p.9 Up and Comer
U.S. News names Biola to its list of 17 “up and coming” national universities for a second year in a row

p.18 Tour Talbot
A look inside the newest and most innovative building on Biola’s campus

30 Biolans share the most important lessons they learned from their 30 units of Bible classes
WHERE ARE BIOLA GRADUATES INVESTING IN GOD’S KINGDOM?

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE HUNDREDS OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WHERE GRADUATES ARE SERVING THE CAUSE OF CHRIST:

- Wess Stafford ('75)
  President, Compassion International

Please join us in making it possible for today's students to become tomorrow's leaders. Support student scholarships right now at giving.biola.edu or by calling (800) 632-4652.

“Each year Biola prepares hundreds of young, energetic Christian leaders equipped and ready to pick up the torch of leadership ... and you and I are needed to invest in this next generation of leaders.”

Who will take our churches and Christ-centered ministries to the next level of service and impact? Who in the decades ahead will hear the Lord’s voice, see his vision for the lost and marginalized and run toward the challenge?

Biola University has a long, solid history of training Christian leaders who are truly changing our world for Christ. Every gift — no matter the size — will add to the resources students at Biola need to finish their studies.
Here are just a few of the hundreds of non-profit organizations where graduates are serving the cause of Christ:

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WHERE ARE BIOLA GRADUATES INVESTING IN GOD’S KINGDOM?

-Assn. of Christian Schools
-Josh McDowell Ministry
-SEND International
-Youth with a Mission
-Faith Academy
-Wycliffe Bible Translators
-Child Evangelism Fellowship
-Insight for Living
-Focus on the Family
-Compassion International
-OC International
-Hummel Lake Christian Camps
-WB Vision

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In honor of the new theology building, Biola students and alumni from decades past share the most valuable lessons they learned from their 30 required units of Bible and theology classes.

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Lessons Learned

The summer before I arrived at Biola as an undergraduate, I attended a massive worship service at a local stadium. One of the speakers who got up to pray that evening opened by reciting a familiar verse from Matthew 18: “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them.”

“Take a look around you!” the speaker said enthusiastically, gesturing to the thousands of people congregated in the stadium seats. “Jesus is surely here in our midst tonight.” We all cheered.

A few months later, I was enrolled in one of my first biblical studies classes at Biola — one of 10 that I would take as part of Biola’s unique requirement that all undergraduate students complete 30 units of Bible. It was a hermeneutics class, and I’d been assigned professor Walt Russell’s Playing With Fire, a book on how to properly read the Bible.

When I reached chapter 3, I was surprised to discover that I had been hearing — and using — the Matthew 18 passage incorrectly all my life.

In context, Russell explained, the oft-misused passage is part of Jesus’ instructions for how to deal with a believer who is living in sin. Rather than offering a general promise that Christ will be present whenever two or more believers gather for worship or prayer, the verse is specifically intended to provide assurance of God’s guidance and blessing when handling the sensitive issue of discipline.

The hermeneutics class ensured that I would never mishandle that particular verse again. But more importantly, as a college freshman, it gave me the tools and the desire to read the Bible in its proper literary, grammatical, historical and cultural context from then on. That class, and the nine others in my 30 units, offered countless lessons that stretched my faith and gave me a sure foundation on God’s Word.

For thousands of us Biolans, the “30 units” requirement was a defining part of our Biola experience. The exposure to four years of Bible, theology and spiritual formation classes played an instrumental role in equipping us to follow Christ and to think biblically about the world.

That’s why, in honor of the opening of the new Talbot East building (where thousands of students will take Bible classes every year), we decided to contact hundreds of alumni from decades past, asking them to share some of the most memorable and impactful lessons learned during their 30 units. You’ll find 30 of the responses printed in this issue of the magazine, beginning on page 22.

As you’re reading, maybe the responses will jog your own memory. If you’re a graduate, which lessons impacted you the most during your 30 units? Send us an email at biolamag@biola.edu and we may feature your response on our website.

Jason Newell (’02)
Editor
TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE
I was delighted to see the “Memory Lane” photo (Fall 2011) of the groundbreaking ceremony for the La Mirada campus because I was one of the 3,000 in attendance that day. I was even more delighted, however, to see that I was included in the photo. In the back left corner is a little girl in red standing next to her parents. That little girl is me. The groundbreaking was a significant event for me as I decided then that I would go to Biola College. I did attend Biola for three semesters (1968 and ’69), receiving great instruction and scriptural grounding. I graduated from Cal State Northridge, obtained a teaching credential, and later received a J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law. I practiced law for many years as an in-house counsel. Ten years ago I started teaching again and currently am Dean of the School of Business and Management at Northwest University in Kirkland, Wash., a private Christian school very similar to Biola. I like to think that my calling to higher education began in that cow pasture in La Mirada many years ago.

Teresa Gillespie /’69
Kirkland, Wash.

I just got the latest Biola Magazine. They are always well done and interesting to read. I always get a little nostalgic reading them, although the facilities and the programs have progressed so far from my day that it is hard to identify with anything. However this last issue, on page 37 was the “Memory Lane” picture. Boy, does that bring back memories. I was there that day and remember that picture being taken. I think I know where I was in the picture, but I’m not positive. It is too bad present students and staff can’t really appreciate that beautiful campus and all the Lord has provided to make Biola what it is today. Sitting on the weeds on that hot day looking at absolutely nothing sure helps your perspective! I hope the magazine keeps up with “Memory Lane” pictures.

Tim Schweper /’62, M.A. ’64
Springfield, Mo.

LONG EDITORIAL SLIDE
As a former employee of its Department of Information Systems and Communication, I’ve read “the magazine of biola university” for years now, and I must say I find its long editorial slide into the colloquial a reason for dismay. In the most recent issue such grave errors as “There’s lots of galleries” (27) and “It’s an old joke, and not a particularly funny one” (13) indicate an alarming disregard for grammar and punctuation rules that exist for a reason: the effectiveness of communication. In principle somewhat akin to the reason God asks us to follow rules for our own welfare, these grammar and punctuation rules ensure the health of our communication. Whether Biola quotes someone else’s or creates its own statements, in doing so it ought to exhibit as much excellence as it does in adhering to Biblical truths.

R. L. Streng /’86
Instructor, Donelson Christian Academy Nashville, Tenn.

SOLID GROUND
Thank you for the new [Defend Your Faith] column and other articles on doctrine. I know when I read an article in Biola Magazine I am on solid doctrinal ground. I do like to keep up to date on what the latest trends are and also to see old liberal teachings coming back as new theories.

Doranna Overstreet Cooper /’56
Mission Viejo, Calif.

‘HEROES’ OR HEROES?
I am puzzled by the perspective that Professor Ken Way takes on the list of “heroes” in Hebrews 11 (“Handling ‘Heroes’ in Hebrews 11,” Fall 2011). Professor Way says that it is not a list of heroes of faith, but of people with “feeble faith.” Therefore, Hebrews is not presenting anyone in the list as a model, but only Jesus. We are even told that Scripture “never” has as its point that “we should be like Abraham or Moses.” This idea that the list is made of people with weak faith is not the usual understanding of it, and actually runs against what the author of Hebrews says. There the list is summed up as “a great cloud of witnesses” (12:1), a large number of people whose example should inspire and teach us. So far from being “feeble” in faith, these are people who through faith endured countless sufferings. The list is long, and is summed up with high praises: they are saints who did exploits, and “of whom the world was not worthy.” Their virtue was specifically faith that endures, and this makes them similar to Jesus, who “endured the cross, disregarding its shame,” and completed his race for the sake of the joy that was set before him (12:2). The whole list is introduced with the observation that faith sees what is invisible, giving people a hold on “the unseen.” Hebrews says directly that Abraham had such a hold on the unseen (11:8), and so did Moses (11:27). This makes them in particular examples for us. The plain drift of the chapter is just what Professor Way says it is not — Hebrews does say that Abraham and Moses, imperfect though they were, are models for us.

John Mason /’71
Antioch, Tenn.
Hundreds of Biola students, faculty, donors and friends turned out on Oct. 14 for the dedication ceremony of the new Talbot East building. The ceremony featured a ribbon cutting, music from The King’s Men, a prayer from Louis Talbot read in six languages by current Talbot students, prayers of dedication and remarks from President Corey. Watch video of the full ceremony at youtube.com/biolauniversity.
Talbot’s New Building: Built on a Sure Foundation

Oct. 14, 2011, was a historic day at Biola University. It was a day of remembrance, thanksgiving and reflection on the blessings God has bestowed upon this university over the duration of its 103 years. On that Friday in October, thousands of Biolans gathered on Metzger Lawn to dedicate the new Talbot School of Theology building — the latest tribute to God’s faithfulness to Biola.

During my remarks at the dedication ceremony (watch the whole ceremony online at magazine.biola.edu), I felt it was appropriate to look back nearly a century to the original dedication ceremony when the cornerstone was laid for the very first Biola building.

Back on May 31, 1913, the fledgling community that for only five short years had existed as the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, gathered together at that urban intersection of Sixth and Hope streets to listen to their founder, Union Oil president Lyman Stewart.

Recently I was given a copy of Lyman Stewart’s original typewritten manuscript, prepared for that occasion nearly 100 years ago. As I read through that cornerstone speech, I was struck by how much of it could apply, nearly verbatim, to the dedication of Talbot’s new building this October.

