Making a Splash
FPU’S IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

Dennis Janzen appointed athletic director

Nachtigall, Slentz helped shape the campus

Sunbirds soar as FPU hosts GSAC track finals
When developers build malls and shopping centers they usually “anchor” the projects around one or two key stores. These major stores are carefully selected for their ability to attract people and set a tone for the entire development. Everything else is built on this foundation.

Community leaders often describe Fresno Pacific University as the anchor social institution in our part of the city. Our city council representative, Mike Dages, says, “FPU brings people to Southeast Fresno who wouldn’t normally come to Southeast Fresno.”

When we first set up shop at 1717 S. Chestnut Avenue in the late 50s, the school was in the middle of a cotton field. Since then the city has grown out to embrace the campus, giving the university both great visibility and unique opportunities for our faculty and students to put academics to use in the community.

One example of this combination of learning and helping is the FPU SIFE team. Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) is an international organization that uses business principles to build leadership skills in its members. This year our students are making their third trip to the national competition after winning their division in the California-Arizona regional. We are the only four-year college or university in the Central Valley so honored.

How did they do it? By taking what faculty taught them in the classroom and applying those lessons to life. Some SIFE students created a game to teach high school and college students how to use credit wisely. Others set up a computer lab at Senior Citizens Village next door and taught residents learn to operate computers and navigate the Internet. Some seniors now stay in touch with their families by email, purchase online and even trade on e-Bay! Still other SIFE members taught business etiquette and social skills to fellow FPU students, to high school students and to members of the local Association of Retarded Citizens. These are important skills for everyone, particularly for those with developmental disabilities.

At Fresno Pacific University, students not only become leaders, they establish lifelong patterns of learning and service. This reflects the university’s mission statement that 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.”

That’s our passion and commitment, to this community and beyond.
Making a Splash

FPU’S IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

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More than one way to be a COMMUNITY

Community is an oft-heard word at Fresno Pacific University, and used in many ways.

Sometimes it means how we make decisions. Sometimes it means who we want to hang out with. Sometimes it means how we treat one another.

Let me go where so many have gone before and define community, for at least the rest of this page: A group of people who do more for one another than they have to.

That definition isn’t as institutional or specific as some, but that doesn’t make it less useful.

This meaning stretches the university community from Tulare to Thailand, the long way. It embraces students, faculty, staff, alumni, former students, donors, friends, neighbors and companies we do business with.

The intent covers as many activities as it does geography:

- Students, faculty and staff who remember a student who dies.
- An administrator who stops and chats with a groundskeeper out of genuine interest.
- A group of students who write happy birthday to a friend in multicolored chalk letters four feet high on the sidewalk.
- Faculty and students who fill a first-year department chair’s office with balloons for his 50th birthday.
- A faculty member who creates an original composition to honor a staff member in another office, and a student ensemble that premiers the piece.
- Anyone, any time, who stops to pick up litter.

It’s all doing more for one another than we have to, and maybe almost as much as God would like us to.

—Wayne Steffen
Dennis Janzen brings his winning ways as a coach to a new assignment as athletic director.

“I am absolutely delighted that Dennis has accepted our invitation,” said President D. Merrill Ewert. “He brings a vision for athletics, a passion for excellence and a deep commitment to this university. His skills match our needs.”

Janzen joined FPU in 1983 as a physical education faculty member and coach of both the women’s volleyball and basketball teams. He is FPU’s most successful coach. Janzen guided the Sunbirds basketball team to a four-year 77-34 record, including a 28-3 campaign in 1987 that concluded with a Golden State Athletic Conference championship and first-ever trip to the NAIA national championship tournament.

Following the 1987 season Janzen focused his coaching energy solely on the volleyball team. In 19 seasons he has guided the Sunbirds to a 582-157 record, 10 GSAC, eight regional and two NAIA national championships (1989 and 2003). His teams have earned a 60-18 record in 13 trips to the NAIA national championship tournament with eight final four appearances. He has twice been named the NAIA national coach of the year (1989, 1994) and this past December was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame.

“Dennis’ roots run deep in this community,” Ewert continued. “He grew up in Reedley and spent most of his professional life here in Fresno. He understands the role of athletics in higher education. Not only do his teams win on the court, his players excel in the classroom and succeed in life. Grounded in a deep and abiding faith, Dennis brings high expectations, a solid background of experience in athletics and great personal integrity to this position. I look forward to his leadership.”

Janzen graduated from Reedley High School in 1970. After two years at Reedley College, he transferred to Tabor College, FPU’s sister school in Hillsboro, Kansas, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education and health in 1975. He completed a master’s degree in physical education at the University of Northern Colorado in 1980, and is working toward a doctorate in sports psychology from the University of Southern California.

Janzen added the athletic director duties to his coaching responsibilities May 17. He follows Gary Nachtigall, who retires after completing 43 years of service at FPU, including 19 as athletics director (1961-75; 1999-04).

“We offer a unique opportunity to our student-athletes,” Janzen said. “It goes well beyond the typical university athletic experience and is much more than wins and losses. It’s about building people through significant and meaningful challenges and experiences. It’s about exploring who you are athletically, academically, socially and spiritually. It is being a part of providing this unique opportunity for our student-athletes that I love and appreciate. It is why I came in 1983 and why I am still here.”

“Gary (Nachtigall) was the chair of the original search committee that brought me to Fresno Pacific,” Janzen said. “I will always be grateful to him for giving me an opportunity to coach. Over the past 20 years I’ve been fortunate to work with some of the best folks I could ever imagine. The future of FPU athletics is a bright one, due in part to Gary’s efforts. I hope to build on the foundation that he laid. There is more work to be done, but the challenge energizes me.”
Every year commencement comes for a group of students at Fresno Pacific University. After 20 years, it’s coming to a program.

Older Adult Social Services (OASIS) will become independent of the university. The FPU Board of Trustees, which made the decision, set a target date of July 1, 2004, though OASIS may continue to rent space from the university for the next few years.

“Think of it as a graduation,” said Jill Schneider, OASIS executive director. “Our parents have said we are strong enough to go out on our own.”

OASIS offers day care for older people, most of whom suffer some level of dementia. The agency was the first of its kind in the Central Valley, and still fills an important niche despite the growth of for-profit and other adult day care services, Schneider said. In fact, OASIS trains and consults with other providers. “We’re seen as the experts,” she said.

FPU and OASIS have different missions, and the agency can manage itself better than the university can, the university board decided. “OASIS is in the day care business; Fresno Pacific University is in the higher education business,” according to a board statement. “The University feels it is not in the best position to provide this (oversight) for OASIS.”

OASIS was founded in 1983 as an alternative to residential care for senior citizens—particularly those whose incomes are too high for free county service but too low for other agencies—and to give students more service opportunities. Student internships will continue. “We don’t want to lose that,” said John Ward, FPU vice president for finance and business affairs, who oversaw OASIS.

Starting at Butler Church with one staff member and two clients, OASIS now has 16 staff and can care for 48 people each day. The budget has grown from $29,000 to $500,000. Regular funds come from clients and grants from agencies including United Way of Fresno County, the city of Fresno, Fresno County and the Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging.

Daycare is currently provided in three houses on Heaton and Townsend avenues adjacent to FPU. Other offices moved in June 2003 to Sierra Resource Campus. OASIS will merge with Valley Caregiver Resource Center (VCRC), a nonprofit organization serving nine area counties.

OASIS has three to five years to move its care facilities. Schneider estimates the cost of relocation at upwards of $1.9 million.

Among OASIS’s strengths are grants of more than $300,000 per year, a financial reserve, a strong board and competent management and staff. Fundraising is now the challenge for the agency. Schneider is confident: “We have wonderful leadership and we have the services.”

