Persian rug floats on the parquet floor, anchored by a granite-topped conference table in the middle of Evert’s office at Paul Evert’s RV Country. Leather chairs and table lamps invite visitors to Evert’s desk, modest for a man with 135 employees working on 16 acres in this enterprise alone. Though solid glass tops two of the walls, vertical blinds over tinted glass cut the Valley glare and allow the eyes to focus on the evidence of a vibrant life.

Lining the floor along one long wall are trophies for the Graham Hollywood show car Evert owns and pictures of the Duesenberg replica he wants. A range of plaques for various activities comes next. Behind, above and around Evert hang a mounted tuna he caught as well as stuffed Canadian honkers, a mallard and a pheasant shot by his son-in-law. Standing out among even this assortment are a half dozen ostriches, five of whose necks and heads come at the viewer out of the wall while the fully formed sixth leads the flock into the room. Their live relatives roam Evert’s 300-acre foothill ranch. “I wanted to raise something that was different,” he said. “I just didn’t want it to be ordinary.”

Far from ordinary, this room seems equally distant from two men named Ewert in a cattle car steaming to Siberia in the ruins of the Russian Revolution. But just inside the office doorway lies the link that leads eventually to Fresno Pacific University: A wall of photographs of Evert and his family past and present touches today to another century and another continent. Here is Evert dressed as general George Meade at Civil War reenactments. Here are his daughters, Paula and Penny, riding horses. Here are his parents, grandparents and great-grandfather Gerard Ewert, standing silently before the camera. Gerard went to Russia with other Mennonite farmers at the invitation of Czarina Catherine II. Jacob G. Ewert, Evert’s father, and his brother left in the evaporated hospitality of a fallen monarchy.

In a time when truth was stranger than fiction, the escape of the Ewert brothers was true drama. “It was just like in the movie Doctor Zhivago,” Evert said. “They [the guards] opened up the cattle car and said, ‘Run for your life.’” Jacob made it to Germany and found his wife, Albina, and children Theodore and Louise, who had been allowed to leave earlier. When they emigrated they left their name behind. “My dad and his brother were afraid the Russians would find them,” Evert said. So the German ‘w’ was Anglicized to ‘v’ and the Everts arrived in America. First they came to New York, where Jacob worked in the Hershey chocolate factory, then to Hillboro, Kansas.

A professor in Russia, in 1926 Jacob began teaching Bible history and world history at Tabor College. The Great Depression closed the college for a year in 1934 and the family came west again to Reedley. Now both Evert’s parents picked fruit and worked in the canneries to make ends meet while adding three more children: Waldo, Paul and Naomi.

Starting from scratch did not depress Jacob. “He was a happy man,” his son recalls. “He would get the whole gang singing church songs in the field.” He also spoke at Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church and other area congregations.
Board looks at ways to support FPU, celebrates fundraising success

Supporting the university was one of the topics tackled by the Fresno Pacific University Board of Trustees during regular meetings June 6-7. The board approved methods of increasing member participation, including introducing the president and advancement staff to prospective donors and hosting university events at their churches and homes.

The board celebrated completing the third year of the AIMS Foundation Board Challenge. In 1999 the Activities Integrating Mathematics and Science (AIMS) Foundation loaned FPU $500,000, to be forgiven if the university raised $125,000 in new gifts each year for four years. The result would be a $1 million cash reserve fund.

In other action, the board:
• Granted continuing status to faculty Scott Key, education, and Diane Talbot, school psychology.
• Encouraged faculty to consider establishing a faculty ranking system.
• Approved statements affirming the bylaws, which state the board delegates to the president the power to appoint personnel and inform the board of those actions.

Meeting June 6, the Fresno Pacific University Foundation Board set up an agreement with Wells Fargo Trust to oversee about $12.5 million in foundation assets. Members also adopted a sales and marketing plan for the art collections and received the final draft of the foundation audit. The audit lists foundation-managed assets at $39,242,567.

Janzen Lectureship in Biblical Studies

In honor of Edmund Janzen’s faithfulness and commitment to FPU and to the well-being of the institution, its students and alumni, the Janzen Lectureship in Biblical Studies endowment is being formed. The lectureship is intended to promote careful scholarship in biblical interpretation as well as the witness of the Christian church. The lectures are intended for university faculty and students, pastors and lay leaders. Lectures will occur each spring beginning in 2005 and alternate annually between scholars of the old and new testaments. The university is now accepting donations to the endowed lectureship. Please contact Linda Calandra, director of annual giving and donor relations at 559-453-2237 for more information or send your tax deductible gift to Fresno Pacific University, Advancement Office/Janzen Lectureship, 1717 S. Chestnut Avenue, Fresno, CA 93702.