Lyman Stewart spoke that day of how the Bible Institute was “conceived in prayer, founded by faith, and established through sacrifice ... to provide a permanent home for its several departments of service.” These words could certainly be used to reflect the new Talbot building, which was also a project of prayer, faith and sacrifice for more than 800 supporters who were used by God to bring the $18.2 million building to fully funded fruition.

Lyman Stewart also told the crowd that day:

“For many months we have watched with great interest from day to day the preparations for, and the laying of, these physical foundations. They are laid deep and strong in imperishable cement, strongly reinforced with bars of steel. Humanly speaking, they should endure as long as the granite mountains which look down upon our city. But the work of our Institute stands upon an infinitely more enduring foundation than that of these buildings, even upon the eternal truth of God’s Holy Word — a sure foundation, which can never be shaken nor removed. Upon this foundation it has been building and will continue to build, with the inspired assurance that its work shall ‘abide.’”

Indeed, Biola stands today, as ever, on an unshakable foundation. The new Talbot building (which you can explore in detail on page 18) will physically last for generations to come, Lord willing. But its existence, purpose and eternal impact will come not from cement and steel but from a much deeper foundation: the eternal truth of God’s Holy Word.

My hope and prayer is that 100 years from now, at a future dedication ceremony for whatever the latest building project at Biola may be, the same commitments that Lyman Stewart spoke of, and that I’m speaking of today, will still be the bedrock of this fine institution.

Those words are still true for Biola today. This school is still inspired by the unchanging, divinely inspired Word of God and our mission is still to send forth students who are "furnished completely unto every good work." A century has passed — a century in which many schools have liberalized, drifted or abandoned similar convictions — but Biola remains steadfastly committed to its grounding in the Word of God.

Lyman Stewart also said this on that day:

“This building is not to be a monument to any man, nor to any set of men, but are to forever stand solely for the promulgation of the eternal truths of God’s Holy Word. Over its portals, and running across the front of this central building, will stand the inspired declaration, “For ever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven.” This divinely inspired Word will ever be the source of truth which will inspire all of the Institute’s activities, furnishings, from its exhaustless resources, the instruction which is to enable the Institute to send forth Bible workers “furnished completely unto every good work.””

My hope and prayer is that 100 years from now, at a future dedication ceremony for whatever the latest building project at Biola may be, the same commitments that Lyman Stewart spoke of, and that I’m speaking of today, will still be the bedrock of this fine institution.
Biola University was once again ranked in the top tier of the “Best National Universities” category of the annual U.S. News & World Report college rankings, released in September. For the second year in a row, U.S. News also named Biola an “up and coming” national university — an honor designated to only 17 national universities that “have recently made the most promising and innovative changes in the areas of academics, faculty, student life, campus or facilities,” according to U.S. News. Biola was also included in the magazine’s list of “A-Plus Schools for B Students” alongside 85 other national universities including Auburn, Baylor, Fordham and Pepperdine.

... And In Other Rankings News
In August, Newsweek and The Daily Beast placed Biola on their list of the top 25 “Best Weather” colleges in the nation (for the second year in a row). Biola landed at No. 11 in the rankings, which were based on temperature, humidity and the number of sunny and rainy days. In instances where several schools in a single locale made the rankings, ties were broken based on schools’ academic achievement — meaning Biola continues to be known for its bright sun and bright students.
The Best Books of All Time (and How to Read Them)

Professors and alumni guide readers through the classics of Western thought

What can Christians learn from writers like Aquinas, Marx, Nietzsche and Erasmus? What about Chaucer, Locke, Dante and de Toqueville? A lot, according to The Great Books Reader, a substantial new volume of excerpts and essays on the most influential books of Western civilization.

The 656-page book — released in September — is edited by John Mark Reynolds, professor and director of the Torrey Honors Institute at Biola University, and features essay contributions from several other Torrey professors and Biola alumni.

The volume — likely to become a sought-after textbook for educators — consists of excerpts from major works of 29 famous thinkers, ranging from Homer’s The Odyssey to Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice. Each primary work is accompanied by a brief essay illuminating the excerpt and putting the work in context.

Reynolds believes the book is a useful first handbook for facilitating the “necessary and practical” virtue of being well-read. He hopes the Reader will help those raised on reading blogs learn to love reading books.

“Reading great books can be like going to the dentist: a task we know we should do, but put off for dread of the torture,” Reynolds said. “This reader tries to lessen the pain and increase the initial pleasure of taking one’s intellectual medicine.”

In addition to the numerous Biolans who contributed to the Reader, other prominent thinkers offering essays in the volume include William Dembski (writing on Isaac Newton), Hugh Hewitt (on Alexis de Toqueville), Philip Johnson (on Charles Darwin), Peter Kreeft (on Augustine) and Frederica Mathewes-Green (on John Milton).

Reynolds believes that for people coming to the canon of Western literature for the first time, The Great Books Reader will provide good questions and practical advice on how to read the texts. But it’s not “Wikipedia for Christians,” Reynolds notes in the introduction, where he describes the volume as an introduction to the Great Conversation, advising readers: “Don’t lose the flow of ideas through time by becoming overly focused on details.”

As a sort of Torrey Honors Institute in microcosm, The Great Books Reader serves as a helpful resource for schools or colleges looking to provide students with a great books education. It’s a collection intended not to save a Christian’s soul but to improve their mind — to help develop well-read Christians who read the sacred Scriptures but also the classic writings that have had the greatest influence on our civilization.

“Christians helped form the broader civilization of which America is a part and while any missional school knows this is not the whole world, it is still the world where many of us live,” said Reynolds. “As a result, we want to love it by learning about it: for good and bad.”

Brett McCracken
“I want to invite all of you to rethink the idiom ‘spending time with God.’ ‘Spend’ is a verb borrowed from the monetary world, the world of banking. Actually almost all the words we use for time in our society come from the banking world: we ‘spend’ time, we ‘waste’ time, we ‘save’ it, we ‘invest’ time in things. ... I think it places us imaginatively in a very different space to speak of ‘passing the time.’ It’s leisurely, it’s restful, it’s not productive.”


At 5 p.m. on Oct. 28, following the nightly ringing of the Biola bells, five music students gave a “Random Acts of Culture” performance, ringing bells under the Bell Tower while humming excerpts from medieval, baroque and contemporary pop music like the Beatles. While blindfolded. Random acts indeed!

At the “Searching for Sanctuary in Film” festival on Oct. 29, filmmakers from around the world screened their award-winning shorts, documentaries and features and participated in post-film discussions.

On Oct. 26, soprano Kate Butler performed the world premier of a new song cycle, “Confessions,” a marriage of music and Augustinian text, composed by J.A.C Redford.
CRASH COURSE

A look inside an interesting class offered at Biola this semester

COURSE TITLE
Israel-Arab Conflict: Sacred Places

INSTRUCTOR
Judith Rood

DESCRIPTION
A seminar on the factors that make Jerusalem a unique city in world history. Students explore the theological, historical, political and cultural significance of the city, which is recognized as a sacred place for the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS
• Archeological Study Bible
• Jerusalem: City of Longing by Simon Goldhill
• Carta’s Historical Atlas of Jerusalem

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS
• Two book reviews
• Research project and PowerPoint presentation on a topic related to Jerusalem
• Geography and chronology tests

Calling All Homeschoolers!

Biola Youth Academics launches online high school classes, goes global

Homeschool students from around the world have been coming to Biola University for years. Now, Biola University is coming to them.

For over 15 years, Biola Youth Academics has allowed homeschool families in Southern California to supplement their students’ educations with biblically centered college-prep courses through the Star Academics and Torrey Academy programs. Now, as Star Academics expands into online education, families in Kansas, Canada, Korea and throughout the world can benefit as well.

In the fall, Star Academics began offering select traditional textbook courses online (Latin 1, SAT Prep, Economics, Government) in addition to Torrey Academy courses (Logic, Writing Lab, the Inklings, Foundations of American Thought), which have been available online since 2001. The plan is to expand the online course offerings year by year and become fully accredited by WASC.

“Ultimately, our goal is to provide premier Christian education to students all over the world as we help raise leaders with global perspectives,” said Biola Youth Academics director Lydia Knopf.

There are also plans to offer select individual classes for elementary students, junior high students and parents, said Knopf.

Biola Youth Academics — which in July merged with Biola’s School of Education — hired a distance learning administrator, Janice Lee, to conceptualize coursework, curriculum and instructional design as well as ensure high standards for learning.

“Distance learning is a new venture and a journey of faith which calls for an adventurous spirit of experimentation,” said Lee. “Many of the classic technology tools are becoming obsolete quickly and we hope to stay on top of extensive current research and progress into necessary changes and improvements with persistent zeal.”

The new online courses are making use of innovative technologies that provide quality course content and collaboration with instructors. Torrey Academy and Latin 1 courses use the Adobe Connect platform, allowing students to attend class in real time and interact with instructors and classmates in real time via audio-conferencing. The rest of the online courses use Blackboard, an industry leader in asynchronous course management. Each course is supplemented with real-time discussion sessions in order to match the community-building aspects of the on-site classes.

Knopf believes the online expansion of Biola Youth Academics fits perfectly with Biola’s strategic initiatives to serve the global Christian community by harnessing new technology and expanding the university’s educational reach.

“Biola Youth Academics is ready to build upon its firm foundations to expand our Christian worldview educational services worldwide,” said Knopf. “We are very excited to share the breadth and depth of the university’s resources, expertise and passions with a special emphasis on biblical integration, spiritual formation and community.”