Change has not dimmed innovation at OASIS.

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC
A wandering guild of barbers (rumored to be members of the World Theater class) celebrated Easter Week by reenacting a medieval religious street drama. Abraham and Isaac was performed April 7 on the lawn between Hiebert Library and Pacific Bookshop. Cast members were (standing at left) Jonathan Broersma as an angel, (sitting) Emilee Larsen as Isaac, (standing behind Isaac) Chris Thompson as Abraham and (above right) Michael Edward Galvan as God.

SHAKESPEARE ABRIDGED IS SHAKESPEARE HILARIOUS
Shakespeare’s own words came back to haunt the Bard and amuse audiences April 15-17 and 22-24. The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) was the university’s spring mainstage production. Cast members were David Bacci, Chelsea Christensen and Daniel York. Christien Sweeney was the director.

CELEBRATE WRITING
Jo Ellen Priest Misakian, library media faculty, (left) chats with authors Juan Felipe Herrera and Virginia Pilegard as “Celebrate the Writing Life” gets underway March 12. The event brought together nationally known writers and 75 students in grades K-12. Other guests were writers David Mas Masumoto (in the background), Angelica Carpenter and illustrator John Sierra.
Academics put faith into action for students

Senior citizens benefit

by Wayne Steffen

Eight computers sit on tables shaped in a U in the back of the Thrift Shop at Senior Citizens Village. On the cinderblock wall another half dozen screens and accessories doze on a shelf. Blue and black cables hanging through acoustic ceiling tiles connect the computer center to the world.

Brandon Dorman and Maria Torres, students next door at FPU, patrol the aisle, helping three village residents. Dorman directs the center. Torres is a volunteer.

Eilene Martin is having trouble. She’s trying to conjure photographs from her son in Idaho onto her screen using only instructions written on sticky notes. Dorman and Torres aren’t giving up.

“Oh, that’s kind of weird,” Dorman says of Martin’s results. “Just type www, a period, then Yahoo and a period and com and press enter.”

Martin says, “Okay, that’s kind of weird,” Dorman says of Martin’s results. “Just type www, a period, then Yahoo and a period and com and press enter.”

Martin’s eyes look sprightly but her voice sounds frustrated. She’s here to learn to operate the E Machine friends bought her. “I just started,” she says.

Putting class lessons into practice to serve others was Dorman’s goal when he began planning the center. “There was such a large opportunity for ministry,” he says. The university SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise) chapter was also looking for a way to help village residents. The fit was natural.

SIFE is an international organization that works with business and higher education to promote professional skills and community outreach. Mary Willis, Career Resource Center director, and Dean Gray, accounting faculty, advise the campus chapter. Dorman’s project has helped FPU to two regional SIFE championships and trips to the national contest.

The center brings together the missions of FPU and SIFE. “Brandon’s project…gives people the tools to control their lives and maintain their independence,” Willis says.

Sylvia Tarvin is trying to find the tools to type again. While writing a letter to a friend in Arizona, she neds her head between the screen and the keyboard, trying to negotiate a truce with her bifocals. Tarvin used to use a typewriter, but had to write by hand after a stroke. “It got so bad I couldn’t read it,” she says.

The center opened in February of 2002 with two computers from Dorman’s father’s Tulare law firm. Other equipment has come from Fresno County surplus sales and EMD Net, Visalia. Senior Citizens Village pays for Internet access.

Help from students, faculty, staff and donors has been timely and plentiful. “Every time I’d get discouraged about progress, something good would happen,” Dorman says.

Good things are happening for Herbert Sesate, who has been coming to the center for two years. “Brandon taught me how to start the computer and get the games,” says Sesate, who stays bundled in a hat and red nylon jacket throughout the session.

Solitaire gave Sesate confidence. “Now I’m beginning to write and learn a little bit more,” he says.

Dorman hopes to do more for the residents, such as online banking. Service opens the way for ministry. “It’s great to be a Christian influence,” Dorman says.

The village serves low-income seniors and the 900 residents thrive on contact with university students, according to Barbara Eubanks, village administrator. “Brandon has been a delight; people just love the center,” she says.

The future is bright for this kind of outreach, Dorman says. There is another retirement center in the neighborhood, as well as numerous apartment complexes. “FPU is uniquely located to be a force of change,” he adds.

For today, however, closing time has come and Sesate and Tarvin are gone. But Martin is still at it, and Dorman and Torres are still with her.

“Well, it’s just not working,” Martin says. “I’ll just forget about it.”

“No, Eilene, I don’t want you to give up,” Dorman says. Torres suggests Martin have her son email the photos to Martin’s Yahoo account, which she can access at the center.

Martin brightens. “Yeah, I could do that,” she says.

For Dorman, successes such as Martin’s are about more than technical training. “The ministry isn’t in the computers, it’s in the relationships with the seniors,” he says.
Gary Nachtigall (above left), who helped create the programs, and Jim Slentz (above right), who helped build the buildings, retire in 2004.

**GARY NACHTIGALL—43 YEARS**

Gary Nachtigall was settling into his Sattler Hall office when the horror hit. “What am I doing?” he remembers thinking. “I’m supposed to start an athletic program and a physical education program for a junior college?”

Nachtigall tells this story with the wide smile and big voice that have reached across classrooms to generations of students since 1961. In a case of accidental irony, a burst water pipe in the athletics suite of the Special Events Center caused Nachtigall to finish his 43-year career in circumstances similar to those under which he began it: one room, one desk, one chair and no windows, this time in the basement of Kriegbaum Hall.

The career of Gary Nachtigall is the chronicle of the Chestnut Avenue campus. The buildings were Sattler and the one-story wings of Strasbourg and Witmarsum residence quads, where most of the 80-ish students lived. “For the rest of the campus we had a Ford tractor with a good disc and a spring tooth,” Nachtigall said, to cut the weeds and carve out grass strips. “We thought we were a college,” he said.

What the school lacked in facilities it made up for in faith. “Very early on Arthur (Wiebe, president from 1960-1975) had these bold visions of what the campus would become,” Nachtigall said. Sidewalks were built to where buildings were planned and concrete pads were poured where buildings would be. The walkways didn’t end in a field, they were heading toward the tennis courts and track, according to Nachtigall. “The sidewalks were tangible signs of a place that was going somewhere.”

Athletics were another symbol of an institution on the move. Nachtigall was the first athletic director, serving from 1961-1975, as well as the most recent, taking up the mantle again in 1998 until his retirement in May. He was also men’s basketball coach from 1961-1972.

In the 1960s and 70s Fresno Pacific College played in the Northern California Christian Collegiate Conference (N4C). Some are with FPU in today’s Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC).

After being named champions of N4C and its Southern California counterpart two years running, the college moved up to play schools such as California State University Sacramento, whose coach challenged Nachtigall’s basketball team to a game during the 1996-66 season. Nachtigall can still quote the opening of the next day’s Fresno Bee article: “There are approximately 8,700 more Goliaths at Sacramento State College than there are Davids at Fresno Pacific College, but chalk up another bull’s eye for the kid with the slingshot.” More important than winning 90-73 for Nachtigall has been the lasting success of the players—eight members of that team went on to be teachers and coaches, one is a doctor and one is first assistant coach for the Chicago Bulls.

“There were a number of moments like that said to people, ‘We’re with them (bigger schools),’” Nachtigall said.

