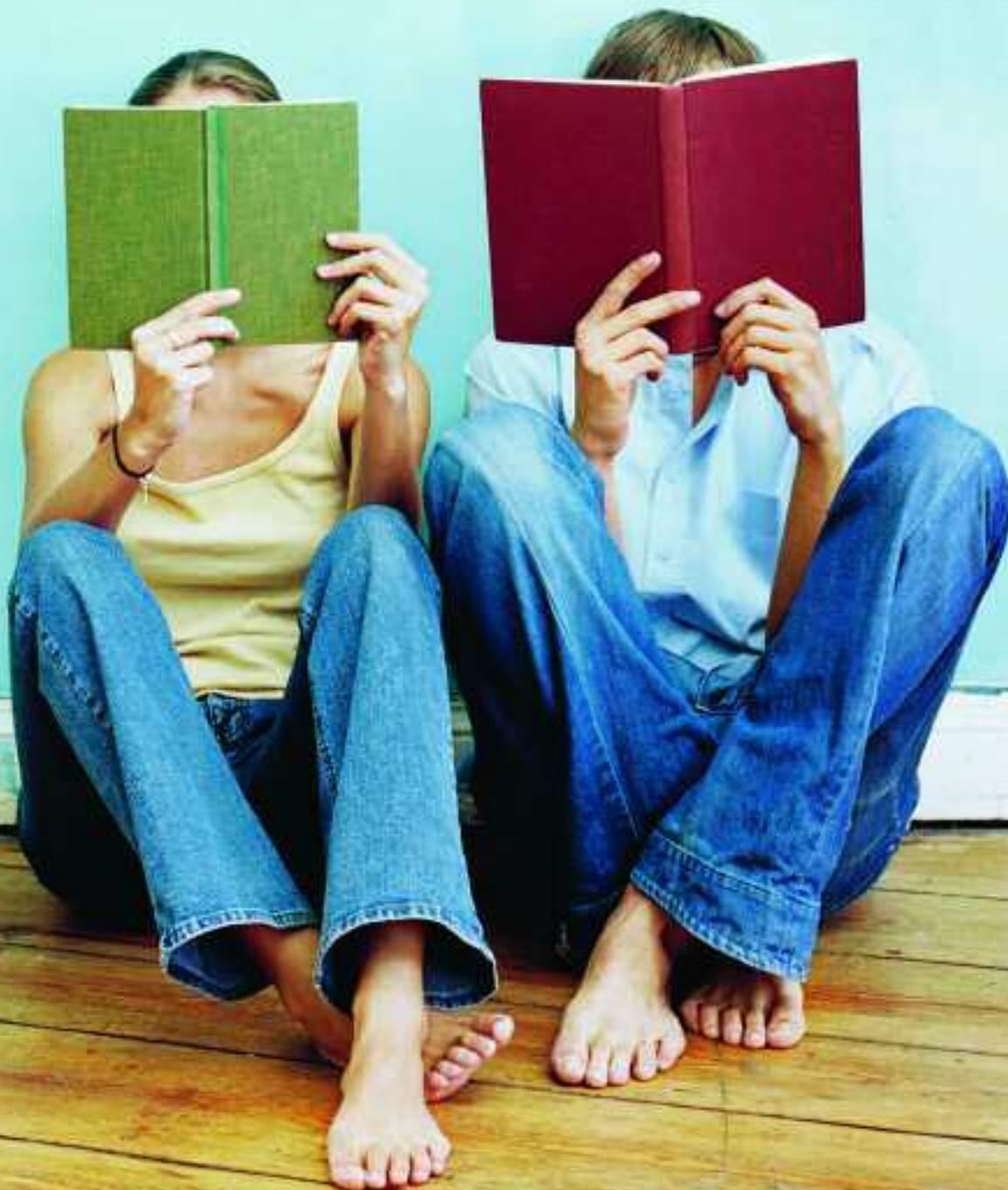


Fall 2006

BIOLA

C O N N E C T I O N S

12 Must-Read Books RECOMMENDED BY BIOLA FACULTY



Iran's President

Religious Liberty

Bad Movies

Student Contract



My Book Recommendation

If you have ever been to my office, you have noticed all the books that line my shelves. In fact, I ran out of wall space and had to build an annex outside of my office that houses hundreds more.

Often when I have a visitor, they ask me if I have read them all and I reply, "Not all of them, but almost all of them." The exclusions would be the multivolume commentaries where I haven't gone through each page, but refer to them when I am working on a sermon or for my own curiosity.

In this issue of *Biola Connections*, we have asked 12 faculty members to recommend one book from their disciplines of which all of our readers would benefit, and the editors asked me to do the same.

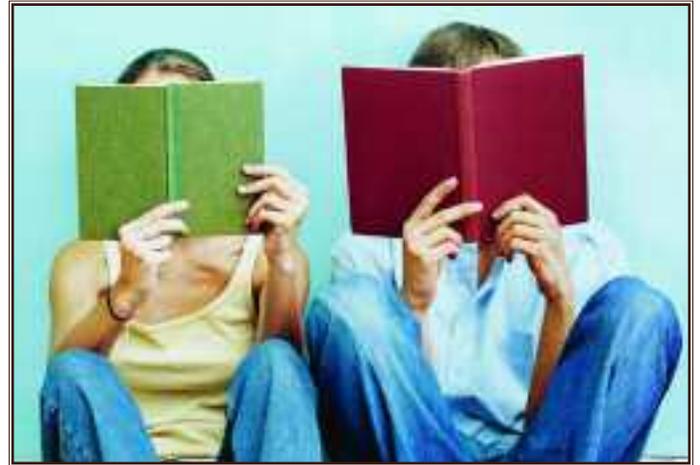
This is a formidable task, as there are so many books that I could recommend and have recommended to various people at different stages of their lives. However, if I had to choose one author, it would be F.W. Boreham, who has written so many wonderful books and, of all his writings, the one that I use over and over again is *The Luggage of Life*. My father gave this book to me as a teenager, and I had no idea how much I would use it and how often I would share various parts of it.

Perhaps the chapter that I use the most is called, "The Tireless Trudge." In this chapter Boreham discusses "which is the most trying part of a long journey"? Is it the initial steps, the final stage or the middle part? He uses both *The Pilgrim's Progress* and Isaiah 40:12-31 to illustrate his point. Another wonderful chapter in the book is "Our Highway Robberies," where he shares several illustrations of people being robbed or facing calamitous events and, yet, having a perspective on the eternal.

The book, originally published in 1912, has been reprinted by Kregel Publications and, if you can get a copy of it, I would urge you to do so. At least as I write this today, that would be my recommendation.


President

FEATURES



10. Twelve Must-Read Books: Your Back-to-School Reading List Recommended by Biola Faculty



20. The Biggest Threat to Religious Liberty

By Michael H. Koby ('88)

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06. READER MAIL

You tell us.

07. ASK AN EXPERT

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Biola Connections is published quarterly by Biola University's Department of Integrated Marketing Communications and is sent to alumni, parents, supporters and friends of the University. Biola's mission is biblically centered education, scholarship and service – equipping men and women in mind and character to impact the world for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Send correspondence to: *Biola Connections*, 13800 Biola Avenue, La Mirada, CA 90639-0001, e-mail connections@biola.edu or call (562) 906-4516. For address changes, e-mail alumni@biola.edu or call Constituency Records at (562) 903-4774.

Staff: Editor in Chief, Rob Westervelt; Managing Editor, Holly Pivec; Design, Dwayne Cogdill / Cognition Design; Copy Editor, Amy Leonhardt ('01); Editorial Board: Rick Bee ('79, M.A. '90, Ph.D. '01), Dwayne Cogdill, Adam Morris ('90, M.A. '97, Ph.D. '02), Irene Neller, Holly (Peters, '99, M.A. '05) Pivec, Rob Westervelt (M.A. '97), Wesley K. Willmer



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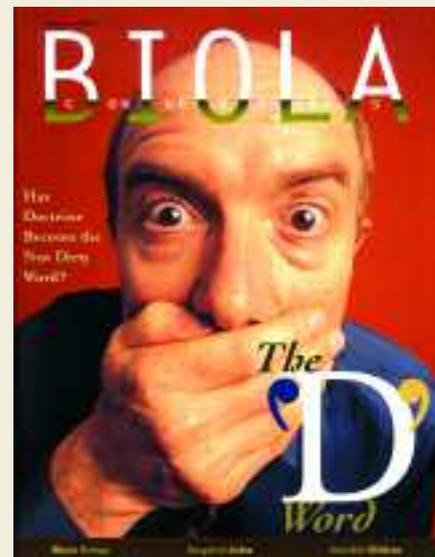
On Set

Several Biolans took part in an independent film—a comedy titled *Growing Out*—shot in Biola's Warren Studio over the summer. The set was designed by Shari (Karstensen, '01) Ratliff, whose husband, Graham, directed the film. Other alumni who participated were Andrew Wahlquist ('00) (production manager) and Tom McCarty ('96) (1st assistant camera and steadicam operator). Four students also helped: Robert Ferguson (2nd assistant director), Nate Udall (digital image technician), Melissa Cobb (2nd assistant camera) and Beth Avery (production assistant and intern).

Too Culturally Sensitive

I very much appreciated Holly Pivec's piece, "The 'D' Word." I found it objective and balanced. It seems to me that the emerging church movement has it right and wrong all at the same time. They are looking for "more" because they (the seekers of God) are not finding Jesus in the church. They say that there is too much doctrine and not enough action, but the problem is the doctrine is being heard but not done (James 1:22) much of the time, and it starts with each one of us spending time alone with God, in His Word, everyday. They seem to think that the church is not culturally sensitive enough. The problem in the American church, at least, is there is no difference between much of the "church" and the world. It is too culturally sensitive. We don't need less doctrine or watered down doctrine, we need the real doctrine of being doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving ourselves.

Marc Pinneo
Tustin, Calif.



Marriage Statistic Misleading

I want to applaud your editorial staff for the unique service you render to alumni and other constituents through *Biola Connections*. The articles are well written, intensely interesting and timely. But the best thing about your excellent magazine is that it consistently deals with subjects that no other publications that I'm aware of are addressing. However, I would like to suggest that the oft-quoted statistic about the failure of Christian marriages is misleading. It may be true that as many Christian marriages as non-Christian marriages do fail. But we must keep in mind that more non-Christian couples are living together without the benefit of marriage than are their Christian counterparts, a statistic that is not factored into official marriage records. More often than not, these "pretend marriages" do not endure, but they are not recorded as divorces. I think we undermine the many advantages of Christian marriage when we quote the statistic without the above caveat.

Ken Bemis ('54)
Placentia, Calif.

Alarming and Appalling

As a survey of the state of doctrinal understanding in the church, your article "The 'D'

Word" was both alarming and appalling. If we don't pass on the historic doctrines of the faith, we don't pass on the faith. Let's not forget that we have been down this road before. When the higher critics threw out the miraculous because their pea brains could not take it in, mainstream churches began to treat the signs of Christ's divinity as myths. Inexorably, Christ became just another great teacher, and all those stories became symbolic tales of moral uplift. The latest challenge to the Trinity could not have come about if the evangelical church had not neglected church history.

Marita Vargas ('80)
Napa, Calif.

What Doctrine Fanatics Missed

Thank you for your excellent article on the apparent growing disfavor with formal doctrine. The quotes and observations you chose are well taken. Having spent the majority of my adult life leaning toward the fundamentalist side of evangelicalism, I've observed for years the current rejection of "seminary" doctrinal statements the size of dictionaries. I took all those "right" classes at Bible college then spent 18 years in a church in the General Association of Regular Baptist

Churches. At this point in my life, I honestly can't remember most of the intellectual rabbit trails I got graded on; they just aren't relevant to living a day at a time in the presence of Jesus. The church of which I'm now a member (and totally condemned by my Baptist acquaintances) states simply, "Loving God, Loving People" — the Great Commandment. Most of the "doctrine" fanatics have completely missed that one.

Bob Edgar
Monmouth, Ore.

I Was Startled

Today we received the summer edition of *Biola Connections*. I was startled and dismayed to see such a clean, but homely, large face on the cover. We enjoyed the variety of thought-provoking articles in *Biola Connections*. But there must be a more attractive way to get our attention. On page 28 is a display of past *Biola Connections*, and I notice a lot of them have a lot of large faces on them, too. I plan to put this magazine face down on our reading table. Hopefully the next issue will have more eye appeal.

Louise DeVries
Seal Beach, Calif.

What Should Christians Know About the Religious Views of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad?

Most people know about world leaders' concern over Iran's nuclear program, but what many people don't know is the role religion plays in Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's decision making. *Biola Connections* asked two experts on Islam, Jeff Morton (D.Miss. '03) and Josh Lingel (M.A. '00), to explain Ahmadinejad's views.

Explain Ahmadinejad's religious beliefs.

Ahmadinejad is a "Twelve-Imam Shia" (also known as a "Twelver"), the largest sect of Shia Islam and Iran's state religion. Shia Muslims are a minority sect in Islam and are ignored by most Western academia and media. Yet, Shias remain influential, representing 10 to 15 percent of Muslims worldwide. They are the majority religious population in a number of countries including Iraq, Iran, Azerbaijan, Lebanon and Bahrain. In addition, major minority populations of Shias exist in other countries, including Pakistan, India, Turkey, Nigeria and China. Within the Twelver sect, there is great eschatological expectation related to the return of a messianic figure called the *Mahdi*. The Iranian president believes he is preparing the way for the Mahdi's return. During most of his major speeches, Ahmadinejad refers to the Mahdi, including a UN speech in September 2005 when he shocked world leaders by using his platform, not to allay their fears over his nuclear program, but to preach about Iran's apocalyptic struggle against the West and to pray for the Mahdi's return. Later, he claimed an aura of light surrounded him during the speech and that the world leaders appeared spellbound by his message. But the world leaders said their astonished faces didn't indicate openness, but alarm.

Who is the "Mahdi" and what is a "Twelver"?

Twelvers believe the Mahdi is the 12th Imam (Shia leader) in succession after the first Imam, Ali (Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law). According to a popular tradition, the 12th Imam, Abul Qasim Muhammad, was born to the 11th Imam in 868 A.D. The Muslim leaders were not aware of his birth, however, so when the 11th



UPI Photo / Mohammad Kheirkhan

The religious views of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, which aren't widely known, play a major role in his policy making.