In addition to the online and in-class course offerings of Star Academics and Torrey Academy, Biola Youth Academics provides P.E. for K-12 homeschoolers, study skills seminars for private, public and home-educated teens, and individualized tutoring for K-12 students. Biola also offers Biola Youth Theatre and Youth Ministry Outreach events on Biola’s campus.

– Brett McCracken

ONLINE EXTRA:
Find out more or enroll your student today in Biola Youth Academics at youth.biola.edu/academics.
Get to Know
Freddy Cardoza, multifaceted minister

What do you get when you combine a love for snakes, Native American folklore, opera and urban ministry? The answer is Freddy Cardoza, chair of Biola University’s Christian education department — a man with many interests and professional roles.

Now in his third year at Biola, Cardoza recently added the title of director of distributive learning and institutional technology to his job description. In the new role, he oversees the university’s distance learning initiatives and classroom technology, while also maintaining his duties as a department chair. On the side, he serves as executive administrator of the North American Professors of Christian Education.

With a doctorate from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminar and over 10 years of teaching experience, Cardoza has also served as a pastor and helped coordinate ministries across the nation. He is passionate about urban ministry and training disciples for Christ, he said.

“God, as he made me into a disciple, helped equip me with tools and the burden to ensure that we produced a generation of Christian leaders capable of making disciples,” he said.

Here’s your chance to get to know him.

Out to the Ballgame: Cardoza collects classic sports jerseys and enjoys visiting great sports venues. If made to choose his favorite baseball team, he would say it’s a tie between the Chicago White Sox and the Boston Red Sox.

Outdoorsman: He’s a fan of outdoor activities, particularly hiking in National Parks. He once kayaked down the 1996 Olympic route on the Ocoee River in Tennessee, encountering Class 4 rapids and minor waterfalls.

Urban Minister: One of his most dangerous ministry trips was in downtown New Orleans. He worked all night in the inner city providing food for the homeless.

In the Word: Family devotions have been a daily practice since his sons, Dakota, 15, and Christian, 13, were able to understand language. “One of the most important things that we do is daily time with our sons and praying over them.”

Fascinated by Folklore: Cardoza is interested in Native American folklore and once crafted a Native American headdress. As an Eagle Scout, he was a member of the Order of the Arrow, the national honor society of the Boy Scouts.

He’s Got the Blues: Along with the opera, Cardoza loves the blues. He saw Ray Charles live twice, once in Philadelphia and once in Detroit. “How do you do better than Ray Charles in Motown?”

Fan of the Opera: Cardoza was a season ticket holder when he lived in Chicago and Kansas City. “There is no greater beauty than opera. There just isn’t. There can’t be.”
Biola Athletes Earn High Marks for Character

Biola’s student athletes demonstrate outstanding character and leadership on and off the field, and it hasn’t gone unnoticed. In October, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) recognized Biola with its “Champions of Character Five Star Award” — giving the university the fourth-highest score in the nation on a scorecard that measures student character.

For the award, which was given to 220 colleges nationwide, institutions were rated in each of the following categories: character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion. Institutions earned points based on such factors as GPAs and the number of ejections during competition throughout the year. Biola earned 91 out of 100 possible points, the fourth-highest total of any school.

Biola’s spot in the top five complemented its other recent national athletics recognition. Biola led the NAIA last year with 18 of its teams earning “scholar team” honors by posting a team GPA of 3.0 or higher. It also finished 11th in the Director’s Cup standings, which measures overall athletic success by a department.

Nine Fun Facts About ‘Nationball’

01 | Nationball is an annual campus-wide dodgeball tournament, organized by the Associated Students Spirit Board, in which dorms battle each other in old-school dodgeball matches.

02 | Nationball is the first major spirit event of the year for undergrad students.

03 | Each dorm has a designated “team color” to wear. Sigma = yellow, Alpha = blue, Emerson = green, Horton = black, Hope = pink, Stewart = red, Hart = orange, Off Campus Commuters = purple.

04 | This year, one Alpha RA arrived wearing a wedding dress with three “blue bridesmaids,” a blue bouquet and a blue tiara.

05 | Emerson residents came dressed as doctors and nurses this year. Each time one of their fellow brothers got hit in the game, a “nurse” attended to the victim.

06 | Instead of traditional bracket play, matches are determined randomly by a colored bike wheel.

07 | Nationball kicks off the dorm point competition for the year. The dorm with the most spirit points at the end of the year is awarded a dorm championship breakfast and dorm champion T-shirts. The winner of Nationball receives 1,000 points.

08 | This year’s Nationball championship match was between Hope Hall and Sigma, with Hope emerging victorious.

09 | Although Hart Hall did not advance past the first round, they made waves when they displayed the rarely seen 300-pound concrete Biola Egg on a bed frame “throne” carried in by eight Hart residents.

Did You Know?

After 45 years, the original gym floor in Chase Gymnasium was replaced over the summer. Gone with it is just a little bit of home court advantage for Biola’s basketball teams, since the old floor had developed some “dead spots” that dribbling Biolans knew to avoid. But you can help make up for it by coming to a game and bringing your loudest “B! I-O L-A!” chant with you. Check athletics.biola.edu for schedules.
What happens when some of the world’s leading Christian minds gather on one campus?

**INTRODUCING
THE BIOLA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN THOUGHT**

By Jason Newell

Back in October, professor Gregg Ten Elshof was sitting across from radio talk show host Frank Pastore, explaining his vision for the soon-to-be-launched “Biola University Center for Christian Thought” to a listening audience. As he started to describe one of the center’s aims — to encourage cutting-edge Christian scholarship by bringing world-renowned scholars like Alvin Plantinga to Biola’s campus — Pastore excitedly burst in.

“No way! You got Plantinga to come?” he said. “Folks, Alvin Plantinga is on the short list of the top two or three most brilliant Christian philosophers. … He and [Biola professor] Bill Craig, and maybe Swinburne … and Wolterstorff. Some of the brightest people around.”

Ten Elshof chuckled. As it just so happened, he said, Nicholas Wolterstorff would be joining Plantinga at the new Biola center in the spring. And Richard Swinburne was slated to come the following year.

“You’re getting an all-star team!” Pastore shouted. “That’s the idea,” Ten Elshof said.

The Biola University Center for Christian Thought, which officially launches this February after years of planning, marks one of the most ambitious academic initiatives in Biola’s history.

At the heart of the center is a research fellowship program that will bring Christian scholars from around the world to Biola’s campus for a semester at a time (or longer) to collaborate with Biola professors and each other on some of the biggest issues for our day. Throughout each semester, well-known “visiting scholars” — such as Plantinga and Wolterstorff — will also come to the center for several days or weeks at a time to help facilitate the dialogue.

Together, they’ll work in a newly created headquarters in Rose Hall, designed to be a comfortable and inviting space for writing, research and stimulating roundtable discussions. Over the course of each year, the research fellows will produce books, articles, videos, lectures, podcasts and other resources to help address some of the questions that matter most to the church and the academy.

**MEET THE VISITING SCHOLARS**

**Alvin Plantinga**, who has been called “arguably the greatest philosopher of the last century” in Christianity Today, is currently the William H. Jellema Chair of Philosophy at Calvin College, and was until his retirement in 2010 the John A. O’Brien Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author of, most recently, Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion, and Naturalism.

**Nicholas Wolterstorff**, one of the world’s premier Christian philosophers, is the Noah Porter Professor Emeritus of Philosophical Theology at Yale University and a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia. He has held professorships at Calvin College and Yale University as well as visiting professorships at Harvard, Princeton, Oxford and Notre Dame.

For full bios and a list of the eight research fellows from the Center’s inaugural semester, visit cct.biola.edu

magazine.biola.edu
The Center, which launches in February, is one of the most ambitious academic initiatives in Biola’s history. Here is how it will work.

One of the chief goals is to “raise the game of evangelical scholarship” and to give academic and non-academic audiences alike a thoughtful evangelical perspective on significant issues of our day, said professor Thomas Crisp, one of the center’s associate directors.

“Our hope is to give an opportunity to evangelical scholars to do first-rate, distinctively evangelical scholarship in a way that has heretofore been difficult because of limited resources for this kind of work,” Crisp said. “We think we’ll be uniquely positioned to disseminate these ideas into the broader culture — and the evangelical culture, more specifically — in a way that will increase our thoughtfulness as believers.”

One of the Center’s strengths will be the diversity of its participants, Crisp said. During the first semester, research fellows include a group of professors with backgrounds in such fields as art, literature, philosophy, psychology, sociology and theology — meaning discussions will be informed by a broad range of academic disciplines.

The Center intentionally plans to bring in Christian scholars from a variety of perspectives, recognizing that a plurality of voices can help to foster stronger work, said Ten Elshof, who is serving as the Center’s director.

“This is what we all loved about graduate school,” Ten Elshof said. “We sat around a table with other thoughtful people who would challenge us on our perspectives. If we want to strengthen the evangelical voice, both in culture and the academy, the way to do it is to put it in conversation with the very best Christian scholars — evangelical and otherwise — from a variety of disciplines on the questions that matter most.”

Each year, the Center will select a single theme to explore, inviting scholars whose work and research relates to that theme. The Center’s inaugural semester, which runs from February through May, will focus on “Christian Scholarship in the 21st Century: Prospects and Perils.”

As each semester progresses, the Center’s website will be updated with resources for the public — video interviews, podcasts, articles, “four views”-style papers and more — related to important issues facing Christianity.

Throughout the semester, well-known Christian scholars from the world’s top universities will join the group for shorter stretches of time — two days to two weeks — to offer insights and pose questions.