FPC became a four-year college in the 1960s and added buildings in the 1970s. “It started to look like a campus,” Nachtigall said. His role also expanded as Nachtigall started teaching geography in 1970 and served at one time or another as community affairs coordinator, student life coordinator, dean of student development and College Hour director. Off campus he was commissioner of N4C and District 3 Executive for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). He was named NAIA Region II Athletic Director of the Year for 2003.

But just as there’s more to athletics than trophies and more to a campus than buildings, there’s more to Nachtigall than professional success. Today Jaime Ramirez is FPU soccer coach, heading one of the most successful programs in the NAIA. In 1977 he was a freshman and Nachtigall was his mentor. The relationship remains strong. “I’ve felt comfortable talking to
him about many major decisions in my life,” Ramirez said. For example, Ramirez turned to Nachrigall in his sophomore year after receiving a contract to play professional soccer. “(Gary) showed enough wisdom to show me the best thing for me to do was to stay in school,” he said.

Ramirez talks about Nachrigall’s heart and spirit for people. “That kind of modeling and mentorship helps me with my kids,” he said. “I can be pretty tough, but I want my own children to feel that closeness, that approachability.”

The word “retirement” holds no fear for Nachrigall. After a year off he may return part time. Meantime he will work more with the family farm, gasoline station/distributorship in Reedley and continue to be involved in neighborhood and city organizations in Fresno. “They’re always interested in someone to do committee work,” Nachrigall said.

With one more smile, Nachrigall looks past the walls of his last office to recall the sense of discovery he felt in his first office. “Those formative years were fun for a lot of us,” he said. “We had no sense that we couldn’t do something.”

JIM SLENTZ—18 YEARS

Conversation with Jim Slentz can range from the practical, like building wiring diagrams, to the philosophical, like the Christian meaning of leadership. At the same time his style will soften from the no nonsense drive of a man with a deadline to the compassion of a counselor. His voice, which can likely be heard over most machinery, will quiet and become, if anything, more intense.

This breadth of interests and manner is not surprising considering the wealth of Slentz’s experience and expertise. Before coming to FPU in 1985 he worked as a machinist, welder, industrial supervisor and plant superintendent, pastored four churches as an ordained minister, taught in a Christian high school and served as a reserve police officer and staff member at a drug rehabilitation center and youth ranch.

Coming to FPU was a way to stay in Fresno after being caught in a middle-management downsizing. “In the back of my mind I don’t think I planned to stay,” Slentz said. Then he got to know people like Dalton Reimer, Luetta Reimer, Will Reimer and Wilfred Martens. “They had spent their whole lives at half pay,” he said, comparing his new salary with his previous one. “It’s obvious they believed in the place, they believed in something. That impressed me and I just kind of bought into it,” he said.

During Slentz’s tenure the university has gone from 125,000 square feet of building space to over 300,000 square feet with the addition of Bartsch Hall, Wiebe Educational Center, McDonald Hall, East Hall, AIMS Hall of Mathematics and Science, the Facilities Management Building and Steinert Campus Center. The campus added 19 out of 26 houses on the loop of Hetton and Townsend streets and Garden Avenue, 80 condominiums in the Ranchwood complex to the north and three units at Willow Gardens to the northeast. A new athletic complex is in progress with the track and soccer field complete. “It was fun and exciting to build buildings, see the campus grow and see the needs met,” he said.

Three buildings stand out:

• McDonald Hall—“It’s a great building,” Slentz said, but probably should have been bigger. Construction was based on enrollment goals that were later raised. “It’s not bad, it’s good, but what it means is you always build your buildings too small,” he said.

• Facilities Management—While facilities staff growth has not kept pace with building expansion, this structure helps workers do more. For example, FPU saved $110,000 by building its own beds and wardrobes for East Hall, and got higher quality furniture besides, according to Slentz.

• Steinert Campus Center—This building can improve community, Slentz said. “It was so needed, not just the dining hall but the meeting places,” he said. AIMS Hall is also important because it set a new standard for construction at FPU. “What AIMS Hall did for us was raise the bar,” Slentz said.

That bar has been raised in many areas. “The university has come a long way since I’ve been here. They’ve come a long way in professionalism and seeing themselves as professionals,” Slentz said. Staff pay is better and there’s more equity among staff, which encourages people to stay longer and invest themselves, he said.

Slentz agrees there is sometimes tension between the worlds of academia and operations. “Academics look at the way the world works through a pretty narrow lens,” he said. Slentz stresses he has no desire to offend anyone. “I mean that as an observation, not a criticism,” he added.

This is an area where people have taught him, according to Slentz. Sue Kliewer, director of human resources, has seen the growth. “I think obviously there was a learning curve for Jim,” said Kliewer, who worked closely with Slentz throughout his years at FPU. “Over time he learned to deal with processes and learned to appreciate them,” she said. “Jim worked very quietly with a lot of people.”

Slentz is driven to get things done and make things better, Kliewer said. “If there wasn’t a project he would create a project—and I mean that as a compliment.” He sponsored fountains and other campus beautification efforts, she said. “I don’t look at Jim’s personality type as being a maintainer.”

But in Slentz the pastor balances the driver. “He has shaped the life—not just the work life but the spiritual life—of a lot of people by walking alongside them,” Kliewer said, through methods such as regular Bible studies with staff.

Since retiring in February, Slentz has begun yet another career as safety director at Quiring Corporation, a construction/project management firm. Those who fear Slentz will settle down to a single occupation need not worry. He’s already done some fill-in truck driving. “I went all the way to San Bernardino,” he said.
Faculty earn Fulbright, Rotary fellowships for study abroad

Fellowships from Fulbright and Rotary will allow two faculty to study and teach abroad during the 2004-2005 school year. Mary Ann Larsen-Pusey, education, was named to her second Fulbright scholarship and Peng Wen, economics, received a Rotary International Fellowship.

Larsen-Pusey’s project will follow up on doctoral dissertation research she conducted in 1986–87 with a grant from the Organization for American States. She surveyed nine public universities throughout Colombia. Her research topic was the effects of imposed reform on the faculty. At the time, universities in the South American nation were changing from being primarily teaching institutions to the research style common in the U.S. She studied both major universities with bigger budgets and more faculty with doctorates as well as provincial campuses with fewer resources.

With the Fulbright, Larsen-Pusey will revisit four of the universities to see what has changed in 18 years. She will also again conduct workshops in teaching a foreign language, curriculum development and assessment, and other topics of interest to the particular university.

Between July and December, Larsen-Pusey will spend three weeks each at Universidad del Valle in Cali, Universidad de Antioquia in Medellin, Universidad Nacional in Bogota and Universidade Industrial de Santander in Bucaramanga. She studied at the Universidad del Valle on a junior Fulbright in 1966-1967.

The Fulbright program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Over the past 57 years more than 250,000 university faculty, students, elementary and secondary teachers and other professionals have participated in a Fulbright program. About 800 U.S. faculty and professionals traveled to some 140 countries during the 2003-2004 academic year.

Wen will travel to Lithuania from June to October on the Rotary grant. He will teach international finance at Lithuania Christian College, Klaipeda, and do research on the effects of the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia) becoming members of the European Union. When he returns Wen will act as an ambassador between LCC and Rotary District 5230, maintaining relations between the two. The district covers much of central California from Monterey to parts of Fresno.

Lithuania Christian College was established in 1991. The school now enrolls about 550 young people from 14 different countries as well as study abroad students from the U.S. and Canada. LCC is a joint venture of Lithuanian, Canadian and American foundations and an international affiliate of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities.

Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 31,000 clubs in 166 countries.