Imam died, his uncle, Ja'far, became the official 12th Imam. But when Ja'far went to recite the funeral prayers for the deceased 11th Imam, a young boy came forward — Abul Qasim Muhammad. When asked who the boy was, Ja'far claimed he didn't know. From that time on, the boy disappeared into a well and went into "occultation" (hiding) from his enemies. Many Shias believe he is alive to this day, his life having been miraculously prolonged by God. He has remained hidden, however, until an appointed time. Shias believe the 12th Imam, or the Mahdi, is the Lord of the Age and is sovereign over the affairs of men. Further, he will return from the heavens shortly before the Day of Judgment with Jesus behind him, leading the righteous in a battle to defeat his enemies. Then he will restore *Sharia* (Islamic law). Faithful Shias pray for his return near the "Well of the Occultation" at a mosque in the village of Jamkaran.

Why do Ahmadinejad's beliefs concern world leaders?

World leaders believe Ahmadinejad is linked to a secretive Iranian group called the "Hojjatieh Society," which was banned by Ayatollah Khomeini in the early 1980s. The society believes the Mahdi's return can be hastened by

the creation of chaos on earth. (According to Shia prophecies, an apocalyptic scenario will precede the return of the Mahdi.) This is a reason world leaders fear nuclear weapons in the hands of Ahmadinejad, who has openly stated that Israel must be "wiped off the map." Some world leaders have speculated that Ahmadinejad's defiance of world leaders is intended to provoke a war to speed up the Mahdi's return, according to a Jan. 14 article published in the (U.K.) *Telegraph*.

Jeff Morton (D.Miss. '03) and Josh Lingel (M.A. '00)



are adjunct professors at Biola teaching in the field of Islamic studies. Morton teaches courses in the School of Intercultural Studies. He has a doctorate in missiology from Biola. Lingel teaches in the biblical studies department, M.A. Christian Apologetics, and Talbot School of Theology. He has a master's degree in philosophy of religion and ethics from Talbot and a second post-graduate degree in "Islamic History: Islamic Societies and Cultures" from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London.

Freshman Brittany McCombs Sparks National Free-Speech Debate



Freshman Brittany McCombs made several media appearances after her controversial graduation speech in June.

Brittany McCombs, an incoming freshman at Biola this fall, found herself at the center of a national media storm after her graduation at Foothill High School in Clark County, Nev., in June.

The debate started when McCombs, who was a graduating valedictorian of her class, made references to God and Christ in her speech.

Previously, the school had previewed the speech in written form and edited out references to her Christian faith. McCombs agreed to the revisions, but later decided to include them in her speech. When school officials realized she was giving the unedited speech, they cut the sound on her microphone, receiving angry boos from the crowd of 400 graduates and their families. The local news stations immediately received a number of complaints from attendees who were angry that McCombs wasn't allowed to finish her speech.

News of the incident soon swept the country in a flurry of heated debate over issues of free speech and the separation of church and state. The story was covered by a number of major media outlets who interviewed McCombs, including FOX News' "Hannity & Colmes,"

MSNBC's "The Today Show" and "Scarborough Country," and the Associated Press.

McCombs told *Biola Connections* that she had no idea the amount of controversy her speech would spark. She said she regretted lying to school officials, saying she felt turmoil as she wrestled with her decision to give the original speech.

"I wanted to tell my classmates about the impact that Christ had on my life," she said. "He's been the source of all of my success. It was like they were telling me that I couldn't say how my mother impacted me because her name is too offensive."

Gary Peck, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Nevada, spoke with *Biola Connections*, defending the actions of the school officials. "It is inappropriate to be using the graduation podium as a pulpit," Peck said. "It was a school-sponsored event, and she was plainly proselytizing. She was expressing how the people in the audience should be relating to God."

Kevin Lewis, an assistant professor of theology and law at Biola's seminary, Talbot School of Theology, disagrees with Peck, say-

ing, "The school was clearly not endorsing her religious speech. She was not an official representative of the school. She was simply chosen to give a commencement address because she was a class valedictorian. Therefore, to deny Brittany the right to express her viewpoint — that Jesus Christ is the key to success in life — was a violation of her inalienable constitutional rights."

McCombs told *Biola Connections* that she has received overwhelming support from people all over the country, including atheists, who believe her rights to free speech were violated. McCombs' attorneys are reviewing her case to determine if they will take further legal action.

McCombs was accepted into Biola's Torrey Honors Institute and plans to major in journalism.

"Biola really impressed me," she said, adding that she was especially impressed with the University's commitment to truth. "This school is all about seeking truth and not being afraid of seeking answers because it believes that, in the end, the truth will lead to Christ," McCombs said. — *Joel Bergman*

Talbot Extends Its Reach

Biola's seminary, Talbot School of Theology, will soon begin offering programs in Kiev, Ukraine, and Manhattan, New York.

Next March, a master of arts degree in biblical and theological studies will be offered in Kiev, in partnership with Kiev Theological



Alumnus Cast in *Pirates of the Caribbean*

Seminary. Classes will be taught by faculty from Talbot's main campus and from Kiev Theological Seminary along with newly hired faculty from European countries.

The decision to open the extension site was made after Talbot officials learned of Kiev's need for western-style biblical training for pastors, according to David Miller, Biola's associate director of graduate admissions. The classes, however, will be adapted to the Ukrainian culture, Miller said. The "Cults of America" class, for example — which is a required class on Talbot's main campus — will be revamped to focus on cults that are growing in Ukraine, like Mormonism. Also, apologetics issues that are addressed in the



Jay Tapaoan ('03) spent a month on the Caribbean island of Dominica acting the part of a cannibal for the filming of *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*. He auditioned for the role after learning that Walt Disney Studios was seeking young actors who looked like Pacific Islanders. Tapaoan, who majored in film/television/radio/journalism at Biola, said his acting and improvisational experience while he was a student helped land him the role. Each day, he had to arrive at the set at 3 a.m. to have four hours of make-up applied. Tapaoan said it was an "amazing experience" to work with such talented people, including Johnny Depp. "I was just a sponge during those days, just trying to soak up anything I could from these amazing actors," he said. Watch an interview with Tapaoan online (www.biola.edu).

Applications Reach Record High

Biola received another record year of applications in 2006, a total of 4,133, up from 3,875 in 2005 — a 6.7 percent increase. Since three years ago, applications to Biola have increased 23 percent (738 applications). The undergraduate programs received 199 more applications this year, and the graduate programs received 56

more applications. The average high school GPA of incoming freshmen in 2005 was 3.53 and the average SAT was 1125.

Biola Offers Classes in the OC

This fall, Biola opened an extension site in Orange County, Calif., offering three adult degree programs in Biola's School of Professional Studies: a B.A. in psychology, a B.S. in organizational leadership and an M.A. in organizational leadership. It also offers Bible electives. The site is located at 24422 Avenida de la Carlota in Laguna Hills. Other Biola sites are located in Chino, Inglewood, San Bernardino, San Diego and Thousand Oaks. For more information, call (562) 903-4712.

Alumnae Recognized in Photography Contest

Two art students who graduated this past spring, Marilyn Foute and Jennifer Yount, were finalists in Photographer Forum Magazine's "26th Annual College Photography Contest." Their photos — a color portrait by Foute and a black-and-white landscape by Yount — were published in the *Best of College Photography Annual 2006*. Over 28,000 photos were entered in the contest. See photos on page 38.



curriculum will be relevant to Ukrainian culture, like the prevalence of superstition in local villages. Miller expects 15 to 20 students during the program's first term.

As soon as Talbot receives approval from the State of New York, it plans to open another extension site in Manhattan, offering a master of divinity in Messianic Jewish studies. Offered in partnership with Chosen People Ministries, this degree will be tailored for Messianic Jewish Christians and those who reach out to Jewish people, according to Miller. About 15 to 20 students are expected for the first term, and the classes will be taught by Talbot faculty and faculty from Chosen People Ministries.

Talbot's enrollment has grown over 19 percent since 2003.

Twelve Must -

RECOMMENDED BY BIOLA FACULTY

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "A man is known by the books he reads." People are always seeking suggestions on what to read. With a new school year starting, what better time to give *Biola Connections* readers book recommendations? ● Twelve professors from Biola's six schools gave us their top picks — one book per month.



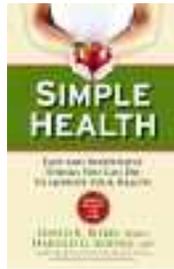
Read Books

The professors were given a tough task: Of all the books you've read and assigned, choose just one related to your discipline that you think is both valuable and accessible. The reasons for their selections varied — some chose books to stretch and challenge readers, some to provide insight, and others to equip and develop them — professionally, personally and spiritually. ● All their choices were reflections of themselves. ● Now, go hit the books!





Marc Apkarian, Ph.D.



Health

Simple Health: Easy and Inexpensive Things You Can Do To Improve Your Health (Siloam Press) by David Biebel and Harold Koenig

Marc Apkarian, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, Health and Physical Education

About Apkarian: Apkarian is an advocate for holistic health development that results from Christian perspectives, emphasizing spirit, mind and body. His academic and professional background is in exercise physiology, the scientific study of how exercise affects the human body acutely (short term) and chronically (long term). He wrote his Ph.D. dissertation about the immediate effects of weight lifting on blood pressure and heart rate, titled "Continuous Assessment Of Blood Pressure During Weight Lifting Using Arterial Tonometry."

Why this book? It's simple to understand, practical to apply and sound in its rationale. *Simple Health* does a terrific job of addressing the role of multiple factors in healthy living, including sense of humor, creativity, stress management, physical exercise and rest, proper diet, nurturing of relationships, selflessness, and living according to your Creator's purpose for your life. Every time I thumb through it, I seem to encounter yet one more valuable point to consider about health.

One caution: I have no glaring warnings, but readers who enjoy dissecting spiritual minutia may have some philosophical departures from certain perspectives of the authors. In my opinion, that may arise largely due to matters of semantics, as the overall spirit of the book in promoting "well-rounded" health is excellent.

Recently read: *Dinner With a Perfect Stranger* by David Gregory

Advice for students: Be intentional. To get anywhere in life — with school, a career, health or even to experience spiritual growth — intentionality has to be there.

Fun facts: I prefer reading outdoors. Also, I'd like to write a book about the health benefits of resistance training.

History

A Short History of Renaissance and Reformation Europe: Dances over Fire and Water (Prentice Hall) by Jonathan Zophy

Leland Edward Wilshire, Ph.D., Professor of History

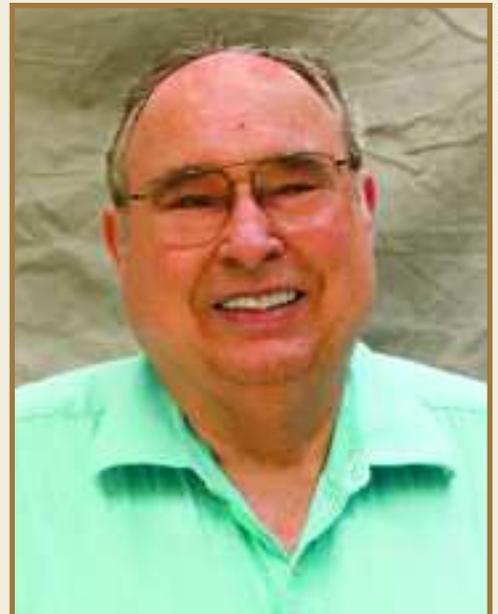
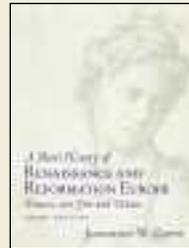
About Wilshire: Wilshire became fascinated with Renaissance and Reformation history in college one semester when he took an integrative course in which all his classes tied into these two movements, including art, music, literature, history and theology. Wilshire — who believes there is a strand of anti-intellectualism in evangelicalism — is passionate about conveying to his students that scholarship, including historical studies, can glorify Christ. He is writing a book titled *Human Voices and Institutional Structures in Thirteenth-Century England*.

Why this book? The book combines scholarship with excitement. By the metaphor "dances," Zophy means to convey that the leading individuals of this era soar above earlier periods. They seem almost superhuman in their artistic, intellectual and religious achievements. By the metaphors "fire" and "water," Zophy wants to bring out the horrific aspects of the period: war, famine, epidemics, poverty, illiteracy and the torture and public executions of heretics and Anabaptists. The book also understands the power of religious conversion. For example, you cannot explain Luther unless you understand his experience of grace. Women artists such as Sofonisba Anguissola and Artemisia Gentileschi are given a place with Titian and Raphael. It is supplemented by a companion book of primary source readings, including Dante, Erasmus, Luther, Zwingli and Calvin.

Advice to readers: Become so interested in a subject that you just have to read about it.

Advice to students: I start each semester with Philippians 1:6. Many students do not realize that God is perfecting them, God is working in them, and that they are a good work, valuable and precious.

Fun facts: My favorite place to read is a large, red chair in my living room. My favorite historical character is Robert Grosseteste, a brilliant scientist and a very spiritual bishop of Lincoln, England, in the 13th century.



Leland Edward Wilshire, Ph.D.



Marla Campbell, Ph.D.

Missions and Evangelism

The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West ... Again (Abingdon Press) by George Hunter, III

Marla Campbell, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Intercultural Studies

About Campbell: Campbell recently completed a sabbatical of research on returning Europe to its spiritual roots. She also helped establish a spiritual retreat center in Tarragona, Spain. Campbell said God called her to teach when she was eight years old, when she gave her life to Christ. Later, she felt an additional calling to missions while she was reading Isaiah 6:8-9 — the famous passage where God asks who He can send and Isaiah volunteers. Campbell has written several books, including a book in progress that has the working titles, *Teaching for Transformation* or *Teaching for Change*, co-authored with Judith Lingenfelter, a Biola professor emeritus.

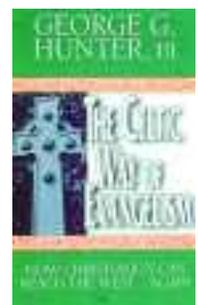
Why this book? It shows the similarity of the early centuries of Christianity in pagan Europe to the quest for evangelism in our current neopagan Western society. It's very readable and gives an intriguing connection to then and now, along with poignant suggestions for current evangelism, mentorship and spiritual formation. The Lord truly used this book to propel me into my travel, interviews and research in Western Europe over the past three years.

Recently read: *Byzantium* by Stephen Lawhead, *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen, and various books related to Celtic Christianity

Advice to readers: We all do exactly what we're intentional about and make time for. Set aside doable time allotments in your schedule to read. Don't attempt *War and Peace* for an evening of relaxing reading!

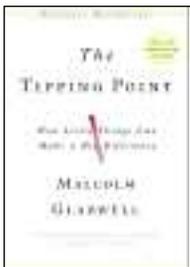
Advice to students: Be intentional. Make a God-directed plan. Don't let the secular, frenetic pace dictate what you will do or squeeze you into a mold that God has not ordained for your life. But, to know God's plan for you, you have to sit at His feet regularly and listen.