Each year, public lectures, conferences and luncheons will feature the work of the fellows. The papers from a year-end conference will ultimately result in a book on each year’s theme. The Center will also host an annual pastors’ luncheon.

One of the chief goals is to “raise the game of evangelical scholarship” and to give academic and non-academic audiences alike a thoughtful evangelical perspective on significant issues of our day, said professor Thomas Crisp, one of the center’s associate directors.

“Mark Your Calendar
Alvin Plantinga and Nicholas Wolterstorff will each be giving public lectures at Biola – Plantinga on Feb. 2 and Wolterstorff on Feb. 13. Check the Biola University Center for Christian Thought website at cct.biola.edu for details.
As it prepares to welcome leading scholars from around the world to campus, the Biola University Center for Christian Thought is also welcoming news that it has received the largest research grant in university history.

In December, the John Templeton Foundation announced a $3.03 million grant that will fund the Center’s work over the next three years — more than twice the size of the largest academic grant that Biola has previously received from a foundation.

“Biola is tremendously grateful that The John Templeton Foundation has recognized the value of the Biola University Center for Christian Thought and has committed to invest its generous financial support,” said Biola president Barry H. Corey.

“In the years ahead, we envision the center will be a leading source of biblically grounded scholarship on some of the most important issues facing the church, the academy and the broader culture,” Corey said. “This will not be merely a cerebral think tank. Instead, I believe the rich conversations integrating the historic Christian truths with the big questions of our day will have currency around the family kitchen table, from the pulpit and in the media.”

Based in Pennsylvania, the Templeton Foundation describes itself as a “philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to the Big Questions of human purpose and ultimate reality.” It seeks to promote research and informed dialogue among scientists, philosophers, theologians and the public on subjects it deems to be of public importance. Other significant recent grants from the foundation have funded research at such institutions as Cambridge, Oxford and Duke universities.

During the first three years of operation, the Center will be funded by a $3.03 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation — the largest research grant in Biola’s history (see sidebar). In ensuing years, the Center will continue to seek research funding from outside donors and foundations.

Over time, Crisp said he believes the Center will initiate ongoing conversations with a broad range of Christian scholars, encourage first-rate scholarship and give Biola a more prominent voice in the wider academic world. Ultimately, that is important not just for Biola but for the sake of the gospel, he said.

“One of the thoughts that’s animating this whole project is that the kinds of ideas that predominate in a culture have a lot to do with whether and how the gospel flourishes in that culture,” he said. “If you want to create a cultural climate that’s friendly to the spread of the gospel you have to influence its ideas. So why are we trying to up the level of evangelical scholarship? Because we’re trying to influence the structure of ideas in the broader culture.”

CENTER RECEIVES $3 MILLION GRANT, THE LARGEST IN BIOLA’S HISTORY

L. Porter, an associate director of the Center.

“We thought it would be good to start with this topic because it’s the theme of what the center is going to be doing,” Porter said. “What good can Christian scholarship do in the church and broader culture? How can we help turn the tide on anti-intellectualism and help Christian scholarship become more accessible and relevant?”

Beyond its inaugural semester, the Center has announced its themes for the following three years: “Neuroscience and the Soul” (Fall 2012 to Spring 2013); “Psychology and Spiritual Formation” (Fall 2013 to Spring 2014); and “Intellectual Virtues and Civil Discourse” (Fall 2014 to Spring 2015).

In addition to its opportunities for scholars, the Center will also include a pastor-in-residence program that will be implemented this fall. The program will allow one pastor each semester to be involved in the research and weekly roundtable discussions, resulting in a publicly available sermon series. The Center is accepting applications through March 1, 2012, for the first pastor-in-residence fellowship, dealing with the theme of “Neuroscience and the Soul.”

(Information can be found at cct.biola.edu.)
Talbot East is more than just the eye-catching new structure next to Calvary Chapel; it’s a building that will revolutionize the Biola University campus. In addition to adding much-needed classroom space (eight new classrooms to be exact), the building centralizes the Department of Biblical and Theological Studies, bringing together in one space — for the first time in decades — the diaspora of professors who teach undergraduate Bible classes through Biola’s Talbot School of Theology. In the following pages, take a look at some of the most exciting features of the 30,617-square-foot building.
01. OFFICES
The second and third floors house 29 new faculty offices and two for support staff, plus three conference rooms.

02. CONFERENCE ROOM
The Dwight and Vicki Hanger Conference Complex features two conference rooms equipped with video equipment for presentations and video conferencing. The larger of these (pictured here) is enclosed by curved translucent glass — a striking contrast to the angular lines of the overall building.
03. EXTERIOR
The exterior grey panels surrounding the Talbot building are made from a material called Trespa, made of recycled paper and wood pulp mixed with a resin, forming a hard, rigid, long-lasting material. Seventy percent wood-based, Trespa is a certified “green” building material and appears as various shades of grey throughout the day, depending on the sunlight.

04. SCRIPTURE WINDOW
Two south-facing Scripture windows provide one of the building’s most distinct features: laminated glass featuring Scripture that reflects shadows onto the floor and walls inside the building in different ways throughout the day. The letters — which spell out Zechariah 4:6 on one window and John 15:5 on the other — are made of material that boosts the energy-efficiency of the windows.

05. JERUSALEM STONE
Featured in the sunken plaza and in the main lobby are these “Jerusalem stones” taken from a quarry in Israel outside the ancient city of Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac are buried.

06. CLASSROOM
One of the building’s eight new classrooms, which will house both undergraduate and graduate courses. One of the classrooms is a homiletics lab, specially designed to teach the art of preaching; it features an instructor viewing space with one-way glass, where instructors can record commentary on top of a DVD of the student’s sermon.

07. BANQUET ROOM
The sizable Duane and Becky Andrews Banquet Room will seat 168 for dining and 180 for lectures, adding a much-needed multipurpose space for university events.

08. PRAYER CHAPEL
The hidden treasure of the new Talbot building, the Fred and Ruth Waugh Prayer Chapel is the epitome of “sacred space” on campus. Featuring a wavy ceiling made of reclaimed cedar and olive wood (from Biola’s own olive trees), unique carpeting reminiscent of a Bedouin tent and colored art “stained glass” squares, the chapel has quickly become one of the most beautiful and contemplative spots on campus.

09. DONOR WALL
The donor wall, which includes the names of more than 800 donors who contributed to the building project, starts at the plaza level and soars upward for two stories, with the phrase “Above All Give Glory to God” featured prominently. The wall also includes a collection of “stones of remembrance” that commemorate the 40 days of prayer and fasting in 2010 that preceded the historic fundraising period known as the “Miracle of May.”
As any Biola student or graduate can tell you, one of the things that makes Biola University distinct from other colleges is the requirement for every traditional undergraduate student to take 30 units of Bible and theology classes — amounting to a minor in biblical studies. In honor of the opening of the new Talbot School of Theology building, where thousands of undergraduates will take Bible classes each year, Biola Magazine tracked down students and alumni from decades past to ask them to share some of the most memorable and impactful lessons from their 30 units. Here is what they had to say.

Compiled by Amy Seed
Dr. Mitchell said that the world tries to answer the sin issue in a variety of ways. But “education only made sinful men smart sinful men, money only made sinful men rich sinful men, and power only made sinful men powerful sinful men. Only a relationship with Jesus Christ can change sinful men into sinless men.”

Timothy A. Conrad (’74, M.Div. ’87)

I remember Dr. Charles Feinberg saying, “Gentlemen, learn your Greek and Hebrew, but remember to be devotional!” Though intellectual, our studies are more than academic. While modeling in-depth study of Scripture, Dr. Feinberg promoted teaching practical truths for spiritual living to everyday Christians.

Harry Brewer (’67)

“The decrees of God are His eternal purpose, based on His most wise and holy counsel, whereby He freely and unchangeably ordained, either efficaciously or permissively, all that comes to pass.” I remember that from professor William Ebeling’s course on “God, Christ and the Holy Spirit.”

Jack Kaiser, III (’77)

I learned that Jesus was not a pansy, as popular culture would have you believe. He spoke hard truths to those who needed it (Pharisees) and was gentle and graceful to those who needed that instead. Divinely elastic.

Andrew Hartman (’02)

Recently, I was leading a small group Bible study and some of my comments sounded a lot like Dr. Erik Thoennes, in which he talked about the powerful nature of the Word of God and keeping a small Bible in his pocket. I tried doing the same, but the print was too small for my eyes. Fortunately, technology has caught up and I can keep my “sword of the Spirit” and be ready at a moment’s notice with my iPhone, in which I can easily change the font size!

Pablo Reyes (’01)

As managing partner I’m constantly guiding the company in the direction of success for our staff and clients. The question I’ve asked myself over and over is “What is my purpose?” When we know our purpose we’re better able to give direction to a company, clients and others. My 30 units of Bible were invaluable for they allowed me to focus on my purpose. I’ve since gone on to grad school and continued my career progression and the same principles I’ve learned from my 30 units of Bible still apply in areas of my life and work.

Bernie L. Mullen (’91)

Being required to read whole books of the Bible at a time, several times through, helped us see the picture as a whole rather than just little verses here and there.

Nancy Hagberg (’77)

One of the professor’s statements has never left me: “Do not relegate the power of the Holy Ghost or Satan to the New Testament times.” It has been one of the most valuable lessons I learned.