CHANG VISITS SUZUKI WORKSHOP
World-renowned violinist Sarah Chang visited a Suzuki violin workshop February 28 at FPU. Chang, in Fresno for a concert with the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra, answered questions from the 27 participants. Among the organizers was area violin teacher Kerrie Rich (BA ’01). The event was sponsored by the university music department. Chang successfully auditioned for engagements with the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra at age 8 and released her debut album one year later. Now 21, Chang has collaborated with nearly every major orchestra in the U.S. and Europe. (Above, Rich, Chang and student Sakura Schweizer.)
Thailand visit promotes restorative justice

“I suspect we will have much to learn”

by Ron Claassen

Roxanne, my wife, and I were in Thailand from December 27, 2003, through January 10, 2004. The primary purpose of the trip was to participate in Angkana Boonsit’s successful defense of her doctoral dissertation at Thammasat University, Bangkok. Angkana studied at the FPU Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies during the fall of 2003.

In the late summer of 2003, Angkana’s major advisor, Suwatchara Piemyat, a professor in social administration at Thammasat, inquired about the possibility of Angkana, a senior-level probation officer, coming to study restorative justice. They found out about CPACS on the Internet, and were particularly attracted to our principles, models and strategies as well as the focus on spirituality and peacemaking. The Thailand Research Fund awarded Angkana a grant to pay for three months of study in Fresno. Funds also allowed Suwatchara to visit Fresno for two weeks to assist Angkana with her writing, and for me to travel to Thailand and participate in the defense.

Angkana’s work broke much new ground. She was the first to do a dissertation on restorative justice in Thailand. She focused her research and recommendations on domestic violence. She was the first at Thammasat to write and defend her dissertation in English, making her work more accessible internationally.

Angkana even used the make-up of her dissertation committee to introduce and/or advance restorative justice with the leaders of Thailand’s criminal justice system. Her advisors and committee members included the general directors of the national departments of corrections and probation, parts of the ministry of justice.

Suwatchara and Angkana also arranged several meetings and three restorative justice presentations for Roxanne and I. Nathee Jitsawang, director general of the department of corrections, met with us and arranged a tour of the Central Women’s Correctional Institution in Bangkok. Kittipong Kittayark, director general of the department of probation, hosted a dinner to honor Angkana. He also invited me to be a consultant to help them evaluate their progress toward implementing restorative justice.

Nathee and Kittipong arranged for me to lecture to approximately 80 senior corrections and probation staff members and several members of the judiciary. Both said they will begin implementing restorative justice and peacemaking into their departments as soon as possible.

Professor Emeritus Khun Duangduen Baisaljustra hosted a gathering at Bhdungsit Pittaya, a private K-12 school of about 1,200 students located in a very poor district of Bangkok. Roxanne and I spoke to leaders of that school and 20 other schools on restorative justice in education, with a focus on discipline that restores. Roxanne and I also lectured in a social work class at the university.

We were treated with honor and respect throughout our stay. We received guided tours to such places as the Royal Palace, Ayutthaya (the old city capital), several beautiful palaces and both campuses of Thammasat University. We enjoyed New Year’s Eve with thousands of Thai in the streets at their World Trade Center. We learned again of the rich history of Thailand, which used peacemaking strategies to prevent colonial takeover. For example, they demonstrated their acceptance of potentially hostile countries through the architecture of the king’s palaces, even building a Buddhist temple in the style of a Christian cathedral.

I look forward to more work together. In 2005 Thailand will host the United Nations Crime Congress, which may recommend that member nations implement restorative justice. I suspect we will have much to learn from the emerging efforts in Thailand.

The experience was a wonderful gift to us. We met new colleagues in restorative justice—more than that, we made new friends.

Ron Claassen directs the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies. Roxanne Claassen teaches junior high school and is active in restorative justice work.
Making a Splash

FPU’s Impact on the Community

by Wayne Steffen
No university can truly be an ivory tower, though some have a reputation for trying. Fresno Pacific University does not seek to soar above its surroundings, noticing them only—if at all—with a superior shrug. This community seeks to be one with those around it, an organ in a larger body with an impact that spreads down the street and over the mountains.

Here is a look at our effect on a selection of geographic, professional and social communities.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Putting education and faith into action is a hallmark of FPU.

“Fresno Pacific has always been there to support us,” said Fresno Mayor Alan Autry. “The spirit of Fresno Pacific is all over this community.”

Autry praised the willingness of FPU alumni to stay in the Valley. “Graduates have a deep love of the community,” he said.

Students and faculty participate in projects that make a real impact on people, said H. Spees, senior pastor at Northwest Church and co-founder and former CEO of the faith-based One by One Leadership. FPU, Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary and One by One are developing the John Perkins Center for Community Transformation. “This center will be a source of undergraduate as well as graduate level community development from a Christ-centered world view,” he said.

The campus lifts Southeast Fresno just by being in it, according to Mike Dages, who represents the area on the Fresno City Council. “I can’t think of it (the university) not being there. FPU attracts a lot of people to Southeast Fresno who wouldn’t normally come.”

The campus is aiding an area renaissance, Dages said, including cleaner streets, more parks, schools and shopping centers and a crime rate among the lowest in the city. Property values climbed 23 percent in 2002 and 26 percent in 2003, he added.

The annual Mennonite Central Committee Relief Sale, which takes place at FPU, shows how campus benefits neighborhood, Dages said. Thousands attended, and, “it looked like a family affair,” he said.

Private institutions can do things public institutions cannot, said Peter G. Mehas, superintendent of the Fresno County Office of Education. “You can begin doing more prototypes that we can learn from.” He cited the FPU Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPACS) as one example.

Ken Quenzer, chief professional officer at Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno County, also appreciates the focus on finding new ways to handle conflict. The clubs worked with CPACS on a school conflict resolution program. “I think it’s good to have the peace emphasis,” he said.

Financial impact

Like any other organization, Fresno Pacific University provides jobs, pays taxes, purchases goods and services and performs other functions that contribute to the community’s economy. In addition, students who come from other areas also work and spend money at area businesses.

A few details from the 2003-2004 budget:

- Total budget: $27 million
- $17 million in payroll, including benefits, to about 275 employees
- $8 million of the remaining $10 million in other expenses stay local
- An estimated $1 million in local and state taxes

In addition, the university completed approximately $12 million in building projects in the last two years, using many area companies and contractors.
EDUCATION

Education is both a discipline and a reason for being at FPU.

The university has long been recognized for preparing teachers and administrators. “I have found the university, particularly the school of education, to just have enormous impact on the teaching profession,” Mehas said.

Graduates have teaching skills, and more. “They believe in their body and soul that ‘I can make a difference in the lives of the children I teach,’” he said.

Educators with moral convictions make principled decisions based on what is best for students. “With the pressure of achievement today, test scores and all that, it’s easy to take short cuts,” Mehas said.

This ethical center spreads beyond the education field. “The university as a whole serves as a moral compass to the community,” Mehas said. “They’ve stood up for values…they practice what they preach.”

FPU leaders bring a needed perspective to the local education mix, Autry said. “We have a great opportunity. There’s come in the last few years a deepening sense that we’re all in this thing together.”

The quality mix of academics and faith is the heart of FPU’s dramatic impact on Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley, according to Spees. “My experience with students, including with my daughter who attends FPU, is that the small classrooms, the caring and personal involvement of professors, the atmosphere on campus where faculty members and even the president eat and converse regularly with students...make the Fresno Pacific experience one of a kind,” he said.

Graduates also get practical preparation, said Dages, who has owned several businesses. “They prepare you for an interview,” he said.

BUSINESS

There are many connections between campus and business. The graduate leadership and organizational studies program and the undergraduate management and organizational development program tap area professionals as faculty. The undergraduate business program works with an advisory council of executives and others to see that local needs are served.