Fun facts: I love to read on airplanes, especially John Grisham novels. Other favorite places are my prayer corner at home in my overstuffed chair and the hammock in my backyard.





Lisa Swain, M.A.



Pop Culture

The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference (Back Bay Books) by Malcolm Gladwell

Lisa Swain, M.A., Associate Professor of Mass Communication

About Swain: Swain has worked in the entertainment industry for the past 15 years as a production supervisor on film projects ranging in budget from \$15 million to \$150 million. Her credits include the commercially successful movies *Big Fish*, *Anger Management*, *America's Sweethearts*, *Face/Off*, *Varsity Blues* and *Mars Attacks!* She also worked in dramatic television as the production coordinator on Amblin Entertainment's *SeaQuest* and in the sitcom world on the Family Channel's *Big Brother Jake*.

Why this book? It's a fascinating book that derives commonsense conclusions from a cross-section of studies about what motivates people in their decision-making process. One study that really impacted me looked at the motivation behind certain behavioral choices made by a group of seminary students. The study found we are more likely to make choices based on things like time availability than on our convictions. That really resonated with me. Ultimately, I quit my time-consuming career in the film industry to devote myself to teaching.

Advice to readers: I don't look at reading as something I have to find time to do. I see it as a lifeline to keep ideas alive and churning in my mind.

Recently read: *A Generous Orthodoxy* by Brian McLaren, *The Rape of the Masters* by Roger Kimball and *Sophie's Choice* by William Styron

Fun facts: When writing, I have to stew things over until I can't stand it. Then I'll write non-stop. I shop at Skylight Books in Los Angeles.

Technology

The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) by Thomas Friedman

David Bourgeois, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Information Systems

About Bourgeois: Bourgeois came to Biola after 15 years in the information technology industry because he wanted to use his skills in professional Christian ministry. He focuses on how information systems — i.e., computer technology — can be used to make organizations more effective. Bourgeois would like to write a book on the use of technology to empower churches and missions, and this topic is a focus of a campus club he started last year, called the “Biola Information Technology Society” (BITS).

Why this book? I teach business students about how technology is impacting the world, and this book neatly summarizes many of those changes. It is important to understand not just how to use technology, but also to understand the bigger picture — the context of how it is impacting things on a larger scale. The key point is that our world has changed from one where nations were centers of power to one where organizations — and now individuals — have power as never before.

One caution: The author is so enamored with how our world is changing that he does not provide insight into the negative impacts that these changes are having on what God cares about most — people.

Recently read: *Spiritual Leadership* by J. Oswald Sanders

Fun facts: I usually read three books at a time: one for my spiritual life, one for my academic or professional life, and one for fun. I read during workouts and have been known to stay up all hours of the night finishing a good book. But I don't have patience for books that don't “grab” me.



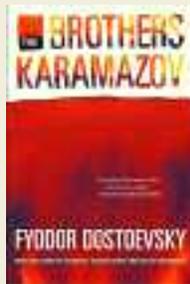
David Bourgeois, Ph.D.

Literature

The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Amy Obrist, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English

About Obrist: Obrist specializes in Russian language and literature, which evolved from a passionate interest in foreign languages since she first opened her high school German book. She became hooked on Russian literature after studying Dostoevsky and the Cold War. She is especially interested in the potential of literature to transform a person spiritually.



Why this book? It reminded me that I cared about my soul at a time when I had forgotten. I also saw from this book that my own answers to spiritual questions matter to God, and that God and heaven mattered to me. Ultimately, this book made me realize that faith is for thinking people, too.

One caution: Perhaps one should be aware that it is not an easy read, even out of sheer length.

Advice to students: Study abroad. Spend as much time as you can learning about people different from yourself. Don't try to graduate early by rushing through without the so-called “extras.” Education is not about the amassing of a certain number of credit units leading to a degree. It is time spent investigating interests that God has given you. If you are so inclined and gifted, then please go to graduate school. The world could use a lot more smart, analytical and thoughtful Christians.



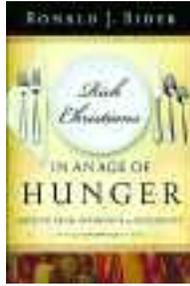
Amy Obrist, Ph.D.

Any library fines? Sore subject. But librarians are pretty nice to faculty on this count.

Fun facts: I read compulsively. I prioritize reading over things that other people tend to put first. My house is a wreck, but at least the books are right there. They are on shelves in every room, stacked in piles next to the shelves, and stacked in piles on other surfaces not meant for them. There is a shortish stack in each car and boxes in my garage and in storage.



Brad Christerson, Ph.D.



Social Justice

Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: Moving From Affluence to Generosity (W Publishing Group) by Ronald Sider

Brad Christerson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology

About Christerson: Christerson took his first sociology course while a junior in college and was shocked to realize the amount of suffering and injustice in the world — most of which, he said, was invisible to him as a comfortable, middle-class, suburban American. He is writing a book on racial and ethnic differences in the way American teenagers experience life, with Biola colleague Richard Flory and Korie Edwards at Ohio State University. He is co-author of *Against All Odds: The Struggle for Racial Integration in Religious Organizations* (NYU Press).

Why this book? Roughly one out of six people on earth are poor, hungry and barely surviving. This book shows not only that we wealthy American Christians are failing to respond to this crisis, but also that we are part of the problem. It made me question my entire way of life — the way I live, spend money, my politics, and my vision of the good life.

One caution: The author's solutions to alleviating suffering may or may not be viable. He's a theologian, not an expert in economic development.

Advice to readers: Turn off the TV and get off the Internet. You'll be amazed at how much time you'll have.

Advice to students: Let God lead you — don't over-plan your life. He has things in mind for you that you can't imagine or plan yourself right now.

Fun facts: I can't stand reading my own writing. I have to have others critique it because I get too bored to read it carefully myself. Also, I use weird things for bookmarks. I've used rocks, blades of grass, dental floss. Once I used a dirty sock — my wife was horrified.

Leadership

Integrity: The Courage to Meet the Demands of Reality (Collins) by Henry Cloud

Daniel Maltby, Ph.D., Professor of Management and Executive Leadership, Director of the Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership Program

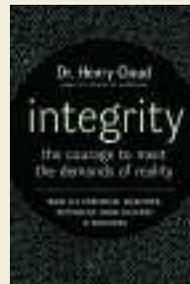
About Maltby: Maltby is convinced that there are better ways to lead and motivate people than most think. He gets excited about leadership development and helping to raise the leadership competence of working professionals. Maltby has held senior management positions in the private sector and in international Christian organizations and has 15 years management consulting experience, including serving Fortune 500 firms. He also co-founded two Christian leadership organizations, the National Network of Youth Ministries, which now has 15,000 members, and High Ground Associates, a networking association for Christian executives.

Why this book? It speaks to the issue of character in our lives, which is a big issue, not only in business, but in every aspect of our lives. Using Scripture, Cloud provides a new paradigm for understanding what character is all about and how each of us can self-assess our own character. He suggests that most of the evangelical teaching on character today focuses on moral issues and tends to overlook other dimensions, such as building healthy relationships, pursuing truth, the responsibility for self-development and more.

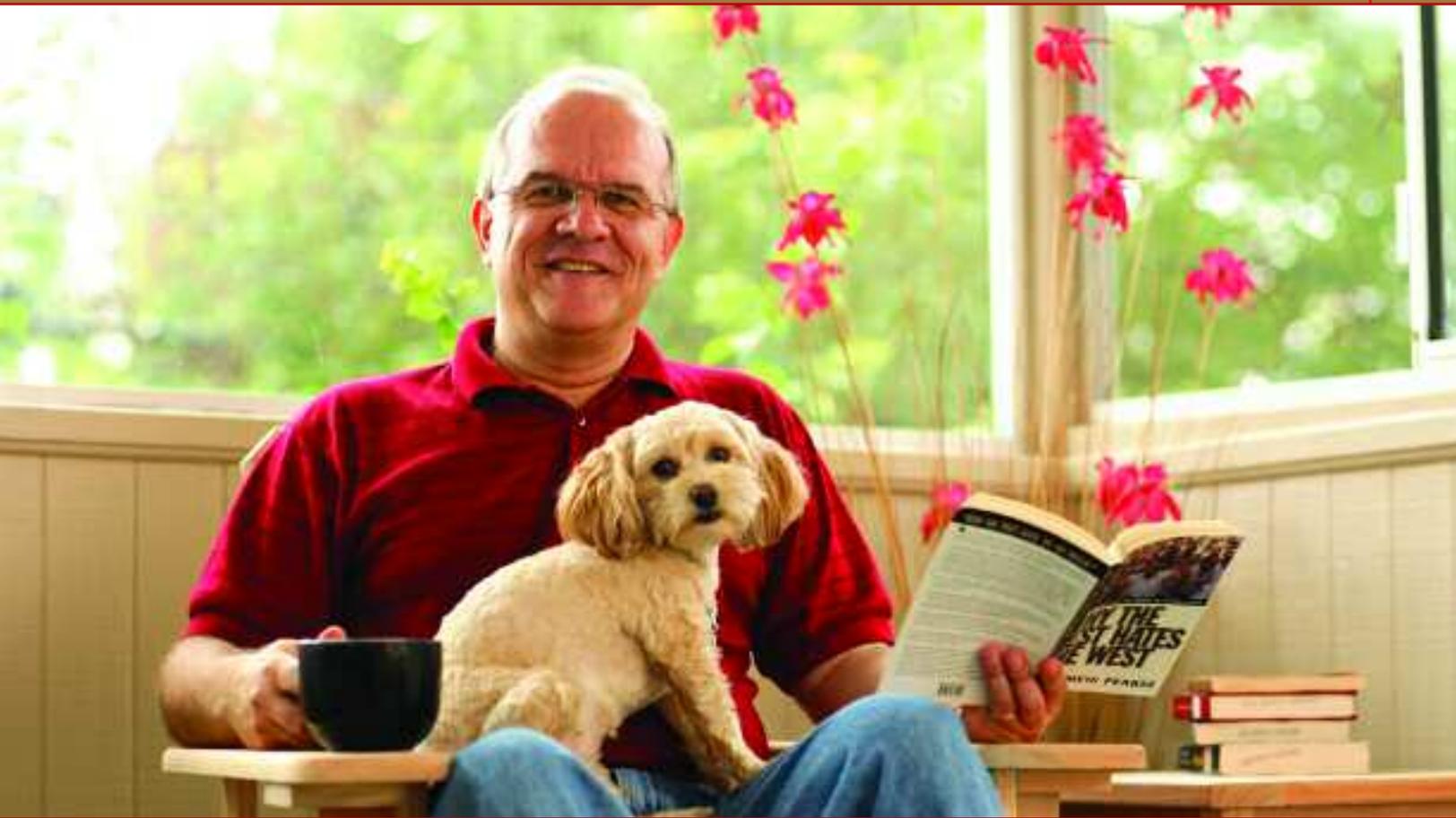
Recently read: *Management Challenges for the 21st Century* by Peter Drucker

Advice to students: Know thyself. We can't give to God what we haven't first possessed ourselves. Seek to understand what drives you, give that ability to God, and He will multiply your life with good things.

Fun facts: I find time to read very early in the morning, and I also keep "library days," when I spend at least part of a day in the library, away from distractions. Before starting a new book, I like to page through all the chapters to get a sense of where the author is going.



Daniel Maltby, Ph.D.



Steve Rundle, Ph.D.

Current Issues

Why the Rest Hates the West: Understanding the Roots of Global Rage (IVP) by Meic Pearse

Steven Rundle, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics

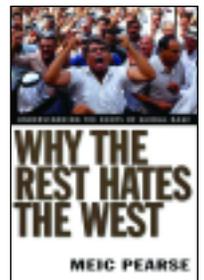
About Rundle: Rundle's main focus as an economist is on the intersection between international economics and world missions. He believes Christian businesspeople will be the vanguard of the missionary movement in the 21st century. Rundle is particularly interested in developing countries and is writing a book that looks at globalization from a Christian perspective. He is co-author of *Great Commission Companies: The Emerging Role of Business in Missions* (IVP) with Biola professor Tom Steffen.

Why this book? It has made me acutely aware of how different and threatening our Western "values" are to the rest of the world. Take "tolerance," for example. This once meant tolerating people from different subcultures who have different ideas about the truth. Today it implies moral relativism and an abdication of truth claims. People in the non-Western world who are proud of their cultures feel threatened by what they perceive as pressure to conform to Western "values" like these. It's a must-read for those who intend to work alongside people from other cultures.

Recently read: *The End of Poverty* by Jeffery Sachs, *The World is Flat* by Thomas Friedman and *Marley & Me* by John Grogan

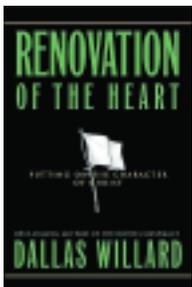
Advice to readers: Turn off your TV! My wife works in the medical field, and she says when it comes to people in their "Golden Years," it's easy to tell the difference between those who read regularly and those who don't. Reading keeps the mind sharp and keeps conversations interesting. So, whatever it takes, keep reading!

Fun Facts: I read up to six books at a time and assign 10 to 12 books to my students per school year. My favorite place to read is my porch, and I prefer to go to the mountains or a hotel for a long weekend when I write. If possible, I bring my espresso machine so I won't have to leave the room for my latte fix.





Steve Porter, Ph.D.



Spiritual Formation

Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ (NavPress) by Dallas Willard

Steven Porter, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Theology and Philosophy

About Porter: Porter believes that to consistently experience spiritual transformation, Christians must have a clear understanding of the dynamics of the Spirit's transforming work. He said teaching about this process is a dream come true for him. He's beginning to write a book on an integrative theology of sanctification. He also has a book due out in December: *Restoring the Foundations of Epistemic Justification: A Direct Realist and Conceptualist Theory of Foundationalism* (Lexington Books).

Why this book? It almost goes without saying that there is much confusion in evangelicalism on how to live life as a flourishing follower of Jesus. Some go from one "solution" to the next, others keep themselves busy "working for the Lord," while still others end up a bit apathetic to it all. Willard cuts through this contemporary situation by offering a penetrating diagnosis and prescription for our spiritual lives. You will find no superficial quick fixes or pat answers — each sentence is loaded with knowledge and depth of insight. The Lord has greatly used this book in my own formation in Christ — whether that is in becoming more kind to my wife and son or becoming more patient with the guy who cuts me off on the freeway.

One caution: This is not light reading, so prepare yourself for an intense time of study. Although I am unaware of any major disagreements I have with the book, we should always read critically.