George Pontius (’61)
One of the most valuable things I learned through all my Bible classes was how to memorize Scripture. It has helped me through all aspects of my life. Having God’s truth captured in my mind and heart is priceless.

Trisha Virga (’05)

I came home after the first night of Ron Pierce’s “Church and Last Things” class with a spring in my step and an excitement about the concept of church. Is it a passive, spectator sport? Do we let leaders do everything while we listen, or do we take an active part with our God and his people? How do parachurch groups fit in? Dr. Pierce was animated, humorous and drew out discussion from us in a unique way. Now Ron is a patient of mine, as well as his family, at our dental practice of 26 years just up the street from Biola. I am blessed to call him my brother and friend, this time on the other side of the “drill!” Would I recommend him to current students? Well, just make sure you have a career path that will allow you to get back at him!

Mike Winter (’80)

The Bible class is the first time in my life that I was encouraged to read through the whole Bible. It was a good discipline to learn.

Lori Freitas (’77)

When I entered Biola in 1971, I now believe that I was not a Christian. I barely understood the significance of the cross. But the Lord was merciful and, little by little, due to the wonderful, edifying courses taught by dedicated men of God and the pleasant interactions with spiritual students in a wonderful Christian environment, my eyes were finally opened and I became born again! ... Though physically blind from birth, now I know whom I have believed and some day, perhaps even today – right now – I will see Jesus with all his angels as well as all my brothers and sisters in the Lord forever in heaven.

Rubens M. Marshall (’75)

Dr. Wilkins told the class a story about a time when we was injured surfing. He then had two students separately stand up and retell the same story they just heard. Finally, a third student who did not hear the story directly from Dr. Wilkins (but only from the two students) gave his account. The synoptic “problem” has never been more clear than hearing how different those three retellings were.

Joel Lingenfelter (’93)

Somehow we got on the topic of giving and the verse “Tis better to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). The teacher said something like this: “Remember, when you give money, you’ll have less of it. Whenever I write a check and give it to someone, the bank always takes the money out, whether the check is written to a church or to a grocery story. So when you give, expect to have less money for yourself — and don’t believe anyone who tells you otherwise.” The professor then went on to tell about the spiritual benefits of giving, but his little aside inoculated me against the allure of prosperity-doctrine advocates.

Marianne Hering (’86)

One semester I was in a real jam with my schedule. I was married and my wife and I had a brand-new baby girl. We were both working and very stressed. Out of the kindness of his heart Dr. Nickolas Kurtaneck met with me one day a week for an in-depth verse-by-verse study through the book of Romans. He was a very busy man as he was both an instructor and pastor. The study in Romans was amazing, but the time with this loving, older gentleman was even more amazing! Dr. Kurtaneck taught me that the most important thing in the Kingdom of God is relationship.

Rev. Dan K. Edmondson (’87)

I remember that godly professors gave ungodly exams. The most challenging exams were the ones in our Bible courses. On a more serious note, I remember Dr. Mitchell required us to memorize a chart of all the kings in all the neighboring powers throughout a timeline of Hebrew history. He wanted us to remember that what happened in biblical accounts was a part of world history, not just a Bible story.

Naomi Omaye Garwood (’77)

In one of my Bible classes at Biola, I was introduced to the concept of God’s permissive will versus his specific will. It helped remove a lot of fear from my heart to know that I didn’t have to agonize wondering about things like, “Am I buying the exact car God wants me to have?” As long as I was using biblical principles, like good stewardship, not being prideful, etc., it didn’t specifically matter which car I bought. I had never heard that concept before, and it has been very freeing in my life.

Ann Glassey (’86)

As a Bible and Christian education major, I had many Bible courses where I was taught doctrine, history of the Bible, Bible survey courses, special book studies, New Testament Greek and more. But the course that impacted me the most was taught by Martha Hooker. I don’t remember the course title, but the lessons taught us to develop object lessons from familiar things around us. That made sense.

Rev. Vincent W. Morgan (’69)

Without a doubt, taking the course on the book of John with Matt Williams was the most impactful Bible class I took at Biola. The person of Jesus became so dynamic to me during the course of that class. The realities of his purpose and his ministry literally changed my perspective on this person I have decided to commit my life to. Stories I had heard dozens of times throughout my life as a Christian had new meaning. Water to wine, the Samaritan woman, Nicodemus’ curiosities of being born again, Jesus being the bread of life – these were all given new meaning.

Meghan (Perstac, ’06) Williams

When I tell people that I am from Indonesia, one of the most common questions that I usually get is, “Is your family Christian?” I would say, “Yes, I grew up in a Christian family.” But even though I grew up in a Christian environment, only after coming to Biola did I truly know what being a Christian meant. Only by God’s grace and through Biola’s Bible professors did I come to understand what it truly means to be a Christian.

Giovanni A. Prayitno (’13)
21. My Bible classes at Biola were seminal in grounding me in my faith. Assurance of salvation was a big thing. My pastor had talked about it, but in the Bible classes I saw in detail how clear the Bible is about it. A second thing was the deity of Christ. That Jesus really is the second person of the Trinity seemed to leap off the pages of Scripture when I took New Testament survey. And Old Testament survey prepared the groundwork for my later focus in graduate work.

Tom Finley ('67)

22. All along my career as a professional translator I have frequently said, “Thank you Lord for the short years at Biola that gave me a solid knowledge of your Word and how to study.” More important than the 30 hours of Bible study have been the teachers who influenced me. Dr. Aijian taught me to look at our beliefs critically and to research answers that are consistent with what Scripture claims for itself and God. Dr. Christian challenged me to study diligently, prioritizing my time. Dr. McGee taught me to see each book of the Bible and as whole and see the consistent story and theology. These men of God challenged me as a young man, leaving deeper footprints than the subjects themselves.

John Tuggy ('55)

23. Dr. Curtis Mitchell taught me that to pray without ceasing is an attitude, expressed by lots of “little quickies” sent up throughout your day.

John Lewis ('90)

24. Singing joyfully to the Lord at the beginning of each class with Dr. Thoennes set the tone for future disciplines of praise in my life.

Bonnie K. Mancini ('04)

25. Senior year I had the privilege of taking the Bible integration seminar “Money, Sex and Power” with Dr. Rick Langer. The subject of power is rarely explored to the extent we were able to in class. It was amazing to be challenged to face how power really affects our daily lives, country and the world. As part of class, one of our course books was Neither Riches Nor Poverty by Craig L. Blomberg. It is still one of my favorite books to read and to recommend when I get the chance. The depth of insight on how to honor the Lord with the money he has given us and to be good stewards of every part of our lives was convicting and life changing.

Lisa De Blauw ('08)

26. I learned how to English sentence-diagram the book of Romans. Even without knowing Greek, the book came alive with new meaning. Thank you, Dr. McNeely!

John Dobrenen ('71)

27. I appreciated Dr. Dollar’s Acts class, grasping the big picture of the development of the early church and the Holy Spirit’s role in it, which has served me well as a teacher of Bible and other subjects at the Black Forest Academy in Germany.

Rob Carey ('93)

28. I learned that the character of God is so deep, beyond us and awesome that it will continue to make us stand in awe ... if we will stop and gaze, study and reflect.

Monique Zwaagstra ('06)

29. In my Hebrews class in 1978, a student commented on how wise and knowledgeable Dr. Kurtanek was. He responded, “Oh no; the more you walk with God, the more you realize how little you know!”

Barb Byburn Langeloh ('79, M.A. '83)

30. I learned that Old Testament Hebrew is more fun with a Southern drawl. Thanks Dr. Curtis!

Melisa Sternjacob ('05)
What Hath Football to do with Faith?

For many Christians, Sunday mornings are about going to church, while Sunday afternoons are about watching pro football games, or basketball, or baseball, or soccer — maybe even golf. For humans across the planet, sports are an important part of life. We play sports, we watch them, we talk about them, we read about them. But as Christians, do we ever think about sports in theological terms?

Perhaps we should, says alumnus Michael W. Austin (M.A. ’00), who teaches philosophy at Eastern Kentucky University and has written on the philosophy and theology of sports. Austin has edited the books Football and Philosophy (2009), Running and Philosophy (2007) and Cycling – Philosophy for Everyone (2010), and is currently working on a book on the philosophy of the Olympic Games. Biola Magazine recently sat down with Austin to talk about what a Christian perspective on sports might look like.

Why do you think sports are as prevalent and beloved in human culture as they are? What is it about sports that is appealing?

There’s sort of the good and the bad. I think on the darker side, they can sometimes appeal to the lower parts of our nature: the entertainment value of seeing a violent hit or maybe just identifying with the athlete or the team in unhealthy ways, like the parent who lives vicariously through his kids in sports. There’s a lot of the celebrity cult that goes on.

But I think the positive part is that at the elite level these are examples of people who are really trying to be the best they can be at what they do. There’s something admirable about courage or facing adversity, or just the traits that it takes to become excellent at your sport: perseverance, toiling for years in obscurity for that one shot at an Olympic medal. Sports require something of us and they give us a picture of excellence in one realm of life.

In the sports world today, what would you say are some of the big ethical questions that we should think about?

I think performance enhancing drugs is certainly one, which is part of a bigger issue having to do with technology and sports — things like the technologically enhanced swimsuits that are now not allowed. I don’t know if you can say "here’s the line" and apply it across the board; it’s going to depend on each sport. But we’ve got to think about what happens when technology starts to take away from some of the subtle abilities that a sport requires. I just read something recently about these golf clubs that are more forgiving and hit the ball farther. If you let that go too far it’s going to change the nature of the sport.