Student interns are the hands and feet of the university-workplace relationship. “They are the best that we get,” Bev Newman said of the FPU interns she works with at KSEE-TV.

Interns work in many areas. In creative services, they plan, promote and execute events for non-profit agencies. “You can tell the people who come from Fresno Pacific,” Newman said. “They look like they’d like to go to work someday.”

An intern at Arc Fresno directed a week-long day camp for kids two years in a row. “I believe FPU is producing some wonderful students...who are able to take on tasks,” said Lori Ramirez, executive director of the agency, which works with people with developmental difficulties. The intern had to make schedules, coordinate staff and volunteers, get donations and work with a budget. “Fresno Pacific has done a great job of getting students ready for the real world,” she said.

FPU offers academic strength and needed principles, according to J. Scott Leonard, president and CEO of Guarantee Real Estate. The company—which specializes in residen-
tional real estate, home lending and similar services—does about $1 billion in transactions annually. Several FPU graduates are among its approximately 400 employees. “When a person comes through an education where there’s been a strong emphasis on ethics,” Leonard said, “that will profit the organization and the community.”

**THE CHURCH**

Being a partner with supporting congregations and a resource to the wider church community strengthens FPU’s mission. “We are very proud of the university,” said Gary Wall, district minister for the Pacific District Conference of Mennonite Brethren (MB) Churches, which sponsors FPU. “(We’re) proud of the impact this place is having on students. Those students are reaching out in their communities—neighborhoods, workplaces—to be salt and light.”

The relationship between FPU and MB churches goes both ways. In addition to educating future church leaders, FPU, “forces the church to think about issues maybe we wouldn’t think about if the university wasn’t here,” Wall said. In return, churches provide funds, students, leadership and a context of faith. “Fundamentum Christus (Founded on Christ)” is more than just a line on a logo, he said. “That needs to be what we’re about.”

The Central Valley Ministry Forum April 22-23, 2004, was a great way to reach out to the churches and provide continuing education to pastors and lay leaders. “That was an attempt to build bridges,” Wall added.

Faith nurtured in church spreads throughout life. “The opportunity for young men and women to receive an education in a distinctly Christian environment is a tremendous asset to Fresno, to the state,” Leonard said. “They reflect extremely well on this community and the kind of community we want to become.”

This strong reputation in so many areas gives FPU an important voice, according to Quenzer. “When FPU speaks, people listen.”

### Social Impact

Students, as well as faculty and staff, have many opportunities to make a personal impact on communities in Fresno and beyond through service and ministry organizations. Participants log hundreds of hours each year in organizations such as:

- **Basketball Ministry** | Reaching out to the surrounding area by providing a time to play basketball and to hear the Word of God from students and faculty
- **Chesnut Car Modeling Club** | An opportunity for students to mentor boys at the Chesnut Apartments by making models together
- **Child Evangelism Fellowship** | Bringing the Gospel to boys and girls and working to connect them with a local church for continued growth
- **Discovery Center** | An education center focusing on teaching children about science and the environment
- **Fresno Seniors** | Providing senior citizens in an adjacent retirement community a safe, fun and enriching way to use computers and the Internet
- **Habitat for Humanity** | Volunteers contribute a day, a week or a month to build homes with the families who will live in them
- **Inreach** | Participants team with other organizations in Fresno to help in ways such as distributing food and going on prayer walks
- **Kid’s Klub** | This weekly group focuses on kids in the Ranchwood apartment/condominium complex near campus
- **Mexico Outreach** | Students work in communities in Mexico over President’s Day weekend
- **OASIS** | A service for older adults and others suffering dementia and related conditions
- **Public school tutoring** | Students work as teacher aids and after-school tutors at Calwa, Ewing and Storey elementary schools
- **San Francisco Urban Mission Trip** | Students spend part of their spring break serving the people of San Francisco through activities including soup kitchens, food distribution activities and a prayer tour
- **Small World Preschool** | An outreach of Butler Church to area children and families
- **Sonflower Girls** | Providing emotional, social and spiritual mentoring to girls ages 6-12 at the Chesnut Apartments
- **Summer Mission Trips** | Working with Youth Mission International to share the Gospel overseas for two or three weeks
- **Victim Offender Reconciliation Program of the Central Valley** | An organization dedicated to using justice to manage conflict and restore relationships
- **World Impact** | Ministering to many cultures in the inner city through evangelism, discipleship and church planting
The power of Angulus Wilson’s Christian testimony comes not from where he was, but where he is and where he is going.

“I lost my innocence, my freedom and my sanity on occasions. I found myself in the presence of death,” Wilson stated in an autobiographical essay. “Nevertheless this journey that I am on is one that has brought me great awareness of the quest for who I am, where I am going, and what I am destined to become,” Wilson wrote. “I have seen a lot of human storm clouds and heavy rains. However, in all of this, I thank God for these experiences because they made me stronger.”

Wilson, who received his B.A. in social work from FPU in 1989, is now director of prison ministries in the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College. His primary mission at Wheaton’s Institute for Prison Ministries (IPM) is “to serve the body of Christ, through pastoral preaching, teaching, evangelism, administration and servant-oriented leadership,” he said. “We are a training and teaching ministry that helps the church and students of criminology to do evangelism and discipleship with men and women who are in prisons all over the world.”

“I’m humbled,” said Wilson in a telephone interview, cheerful and enthusiastic about how God has led him to the prestigious position in the Billy Graham Center. “It’s tremendous; it’s an awesome opportunity and a huge responsibility to teach individuals how to rightly proclaim the Gospel. I would be the last one to say I deserved it.”

Wilson’s ministry comes out of a youth that was lost and torn. Wilson was dangerously rebellious before meeting Christ in Juvenile Hall in 1979 and recommitting his life to Christ in 1984.

Born and raised in South Central Los Angeles as the oldest of three brothers, Wilson endured a rough childhood and spent 13 years in gangs, where he was shot, stabbed and beaten unconscious. Moving to Fresno at the advice of friend Jackie Lines, who Wilson calls a mentor, he attended Fresno City College before transferring to FPU to play basketball.

FPU was a tough environment and difficult transition for Wilson, as one of the few African-American students. But he said the support from social work classmates like Dina Gonzales and Hubert Alvarez was fantastic. “We bonded into a close-knit community,” he said. A friendship with faculty member Bill Brueggemann was also important. “He was awesome. His mentoring and his ability to care for one’s soul was phenomenal, he was a life changer for me,” Wilson said.

The university did help Wilson bridge his old life and new. Following graduation, Wilson served in law enforcement for about 10 years, climbing the ladder from deputy probation officer to director of Claremont Custody Center in Coalinga. He also taught at West Hills Community College and served as associate pastor at Fresno’s Grace Community Baptist Church. During this time he developed anti-gang prevention programs and helped educate youth on the dangers of the criminal life.

Work as a peace officer was a test, shaping Wilson’s current ministry. “It seemed that the negative images of manhood were always before me.”
that I had no positive role models or images to cling to for advice and encouragement,” he stated.

Director of IPM since 2001, Wilson’s days are consumed with conducting prison campaigns and revivals, mentoring ex-offenders in a spiritual formation program, evangelistic preaching and teaching, working with prison ministries nationwide, speaking in campus chapels and national conventions, creating training tools for churches wishing to begin prison ministries—praying for himself and his staff. “Oh yeah,” he said. “Prayer is very important.”

With a real compassion for suffering, broken lives needy of Christ, Wilson labors in international and national evangelistic ministries, prisons, jails, mission agencies, schools and cross cultural congregations. He desires to stimulate global evangelism through conferences, seminars and Internet training. Besides local and national prison evangelism, IPM has worked in Russia and Uganda.