Recently read: *The Contented Soul: The Art of Savoring Life* by Lisa Graham McMinn

Advice to students: I find my students are pretty hard on themselves when it comes to their spiritual lives, relationships with others, vocational plans, etc. I encourage them to give themselves more space and time to grow and grace when they fail.

Fun facts: I assign over 30 books to my students in a school year, and I, myself, usually have about seven or eight books going at once. But I will be lucky to finish half of those, so I try to schedule time in my day planner for reading. My favorite bookstore is Acres of Books in Long Beach.

Theology

He Shines In All That's Fair: Culture and Common Grace (Wm. B. Eerdmans)
by Richard Mouw

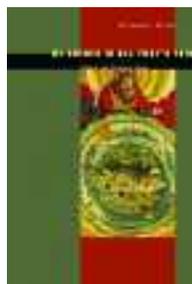
Richard Langer, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and Theological Integration

About Langer: Langer became interested in the discipline of theological integration during 20 years of pastoral ministry, as he sought to make the Scriptures and Christian faith relevant to the daily lives of the members of his church in Redlands, Calif. He and several faculty members are developing integration seminars to help students integrate their faith with their majors.

Why this book? It contains a delightful discussion of the much-neglected doctrine of common grace — the grace God extends to all people, regardless of their faith or lack of faith in Christ. By common grace, God not only provides for our physical needs by sending “rain on the just and the unjust alike” and providing “seed to the sower and bread for food,” but He also gives us the gifts of human language, culture and government. Plus, it should be on everyone’s reading list because it actually draws out coherent, practical implications from the debate between infralapsarianism and supralapsarianism (the logical order in God’s mind concerning election to salvation)!

One caution: As we deepen our appreciation of common grace, it is easy to neglect the ministry of saving grace. Such a tension should be creative and dynamic when both are firmly grasped; however, we all too often favor one at the expense of the other. Mouw’s book is certainly not to be faulted for this, but it is a danger that accompanies the topic.

Fun facts: Whenever I go through Portland, Ore., I have to stop at Powell’s Bookstore. It is the most bizarre hodgepodge of buildings you will ever see, but has a great selection. Also, I had my television set “broken” so it doesn’t get reception. Only watching DVDs minimizes my amount of TV watching, creating more time for reading.

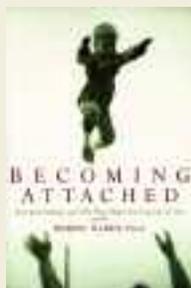


Richard Langer, Ph.D.

Psychology

Becoming Attached: First Relationships and How They Shape Our Capacity to Love (Oxford University Press) by Robert Karen

Todd Hall, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology



About Hall: Hall said he entered the field of psychology because he wanted to be involved in ministry since the church had a big impact on him growing up. Early on in college, he began to see that psychology could provide tools for understanding spiritual growth. He co-edited a book titled *Spiritual Formation, Counseling, and Psychotherapy* (Nova Science Publishers). He is writing another book, co-authored with Biola professor John Coe, titled *Christianity and Psychology: Reclaiming the Self for the Spiritual Formation of the Church* (InterVarsity Press). He is also conducting several studies on spiritual transformation, focusing on turning points in people’s spiritual growth.

Why this book? It gave me a deeper appreciation of the impact of early attachment relationships on our development. Karen has a wonderful, engaging style, and what is unique about this book is that he portrays the people behind the theorists — the personal experiences and context of each theorist that are part of the very fabric of the theory. Because of this, you get a much better handle on the theories themselves and how this impacts you personally because it’s not just abstract jargon.

Recently Read: *The Good Marriage* by Judith Wallerstein, *The Great Omission* by Dallas Willard, *Infant Research and Adult Treatment* by Beatrice Beebe and Frank Lachmann and re-read *The Developing Mind* by Daniel Siegel

Advice to Students: More than giving them advice, I try to create space for them to be where they are with God. I also try to help them understand that spiritual growth is a messy, unpredictable process and that it is important to stay engaged with God and in community even when things seem dry or stagnant — that God is working in ways they can’t yet see.

Fun Facts: My favorite place to read is the beach. I try to make it a priority to always be reading something. If I am reading for a project, then I try to set time aside and get away from my office for an extended period of time so I can focus. **Bc**



Todd Hall, Ph.D.

Louis Falik

Louis Falik

The Biggest Threat

Many Christians are concerned about lawsuits that seek to remove Judeo-Christian symbolism from the public sphere, such as Ten Commandments displays in courthouses, crosses at war memorials, and the national motto — “In God We Trust” — on U.S. currency.

These court cases certainly raise legitimate issues. But many Christians are unaware of a 16-year-old Supreme Court ruling that poses a far greater threat to religious liberty.

Employment Division v. Smith

In 1990, the Supreme Court ruled, in *Employment Division v. Smith*, that members of the Native American Church don't have a constitutional right to use Peyote, a hallucinogenic drug, as part of their religious ceremonies if the law prohibits Peyote use generally.

This ruling may not seem like a significant threat to religious liberty, since most religious groups don't encourage drug use. Moreover, in 1994 Congress passed a federal law protecting the right of members of the Native American Church to use Peyote. However, the *Smith* ruling established a precedent that could ultimately curb the religious practices of all religious groups.

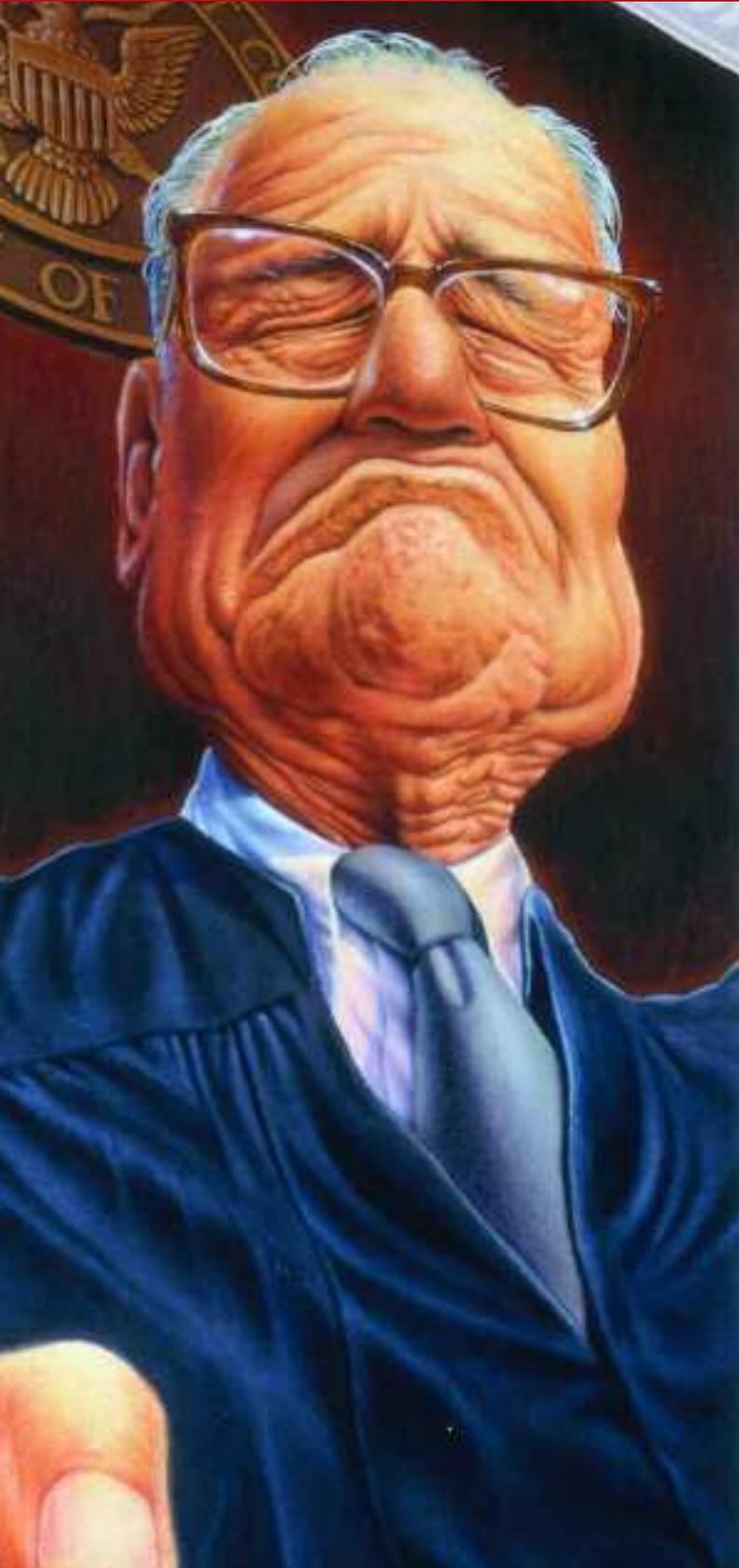
Smith pertains to what is known as the “free exercise clause.” The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution contains two clauses that guarantee freedom of religion: the “establishment clause” and the “free exercise clause.” The establishment clause prohibits the government from establishing an official religion while enforcing a separation between church and state. This is the clause invoked by those who wish to remove Judeo-Christian references from the public sphere. The free exercise clause, on the other hand, guarantees the right of religious groups to operate without government interference.

Although establishment clause cases raise important issues, they don't prevent a church or faith community from following its own religious practices in its own domain. Those practices are protected by the free exercise clause, which was at issue in the *Smith* case.

Before *Smith*, the Supreme Court held that the government couldn't prevent a religious practice — even if the practice violates a generally applicable law — unless it had a “compelling interest.” An example of when the government has a compelling interest is when it has required Jehovah's Witnesses to give blood transfusions to their children to protect the children's health and lives, even though their religion prohibits blood transfusions. But, in the absence of a compelling interest, religious groups were exempted from generally applicable laws. For example, the Amish were exempted from a state law requiring them to give up their home-based education in favor of formal schooling until age 16.



to Religious Liberty



The Impending Threat

Smith, however, paved the way for generally applicable laws to be enforced against a religious community even when harm to the community from enforcement would outweigh the government's interest. For example, a legislature could now require churches to comply with employment laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, gender and sexual orientation — without regard to the impact on churches' ability to practice their religious beliefs.

Of course, legislatures can choose to make exceptions for religious groups. That's why, as it stands now, most religious organizations are exempt from employment discrimination laws. But, under *Smith*, such exemptions are no longer constitutionally required under the First Amendment.

Consequently, the new rule shifted the power to protect religious freedom, in large measure, from the judicial to the legislative branch of government. And, while democratically elected legislatures are generally effective in protecting the rights of the majority, they have a mixed record when it comes to protecting the rights of the minority. Historically, courts have done a better job of that.

The question then becomes: What happens when the legislatures have majorities that are hostile to religion and decide not to accommodate religious practice under generally applicable laws? For example, what could a legislature require of an evangelical community like Biola? Might a legislature dictate who is (or who is not) hired? Who is admitted to the student body? What is taught in the classroom?

In response to such concerns about *Smith*, the U.S. Congress enacted the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) in 1993, which restored the pre-*Smith* protection for religious liberty. While the Supreme Court has held that Congress exceeded its authority in enacting RFRA as it applied to states, the Court recently upheld RFRA as it applies to the federal government. Several states also have passed similar statutes.

Although these federal and state RFRAs do currently protect religious groups from generally applicable laws that burden them today, the shift of power to ensure religious liberty from the judicial branch to the legislative branch may pose a threat to religious freedom in the future.



Michael H. Koby ('88)

is on the faculty of Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Mo., where he is the director of Trial and Advocacy Programs. Among other courses, he teaches "Religion and the Constitution." At Biola, he earned a B.A. in intercultural studies. He can be reached at koby@wulaw.wustl.edu.

Student Contract

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE NIGHTLINE INTERVIEW

On May 26, ABC's late-night news program, *Nightline*, featured Biola University, focusing specifically on our community commitment to sexual abstinence outside marriage. As the associate dean of student affairs and community life, I was among those interviewed by ABC correspondent Jake Tapper for the segment that aired, titled "Inside the College of Abstinence."

Many people have asked me what I thought of the segment. Overall, I thought it was very positive in its portrayal of the Biola community and our commitment to the lifestyle values outlined in the student contract. The segment captured a point I kept coming back to during my interview with Jake — the majority of Biola students don't view the contract negatively, but positively. They've come to Biola freely and willingly because they want to live a particular way, and they want to be a part of a community that shares their values. Those values include responsibility, integrity, forgiveness and confession, and submission to the instruction of Scripture, which, of course, teaches that God designed sexual relationships for marriage.

The four students featured in the segment represented Biola well. Silas Cole, for example, did a great job of expressing the reasons for his personal commitment to sexual abstinence, reasons I believe represent the majority of students at Biola — the idea that they want to give their future wives or husbands everything about them, not something that has been shared.

One of the questions Jake asked me during the interview was if Biola "kicks out" students when the contract is violated. Biola's standards and values attract a particular kind of student. Therefore, when students do leave Biola it's through a mutual process of agreement where they realize they don't share Biola's values and acknowledge Biola isn't the best fit for them. The students, in so many ways, are just normal, developing college students who struggle with the same things



any college student may struggle with. The difference with Biola students is they are making choices and intentionally desire to live a particular way with peers who have the same desires.

When students are struggling with something, like alcoholism or pornography, they often will come forward on their own, asking for help and accountability. They'll say, "I don't want this to be a part of my life." So we help them. We get them into accountability groups, or give them reflection projects to work on, and encourage them to engage with other people — whatever we can do to assist them and support their efforts to live consistently with their value system.

The Biola community is a laboratory of sorts — a safe environment — where, for four years, students get to work out their values in their lives. Of course, they may not do it perfectly, but they are seeking to become certain kinds of people, which, ultimately, is the goal of the contract. It's not about signing a "piece of paper," but we see the paper as a tool to help them achieve their goal.



Daniel Paschall

serves as Biola's associate dean of student affairs and community life.

Recommended book: A Hidden Wholeness by Parker Palmer

In Print

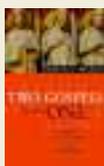
BOOKS BY BIOLANS



The Search for Satisfaction: Looking for Something New Under the Sun,

Dr. David H. McKinley (M.Div. '90), W Publishing Group, May 2006; McKinley guides readers to find the

secrets to a satisfied life by following Solomon's ultimate life search through an in-depth study of the book of Ecclesiastes.



Two Gospels From One: A Comprehensive Text-Critical Analysis of the Synoptic Gospels,

Dr. Matthew C. Williams (New Testament professor), Kregel Academic & Professional, March 2006; A major work for professors, students and pastors interested in the origins of the first three Gospels.