I think another issue is the value placed on winning at all costs and also the egoism of sports — the search for personal glory at the expense of everything else. Because of the popularity of sports, there’s so much access to fame and fortune that can detract from the more intrinsic goods of teamwork and even humility that can be built into sports.

Some people would argue that watching sports is a waste of time or that it’s not really edifying. How do you respond to those criticisms?

Well, it can be that, but like many things it depends on the person’s approach. Imagine two people watching a soccer match or a basketball game. One can be passive and not really glean anything of value from it. The other might think, well, what could I learn from this? You might see somebody in basketball sacrifice individual statistics for the team or you might see somebody help an opponent in a certain way after they’re injured or something like that. You might see sports as a picture of a group of diverse people working for a common goal, for excellence as a team and hopefully victory, as well. That pursuit of excellence as a group can be transferred to a church group. And even in some ways it’s a faint reflection of the Trinity — a unity and diversity of roles. I remember reading something about that in one of Wayne Grudem’s systematic theology books when I was a student at Talbot. There’s something valuable about people coming together for a common goal and putting the interest of the community ahead of the individual. The whole of human life is on display in sports: You see how people react to both success and failure, and how they learn from it.

In your opinion, are some sports better than others to watch?

I don’t like the mixed martial arts, that whole ultimate fighting stuff. I think that it just seems too much like bloodsport to me, too dangerous. You know, I’ve even recently been thinking about American football and the statistics about the long-term impacts on players. Many of them have short careers and maybe two-thirds have permanent injuries; many are divorced and 20 percent are clinically depressed. I think the average life expectancy is in the 50s. I’m still a fan but I’d like to see these problems get dealt with. It starts to look more and more like gladiatorial games.

What do you make of the whole surge in NFL fantasy football leagues?

I played it for two or three years with a friend of mine in a league, and I stopped because I was just getting too competitive and was spending too much time and energy thinking about it. I’d rather invest my energy and time in other things. If you do it just for fun and don’t spend a lot of time on it, I think it’s OK. But people do spend so much time doing it, and it skews how you look at the game. I think it has a flawed view of what athletic excellence is, focusing on individual statistics and isolating individual players from their teams.

What would you say are some of the positive things in general that sports contribute?

There’s the old debate about whether sports build character or just reveal it, and I’d say it does both. But sports only builds character if athletes and coaches and parents are intentional about it. If we do sports not just
as a way to gain personal glory but as a way to truly grow in character traits like teamwork or courage or self control, then it can contribute to individual flourishing. I think humility is another one. The structure of sports, if we approach it the right way, is that you have to humble yourself in terms of playing a role in the team or up to the standards of excellence in the sport.

Do you think there is or should be a distinctly Christian approach to sports? What would it look like?

I think there is, and I think it would definitely include a discussion of how sports contribute to our spiritual growth. What does it mean to truly glorify God in the context of sports? It might look different in different sports, but I definitely think there is a Christian approach. It would include considering the values of self-denial and humility, or seeing our opponents not as enemies like in a war but as competitors who are cooperating to make each other better. I play indoor soccer in an over-35 coed league, and if I just go out there by myself and play with no opponent, I’m not going to get any better. I need my opponent and they need me for us to improve. This is where sport reveals character. I might find myself being angry about something on the field and then in retrospect realize that it was valuable or that it revealed a broader pattern of sin or a character flaw I might want to work on.

Do you think sports can be an avenue for transcendence? In the same way that at a concert you might be moved in a transcendent way, can we experience that in watching sports?

In any part of human culture where the good or the beautiful or the true shows up, I think it’s fair to call those transcendent moments. In some sense it’s a reflection, however faint, of God’s character. Sometimes it’s just watching the excellence, reflecting on a beautiful play or something. Sometimes it’s reflecting on an athlete’s achievement. There was an American athlete in a recent Olympic games — I think it was the 400 meters — who pulled his muscle in the middle of it but didn’t want to quit, so he was crawling toward the finish line and then his dad comes out and helps him finish. It’s those kinds of moments where you can admire endurance and achievement and it can be a transcendent thing. So those are two kinds of transcendence in sports: the beauty that sometimes can be portrayed through athletic skill and the display of character traits like love, humility or perseverance.

Is there anything else you’d like to share?

Two more things. One is the 1 Timothy 4:8 passage about how physical training is of some value but godliness has value for all things. I think that from a Christian point of view we’ve got to realize that when it says “physical training is of some value,” it means it. I heard a pastor give a sermon on this and his reading was that we shouldn’t care about our physical appearance. He was criticizing our obsession with physical appearance in our society, which is true, but then he was jumping to the value of godliness. I think we’ve got to read what it actually says. There is value to physical training, even if it’s limited compared to the greater value of godly character.

My other point is that sport is a lot like religion in that we tend to divide it from the rest of life. Just like the Christian might say, “That’s my religious life, here’s my business life, here’s my home life,” we also tend to do that with sports. We can justify [bad] attitudes or words or actions because it’s sports. But from a Christian perspective we really can’t justify these things in any context. My hope is that at the level of practice believers can try to integrate their faith in Christ with watching, playing and parenting with respect to sports.

Michael W. Austin [M.A. ’00] is an associate professor of philosophy and religion at Eastern Kentucky University and the editor of Football and Philosophy: Going Deep. Follow him at michaelwaustin.blogspot.com or on Twitter @michaelwaustin.
Christ proclaimed, “I am the Way, and the truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me” (John 14:6). The Apostles echoed this claim, stating, “And there is salvation in no one else; there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). This doctrine is known as “Christian Particularism.”

Common objections to this doctrine include claims that it is “arrogant,” “prideful,” or “just plain unfair!” These objections, though, are meritless and often fail to address the foundational theological precepts inherent in the doctrine.

To have another way of salvation, a person must change the goal of salvation itself. For example, if the purpose of “salvation” is to become a god, realize your godhood, or merely escape incarceration in a cosmic jailhouse, the means of accomplishing salvation will reflect those mistaken salvific ends.

While the means of biblical salvation includes many concepts such as justification, adoption and regeneration, the objective of biblical salvation is easy to understand: to enjoy a loving, mentoring relationship with our Creator, the one true God. As Adam walked with God, so should we. But how can one restore a broken relationship with God?

The requirements for restoring a broken friendship are easy to understand but difficult for most to do. To restore a lost friendship, the offended person must be willing to forgive by bearing the harm caused by the transgressor, electing not to hold it against him if certain conditions are met. The conditions for forgiveness are that the offending party must repent, confess his sin and want to restore the relationship with the offended party. Since the goal of forgiveness is the restoration of a genuine friendship, the offending party must begin with repentance. When the sinner genuinely repents, confesses and receives the offer of forgiveness, the estranged parties reconcile, walking together again in righteous harmony. If anyone has ever lost and genuinely restored a meaningful friendship, they know this is the only way to do it.

One purely hypothetical illustration may help. If I screamed at my wife, calling her unmentionable names, my wife would rightly be offended and our intimate fellowship would surely be broken. So how would I return to a genuine state of e-harmony with my wife? First, my wife must be willing to bear the harm I caused her and not hold it against me. But to restore the relationship in any meaningful sense, I need to realize that what I did was wrong, repent, and confess my sin to my wife — preferably with symbols of my repentance in hand, such as flowers and candy! When these conditions are fulfilled, my wife will forgive me.

So how does this relate to Jesus Christ as the only way? Simple. To restore the broken relationship with the one true God, the offended party, God, must be willing to bear the consequences of our sin. God accomplishes this by means of the Second Person of the Trinity assuming a full human nature, living a sinless life, and satisfying our penalty for sin on the cross. Sinners, the offenders, need to repent, confess and trust God’s offer of forgiveness. When we do, we are reconciled to God for the purpose of fellowship with him as his beloved children. This is biblical salvation.

Now consider some of the common errors offered as “ways” of salvation. They are incoherent given the biblical objectives of salvation. For example, in a works-righteousness model, one would perform good works, such as helping little old ladies across the street, and then return to his wife and demand forgiveness since he “earned it” by good works. This model is as absurd as having a third party, such as the next door neighbor, “bear the burden” of the offense, after which the unrepentant man demands forgiveness from his wife. No sane person would ever attempt this method with their spouse, yet these errors are commonly offered as a “way” of salvation with God.

So, contrary to the many objections, since the goal of salvation is forgiveness and reconciliation with a personal God in order to have loving fellowship with him, the only scenario that makes any sense is to have God incarnate, Jesus Christ, bear our sin as a substitute, and require repentance and faith in him on the part of the sinner. He is the only way and the truth and the life! Scripture and good old common sense confirm this truth.

Kevin Alan Lewis (M.Div. ’92, Th.M. ’93) is professor of theology and law at Biola University. He holds a J.D. from Whittier Law School. He is the founder and director of the Institute for Theology & Law (www.itlnet.org).
The Colors of Hope: Becoming People of Mercy, Justice, and Love, by Richard Dahlstrom (M.Div. ’84), Baker Books, May 2011. We are called to impact a culture that, for all the rhetoric about hope, is overwhelmingly preoccupied with personal peace, prosperity, protection and survival. Christians should be artists who paint with the colors of hope in a broken world, embodying Christ’s redemptive presence in our personal lives, our work and our relationships.