Reedley was the last move for Jacob and Albina. They eventually earned enough to buy a farm and build a house, where Naomi still lives. The other surviving sibling, Waldo, is in Washington.

Taking a lesson from his father’s life, Evert decided being his own boss beat laboring for another. “Even as a teenager, I always knew I would head my own business,” he states in his official biography. “Back then I thought I would be in ranching. I always wanted to own land.” A part-time job selling cars, however, lead his life on a different track.

History and family are important to Evert. He has visited Russia and revisited Hillsboro. The memory of his father led him to support FPU, where his generosity has contributed to McDonald Hall, Steinert Campus Center and other efforts. There is pride in his voice when he tells how his sister is still in the family home and that grandson Hunter is the fifth generation on his mother’s side to live in his house in Clovis.

Evert also looks to the community and the future. Blueprints for a cabin at Shaver Lake lie scrolled next to the desk. He has also served on the boards of directors of Fresno Zoological Society and Fresno Downtown Club and supports agencies including Community Hospital, Fresno Rescue Mission, Youth for Christ and Fresno Historical Society.

Perhaps the project closest to Evert’s heart today is handing on the legacy of a life less ordinary to the newest member of his family. He and Sherri adopted son Cody four years ago, and dad already has the boy’s future set. “He’s going to West Point; I’m helping him,” Evert said. Then, with an optimism that would make Jacob proud, Evert states: “When he graduates I’ll be 90, and I’ll be there to see him.”
Commitment to education leads Elfrieda Hiebert to career in teaching and research

by Renee Goularte

Elfrieda (Toews) Hiebert has turned a passion for personal education into a commitment to bringing education to others. As a teacher, she is committed to opportunities for disadvantaged children. As a researcher, she is creating a body of work to improve student literacy.

Hiebert was born in Western Canada into a minister’s family: parents Peter R. Toews and Lydia Janz Toews, brothers Victor and Peter and sister Ruth. During her sophomore year in high school they moved from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Dinuba, where her father pastored Dinuba Mennonite Brethren Church. “The change was great,” Hiebert said, comparing her former high school of 2,500 students to her new one at Immanuel Academy, which then enrolled 250. Despite the dramatic difference in size, Hiebert soon became enamored of her new “American” school and life. “The opportunities that Immanuel afforded me—serving as editor of the yearbook and student body secretary, among other roles—were invaluable,” she said.

Upon completing high school, Hiebert knew where she wanted to go next. “My sister and I were the first generation of females in our family to attend college,” she said. “When I was selecting colleges, my parents were in the pastorate at Dimuba Mennonite Brethren Church, (which) was very involved in supporting Fresno Pacific. It only made sense to go to our church’s school.”

When her parents returned to Canada at the end of her freshman year of college, Hiebert said, “There was no going back!” She stayed with older sister, Ruth, (Ruth Toews Heinrichs, now FPU business faculty) who had graduated and was teaching in Sanger. Hiebert would return to B.C. the summer after her sophomore year and take a quarter at Western Washington University. This and a summer session at Fresno State College (now California State University, Fresno) after her junior year allowed Hiebert to finish her B.A. and do the work for her teaching credential in a little over three academic years.

At what was then Fresno Pacific College, Hiebert’s first thought was to become a historian. “There are others in the Toews family who had gone that route,” she said, referring to, for example, John A. Toews, author of A History...
of the Mennonite Brethren Church; J.B. Toews, MB conference leader; Paul Toews, FPU history faculty; and John B. Toews, retired history faculty at the University of Calgary and Regent College.

Her life, however, quickly found another direction. “During my freshman year, the first funds from the ‘War on Poverty’ were awarded to Fresno City Unified Schools, and they came to Fresno Pacific, looking for students to serve as tutors.” Although the initial lure was monetary, Hiebert soon discovered a new passion. “Once I was tutoring low-income first graders in reading, I knew that I had found my life’s work,” she said. “I loved being part of a child’s ‘a-ha!’ and his or her access to the incredible gifts that literacy provides.”

Hiebert joined the first teacher-education class. “I worked as Elias Wiebe’s assistant,” she said. Wiebe, the first director of teacher education, traveled to colleges similar to FPU to learn about their teacher-education programs and sent back audiotapes for Hiebert to transcribe. “I was part of the first accreditation interviews and I was also part of the first videotaping during student teaching,” she said. Innovation was often less than glamorous. “With the state of videotaping in 1969, you can be confident that it was a fairly intrusive event in the first-grade class in which I student taught,” Hiebert said. “Large spotlights, clumsy equipment, as well as a clumsy student teacher!”