In Defense of Natural Theology: A Post-Humean Assessment,

Contributions by Drs. Garrett J. DeWeese, J.P. Moreland and R. Douglas Geivett (philosophy professors at Biola's Talbot School of

Theology), InterVarsity Press, Nov. 2005; *In Defense of Natural Theology* makes vigorous individual and cumulative arguments that give fresh perspective to David Hume's attacks on efforts to prove the existence of God from evidence in the natural world.



The Resurrection of Jesus: John Dominic Crossan and N.T. Wright in Dialogue,

Contributions by Drs. William Lane Craig and R. Douglas Geivett (philosophy professors at Biola's Talbot

School of Theology), Fortress Press, Jan. 2006; *The Resurrection of Jesus* brings together two leading lights in Jesus studies for a long-overdue conversation with one another and with significant scholars from other disciplines.



White House: Confidential (Revised and Expanded),

Co-authored by Austin Hill (M.A. '99), Cumberland House Publishing, Aug. 2006; Most Americans believe that in the past our presi-

dents were smarter, more honest, and behaved more like gentlemen than those we elect today. *White House: Confidential* is a clear-eyed look at America's long line of presidents, warts and all.



Bible Answers to Life's Big Questions: Conversations About Faith in Plain Language,

Co-authored by Stan Jantz (M.A., '05), Harvest House Publishers, Feb. 2006; Readers will appreciate

these questions and clear, biblical answers that offer substance and sustenance for the faith journey.



With One Voice: Singleness, Dating and Marriage to the Glory of God,

Co-authored and edited by Marni "Maren" (Haugen, '02) Chediak, Christian Focus Publications, May

2006; Husband-and-wife team Alex and Marni Chediak show that it is more important to become a certain type of person than it is to find a certain type of person.



Living a Milk-and-Honey Life: Letting Go of What's Holding You Back,

Sharon Norris Elliott ('80), Beacon Hill Press, March 2006; Learn how to make the journey from bondage

(stressful relationships, problems with children, financial struggles or sin) to deliverance and enjoy the sweetness of a milk-and-honey life.

Event Calendar

October

Alumni Chapter Leaders Conference: Chapter leaders are invited back to campus for a two-day conference on leading alumni chapters, Oct. 6-7.



Hong Kong Alumni Event: President Cook and Anna Belle will host a dinner for alumni in Hong Kong, Oct. 28.

November

Midnight Madness: Join alumni and students as they celebrate the start of basketball season, on Nov. 12, at 11:30 p.m., in Chase Gymnasium.



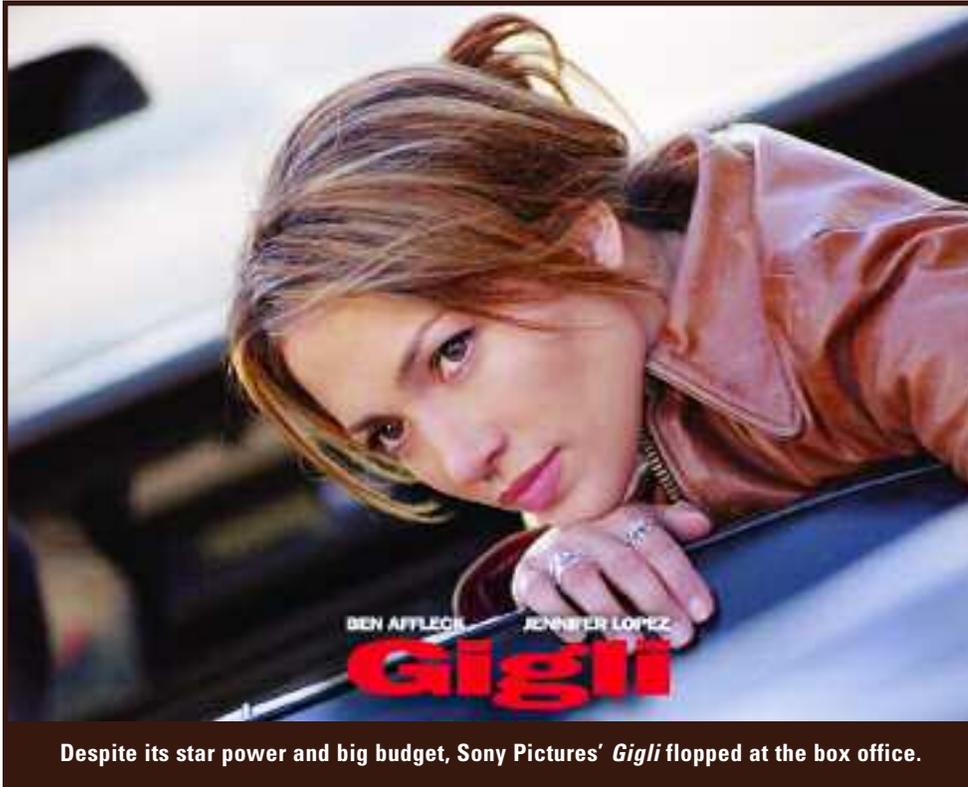
December

Christmas Tree Lighting: Alumni and friends are invited to join the campus community for this annual Christmas tradition, on Dec. 1, at 6:30 p.m., in front of Crowell Hall.

Please RSVP for events.

To RSVP or for more information, call (562) 903-4729 or e-mail alumni@biola.edu. Visit the alumni Web site at: www.biola.edu/alumni.

Why Do Bad Movies Get Made?



Despite its star power and big budget, Sony Pictures' *Gigli* flopped at the box office.

I've often been asked by students how bad movies get made. Why, for example, does a movie with huge potential — an A-list cast, large budget and good concept — flop?

To answer that question, we need to look at corporate culture. In Hollywood, a studio executive is under enormous pressure to make money for the studio and its shareholders. One of the ways that happens is when the executive can find a major star, producer or director who is attracted enough to a studio to make a deal committing several feature films to that studio. M. Night Shyamalan, for example, made three successful films, *The Sixth Sense*, *Signs* and *The Village*. Because of his signature style of filmmaking, Walt Disney Studios dangled a nice financial carrot to keep him on their roster. Yet, Disney, in a rare move, severed ties with Shyamalan when it passed on producing his most recent film, *Lady in the Water*. In reply, Shyamalan commented that, "Disney no longer valued individualism." However, *Lady in the*

Water did poorly its first weekend in release, which gave Disney executives some boasting rights. Now, Warner Brothers, who courted Shyamalan, will have first crack at his other films because they are betting on him to succeed down the road.

The same thing happens with actors. A studio executive wants to make a deal with an actor and — instead of just signing that actor to one picture — will give him or her a production office on the lot and a three-picture deal. Since that actor owes the studio films, the actor may commit to a script simply to fulfill the contract.

Another reason bad films get made is because someone, who may not necessarily be qualified for specific work, happens to be in the right place at the right time. Many years ago, over a weekend, I was helping a president of well-known production company move furniture to his new offices. When he found out I had a graduate degree in film, I was named vice president and head of development for the firm.

I started Monday with a private office on the top floor of a Hollywood highrise! In the same way, people less qualified have risen to high ranks in the industry simply because they were positioned at the magical place at the right moment. I have seen numerous deals like that go through, where people get brought into a project because they were at a lunch meeting with someone who recommended them — no questions asked about their credentials. (A good used-car salesman with very little talent can make it.) Given this, it's easy to see how a bad film could get made.

Generally speaking, it is said that a good script is needed to make a good movie. Yet, many studio executives do not read the scripts submitted, so they depend on notes from script readers — usually college-age interns — who jot down the good and bad points of a screenplay. The studio executive then talks to the director or producer as if he or she has read the screenplay but, in reality, has only relied on the "Cliff Notes" made by an intern. When a studio gets serious about a project, usually the producers and studio executives spend time reading the scripts to make a final decision.

Sometimes, when celebrities want to make big purchases — perhaps buy a beautiful villa in Tuscany or a private airplane — they will have their agents call studios and let them know of their availability to star in, say, *Tidy Bowl Man*. Their big advances will arrive shortly. They will buy their villas. They will make the films. The films will flop, but by then they are eating olives from their estate and all is well in their world.



Michael Gonzales
(Ph.D. '03)

teaches film at Biola. He has a graduate degree in screenwriting from the University of Southern California and a doctorate in intercultural education from Biola. Gonzales taught at USC as a production professor for 10 years. He has sold three scripts and optioned two and is currently directing television commercials and producing television specials.

A Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience

In July, I was privileged to be part of a fact-finding delegation of American evangelical academics and journalists invited by the Moroccan government to visit its country for one week. Our six-member delegation was organized by the Moroccan-American Center for Policy and led by Karen Prior from Liberty University; and included Tim Saxon, also from Liberty; Tanie Guy with the National Clergy Council; and Mindy and Nat Belz of *World Magazine*. We had an intensive week of meetings in Rabat, Fez, Casablanca and Dakhla, in the Western Sahara.

On May 16, 2003, local youths, inspired by al-Qaeda, bombed a Casablanca neighborhood. This home-grown extremism so shocked their nation, which prides itself in its historic ethnic and religious tolerance, that Morocco began to examine the role of Islam in its country. The object of our visit was to learn more about the issues facing Moroccan citizens as they democratize. Our high-level meetings with representatives from every segment of Moroccan society — religious authorities, government officials, female entrepreneurs, journalists, politicians, youth who have organized programs to fight against Islamic extremism in their neighborhoods, and a new group of female scholars, known as the “*alimat*” (who, for the first time,

are ranked at the same level of expertise as the male “*ulama*”) — were unforgettable.

Morocco is working intentionally to develop moderate Islamic policies for a civil society anchored in morality, modeled on the *Maliki* tradition — one of four schools of religious law within Sunni Islam — as opposed to the violent *Salafi* tradition. Morocco considers itself akin to America, where religious values shaped our ideas about citizenship and government. Morocco’s long-term western orientation has made her a staunch, though underappreciated, ally in the war against terror.

It is essential for evangelicals to understand Morocco’s political and religious history as we develop deeper and broader relationships based upon our common concerns about the pernicious effects of atheism and radical Islam on our societies. In the future, I hope that my students and I will have further opportunities to study Morocco’s efforts to ground citizenship in faith-based morality.



Judith Mendelsohn Rood, Ph.D.,

serves as an associate professor of history and Middle Eastern studies at Biola.

She has a doctorate from the University of Chicago in Modern Middle Eastern History.



Judith Rood (far right) took part in an American fact-finding delegation that visited Morocco in July.

Faculty Highlights



Dr. **Aaron Kleist** [English] was awarded \$100,000, in June, by the National Endowment for the Humanities to lead a team of international scholars in editing and publishing Anglo-Saxon homilies written by Aelfric of Eynsham, an abbot. The project is estimated to take three years. This is Kleist’s second National Endowment for the Humanities award.



Dr. **Ivannia Soto-Hinman** [education] received the “Early Career Award” from the American Educational Research Association, given to scholars with a promising career future. The award

included a stipend to help her make a book out of her doctoral dissertation, titled “Toward a Balanced Literacy Approach: Literacy Approaches for Struggling English Learners.” Ivannia also is working with two major grants that were awarded by the Haynes Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to improve the instruction at low socioeconomic schools in Southern California.



Dr. **Greg Peters** [Torrey Honors Institute] visited the Vatican Library in Rome, May 30-31, where he consulted a 13th century manuscript written by Peter of Damascus, an obscure 12th century Byzantine Christian. Peters’ research — funded by a “Research and Development Grant” from Biola — focused on investigating the dates of Peter of Damascus’ lifespan. His most recent article, titled “Recovering a Lost Spiritual Theologian: Peter of Damascus and the Philokalia,” was published in *St. Vladimir’s Theological Quarterly* in 2005 (vol. 49, no. 4).



David Washburn [music] was a featured trumpet soloist May 26 and May 28 at Walt Disney Concert Hall, performing Bach’s “2nd Brandenburg Concerto” with members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. After Washburn’s performance, Alan Rich, a music critic for *L.A. Weekly*, described him as a “first among equals, having to face Bach’s cruel demands for our enjoyment.” In December 2005, he performed the same concerto in New York City’s Alice Tully Hall with the New York Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. The society has invited David to give an encore performance at the Lincoln Center in December.



Dr. **George Alexander** [missions and intercultural studies] received an award of appreciation from the Islamic Education Center in Walnut, Calif., on June 16, for his commitment to building bridges between Biola and the Muslim community. Alexander regularly takes his students to the center so they can learn more about Islam and interact with Muslim people.

Releasing Your Grip



I read an interesting prayer the other day in A.W. Tozer's book *The Pursuit of God*. In the second chapter titled, "The Blessedness of Possessing Nothing," Tozer concluded:

Father, I want to know Thee, but my cowardly heart fears to give up its toys. I cannot part with them without inward bleeding, and I do not try to hide from Thee the terror of the parting. I come trembling, but I do come. Please root from my heart all those things which I have cherished so long and which have become a very part of my living self, so that Thou mayest enter and dwell there without a rival. Then shalt Thou make the place of Thy feet glorious. Then shall my heart have no need of the sun to shine in it, for Thyself will be the light of it, and there shall be no night there.

As I pondered these words, I was reminded of the struggle that so many believers face with

regard to their possessions. We hold so tightly to the things in life that ultimately have little eternal value — our careers, our money, our retirement accounts — all of our "stuff." Solomon, in Proverbs 3:5-8, reminds us that our trust — our security — is to be in God, not in our material possessions.

One of the core principles guiding Biola's fundraising efforts is the acknowledgement that "God owns it all." It is God who has provided us with all of our time, wealth, possessions and resources. These resources are His gifts to us — entrusted into our care to be used to accomplish wonderful things for His Kingdom.

For many months I have had the distinct privilege of working with one of Biola's donor families who has learned how to put these biblical truths into practice. They understand that God is the ultimate owner of all things, and they want to make sure that the things they hold dear are being leveraged for the Kingdom.

This family, who has asked to remain anonymous, has held a choice piece of commercial property in Southern California for nearly 50 years. The property, comprised of numerous office buildings, restaurants and retail stores, was dedicated by the family many years ago to be used by God for His glory. Recently, the owners decided it was time to evaluate the future of their business and set in place a succession plan for when they are both gone. They believed they needed a living trust and decided to call Biola for help.

As the estate plan began to take shape, there was a profound moment when the donors made the following statement: "Almost half a century ago, we built this complex and dedicated it to the Lord. We've faithfully run this business every day since, and we want to make sure that, when God calls us home, the stewardship of this property is in the hands of an organization that will use it to further the Kingdom of God. We are so thrilled to leave this business in the very capable hands of Biola University." With tears of joy in their eyes, this family was releasing their grip on a multi-million dollar investment that for decades consumed most of their time and energy. What an amazing act of obedience to God!