As part of a mission partnership between IPM and Charles Colson’s Prison Fellowship, Wilson oversees Wheaton’s Colson scholarship for ex-offenders, the only full-ride program for former prisoners.

Wilson has harvested many academic and service leadership awards for his efforts, including recognition for evangelistic teaching, preaching and mentoring. One inscription reads: “In appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among people of the world.”

Living in Wheaton, Illinois, with wife Sharon and three sons, Wilson is also an associate pastor at Zion Hill Baptist Church and a popular speaker, giving keynote addresses at evangelistic conferences, lectures and seminars around the world. “My mission is to preach about the loving grace of Jesus Christ and his wonderful plan of salvation,” Wilson wrote. “God has allowed me to experience lawlessness and the letter of law enforcement; he has stamped in my heart the law of God. I am now a man, father, husband, and leader in the church and community.”

Today Wilson understands how his past made him the man he is. “It all makes sense to me now,” he wrote. “The pilgrimage that I have undergone was one that has shaped my values, ethics, determination and my motives to serve.”

Billy Hawes is pursuing his master’s degree at FPU.

COFFEE FOR MCC
Alumni invited everyone to enjoy a coffee during the 36th Annual West Coast Mennonite Sale & Auction for World Relief April 2-3 on the FPU campus. In addition to the Alumni Café, staffed by alumni and current students, there was a booth with yearbooks and other items from the school’s past. The sale raised more than $230,000 for Mennonite Central Committee.

Looking for Alumni Ambassadors!
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 help current and future students achieve their dreams. Areas of opportunity for service are: student recruitment, career development and academic advisor/guest lecturer. For more information, or to fill out an application, visit the FPU website at www.fresno.edu/dept/alumni.
**GENERAL NEWS**

**David Suderman (BA ’71)** and wife SueAnn live in Salem, Oregon, where they run a professional quilting studio out of their home called Heirloom Quilting Studios. They have been in business since January 2001. Their website is www.heirloomquiltingstudios.com.

**Judy (Reese BA ’71) Hazewinkel** and husband Jim live in Pensacola, Florida, where Judy works as an educational consultant for A Beka Books. Jim coaches wrestling and teaches physical education at Pensacola Christian College. Robert, their older son, is a Pensacola fireman/EMT; Kari, their daughter, is an executive secretary; and Nathan, their younger son, works with the Escambia School District.

**Wilma (Dick BA ’79) Wall** has retired after 40 years of teaching piano. She now devotes her time to writing Christian fiction. Her first novel, Forbidden, published by Kregel Publications, was released in March 2004.

**George Martzen (BA ’82)** and family have been United Methodist Church missionaries under the General Board of Global Ministries since 2001. George is appointed to the Bishop’s Office of The United Methodist Church in Singapore and his wife, Chin Cheak Yu, is appointed to the faculty of Trinity Theological College.

**Harlan Elrich (BA ’85)** is an anchor on an interactive math tutoring show called “Do the Math.”

**Greg (BA ’89) and Susan (Pharris FS ’94) Sommers** live in Dallas with their three sons: Christian, 8 ½; Peter, 6 ½; and Philip, 4 ½. Greg graduated from Ohio State University in August 2002 with his Ph.D. in accounting.

**Carmen (Ens BA ’94) Owen** and husband Andy are missionaries with Team 2000 in Thailand. They have two children, Connor, 4, and Isaac, 1.

**Donald “Nick” (BA ’94) and Karen (Patterson BA ’94) Nichols** live in Ballwin, Mo. Nick will begin Ph.D. studies in church history this fall through the University of Wales, Lampeter. Karen is the children’s ministries director at Greentree Community Church.

**Kristy (Steinert BA ’95) Reichel** and husband John live in Bakersfield with their son Houston, 3 ½. Kristy teaches kindergarten in the Bakersfield City School District.

**Shirley (Newnam MA ’96) Hargis** is the literacy consultant for Fresno County Office of Education after having served as a community school teacher for the last nine years.

**Wendy (Haley BA ’96) and Ben (BA ’97) Wilson** live in Shafter with their children, Elizabeth and Caleb.

**Renée (White BA ’01) Turner** works as a project manager for the Lemoore Naval Air Station.

**Kerrie (McPherson BA ’01) Rich** was the violin soloist for the Mariposa Symphony Orchestra’s performance of Vivaldi’s Four Seasons March 27-28, 2004. Les Marsaden, conductor and founder of the Mariposa Symphony, is a former student of Wayne Huber, FPU music faculty.

**MARRIAGES**

**Debbie Dowell Jura Rezac (MA ’95) and husband Steve** were married February 2, 2002. Steve is director of human resources for Tulare Federal Bank. Debbie and Steve have created a business called SkyArt which features 50- and 100-foot kite displays. They travel to kite shows, fairs, schools and other events to talk about kiting, the uses of kites in history, etc.

**Scott Johnson (BA ’95 MA ’03) and husband Antonio** announced the birth of Grace Elizabeth Ann on July 21, 2003. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20 inches long.

**Mark (BA ’93, MA ’98) and Connie (Rees BA ’93) Patton** announce the birth of Zachary on December 1, 2003. He weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 21 inches long. He joins Mariah, 9, and Titus, 4. Mark is property and services manager at FPU. Connie teaches at Riverbluff Elementary in Central Unified School District.

**Renee (BA ’93) and Derek (BA ’89, MA ’01) Singh-Boucher** announce the birth of Isabella Grace on March 3, 2004. She weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 inches long. She joins Joshua, 3, and Tatiana, 7.

**Blanca (Aguirre BA ’94 MA ’04) and husband Ridas Topeznikas** announce the birth of Jonah Lukas on July 1, 2003.

**Curt (BA ’94) Moore** and wife Sandra announce the birth of Connor Russell on March 27, 2003. He weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 ½ inches long.

**Rachael (Adams BA ’95) Krupme** and husband Philip announce the birth of Rebekah Elaine on February 26, 2004. She joins brother Adam, 4 ½, and sister Anna, 3.

**Sean (BA ’97) and Kristi (Blankenship BA ’96) Peifer** announce the birth of Andrew Jonathan on December 28, 2003. He weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 inches long. He joins brother Jeremy, 3.

**Rony (BA ’97) Juliano** and wife Elke announce the birth of Christopher Owen Thiessen Juliano on December 30, 2003.

**Jami (Hastings BA ’97) Cozby** and husband Rolan announce the birth of Abigail Alaina on January 7, 2004. She weighed 7 pounds and 14 ounces and was 19 ½ inches long. Abigail joins sister Claire, 3. Jami is a part-time resource specialist in special education for Brentwood Union School District.

**Ron (BA ’90, MA ’99) and Becky (Hoppert BA ’95) Reimer** announce the births of Andy on May 17, 2001, and David on February 21, 2003.

**Kellie (Fry BA ’91) Thompson** and husband Bob announce the birth of Kathryn Grace on December 15, 2003. She joins sister, Sarah, 2.

**Jennifer (Marvin BA ’91) Barnes** and husband Kevin announce the birth of Eryx Dana on November 12, 2003. He weighed 4 pounds, 6 ½ ounces and was 17 ¾ inches long.

**Steve (BA ’91) and Jennifer (Stallings BA ’91, MA ’00) Brandt** announce the birth of Trevin Luke on January 27, 2003. He weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces and was 19 ½ inches long. He joins brothers Spencer and Rowan.

**Kimberly (Dutto BA ’93) Solari** and husband Antonio announce the birth of Grace Elizabeth Ann on July 21, 2003. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20 inches long.