After receiving her B.A. at FPU and M.Ed. from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Hiebert became an elementary teacher in Clovis. She went on to receive her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, which later honored Hiebert with an alumni achievement award. In the 25 years that followed her doctorate, Hiebert taught at the University of Kentucky and the University of Colorado, Boulder, before joining the University of Michigan. She also published more than 100 research articles and chapters in edited volumes as well as seven books, including the national report, Becoming a Nation of Readers. “I am . . . committed to bringing the best possible reading opportunities to children who are immigrants, speak different languages or come from economically challenged homes,” she said.

To reach her goal, Hiebert continues to research reading education and communicate her findings to teachers in master’s programs and doctoral students. She also directed the Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement, the U.S. Department of Education’s research center for reading education, at the University of Michigan.

Currently a professor in the language, literacy and culture program at the University of Michigan, Hiebert lives in Santa Cruz on a research leave. She is also visiting research professor at the University of California, Berkeley, graduate school of education, where she studies books that support challenged readers and reading development among English language learners.

Hiebert also spends her time with “partner, colleague and friend,” spouse Charles W. Fisher, who likewise is dedicated to educational research. Hiebert enjoys annual contact with her family, spread across North America. Hiebert and Fisher, along with Ruth Heinrichs and her husband, Gordon, honor her parent’s commitment to service through the Peter R. and Lydia Janz Toews Endowed Scholarship at FPU, which aids Canadian students pursuing career in ministry or Christian education.

Renee Goularte is a 2003 graduate.
University, Fresno and is pursuing a master’s in education. She plans a second album in 2003.

Erika Berumen (BA ’02) graduated from Pepperdine University with a master of arts in education.

Sarah Elder (BA ’02) was hired by the Visalia Unified School District as a sophomore English teacher at the new El Diamante High School.

MARRIAGES


Marcelo Warkentin (BA ’98) married Clarice Ens on December 28, 2002, in Curitiba, Brazil, at the Mennonite Brethren Church of Boqueirao.


Sarah Jacks-Hutchins (BA ’01) married Quentin Talley. The couple lives in San Diego and Quentin serves in the United States Marine Corps.

Janae Bellanger (BA ’02) married James Vance on August 2, 2003. The couple lives in Fullerton where Janae is an optometry student.

DEATHS

Mike Bacon died May 26, 2003, in Fresno as the result of a motorcycle accident. He is survived by wife Julia (Domansky) and children Taylor Michael, 5½, and Alexis Marie, 7 months. Mike and Julia both attended FPU.

Orrin D. Berg, emeritus psychology faculty, died Saturday, July 19, 2003, in Salem, Oregon. He was 73. Memorial services took place July 24 at Salem Mennonite Church. Born January 1, 1930, to Henry W. and Marie (Harms) Berg in Hillsboro, Kansas, Berg earned a B.A. and Th.B. at Tabor College, Hillsboro; an M.R.E. at Central Baptist Seminar, Kansas City; an M.S. at Kansas State Teachers College; and a Ph.D. at the University of Denver. He and Ruby Sawatzky married on May 27, 1961. He joined FPU in 1966 and retired in 1993. He is survived by his wife, son Don and his wife Jennifer Reimer-Berg, daughter Jeannie Berg and grandchildren Andrew, Ruth and Jonathan Reimer-Berg. Also surviving are a brother, Ken, and his wife Susan and a nephew, John Berg, and his wife Emily. In a tribute at Berg’s memorial service, Wilfred Martens, emeritus English faculty, said, “His deeply-rooted faith influenced his life profoundly, and many others as well. Many of us admired and learned from his example.” A scholarship for psychology students is being established in Berg’s name. To contribute, contact the FPU Advancement Office at 1717 S. Chestnut, Fresno, CA 93702, or 559-453-2080. Cards may be sent to Ruby Berg at 5012 Riverside Road South, Salem, OR 97306.
nary. To continue his vision, the family requests memorial gifts be sent to the P.A. and Sophie Enns Scholarship Fund at the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary. A graveside service at Reedley Cemetery June 25, was followed by a memorial service at Dinuba Mennonite Brethren Church.