I don't know where this issue of *Biola Connections* finds you with regard to your personal stewardship. Are you holding on tight to the things that God has entrusted to your care? God's Word calls us to release our grip to share our material blessings with those who will use them to further His work. Biola is forever grateful for those of you who, like these donors, give so freely from the bounty of His provision. Our prayer is that God's people will continue to invest generously in the mission and vision of Biola University as we together impact the world for Jesus Christ.



Adam Morris ('90, M.A. '97, Ph.D. '02)

Senior Director of Stewardship and Resource Development
(adam.morris@biola.edu)

Warren Buffett, the Rockefellers and You

In June, Warren Buffett announced that \$31 billion of his personal wealth is destined for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and its charitable work around the world.

Within a month, a senior member of the Rockefeller family issued a statement regarding a sizable charitable gift from their family estate. These contributions will certainly go a long way in advancing the work of these charities.

The National Council of Planned Giving predicts that within 15 years, over \$25 trillion (count the zeroes) will be transferred to a younger generation through wills or living trusts. More than half of this wealth is held in appreciated real estate.

It is likely that you will be either on the giving or receiving end of this transfer. Ron Blomberg, the director of Legacy Planning Services at Biola, suggests the following steps to affect a smooth and meaningful transfer of an estate. Biola can also help make sure your financial assets support charitable causes you believe in, like the ministry of Biola.

1. Make a Plan

Over 70 percent of Americans do not have an up-to-date will or estate plan. Biola's Planning

Team provides a template for the planning process. Every home needs one, and Biola offers it to you without cost.

2. Review Your Plan

One family recently reviewed their living trust with Biola and made some minor adjustments. As time passed, they realized that their financial situation had changed, and that their children's needs had been redefined. Their charitable interests can now be more specifically defined in the future distribution of their estate. Biola has a staff of five professionals whose mission is to advance God's work by assisting Biola benefactors in personalized planning that helps you care for those you love and makes an eternal impact on the world for the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Talk About Your Plan

Parents should take the initiative to convey the provisions of their will to their children.

For assistance with your estate planning, contact Biola's Planning Team by calling (800) 445-4749 or e-mailing them at estate.planning@biola.edu.



DINA GAVRISH / GAMMA

On June 26, Warren Buffet (R), chairman of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., announced at a press conference that he would sign over \$31 billion to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Crowell School of Business Update



Summer construction of the Crowell School of Business building provided great momentum toward its on-time completion in February. What was only a foundation and framework a few short months ago is now taking on the look of a wonderful, new, campus resource. As students returned to campus, they were greeted with a facility that will soon be state of the art in technology, moving the Crowell School of Business toward a top-tier business school ranking.

Donations toward the project's budget of \$14,800,000 total over \$12,500,000, with more than \$4,300,000 received in the 2005-2006 fiscal year. The remaining \$2,300,000 is being sought from interested alumni and friends.

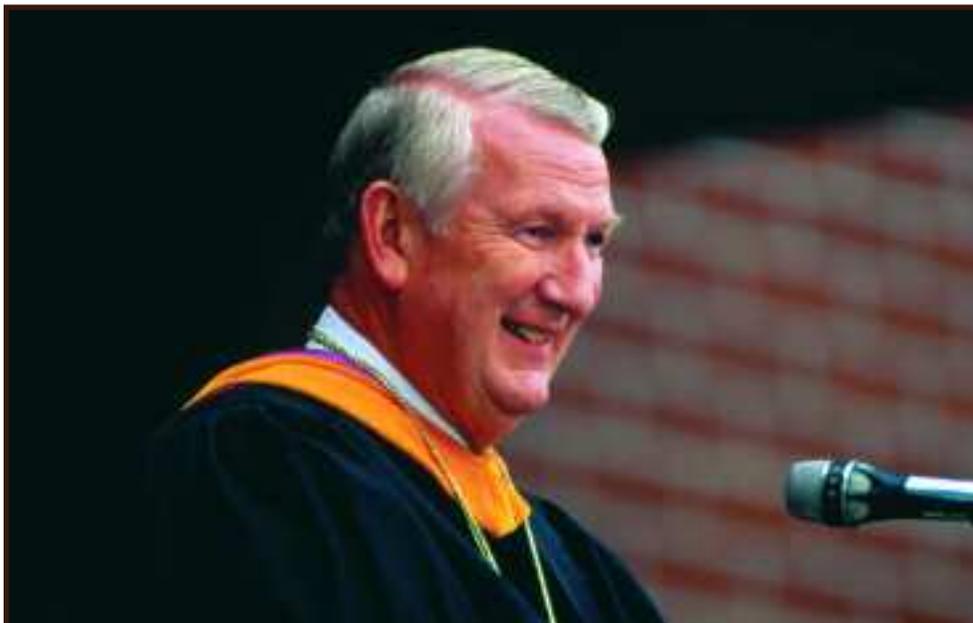
Our thanks to the many of you who have already given to the Crowell School of Business building, through the mail or by personal contact. Your partnership with Biola to make this building possible will benefit future generations of Christian businessmen and women, seeking to do business as ministry, with biblical ethics and morality not taught in many places today. And, thanks again for your consideration of how you might help with the remaining need by year-end.

To view live progress of the construction, visit the Biola Web Cam at: www.biola.edu/business

www.biola.edu/donations

562-906-4523

Selecting a President



President Clyde Cook announced in May that he will retire on June 30, 2007.

In May, after accepting President Clyde Cook's retirement, Biola University's Board of Trustees formed a search committee to find Biola's eighth president. Just writing these words makes me take a deep breath. For 25 years, Dr. Cook has guided Biola to unprecedented heights. Enrollment has more than doubled. New buildings are popping up on campus, one after another (two are in progress right now). And, all the while, he kept Biola faithful to its historical, evangelical roots.

So what kind of president can Biolans expect when Dr. Cook retires on June 30? Well, the process is only just beginning, but the Presidential Search Team (PST) — as the search committee is officially called — already has a good start.

The PST, which consists entirely of Trustees, includes alumni, parents, donors and past board chairs. There are also members who have served on presidential search committees for Christian organizations.

In June, the PST met to select a consulting firm to help with the search. People Management International was chosen for its track record in presidential searches. The PST will be

working closely with People Management partners, Rob Stevenson and Tommy Thomas, both Christians, who have led 12 Christian college presidential searches.

Some governing principles will guide the search process. It will be an open process, which means the PST will solicit advice and counsel from Biola's key constituent groups. (A Search Advisory Committee comprised of faculty and other Biolans will also be formed.) Applicants' names will be kept confidential during the process in order to attract top-tier candidates. And the PST will be careful to maintain stability throughout the process to help ensure a smooth transition.

According to PST chair, Stan Jantz (M.A. '05), Dr. Cook gave the team ample time to complete a national search for his successor. He also admired the president's timing in announcing his retirement.

"He could have waited until after Biola's 100th year in 2008, but he decided to serve Biola's future by giving his successor the momentum of coming on board on the cusp of that momentous event," Jantz said.

The PST hopes to select a candidate before

Dr. Cook's June retirement. But several challenges await them. First are the conceptual challenges. The PST needs to convey Biola's goals and vision, not only to potential candidates, but also to alumni, faculty, staff and supporters, who will help the PST identify potential candidates. At first glance, this doesn't sound too difficult. But when you look at the complexities of Biola's vision to be a global center for Christian thought and spiritual renewal in a decidedly conservative evangelical context, you begin to see the unique challenges of clearly communicating this vision to those outside.

And then there's the interview process itself. Those familiar with the faculty hiring process at Biola know how stringent it is (see "What Does It Take To Teach Here?" Fall 2003). Doctrinal inquiries, educational philosophy statements and rigorous interviews will take ample time to complete and that's after the PST sifts through what Jantz expects to be a large number of applicants.

Finally, how do you begin to replace Dr. Cook, who Jantz refers to as "the dean of Christian college presidents"? You don't. Dr. Cook has been at the center of Biola's ethos for a quarter century and that doesn't include his 20-plus years of service as a Biola dean, faculty member, trustee and student. His wit, charm and pastoral nature uniquely qualified him to be Biola's president these past 25 years. But each new era has its own special needs. And this is the challenge awaiting the PST in the coming months.

"I think I can speak for all the members of the Presidential Search Team when I say that we are humbled by the enormity of the task at hand," Jantz said. "This is an absolutely significant time in Biola's history."

Please pray for the PST — that God will help them find the president Biola needs to guide the University into its second century. And thank you, Dr. Cook, for your faithfulness in helping us get this far.



Rob Westervelt
(M.A. '97), *editor*

Recommended book: Making Sense of It All: Pascal and the Meaning of Life

by Thomas V. Morris

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Sarah Rickard ('06)



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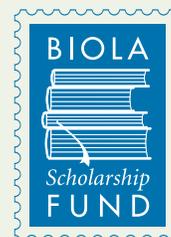


Aaron Warkentin ('06)

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Wish You Were There

In July, the Alumni and Friends Department hosted our first Alaskan Cruise aboard Holland/America's msWesterdam with 75 of our alumni, parents and friends. The trip was an incredible opportunity to see what God has created and to learn from apologist, Biola lecturer and radio personality Greg Koukl. Our very own President Clyde Cook served as host and master of ceremonies for the week. The trip, coordinated through Inspiration Cruises, had the theme of "Travel With Purpose."

One of the highlights of the cruise was the amazing "Fourth of July show" of the Hubbard Glacier. This unique display of ice movement and "white thunder," as the local Natives call it, rocked the ship (literally) as 100-ton ice blocks broke from the glacier, crashing into the water at Russell Fjord. It was reported by the cruise line that the glacier activity was at the highest level ever experienced by the ship. God can put on an incredible show!

Throughout the week, Greg Koukl's teaching challenged all of us to not be afraid to share our faith as ambassadors for Christ. So often, the fear of not having all of the answers can paralyze Christians, who know they should share their faith, but don't really know how. (See "Sharing Your Faith," Winter 2004). The week's teaching helped us all learn how to ask the right questions of those we are sharing with, to study Scripture in context, and to understand the inherent

'I was reminded throughout the week of what a special place Biola University is'



Rick Bee (center) pictured in front of Hubbard Glacier with [L to R]: Ray and Lynn Walkowski (past Biola parents), Julie (Hanna, '80) Bee, and Becky (Robinson, '91) and Brian ('92) Shook.

dangers of relativism.

I was reminded throughout the week of what a special place Biola University is and how God has provided our students with some of the best Bible teaching and life preparation possible. No matter what degree our students complete, they are leaving Biola prepared to defend and extend their faith to others who may not know the Creator and Sustainer of all we saw on this incredible cruise.

If you missed Alaska, we are taking reservations for a Jan. 19 to Jan. 21 trip to Mexico in cooperation with Azusa Pacific University and Fresno Pacific University, and we are working on plans for an early 2008, 100th anniversary alumni and friends Caribbean Cruise. Also, I've had several calls from alumni who are interested in reunions aboard ship with former classmates.

If you are interested in helping put together a themed reunion cruise with your Biola friends, let the alumni department know.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the family of Eva and Charles ('86) Covington. Eva is a long-time employee of Biola, having served the University Board and the President's Office, and Charles a pastor and Biola graduate. Eva and Charles are also former Biola parents. The Covingtons attended the Alaskan cruise and experienced God's wonder and glory through His creation. Charles passed away in Seattle, having experienced first hand the majesty of the Maker, and he's now experiencing God's wonder face to face.



Rick Bee ('79, M.A. '90, Ph.D. '01)

Senior Director of Alumni and Friend Development

Want your questions answered? Rick would like to hear from you (rick.bee@biola.edu).

Alumni Events

Palm Springs, Calif.

On March 4, alumni enjoyed a catered meal at the home of Henry and Beverly ('47) Richter. This annual event has become a long-standing tradition, taking place over the past 10 years. Many of the alumni who attended graduated more than 50 years ago. President Clyde Cook ('57, M.Div. '60, Th.M. '62) and his wife, Anna Belle ('55), attended the event and enjoyed catching up with some of their former classmates.

Plano, Texas

On March 28, over 50 alumni and their friends from the Plano, Texas, chapter met at Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, Texas, pastored by Chuck Swindoll. They enjoyed visiting with President Cook and his wife, Anna Belle, who attended the event. They also received an update about the recent developments at Biola. A special thanks goes to chapter leaders, Cliff Weaver ('70), Amy (Scheevel, '92) Walz and Sid Goodloe ('95).

Boise, Idaho

On May 20, Boise alumni had a potluck at the home of Mark and Kelley (Clark, '95) VanderSys. The group discussed plans for the incoming student send-off event they hosted on July 27 (details of the send-off event were not available as of *Biola Connections* press time).

Class of 1986 Reunion

On June 24, the class of 1986 celebrated their 20-year reunion at Biola. Families enjoyed a barbecue lunch, a bounce house for the kids, and a special comedy performance by their very own classmates, David O'Shaughnessy ('86) (formerly David Ohayon) and Adam Christing ('86) (formerly Mark Browning). As students, David and Adam often performed in chapel and became familiar faces to their classmates. The duo brought back their act for this special occasion.



Palm Springs, Calif.



Boise, Idaho



Plano, Tex.



1986 Reunion

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*Must have at least 12 units completed at Biola to be eligible for membership

Where Are They Now?