**Mark (BA ’93, MA ’98) and Connie (Rees BA ’93) Patton** announce the birth of Zachary on December 1, 2003. He weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 21 inches long. He joins Mariah, 9, and Titus, 4. Mark is property and services manager at FPU. Connie teaches at Riverbluff Elementary in Central Unified School District.

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Roslyn (Hamman BA ’97) Moes and husband Graham announce the birth of Gideon Garrison on January 8, 2004. He weighed 9 pounds and was 22 inches long. Roz is an international counselor at FPU.

Wendy (Bowron BA ’98) Campos and husband Sergio announce the birth of Allison on September 10, 2003. She was 6 pounds and 15 ounces and 19 ½ inches long. Allison joins brother Eric, 7, and sister Kristie, 5. Wendy teaches youth offenders for the California Department of Corrections, Avenal.

Wendy (Miller BA ’98) Warnes and husband Colin announce the birth of Jacob Andrew on November 20, 2003. He weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and 19 inches long. Wendy is a teacher for Madera Unified School District.


Michael (BA ’99) and Sarah (Watters BA ’00) Awu Johnson announce the birth of Alina Stephanie on March 22, 2004. She weighed 7.3 pounds and was 20 inches long. She joins brother Isaac, 2.

Jamie (Braun BA ’00) Minnis and husband Terry announce the birth of Jeffrey on September 5, 2003. He joins brother Jason, 2.

Brian (FS ’00) Hale and wife Jacinda announce the birth of Kiara Melody. She weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Jeff (BA ’01) and Char (Lawson, BA ’01) Jones announce the birth of Parker Glenn on January 8, 2004. He weighed 9 pounds and 5 ounces and was 20 inches long. Jeff is assistant registrar/tech specialist at FPU. Char teaches at Roosevelt Elementary School in Selma Unified School District.

DEATHS


Stanley Duane Fast died March 19, 2004. He earned a bachelor’s degree at FPU in 1969. He is survived by wife Reva Decker Fast; son Nathan and his wife Megan; daughter Cambria and her husband Kevin Mulkey. Services were March 23, 2004. Donations may be made to Hinds Hospice, 1616 W. Shaw, Fresno, CA 93711.

Loree Ann Larsen died December 15, 2003. She earned a teaching credential at FPU in 1984 and spent 27 years with Fresno Unified School District as a teacher and middle school administrator. Survivors include husband Robert; daughters Kristin Ormon and her husband Joe. Services were December 18, 2003. Donations may be made to Craycroft Sunshine Center for Children, 3350 N. McCall, Sanger, CA 93657.

Andrea Lynn Perez died November 19, 2003. She earned a master’s degree from FPU in 1998 and served as librarian at Lemoore High School for 14 years. Services were November 25, 2003. Donations may be made to the Andrea Lynn Perez Scholarship Foundation, care of Lemoore High School, 101 E. Bush Street, Lemoore, CA 93245.

Jacob Unruh died October 7, 2003. He was born March 31, 1912, in the Ukraine. A former pastor, he attended Pacific Bible Institute in 1952. Survivors include wife Anna; daughters Hulda Unruh and Judith Hackmann and husband Paul.

Janee Ann Webster died November 12, 2003. He earned a bachelor’s degree at FPU in 1990. Services were December 17, 2003. Donations may be sent to Copper Hills Elementary School, 1881 E. Plymouth Way, Fresno, CA 93720.
Cecil and Janet Hill commit to the future of Alumni Hall

by Billy Hawes

Local real estate agents Cecil and Janet Hill know how to conduct business and close a deal: they work together.

Partners in marriage and business, Cecil and Janet Hill fit naturally as co-chairs of the Alumni Hall Campaign Committee. “We work together in everything,” Janet said, sharing that they relate well to customer couples in real estate—a trait she thought would carry over to fundraising for Alumni Hall.

In the large, window-walled, corner office the Hills share in Coldwell Banker on Fourth and Clovis streets in downtown Clovis, Janet picks up a phone, mentioning, “I'm always on the phone.” Cecil stands beside one of the Hills' three desks and says, “I do a lot of work standing up, moving around in here.” His phone is a cordless earpiece suited to his roaming and working on the go.

“We are an effective team,” Cecil said. “Each of us brings a different perspective. We can attack every side of a problem or challenge.”

“I think team building is one of our strengths,” Cecil said. “We aren’t going to be the only ones doing the fundraising. We will get good people together for this project,” he said.

Their new assignment builds on the Hills’ many years of support for FPU. The couple was recently honored with the President's Circle Lifetime Cornerstone recognition for their financial support. “We like being involved in a hands-on way, not just through writing a check. We enjoy participating in the functions, too,” said Janet, a FPU student from 1973-75. The couple attends music productions and other school events. “I enjoyed being a student there, and it is exciting to be able to change the campus for the better with a student center.”

While Alumni Hall’s basic structure will remain the same, the renovation includes a new and larger bookstore, a coffee bar, a convenience store, the campus mail center and a two-sided fireplace lounge. The Hills appreciate the notion of bringing conveniences together in a student center serving as a useful and comfortable refuge in the midst of an academic atmosphere.

“We want it to be something to create a comfortable atmosphere—to visit, socialize and study with other people. I think of it as an oasis on campus,” Janet said.

“It’s a program for the students. It’s for their use and comfort,” Cecil said about why the Hills signed on as committee chairs. “We see that Fresno Pacific has a valuable role in the students’ lives and the whole Central Valley.”

The biggest challenge to the project is raising the $750,000 necessary for complete refurbishing. But the co-chairs of the fundraising campaign, who attend the College Church of Christ in Fresno, are optimistic and appear ready to conquer.

“It’s a real challenge and a blessing; it’s an opportunity to do something positive,” Cecil said. “I believe very much in private, Christian institutions.”

The Hills, who gave a significant gift to the project, proposed the campaign’s new name, Creating the Future—Today, Alumni Hall Student Center Reconstruction. They believe many people in the community, not just alumni, recognize FPU’s unique role and will be interested in contributing to the effort.

“I believe the Lord has donors ready. They just don’t know yet,” Janet said, chuckling. “Just like He prepared us without us knowing we would take this position. When they asked us to chair the committee, we were ready.”
New tennis courts expand athletic, recreational opportunities at FPU

NAMED FOR FORMER PRESIDENT HAAK

Tennis is returning to FPU, thanks to the effort and generosity of faculty, staff and friends. Construction will begin in May on the Harold and Betty Haak Tennis Complex, a group of six competition-level courts and one practice court. The courts will be dedicated October 1 during the 2004 Homecoming celebration. The late Harold Haak was president of FPU from 2000 to 2003, and Betty continues to support the university.

The courts are a $500,000 part of the ongoing $5 million athletic complex. Cockerham Track and Ramirez Soccer Field are already completed, and plans call for stands, a fan recreation area, a press box and a baseball field. “The Haak Tennis Complex is one part, one important part, of FPU’s vision for athletics in the 21st century,” said Athletic Director Dennis Janzen.

Courts will be open to students, faculty, staff and the community. The university plans to add men’s and women’s tennis as both intramural and varsity sports. Lights on timers will allow for a range of informal play times. FPU is also working with the U.S. Tennis Association to sanction the courts for tournaments, clinics and other events.

Many people made the courts a reality, Janzen said. Significant donors include: Associated Students of Fresno Pacific, Paul and Sherri Evert, Dick and Lillian Falls, Glenn Ikawa, Dennis and Jeanne Janzen, Dick and Althea Johanson, Peter and Nancy Klassen, Don and Marilyn Nachtigall, Vern and Hedy Pletz, Larry and June Shehadey, Marvin and Nadene Steinert, Frank and Sherry Vargas, Jim and Yvonne Wood, Muriel Wood and Glen and Peggy Zimmerman.