Susan Story (’78), 46, Madera, died July 29, 2003. Survivors include husband Terry (BA ’78), sons Jay and Henry and parents Robert and Doris McKinney. Services were August 4 at Dinuba Mennonite Brethren Church and burial in Smith Mountain Cemetery, Dinuba. Memorial gifts may be made to American Heart Association, 1495 W. Shaw Ave., Fresno, CA 93711.

Robert “Bob” Vogt, of Dinuba, former campus pastor, died May 20, 2003. He was 72. He was born on December 19, 1930, in Corn, Oklahoma. He was a graduate of Tabor College, Hillsboro, Kansas, and Central Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, Kansas. He later earned a doctorate of ministries degree. Over the next 40 years, he pastored churches in Kansas, Oregon, Fresno and Dinuba as well as at FPU. Surviving are his wife of 52 years, DeLoris; two sons, Keith of Fresno and Randy and wife LaVonne of Clovis; two daughters, Cyndi Isaac and husband Stan of Dinuba and Denise Bese and husband Terry of Dinuba; two brothers, Herb of Corn and John of Hillsboro; a sister-in-law, Carolyn Winter of Fairview, Oklahoma; and nine grandchildren. Graveside services in Reedley Cemetery on Wednesday, May 28, were followed by a memorial service at Dinuba Mennonite Brethren Church. Memorials may be made to the Mennonite Brethren Board of Missions and Services, International (MBMSI).

Bertha Katherine Walter, Dinuba, who graduated from Pacific Bible Institute in 1946, died June 10, 2003. She was 76. She was a registered nurse and a member of the Dinuba Mennonite Brethren Church. She is survived by her husband, Clarence Walter; one daughter, Barbara Munoz and husband Jose of Dinuba; three grandchildren, Joseph, Melissa and Ryan Munoz, all of Dinuba; one great-grandchild, Christain Navejas, Dinuba; and two sisters, Louise Fast of Dinuba and Helen Thiesen of Reedley. Services took place at Dinuba Mennonite Brethren Church June 16, 2003.

ALUMNI DIRECTORY UPDATE
Alumni will soon hear from Harris Publishing as part of the 2004 FPU Alumni Directory. Company representatives will make contact by telephone, mail or email. Please take a few minutes to provide information that will help connect you with former classmates and friends.

FPU IN OREGON/WASINGTON—
Merrill Ewert, president (right); Mark Deffenbacher, vice president for advancement and university relations; and Nicole Linder, director of alumni and church relations, took part in a trip to Oregon and Washington June 20-22. A Pacific Bible Institute reunion in Salem, Oregon, and other events provided chances to reconnect with alumni and supporters, including several pastors, and meet new friends and prospective students. Adonijah (PBI ‘59, BA ‘66) and Eva (BA ‘86) Pauls hosted the reunion in Salem, Oregon. Bob and Mary (PBI ‘56) Eytzen and Board member Dale Boese and his wife, Eleanor, also hosted gatherings.

Homecoming
October 8–11, 2003
Check out Homecoming on the Web at
www.fresno.edu/dept/alumni
Ken Isaak wins NAIA award as nation’s top sports information director

Ken Isaak, sports information director, received the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics-Sports Information Directors Association (NAIA-SIDA)’s highest honor: the Clarence “Ike” Pearson Award, presented June 28.

Named director of sports promotions in 1991 and director of sports information in 1992, Isaak is FPU’s first full-time SID. Among his achievements are Sunbird Sportsline, a 24-hour source of FPU athletic information, and the school’s athletic Web page. He has also served as chief statistician and assistant producer for FPU’s televised athletic events.

On the conference level, Isaak has been president of the Golden State Athletic Conference SIDA since 2000. He also served as as NAIA-SIDA president, and member of the NAIA Council of Presidents.

The desire to give leads to friendship

It started innocently enough, with one generous alumna. Add one eager eighth-grader, throw in a coach willing to relay a message and top it off with a volleyball player looking for an opportunity to make a difference. Stir well.

Barbara Hampson, who first attended FPU in 1962, and husband Doug have supported the Sunbirds for years. Typically, their annual membership provides more tickets than they can use. It was no different 12 months ago when Barbara donated her extra tickets to the local World Impact Center.

“We couldn’t use them so I thought I’d pass them on to someone who could,” she said.

Last September one of those tickets ended up in the hands of Jessica Moua, then an eighth grade student at West Fresno School. Soon Moua was part of a World Impact group that watched the Sunbirds volleyball team in the Special Events Center. Moua was impressed with number 21, Kara Verwey. She’d been praying for a mentor, a big sister. Could Kara be a perfect fit?