Counseling Clergy

Dr. **Steven Cappa** (M.A. '90, Psy.D. '94) serves as the clinical director of Marble Retreat, a 32-year-old, interdenominational counseling ministry for clergy, nestled in the Western Colorado Rockies. The ministry was

born out of the conviction that pastors and others in Christian service have extreme job demands that can lead to burnout. They can be so busy caring for others that they don't receive care for themselves. "Over time and with unhealthy coping skills, this can lead to relational, emotional and spiritual disablement in life," Steve said. At Marble Retreat, over 3,000 church leaders from around the world have received Christ-centered, brief, intensive counseling, according to Steve. Recently, Marble Retreat expanded its services to include lay Christians. Steve's wife, Patti, serves as the ministry's executive director, and the Cappas have two grown sons, Matt and Will, and one still at home, Dave (15). www.marbleretreat.org



Hobnobbing With Authors

Laura Adams ('05) has served as a publicity assistant for Warner Books, a division of Hachette Book Group USA, in New York,

since Nov. 2005. The previous summer Laura worked as a marketing intern for Warner Faith, Warner Books' Christian division, in Nashville, Tenn. Her current job is to promote authors to the media. She said she has fun escorting them to their interviews, which have included television shows like MSNBC's *Rita Cosby Live & Direct* and Comedy Central's *Colbert Report*, where she met Stephen Colbert. "Publishing has such potential to influence culture by producing

books that make people think about important issues," Laura said, adding that, during her conversations with authors, she encourages them to think about Christianity. Laura lives in Manhattan and attends Redeemer Presbyterian Church. At Biola, she earned a B.A. in journalism with an emphasis in public relations. lauraadamsnyc@gmail.com



Leading the 'Evangelical Church of West Africa'

Rev. Bello Melton Misal (M.Div. '89, Th.M. '90) serves as vice president for the Evangelical Church of West Africa, a denomination of six million members with headquarters in

Nigeria. Bello has served the denomination for 42 years as a missionary, teacher and administrator and was appointed vice president four years ago. He is helping the denomination start a Christian university, which, he said, will be similar to Biola. "It is hoped that university graduates will impact the church and our corrupted society in Nigeria and beyond," he said. Challenges his denomination faces include growing hostility against Christians from Muslims. After satirical cartoons of Muhammad were published in Denmark, Muslims in Nigeria protested by burning churches and the houses of church leaders, including the house of Bello's brother. Bello requests prayer. He and his wife, Almatu, have eight children and seven grandchildren. misalbello@yahoo.com

Developing 'Well-Ordered' Souls

Dale (M.A. '02) and **Jonalyn Grace** (M.A. '03) **Fincher** started "Soulation," in July 2005, a nonprofit organization based in Southern California that seeks to help people become "appropriately human." They focus on "well-ordered souls" formed intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. Their tools are speaking,



performing and writing on themes related to apologetics and spiritual formation. "We're trying to focus on the steadfast floorboards of our faith and the qualitatively better life that Christ offers," they said. They often speak as a husband-and-wife team at churches, schools and conferences to secular and Christian audiences. Both Dale and Jonalyn earned master's degrees in philosophy at Biola's Talbot School of Theology. Jonalyn's book, *Ruby Slippers: How the Soul of a Woman Brings Her Home* (Zondervan), is due out next February. www.soulation.org



Helping People Worship

Dan Radmacher ('90, M.Div. '04) is a singer/songwriter and serves as the worship leader for Christ Church Pasadena in Southern California. His passion is to help people make a vital heart connection with God in worship.

In February, Dan's second worship CD was released, titled "In the Space Between." He said, "Living one's life means always dealing with the tension of living in the space between one reality and another ... and that creates the peculiar dilemma of living with uncertainty and hope, despair and ecstasy, longing and fulfillment superimposed on one another." While at Biola, he earned a bachelor's degree in vocal performance and a master's of divinity, receiving the Zondervan Outstanding Thesis award for his work on worship and post-modernity. More information, including contact details, is available at his Web site. www.danradmacher.com

Casting 'Fortune' Hunters

Cassandra Thompson ('04) travels the country in search of contestants for Wheel of Fortune. The television game show is currently in its 24th year (that's as long as Cassandra's been alive!). *Biola Connections* asked her how she got the job and if she'd give us an insider's look at this American institution.

During my senior year, I interned with Ryan Seacrest's television talk show on FOX, which was later canceled. The publicist there, John, knew I was looking for a job. I didn't know, but he sent my resume to Wheel of Fortune because he knew they had an opening. So, one day, I got a random call from Wheel of Fortune saying, "We'd really like you to come in for an interview." I jumped at their offer to become a marketing assistant.

I've been contestant coordinator since January. There are four of us who travel together to auditions. It's fun to meet people from all walks of life.

To get invited to an audition, you have to attend a Wheelmobile event or fill out an application online (www.wheeloffortune.com). The Wheelmobile, a big bus, is a traveling version of the game. They just held an event in Dallas, Texas, and 10,000 people showed up. Everyone fills out applications, which are drawn at random, allowing people to compete and participate in a brief interview. Later, we — the contestant coordinators — select people and invite them to an audition.

During an audition, we have between 40 and 100 people in a room who compete with puzzles. We're looking for people who have a good balance of excitement and focus. We call it "juice." Some people are excited and fun, but they have no focus. They call a "T" when the "T" is already up on the board. And other people are focused, but they show no excitement.

A lot of older people and families watch Wheel because there is so little television the whole family can watch together. I have a lot of

young moms tell me, "My kid learned how to spell from watching Wheel of Fortune."

Sometimes, professional gamers try to get on the show. There's a whole culture out there I never knew about — of people who go from game show to game show. Our rule is that you have to wait a year before doing another one.

In the bonus round alone, someone can win \$100,000. The highest amount we've ever had anyone win is \$146,529.

My faith has influenced my conversations with co-workers. I've gone to lunch with them and, once, we talked an hour and a half about our beliefs. Some people think that would become argumentative, but people really want to know what you believe.

Business ethics is, hands down, the best class I took at Biola because it is about the complete integration of your faith and your

work. Every now and then, an ethical issue arises when we're traveling and I'll have to decide, "Is it a better witness for me to stay with this group of people right now, or is it better for me to go back to my hotel room?"

The show goes on the road three times a year, which includes about 100 people. It's fun because about 20 of us will be on the plane at the same time. It's such a diverse group that other people look at us like, "How do all these people know each other?"

Pat and Vanna are both really nice people. I'm not just saying that. I interact with Pat a lot when we go over pronunciation on the cards he uses to introduce contestants. He'll talk and joke with us.

Watching people win \$100,000 is the most fun thing I've ever seen. It's exciting to watch on TV, but even more so in person because I spent the whole day with that contestant.

Cassandra Thompson At A Glance



Thomas Fluharty

Home: Santa Monica, Calif.

Education: B.A. in business management, Biola

Favorite Fiction Book: *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

Fun Fact: Cassandra interned with Ryan Seacrest on his, now cancelled, television talk show, "On-Air with Ryan Seacrest" (Fox).

News & Notes

1930s

Minda S. Graff ('36) has been living at the Veterans Home of California since 1990. On July 7, she celebrated her 90th birthday. Her two years at Biola introduced her to Africa Inland Mission. After five more years earning her B.S. in nursing from the University of California, San Francisco, she became a candidate for missionary service in Kenya. Not being able to raise sufficient support during World War II, she nursed at hospitals, a county health department, and as a Navy nurse stationed at Oakland, Calif., and Samson, N.Y. In 1948, she sailed for Africa, serving as a nurse at Rift Valley Academy, a boarding school for missionary children. She also set up a nursing program for the high school, taught high school sciences and other subjects, did office work, dormitory supervision, and assisted Sunday School teachers with their lessons. In 1963, Minda returned to Berkeley, Calif., after her father died, to help her mother and sister. She taught a nursing course at Merritt College in Oakland, Calif., for 16 years. She has also worked with Child Evangelism Fellowship.

1950s

Marjorie (Lamm, '54) and **Clyde Worley** recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Both are retired from Pennsylvania College of Technology. Clyde pastors Hope of Glory Bible Church in Muncy, Pa. They have five married children, 16 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

1970s

(Martha) Lynn Landweer ('75) completed a Ph.D. in sociolinguistics (by supervised research) at the University of Essex, Colchester, England, on June 9. She specialized in issues of language maintenance and shift in Melanesia, specifically in Papua New Guinea. Lynn said, "It's been a long road since I tripped up the steps to the stage to collect my Biola bachelor's degree in 1975, but the Lord has been with me each step of the way. Praise Him."

Fran Seiford ('79) reports that she recently returned from a wonderful trip to Kenya and

visited with two Biola alumni friends: Jeannie (Pontier, '79) Morse and Debbie (Danielson, '79) Nimigan. Jeannie and her family have ministered in Mombasa with Africa Inland Mission International for the past 18 years. Debbie and her family from Canada were filling in for a few months teaching art at Rift Valley Academy. Both families, their kids and Fran spent a weekend together at a safari lodge in Tsavo National Park, a game sanctuary. Fran was also able to visit separately at Rift Valley Academy and the Mombasa area. fran@stampendous.com

Charlie ('78) and **Mary Cook** joined their extended family during the summer of 2005 for a vacation to Maui to celebrate family milestones, including the 80th birthday of Charlie's father and the 50th anniversary of his father and mother, Richard ('52) and JoAnn Cook. They also celebrated the 20th anniversary of Charlie's brother and his wife, Ken ('81) and Carolie Cook; and they celebrated birthdays in the family of his sister, Connie (Cook '83) Milks. Charlie works for Delta Air Lines as a flight attendant. cook3566@bellsouth.net

1980s

Marcy Porter ('85) recently graduated from the University of La Verne with a master's in school counseling and "Pupil Personnel Services Credential." She is now a counselor at Santa Barbara High School in California. She attends Oaks Bible Church in Santa Barbara.

Bruce (M.A. '86) and **Karen (Duhn, '80) Bauer** live in the high desert north of Los Angeles with their three children. Their daughter, Heather, will be attending Biola in 2007. Bruce recently received a doctorate in biblical studies and serves in leadership to seniors at their church. Karen teaches piano and plays viola in a community orchestra.

1990s

Christina Lando ('99) is working with orphans and children-at-risk through SEND International in Sofia, Bulgaria. She said, "My love for orphans started at Biola!"

Christina would love to hear from Biolans. christinalando@yahoo.com

2000s

Tami Miller ('03) recently graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a master's degree in clinical psychology. She is also working at Genesis Counseling Service in San Bernardino, Calif., as a marriage and family therapist trainee, where she will continue working toward state licensure. She credits Biola with her spiritual foundation and her love for learning.

William Casey (Esquibel) Wells ('06) was recently accepted to the University of Southern California for a dual master's degree in business administration and real estate development. william.casey.wells@gmail.com

Marriages

Brad Traywick ('91) married Rachael Smith in a beachside ceremony on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, on Jan. 10, 2006. Following a three-week honeymoon to the island of Sicily, Italy, the couple now lives in Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii. Brad and Rachael are employed in the real estate industry and enjoy travel — both worldwide and domestic — where Brad can discover new beaches and breaks to continue his lifelong passion of surfing.

Tommy Larson ('95) married Keri Payne on May 6 in Nashville, Tenn. Biolans in the wedding included best man Timmy Larson ('03), attendants Trevor Kientz ('96), Kevin Bailey ('05), Julie (Larson, '92) Kremer and Amy (Larson, '98) Spence. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. James Larson (M.Div. '74), father of the groom. Tommy works for Rock Harbor Church, and Keri is a session singer. They live in Yorba Linda, Calif. tml_00@yahoo.com

Jennifer Kang ('00) and Steven Moon were married on July 2, 2005, in Bel Air, Calif. Jennifer recently received her doctorate in education from the University of Southern California. She works as a district literacy coordinator and lives in Playa Vista, Calif.

Akiko (Takamatsu, '00) married Shunsuke **Iinuma** on June 19, 2004. Biolans in the wedding included Yoshiko (Yamaguchi, '99) Hashimoto, Keiko (Nakajima, M.A. '97) Mori, and Maki Kano (M.A. '02). Akiko teaches piano at Christian Academy in Japan. aiinuma@caj.or.jp

Karen Boscia ('00) was married to James **Seward** on May 13 in Wheaton, Ill. Biolans in the wedding were: Jill (Harrell, '00) Marquez, Sarah Nugent ('01) and Karen (Chouinard, '00) Lowe. James is a pastor at College Church in Wheaton, and Karen works for Little Lambs Ministry. karenleeward@gmail.com

Angela (Kang, '02) married Jeffrey Steven **Stillion** on May 6 in San Francisco, Calif., surrounded by family and friends. Biolans who attended were Marisa Bottolfson ('01) and Breanna Jorgensen ('03). Angela works for Starbucks Coffee Company as a district manager, and Jeff is finishing his degree. They live in Fullerton, Calif.

Bryn ('01) and **Jaime (Fiktarz, '03) Wade** were married in July 2005. They are teachers in Downey, Calif., — Bryn at a high school, and Jaime at an elementary school. The couple wants to relocate to Kingwood, Texas. They said, "Anyone who has connections, let us know." bryn@aol.com

Wilhelmina (Mann, '02) married Matthew **Augustine** on May 20, 2006.

Derek and **Amy (Cole, '03) Brown** were married July 23, 2005, in Los Altos, Calif. Biolans in the wedding included Megan Cole ('06), Michelle Warkentin ('04) and Katie Finnerty ('03). Derek and Amy live in Sunnyvale, Calif., where Derek is a high school pastor, and Amy is a first-grade teacher.

Avisha (Melwani, '03) married Kenneth **Mpemba** on Dec. 17, 2005. Kenneth is from Malawi, Africa. Avisha and Kenneth met at church in the Bay Area, Calif., and they now live in Kasungu, Malawi, where they are part of the

Navigators ministry there. They work with a local high school, where their focus is on discipleship. They said they continue to see where God leads them in His ministries in the years to come.

Kimberly Johnson ('04) married Brady Ryan on Aug. 19.

Michael Musser ('05) and **Kimiko (Payne, '05)** were married June 10 in Seattle, Wash. Biolans in the wedding party included: Ryan Thompson ('05), Brynne Price ('05), Judy Smith ('05), Emily Haager ('05), Kimberly Graham ('05), Rachel Novo ('05), Daniel Reider ('05) and Jon Phelps ('07). Michael and Kimiko make their home in Long Beach, Calif. Michael is a freelance graphic designer and a graphic designer for Biola in the Integrated Marketing Communications department, and Kimiko is pursuing her master's degree in speech-language pathology at California State University, Long Beach.

Anna (Sorrels, '05) and Austin **Nielsen** were married on March 4, in San Diego, Calif. Biolans in the wedding were Laurel Jones ('05), Kelly (Van Deusen, '05) Wright, Becca Henriksen ('07), Jory Keller ('01), and Jeff Edwards ('98). Anna and Austin live in San Diego, where Anna works with Heart to Heart International Ministries, and Austin works with 4-D Neuroimaging. anna@hzhint.org

Births

Adam ('86, M.A. '91) and Grace **Ederly** announce the birth of their daughter, Harper Abigail.

Steven Saylor ('87) and his wife, Tamara, are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Tanner Luke, born May 1. Tanner joins his older brother, Slater (2). The family lives in Elk Grove, Calif. saylor4@aol.com

Doug ('88) and **Elaine (Ong, '90) Entz** joyfully announce the birth of Mark Riley, born Sept. 11, 2005. Mark is greatly loved by Katelyn (11), Drew (9) and Cassidy (6). The family enjoys living in

the country, outside of Wichita, Kan. Doug is self-employed and manages a feed and seed business along with his farm and orchard. dougelaine@att.net

Jon ('89) and **Karen (Hart, '89) Swedberg** joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Brooke. Emily was born March 2 and joins her big brothers, Ryan (8) and Tyler (5). The Swedberg family lives on the Monterey Peninsula, Calif., where Jon practices as an estate planning attorney, and Karen is a stay-at-home mom. They say, "We know we are truly blessed to be entrusted with our three children and are enjoying homeschooling them."