TRUSTEES APPROVE THE 2004-2005 BUDGET

A budget for next year was approved and a vision for leadership in years to come was explored by the university board of trustees during meetings March 19-20, 2004.

• The university budget is $29.7 million for 2004-2005. Major changes from the 2003-2004 budget of $27.2 million include expanding educational programs in Visalia and Bakersfield, continuing university branding and upgrading technology.
• The board reexamined undergraduate tuition for 2004-2005 and set the amount at $18,500. This is an increase from the $17,930 approved in October.
• A slate of officers was elected for 2004-2005: Larry Martens, board chair; John Thiessen, vice chair; Velma Dyck, secretary; Patrick Evans, assistant secretary; Cary Nikkel, treasurer; and Ken Fransen, assistant treasurer.

For more about the board meeting: http://fresno.edu/campusnews/budget05.html

PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE REACHES QUARTER CENTURY

For a quarter century, members of the President’s Circle have faithfully supported FPU with their time, talent and treasure. On top of generous donations, circle members commit to promoting the university in their churches and communities, praying for its people and needs, encouraging students to attend and offering advice, counsel and encouragement.

Established to produce consistency and continuity among major supporters, the circle has succeeded to the amount of $32 million in lifetime gifts. Last year the President’s Circle involved 291 donor families or households, which gave $1,144,027.

On Saturday, June 5, the Advancement Office commemorated the contributions of the President’s Circle with a recognition dinner in Steinert Campus Center. Special tribute will go to charter members:

Lowell & Betty Bergman
Wes & Boots Braun
Ron & Linda Decker
Velma Dyck & Stanley Schrock
Eugene & Phyllis Enns
Peter* & Sophie Enns
Harold & Patricia Enns
Roy* & Jeanette Fast
Bob & Lorraine Franz
George & Judy Franz
Roger & LaWanda Franz
Jake & Ruth Friesen
Peter Funk Family

Virgil & Nancy Goossen
Olive Hiebert
Edmund & Mary Janzen
Peter & Nancy Klassen
Ben* & Anna Marie Nachtigall
Alice Peters
Herbert & Jessie Penner
Nick & Lydia Reimer
Marvin & Nadene Steinert
James & Ruth Unruh
Al & Dotty Warkentine
Arthur & Evelyn Wiebe
Delbert & Marjorie Wiens

*Deceased
FPU graduates receive more than a diploma

TOWEL IS THE TOOL OF THE SERVANT

Graduates got tools for the head and heart during commencement ceremonies May 8.

Each of the 392 degree recipients was given a towel along with their diploma. While the diploma demonstrates professional competence, the towel shows a commitment to serve as Christ did. Jesus could have chosen tools of violence and power, but did not. “He chose the towel and basin, the tools of the servant, to define His work and to define the work of his followers,” speaker Larry Martens said.

“Tools for the Trade,” was the title of Martens’ address for both the morning ceremony, involving 186 students in the traditional undergraduate program, and the afternoon commencement, which honored 118 graduate students and 88 who earned bachelor’s degrees in the degree completion program.

Martens is chair-elect of the FPU Board of Trustees and recently retired as pastor of North Fresno Mennonite Brethren Church. During his 42-year career he has also served as president of Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary.

In his speech, Martens likened the biblical account of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet to a commencement. “Jesus, the professor, announces that He is going to die. He also hands out the first diploma for Kingdom citizens. This diploma was not a pig skin written in fancy script…This diploma was simple but very profound, i.e., the towel and the basin.”

Knowledge, skill and professional excellence are important, but not as crucial as the kind of person we are. “We are first and foremost followers of Jesus. That is our profession. What we do as a teacher or doctor or social worker is an avenue for living out our profession as followers of Jesus. Jesus called us to be His servants in our world.”

Servants identify with people in their joys and sorrows, successes and losses, recoveries and setbacks. “Those in our world who are typically excluded or marginalized are now cherished and valued,” Martens said.

No one can earn a degree in servanthood. “The spirit of the servant is given to us by the person of Christ. It comes through the work of God’s grace in our lives. And, our education isn’t complete until our heart is transformed into the heart of a servant,” Martens said.

Other speakers included Seth Yates, college student body president, and Mary Jo Burchard, representing the Center for Degree Completion. Richard Rawls, history/philosophy faculty, received the first Nickel Excellence in Teaching Award.

The family of Rebekah Swanson was given a posthumous degree. Swanson, a senior English and psychology major from Visalia, was killed in an automobile accident during the school year. Billie Jean Wiebe (pictured), English faculty, and Phillip Collier, psychology faculty, presented the degree.
MAKING A LITTLE HISTORY

On Friday, April 23, and Saturday, April 24, FPU’s Cockerham Track was the site of the 2004 Golden State Athletic Conference Track and Field Championship. This was the first time in the 18-year history of the conference that the FPU hosted the championship. FPU’s women finished third in the team standings for the fifth consecutive season behind Azusa Pacific University and Point Loma Nazarene University.

Sunbird men finished second on the strength of senior Ben Bogdanof, behind APU and ahead of PLNU. Bogdanof competed in eight individual events and two relays for the Sunbirds. The senior decathlete from Clovis won three events and placed fifth or better in the other seven. This effort equaled the men’s best finishes, in 1991 and 1992.

Maryann Brinkman, a junior from Visalia, won the heptathlon. Brinkman won three of the seven events, including the 100 meter hurdles, high jump and long jump. Her 3,666-point total was a track record.

Russell Zulim, a freshman from Dinuba, was the surprise winner in the triple jump with a mark of 43’ 10”.

Tahnee Emerson, a junior from Porterville, won the long jump competition with a new Cockerham Track record of 17’ 11.50 inches. It was Emerson’s third consecutive GSAC long jump title. She also placed in the triple jump, seen here.

Shlomi Ben-Shushan, a junior from Kfar-saba, Israel, was a double winner for the Sunbird men. Ben-Shushan won the shot put (48’ 8.25”) and the hammer throw (188’ 1”).

Senior decathlete Ben Bogdanof saved his best for last. On this, his final attempt, Bogdanof unleashed a Cockerham Track and FPU record throw of 215’ 11” to win the javelin competition for the third consecutive year. Bogdanof was also the GSAC champion in the 110 meter high hurdles (14.58) and the 400 meter intermediate hurdles (55.16).

For complete results of the 2004 GSAC Track and Field Championship, log on to the FPU sports website at: http://athletics.fresno.edu/

BASKETBALL SCHOLAR-ATHLETES
The women’s basketball team yielded four NAIA Scholar Athletes. From left: Anna Horn, Sheila Kamps, Jane Gillespie and Maurecia Clark.

THE BIG FOUR
Four Sunbirds took home team awards for 2003-2004. From left Ben Bogdanof (outstanding senior), Amanda Kamps (outstanding freshman), Sheila Kamps (Sunbird of the year) and Trish Morgutia (scholar-athlete).
Ken Blanchard is the co-author of *One Minute Manager*, still a best seller more than 20 years after its publication, and 16 other books. He is also chairman and chief spiritual officer of The Ken Blanchard Companies—a global leader in workplace learning, employee productivity and leadership and team effectiveness. A guest lecturer at his alma mater, Cornell University, Blanchard has appeared on television programs including “Good Morning America” and “The Today Show,” and has been featured in Time, People, *U.S. News & World Report* and a host of other popular publications.

For more information, check the FPU website at http://www.fresno.edu/campusnews/business04.html

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