Verwey, who hails from Kerman, had just transferred from California State University, Fresno, where she had forged two successful seasons as a power hitter for the Bulldogs. A physical education major, Kara was looking to get away from the high pressure and impersonal nature of NCAA Division I sports.

Moua shared her idea with a WI staff member, then tried to be patient. When things weren’t progressing as fast as she wanted, she took matters into her own hands, calling the Volleyball Office and leaving an interesting message for head coach Dennis Janzen: to meet Kara Verwey and ask her to be her mentor.

Janzen approached Verwey with the idea. The possibility of such a relationship was exactly what Verwey was looking for, and the timing was perfect.

“I had been praying for God to send someone into my life; someone I could work with—be a mentor to,” Verwey said. “I have been blessed with so much, I wanted to be giving something back.”

“I probably shouldn’t have done that,” Moua said of her call to Janzen, “but I was a little impatient.”

Moua and Verwey smile, then agree Jessica’s initiative and persistence have paid off more than either dreamed of. They see each other regularly. They share a meal, go shopping, attend Bible study or just hang out together.

Strangers may smile at the pair. Verwey is a 6’ 1” power hitter for the Sunbirds, the second ranked team in the NAIA. Moua is barely five feet tall, but makes up for a lack of physical stature with a powerful voice.

A talented singer, Moua has preformed at Fresno Christian Reformed Church, Verwey’s home congregation. She has also sung “The Star Spangled Banner” at a couple of FPU athletic contests.

“We have changed each other’s lives,” Verwey said. “I know she has touched my life in ways I could not have anticipated.”
Bogdanof snatches national decathlon championship

by Ken Isaak

Ben Bogdanof, a junior from Buchanan High School in Clovis, enrolled at FPU in 2000 with his sights set on the 110-meter high hurdles. But after his freshman season he followed track coach Eric Schwab’s suggestion and switched to the grueling decathlon.

Bogdanof’s May 23 win at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Outdoor Track and Field Championship, in Olathe, Kansas, suggests the decision was a good one.

With a slim five-point lead over Mike Price of Midland Lutheran after the first of two days of competition (3,548 points to 3,543), Bogdanof increased his lead by 200 points after seven of the 10 events. Then came the pole vault. Bogdanof only managed to clear 10’ 10”, which kept him ahead of Price by 18 points (5,470 to 5,452), but both were overtaken by Coly Rush of Dickinson State and Dan Mazheritsky of British Columbia.

Rush cleared 14’-05.25 for a total of 5,532 points and first place, while Mazheritsky vaulted into second with 5,506.

Adding 778 points in the javelin and 567 in the 1,500 meters, Bogdanof clinched the win with 6,815 points. Rush finished second at 6,767, Mazheritsky fourth at 6,661 and Price fifth with 6,578.

Bogdanof is FPU’s first decathlon national champion. The university’s previous best decathlon finish belongs to Ed Barber, who finished seventh in 1977 with 6,687 points. Bogdanof’s win is the eighth individual national championship for FPU male athletes and the first since Goshue Tadese won the marathon in 1993.

Graduate and coach lead local soccer club to strong freshman year

Jose Delgadillo (BA ’98) was named defensive player of the year in the Premier Development League (PDL). Delgadillo anchored the defense of the Fresno Fuego, a PDL team that finished 14-4-0 in its first season.

The PDL has more than 50 teams throughout the United States. The Fuego roster was made up of amateur soccer players from the Central San Joaquin Valley, including Fresno City College, California State University, Fresno and FPU, and is coached by Jaime Ramirez, Sunbird head coach.

The Fuego lost 2-0 to Orange County in the Western Conference Championship, but then advanced to the fourth round of the U.S. Open Cup, the only non-professional team to reach the final 16.

Born in Mexico City, Delgadillo graduated from Fresno’s Roosevelt High School in 1993, then enjoyed a stellar career with the Sunbirds. He is one of a handful of players to earn All-Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) honors in each of his four collegiate seasons (1993-97), and the third to earn NAIA All-America recognition three times.

As Fuego captain, Delgadillo was the only player to appear in each of the team’s 18 games, logging a team-high 1,167 minutes. From his defender position he also contributed two goals and one assist.

“The PDL has been a great opportunity for people like Jose,” Ramirez said. “He is one who leads quietly, by example. He is a true professional in his dedication to the game.”

Delgadillo, 28, is a sixth grade teacher at Calwa Elementary School. The 2003 season will mark his sixth as a Sunbirds assistant coach.
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