Mind your Faith: A Student’s Guide to Thinking and Living Well, by David A. Horner (associate professor of philosophy and biblical studies), IVP Academic, August 2011. The university world can be a confusing place, filled with many competing worldviews and perspectives. Horner restores sanity to the collegiate experience with this guide to thinking and flourishing as a Christian. Carefully exploring how ideas work, he gives you tools for thinking contextually, logically and “worldviewishly.”

Counter-Cultural Paradigmatic Leadership: Ethical Use of Power in Confucian Studies, by Gary K. G. Choong (Ed.D ’09), foreword by Klaus Issler (professor of Christian education and theology), Wipf and Stock Publishers, June 2011. In Counter-Cultural Paradigmatic Leadership, Choong challenges the reader to consider the mindset, motive and manner of leadership in any Asian setting that is suffused with contemporary practices of paternalistic authority.

Think Christianly: Looking at the Intersection of Faith and Culture, by Jonathan Morrow (M.Div. ’07), Zondervan, October 2011. Think Christianly is about seizing the opportunities we have every day to speak the life Jesus offers into our culture. Tragically, many such opportunities pass us by unclaimed — either because we don’t notice them or we have not prepared ourselves to enter into them. Morrow helps church leaders envision and implement ways for their congregations to “think Christianly” about contemporary questions and to speak in informed, engaging ways. This book will help churches take vital steps toward cultivating compassion and competence in speaking faithfully to a questioning world.

For Calvinism, by Michael Horton (’87), Zondervan, October 2011. Calvinism has been immensely influential for the past 500 years, but it is often encountered negatively as a fatalistic belief system that confines human freedom and renders human action and choice irrelevant. Horton explores the historical roots of Calvinism, walking readers through the distinctive known as the “Five Points,” and encouraging them to consider its rich resources for faith and practice in the 21st century. As a companion to Roger Olson’s Against Calvinism, readers will be able to compare contrasting perspectives and form their own opinions on the merits and weaknesses of Calvinism.

Six-Word Summary
Assesses asses in archaeology, ancient texts.

You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church … And Rethinking Faith, by David Kinnaman (’96), Baker Books, October 2011. More than 60 percent of young people who went to church as teens drop out after high school. Where Kinnaman’s first book, unChristian, showed the world what outsiders aged 16–29 think of Christianity, You Lost Me shows why younger Christians, ages 16–29, are leaving the church and rethinking their faith.
**ALUMNI NEWS**

**NEWS AND NOTES**

**Carl ('60) and Marilyn (Friesen, '60)**
Gerbrandt celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 11, 2011. They were married in 1961 at the Mennonite Brethren Church of Reedley, Calif. The Gerbrandts currently live in Greeley, Colo.

**George Pontius ('61)** published his autobiography, *Grace over the Long Run*, in December 2010. The book follows his time as a Navy corpsman, a student at Biola, an overseas missionary and as a pastor. He is now retired and lives with his wife in Spokane, Wash. His autobiography is available on Amazon.

**Harry Brewer ('67)** is grateful for God’s faithfulness to their four children and 11 grandchildren. After 20 years of leading Bible studies, he is pleased to announce the publishing of *A Study in the Book of Colossians: Focusing on Jesus the Christ*. This in-depth study is available as an e-book on Amazon. Living with his wife, Holly, in Seal Beach, Calif., he enjoys frequent visits from grandson, Luke, age 5.


**Michael Magill ('73, M.Div. '77)** recently published the book, *Disciples’ Literal New Testament*. The book retains the writing style of the apostles themselves, rather than transforming their Greek ways of writing into an elegant or contemporary English writing style, he says. It can be purchased at literalnewtestament.com.

**Charlie Tarrell ('74)** was a pastor in the Evangelical Free Church for 25 years. For the past six years Charlie has served as a full-time hospice chaplain. He recently published a book, *Testing the Gospel in the Book of Romans*, in August 2011. Charlie lives with his wife, Leta (Howard, ’74), in Everett, Wash., where she works in the vaccine preventable disease program as a public health nurse for Snohomish County.

**Rubens Marshall ('75)** currently lives in Paraná, Brazil, where he recorded a CD of hymns using virtual instruments. He would love to hear from fellow alumni and can be contacted by email at rubensmarshall1@gmail.com.


**Mark Bradshaw ('79)** is an evening news anchor for KTUL-TV, the ABC affiliate in Tulsa, Okla. He’s been an anchor/reporter all over the country, including Las Vegas and CBN News. His wife, Michelle, is a Realtor in Tulsa, and two of his three boys attend the University of Oklahoma. Mark also writes about news, money and family issues on his website, tvnooz.com.

**Greg Behle ('82)** presented his research on the University of Illinois as a participant in the conference “Legacy & Promise: 150 Years of Land-Grant Universities” in June 2011. This conference hosted researchers from around the United States at Pennsylvania State University as part of the 150th anniversary of the passage of the Morrill Act. Research focused on the backgrounds and attainments of students who entered the university when it opened in March 1868. His paper will be part of an upcoming book, *Land-Grant Universities and the Reshaping of American Higher Education*.

**Trish Wiebe ('99)** recently traveled to Cairo, Egypt, to begin a three-year assignment with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) as a program coordinator. MCC is a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches with workers in 48 countries.

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**Sharon Ramsey, '84/ Hansen**

Hansen has held a leadership position for 19 out of the 20 years she has worked with Southwest Airlines. She currently works as a change and learning facilitator for Southwest in Phoenix, Ariz. She trains new hires and current employees on policies and procedures, company initiatives and new programs. She has taught several leadership courses for the airline, such as Leadership 101 and Freedom LUV. The training for new hires counts toward college credit, so Hansen is considered an adjunct professor at Rio Salado Community College in Arizona. Hansen was previously a customer service supervisor and a bilingual team leader in customer support and services. She speaks English and Spanish fluently and leads emergency training in both languages. One of her favorite memories on the job is the time she inspected a suitcase containing a live bobcat. Hansen is a mother of three and enjoys photography, writing and traveling. Before working for Southwest Airlines, Hansen held a variety of jobs, which included being a switchboard operator at Biola University, a marketing services manager at Encyclopedia Britannica and an advertising and account representative at *The Daily Record*. She said she has used knowledge from her communications classes at Biola in her career, and student ministries prepared her to reach out to her community. “We are the hands and feet in a world of hurting people, and we are commanded to love others … that is the way we can impact the world the most,” Hansen said.
Biola University thanks these generous sponsors for supporting 2011 Biola Golf Tournament and several other alumni and parent events over the past year.

Together, over $50,000 was raised for the Biola Fund and student athletic scholarships.

For all of the benefits of a Biola education — the great Bible training, the lifelong relationships and the Biola community that we all enjoyed as students — the one thing that many alumni have felt they missed in not attending one of the large state universities is the strategic networking that comes with vast alumni numbers and big programs.

Well, those days they are a changin’!

The Alumni Relations office is so pleased to have several new groups developing in Orange County, Los Angeles County and across the country as alumni are using social media tools to expand their networks and borders. In recent weeks several spontaneous networking groups have surfaced through LinkedIn and Facebook that have generated a rekindling of relationships, several new jobs, and the start of what we hope will be a wonderful new era for Biola alumni who are seeking to network for the purpose of career advancement.

And while Biola alumni have an amazing events schedule to attend, these unique networking events provide a wonderful setting to meet a few new alumni for the purpose of finding a new job, advancing in a career or finding new employees. If you haven’t yet joined the Biola LinkedIn or Facebook pages, do it! You won’t be sorry! And while you are joining up, don’t miss the opportunity to check out your information on the new alumni Web search engine at biola.edu/alumni. This great new alumni tool allows you access to your alumni information and the information of other alumni with whom you graduated. It is a great virtual alumni directory that will help you connect with friends and long-lost roommates!

Finally, if you missed Biola Weekend on Oct. 14–15, you missed the launch of an annual event that will truly be the event of the year on Biola’s calendar. This combined weekend of alumni, parents and students has become the showcase for what’s new on campus, what’s happening with Biola around the world, and a celebration of the education provided here at Biola. This year’s event introduced, in “TED Talk” style, the “T3 Talks” (named from Biola’s themes of “truth, transformation and testimony”), with cutting-edge presentations from six great speakers, including Rob Bredow (’94), Jody Ward (’98), Christof Meyer (’06), Rick Johnson (’84), Jeremy Mann (’08) and Karen Riddervold (’99).

The weekend also celebrated the completion and dedication of the new Talbot building with special guests from around the country who have helped to make the building possible through their sacrificial giving and support. Finally, the weekend wrapped up with class- and special-interest reunions and the celebration banquet. If you missed it, you can check out the photos on the Biola Alumni Association Facebook page and watch the T3 Talks on Biola’s YouTube page, youtube.com/biolauniversity. And we hope to see you next year for Biola Weekend on Oct. 5–6, 2012, where together we will be Alumni for Life!

Rick Bee (’79, M.A. ’90, Ph.D. ’01) is senior director of alumni relations. Email him at alumni@biola.edu or call (562) 903-4728.

To support students with a gift to the Biola Fund, visit www.biola.edu/giving or call 800-632-4652.
Jared Begg (’03, M.A. ’07) contributed two pieces to the devotional Our Savior Come: An Advent Companion. The book was printed in early November, just in time for Advent. Over a dozen writers contributed essays and discussion questions to the book to help readers fully enjoy the Christmas season. It is available on Amazon.

Tom Gender (M.A. ’06) recently published Truth Matters: Life’s Five Most Important Questions, which systematically and critically explores five of life’s biggest questions: Where did everything come from? What is wrong with the world? How should we live? What happens after we die? Can we be sure? Tom graduated from Biola with a master’s degree in Christian apologetics and writes and teaches frequently about faith and apologetics.