Kirk ('90) and **Valerie ('90) McCall** announce the birth of Hannah Grace on May 10.

David and **Karin ('91) Shuck** announce the adoption from Russia of their three children: Yuri Alexander, Vera Elizabeth and Polina Katherine. They joined the family in November 2003. David works for Boeing as an industrial engineer. Karin primarily stays at home, but also teaches part time at Fullerton College in Southern California. The Shuck family lives in La Mirada. shuck5@verizon.net

Greg ('92) and Marchand **Lewis** celebrate the birth of their third child, Susanna Faye, born March 7. She joins her twin siblings, Sam and Elizabeth (3).

Jason and **Janelle (Fredenburg, '93) Franz** celebrate the arrival of their son, Joseph Scott, born Feb. 27. Joseph joins his big sister, Jacquelyn (3). The family lives in St. Petersburg, Fla., where Jason works with the United States Coast Guard, and Janelle is a stay-at-home mom. jifranz@tampabay.rr.com

Andrew ('93, M.A. '96) and Gina **Garland** are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child, Jordan Nathaniel, on March 27. They said, "Jordan is truly a gift from the Lord." The Garlands live in Covina, Calif., where Andrew serves as an associate pastor at Grace Church Glendora. agarland@grace-church.com

Vance (M.A. '93) and **Deb (Wann, '96) McGee** are proud to announce the birth of their son, John Wesley, on Aug. 26, 2005. He joined his big sister, Allison Joy (3). The McGees live in Port Gibson, Miss., where Vance teaches Bible and theology at Chamberlain-Hunt Academy, a Christian military boarding school, and Deb is a stay-at-home mom. vwmcgee@bellsouth.net

William ('94) and Riva (Boersma, '98) Lee celebrate the birth of their son, Tyler William. Tyler was born Oct. 14, 2005, and joins his big sister, Mikayla (3). Will and Riva report that Tyler's life is a miracle due to several complications during labor, but the family rejoices that he is strong and perfectly healthy. Will and Riva live in Whittier, Calif., where Riva is a stay-at-home mom, and Will works as a graphic designer at a promotional company. www.totalee.net

Chris ('95) and Jennifer (Nobles, '95) Nandor celebrate the birth of Lucy Abigail, born on March 1. Chris is a programmer and writer, working for Slashdot.org, and is chairman of his district's Republican party. Jennifer takes care of the house, three dogs and three cats. Lucy joins a proud sister, Riley (4). The Nandor family lives in Arlington, Wash. biola@pudg.net

Tyler ('95) and Maggie (Roersma, '95) Williamson announce the births of Nolan Tyler and Lorien Carisse, born Nov. 23, 2005. The Williamsons live in Boise, Idaho. williamson.mac.com

Lance and **Heather (Wilson, '96) Weurding** are proud to announce the birth of their second daughter, Jordan Grace, born on May 31, 2006. Jordan joins her sister, Reagan (3). The family lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., where Lance is in commercial real estate, and Heather is a stay-at-home mom.

David and **Tansy (Cheung, '97) Ferguson** proudly announce the birth of their second son, Jacob Alexander, born Aug. 5, 2004. He

joins his big brother, DJ (2). The Fergusons live in Fountain Valley, Calif. David works as a software architect for Toyota. Tansy stays busy teaching second grade and taking care of DJ and Jacob.

David ('97) and Mary-Catherine McAlvany welcomed their first son, Decian Samuel, on May 16. David joined the family precious metals business, ICA, in 2003 (www.mcalvany.com). Mary-Catherine is a jewelry designer and stay-at-home mom (www.mjewelrydesigns.com). They live in Durango, Colo.

Jeremy ('97) and Candace ('03) Porras joyfully announce the birth of their second daughter, Alyssa Joelle, born on May 18. She joins her older sister, Janae (1). Jeremy is a full-time worship pastor at Florence Avenue Foursquare Church in Santa Fe Springs, Calif. The family enjoys living in Whittier, where Candace feels blessed to be a stay-at-home mom. jporras@fafc.org

Brett and **Sarah (Fruehan, '99) Ware** welcomed home their first child, a baby boy. Landon Robert was born May 17. Brett and Sarah are in the process of adopting him. They said they are "overjoyed and blessed with this new bundle of joy!" sarah@bridgeschurch.org

Bryan ('98) and Robyn (Rudd, '99) Staples announce the birth of Brianna Elizabeth and Olivia Morgan on Feb. 25. They join their older sister, Kailynne (2). Bryan is a high school teacher in Camarillo, Calif., and Robyn is a nursing supervisor of an intermediate care unit. staples29@juno.com

Tim ('00) and Laura (Johnson, '01) Brown are pleased to announce the arrival of Joshua Ryan, born June 11. Joshua joins his siblings, Rachel Renee and Alex. Tim works as an agent for Aflac insurance, and Laura is considering a career move — joining the staff at Focus on the Family or the faculty at Colorado Christian University — as soon as their older kids start school. The Browns ask for prayer as they consider their options. They recently

relocated to Castle Rock, Colo. They said they love living there, adding that the views are "amazing." laurasmschoir@yahoo.com

Kerry (Forsythe, '01) and Jules Edouard Nau celebrated the birth of their son, Ephraim Nicolas, on April 2. kerrydenise@hotmail.com

Ethan ('04) and Laura Hedberg were delighted to welcome their first child, Charis Christine, born June 13. They live in Santa Ana, Calif. Ethan serves as pastor of youth and missions at Evangelical Free Church in Laguna Hills, and Laura is a part-time preschool teacher at their church.

Deaths

June (Baker, '50) Kusler died on May 25 after a 35-year struggle with Diabetes 2. Her husband, Duane Kusler ('50, '53), said Biola prepared June well for her public and church services. June enjoyed her time as Dr. McGee's school secretary when Biola was located at Sixth and Hope Streets in downtown Los Angeles. Dr. McGee could never remember June's name and just called her "sister," Duane recalls. June spent her life as a student and teacher of God's Word and was a guide for many because of her insight into God's Word. She will be remembered for her prayer since she expressed her awareness of how her God showed himself to her. She became a professional floral designer, and her flowers were a weekly presentation in their church service. Singing was her joy, and she performed both classical and religious music with the Walla Walla Symphony Chorale and the Alderwood Community Church choir in Lynnwood, Wash. Her greatest joy was their grandson, Nathan, who is now serving at the Demilitarized Zone in Korea. June is survived by her husband, Duane.

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Baby Biolans



01) Alyssa Porras 02) Charis Hedberg 03) Hannah McCall 04) Brianna & Olivia Staples 05) Decian McAlvany
 06) Mark Entz 07) Emily Swedberg 08) Tyler Lee 09) Jordan Garland 10) Joseph Franz 11) Tanner Saylor

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BC Wants More Photos

Photos must be at least 1 megabyte for digital photos and at least 4" by 6" for print photos. Photo inclusion is based on space availability. Photos will not be returned.

Photo Gallery

The photo on the right — taken in Huntington Beach, Calif., by Michael Musser ('05) — was featured in the 47th photography annual of *Communications Arts*, a leading design publication. Musser earned a bachelor of fine arts degree with an emphasis in design and works as a graphic designer in Biola's Integrated Marketing Communications department.



2. Finalist, Nikon Best of College Photo Contest: Marilyn Foute ('06) took this photo in Nigeria, where she grew up, while visiting her parents who are missionaries. Foute graduated in May with a bachelor of fine arts degree with an emphasis in photography.



3. Finalist, Nikon Best of College Photo Contest: This photo is by Jennifer Yount ('06), who graduated in May with a bachelor of fine arts degree with an emphasis in photography.

Sloppy Agape

Traditionally, John 21:15-17 has been a rich source of what Bible scholars call “eisegesis” — reading into the text something the text itself does not contain.

Some faulty translations of this passage are based on the two different Greek verbs for “love” that the author, John, uses when recording a dialogue between the resurrected Jesus and Peter. Jesus asks Peter two times, “Do you love me,” using the verb *agapao* both times (vv. 15, 16). Peter responds, “I love you,” using *phileo* both times. The third time Jesus asks Peter the question, however, Jesus uses the verb *phileo*, as does Peter in his response (v. 17).

It is often argued that *agapao* signifies a higher form of love — divine, selfless, altruistic. However, the most Peter will claim for his love of Jesus is *phileo* love — friendship love. Such a reading of this passage probably accounts for the distinction the New International Version makes in its translation, rendering “truly love” for *agapao*, and “love” for *phileo*.

But this translation cannot be. In the first place, it is John’s writing style to use the verbs *agapao* and *phileo* interchangeably, without any distinction in meaning. Thus, the expression “the disciple whom Jesus kept on loving” can be based on either verb (John 19:26; 20:2). Again, when John states that the Father “loves the Son,” both verbs are used (John 15:9; 5:20). Even in verse 17 of the exchange between Jesus and Peter, John uses two different Greek verbs for “know” without any difference in meaning — “Lord you *know* all things; you *know* that I love you.”

Second, Peter could hardly answer, “Yes, Lord, I love you” if, in fact, he actually meant “No, Lord, I only like you as a friend.”

Finally, it is clear that Peter got upset, not because Jesus changed his verb in the third question, but because Jesus asked him the same question three times — an obvious allusion to Peter’s threefold denial of Jesus.

If this passage is not about the two Greek words for “love,” then what does it teach? Two simple, but profound, truths.

The first is this: What the Lord Jesus Christ is looking for in his disciples — in Peter, in John,



and in us today — is our love above everything else. We may think we can impress him with our knowledge, accomplishments or bank accounts. But if the risen Lord were to do a heart examination on each one of us today, he would ask us one question: “Do you *love* me? Do *you* love me? Do you love *me*?” Hence the priority of love in the New Testament (see Gal. 5:22; 1 Cor. 13:13; Rev. 2:4).

But is it enough to say the words “I love you”? I’m sure the Lord enjoys hearing these words from his dear children, just as we do from ours. Yet it is all too easy to become enamored with words and fail to back them up with actions.

And that is the second great truth in our passage. Jesus is saying that the best way to prove that we love him is by taking care of his people. As he tells Peter, if you love me, then “Feed my lambs” and “Take care of my sheep” (vv. 15, 16, 18).

This is the same “Love Triangle” that we see in another of John’s books, 1 John. There, John writes, “Whoever says, ‘I love God,’ but hates his

brother is a liar. The one who doesn’t love the brother whom he has seen can’t love a God whom he hasn’t seen” (1 John 4:20).

And so Jesus tells Peter that his pronouncement is not enough. Peter must show how much he loves his Lord by humble service to others in his name.

Love God. Love others. This is the Great Commandment in a nutshell.

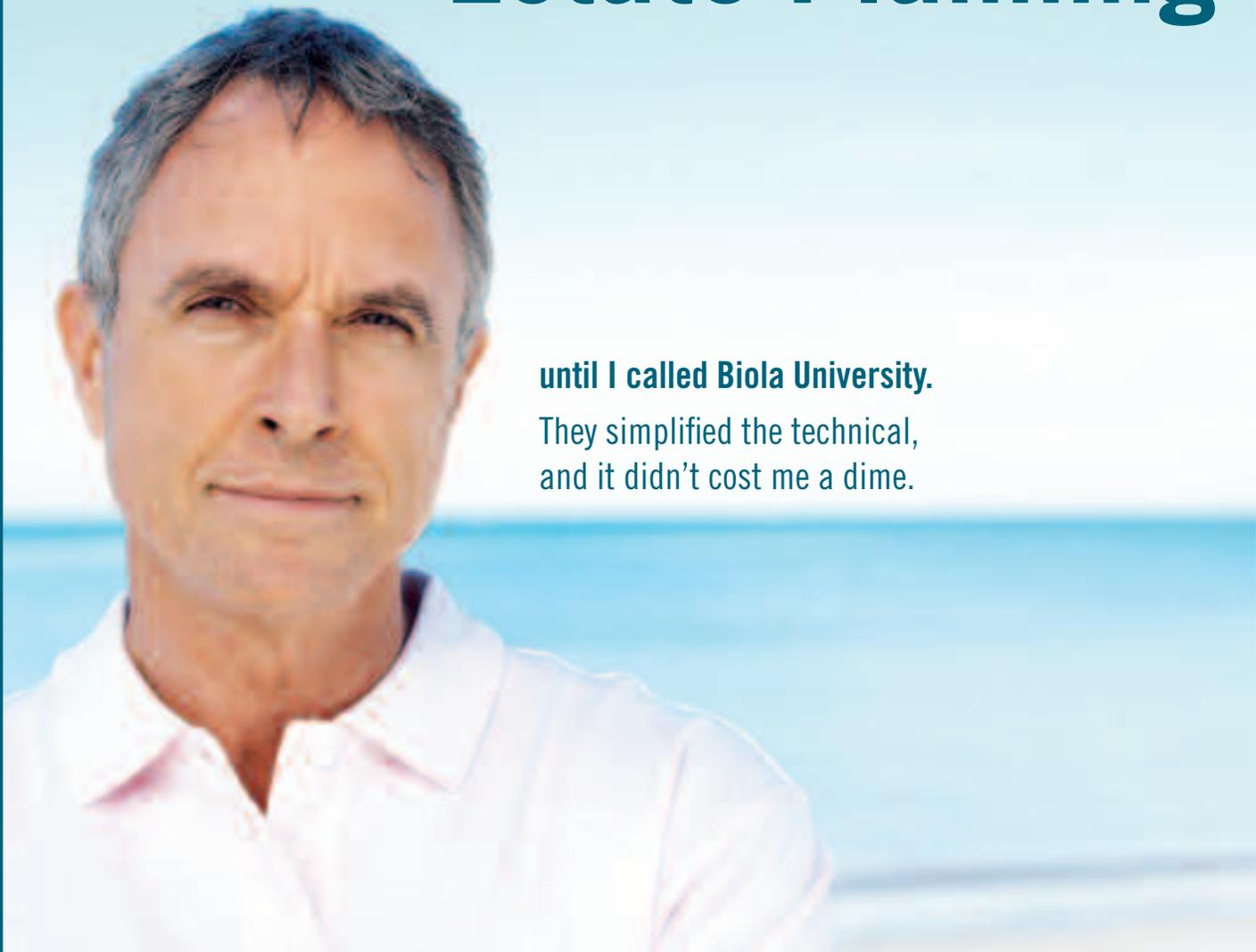
Farewell sloppy agape!



David Alan Black, Ph.D.
(’75, M.Div. ’80)

is professor of New Testament and Greek at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He holds a B.A. from Biola; an M.Div. from Biola’s seminary, Talbot School of Theology; and a D.Theol. from the University of Basel in Switzerland. He taught Greek classes at Biola from 1976 to 1998. He also edits www.daveblackonline.com.

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