Bridgette Ann (’04) recently authored the book Now Is The Time!: Kingdom Minded, which was published in June through Westbow Press. The book focuses on “the importance and urgency of the kingdom, which is the ministry of Jesus, and how we as believers are to live and function in the earth realm,” Bridgette says. You can find it online through Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

Andrew M. Bailey (’06) recently completed a Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Notre Dame (under the direction of Alvin Plantinga and Michael Rea). He will be teaching philosophy at Notre Dame for the rest of the academic year while he seeks a faculty job at a college or university. His website is andrewmbailey.com.

Melinda (Lavorante, ’05) Meuser married Garret Meuser on June 27, 2009, in the Boise, Idaho, area. For five years following graduation, Melinda taught honors high school English. After the birth of their daughter, Nora, in June 2010, Melinda has worked part time as an English tutor. Garret is the pastor of Casco Alliance Church in Casco, Maine.

Dana (’10) and Chawna (Vasquez, ’10) Dill were married at South Shores Church in Monarch Beach, Calif., on Aug. 21, 2010. The high school sweethearts both graduated from Biola in 2010 with degrees in Christian education and communication disorders. Dana is the junior high youth pastor at South Shores Church, and Chawna is working from home and helping out with junior high and high school students. Biolans in the wedding party included Emily Barr (’09), Maribeth Johnson (’09), Laura Kurica (’08), Jake Hamilton (’10) and Chris Reeder (’10). Dana is currently studying at Talbot and they are living in Dana Point, Calif.

Dan (’11) and Linzy (Spann, ’11) Westman were married on June 24, 2011, at the Fort Belvoir Officer’s Club just outside Washington, D.C. Biolans in the wedding party included Tavia Grubbs (’11), Mason Wren (’10), Lucas Floyd (’11), Evan Eliason (’11), Brent Worthington (’12) and Ryan Adams (’11). The couple honeymooned in the Turks and Caicos Islands in the British West Indies. Dan and Linzy now live in Deerfield, Ill., where Dan is studying at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Linzy works as the sales associate and event planner for Worship Team Training, Inc.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Matt Wilson (’01) knows what it takes to be successful in the entertainment industry. Since graduating from Biola with a major in radio, television and film, he has written scripts for major networks and debuted his first graphic novel at Comic-Con in 2010. In 2004, he wrote the Krypto the Superdog episode “My Pet Boy” for the Cartoon Network, which aired a year later. He also wrote the Brandy and Mr. Whiskers episode “Where Everybody Knows Your Name” for Disney Channel in 2005. Wilson has held positions at Lionsgate and Handprint Entertainment, but he said his best industry day job was working as a production assistant for Disney Feature Animation. During that time, he worked in various departments on films such as Chicken Little, Meet the Robinsons and Bolt. Wilson also wrote lines for movie posters, which were used for Not Easily Broken, Taking Woodstock, Surfwise and Good Time Max. His graphic novel, Scrooge and Santa (scroogeadsanta.com), was illustrated by alumnus Josh Kenfield (’03) and became available in comic book stores this November. More recently, he began working on producing test movies for Amazon Studios. His first test movie, The Umpire, won Best Test Movie last May. (You can watch his film at studios.amazon.com/movies/7325.) “Being caught up in a well-told story is a unique feeling,” Wilson said. “It’s hard work to make something that leaves the audience satisfied, but that is always my goal. I want to give others that feeling great storytellers and filmmakers have given me.” His current project is creating a test movie for his screenplay Speak to Me in Poetry. Outside of film, Wilson has traveled to Kenya four times on mission trips and serves as a deacon at his church in Hollywood.

Lavorante-Meuser Wedding

Vasques-Dill Wedding

Spann-Westman Wedding

WEDDINGS

Matt Wilson (’01)
Opting for Adoption

Alumnus’ teaching program honored by congressman

During 20-plus years in ministry, Jeff Slack (’98, M.A. ’02) came to believe that something important was missing from many youth groups: a strong curriculum to educate students about adoption as an option for unwanted pregnancy.

Hoping to fill that void, Slack in October 2010 released Adopt: The Option, a two-week curriculum for youth groups that outlines the need and biblical basis for adoption. Also included on the DVD kit are resources such as a student guide, posters, videos and games.

“It just clicked that there’s nobody sharing with students a positive understanding of adoption from a biblical perspective,” Slack said.

Although it is just over a year old, the curriculum is already making a difference. In October, it was chosen by Congressman Gary Miller (R-Calif.) to receive an Angels in Adoption award, an annual honor from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute that recognizes efforts to spread adoption awareness.

Adopt: The Option discusses the pros and cons of all three options for pregnant women, which are adoption, abortion and keeping the child. The DVD also explains the characteristics of open and closed adoptions.

The curriculum’s goal is to create advocates for adoption among youth group students. At the end of the program, students are provided with a wallet card to give to a pregnant friend in need. The card contains the phone number of a licensed Christian social worker who can direct young women interested in adoption to one of the video’s partnering adoption agencies.

Slack, who runs a ministry called Connect the Family, invited numerous other adoption agencies to serve as partners for the curriculum, including Generations Adoption and Nightlight Christian Adoption, where Slack serves as a board member.

One of his goals is to partner with an adoption agency in every state. Adopt: The Option currently has partners in California, Colorado, South Carolina and Texas.

“Rather than them calling Planned Parenthood to try to get answers, we’re encouraging them to call our number, and then from there we connect them to one of our partners if they’re interested in hearing more about adoption,” Slack said.

Over 1,000 youth group students have participated in the curriculum so far, Slack said. After they complete the program, the students sign commitment cards, which the youth pastors mail back to Slack so he can track the program’s progress.

“We hope to change the tide of adoption awareness,” he said. “We had hoped we would see 25,000 commitment cards signed in the first year. We’ll probably see that sometime next year, and that’s our initial goal. And then we’ll see where God takes it from there.”

For more information or to purchase the curriculum, visit www.adopttheoption.com.

– Amy Seed
**BIRTHS**

Jeff (‘97) and Jessica Eschen (‘99) gladly announce the birth of their sixth child, Joel Brian Eschen. He was born at home in Canby, Ore., weighing in at 9 pounds, 2 ounces. Joel joins his siblings Andrew, Gwen, Leah, Luke and Naomi. Jeff is a CPA in Salem and Jessica gets to stay home and school the children.

Daniel (‘98) and Leslie (Norvell, ‘00) Oliver are blessed to announce the birth of their precious baby boy, Luke Emmett Oliver. Luke was born May 10, 2011, weighing in at 10 pounds and measuring 21 inches. The Olivos live in Fresno, Calif., where Daniel is working in HR for Milano Restaurants and coaching soccer at Clovis North High School. Leslie is a general sales manager with Pulte Group.

Andrew (‘02) and Kelly (Brandes, ‘02) Hartman announce the birth of their son, Luke Brandes Hartman, born Aug. 11, 2010. Long and lean, Luke weighed in at 6 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20.75 inches long. Big sister Emma, 3, is thrilled to have a little brother!

Jason (‘02) and Megan (Aley, ‘03) Newell celebrated the birth of their first child, Lily Anastasia, on Aug. 26, 2011. Her name comes from Matthew 6:28 (“consider the lilies”) and is a reminder that our sovereign God knows and cares for our needs. The family lives in Fullerton, Calif., and both parents work at Biola — Megan in the Office of the Registrar and Jason in University Communications and Marketing.

Amanda (Davis, ‘04) and Andrew Slaughter welcomed the birth of their son, Jonathan Andrew Slaughter, on March 23, 2011. Amanda worked in the admission office at Biola for several years but currently lives in Jackson, Miss., and serves as a chief retention officer at a Christian school named Belhaven University.

Chris and Rae Lynn (Rucker, ‘05) Lott are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Emmersyn Rose, on Oct. 9, 2011.

Melinda (Lavorante, ‘05) and Garret Meuser welcomed their first child, Nora Doan Meuser, on June 5, 2010, at 7 pounds, 10 ounces and 21 inches long. Taking after neither of her parents, she has blond hair and blue eyes.

Tony and Rebecca Blanchard (‘01) were graced with a fourth son, Eston James, on their 11th wedding anniversary, May 27, 2011. He was welcomed with great fanfare from his big brothers, Silas, Dorian and Roman. After a recent move to Colorado Springs, Colo., Rebecca is a stay-at-home mom and Tony is blessed to work from home for LOGOS Church Management Software.

Daniel Dyk (‘76) was featured in Villa Park City Magazine in February for his missions work in Ensenada, Mexico, through Agua Viva Ministries (AVM). Currently serving as president of the ministry’s board of directors, Dyk has been involved with AVM since 1985. “Agua Viva is a multifaceted ministry, uniquely combining American and Mexican resources in the beautiful country of Mexico,” he said. The ministry runs a Christian summer camp that attracts 5,000 campers per year and also trains 30 to 50 students per year in its on-site seminary, the Missionary Training Institute. It is a three-year program that began 25 years ago.

AVM’s facilities cover 170 acres and are able to house 300 people in the camp area and 100 in the seminary. Dyk visits the ministry one to two times a year with various groups of people, including his Sunday school class and friends who are interested in the ministry. Dyk also travels to Mexico twice a year for board meetings and makes additional trips with potential ministry partners. AVM keeps a running list of about 100 projects to match the needs of local Mexican churches. While working on projects, the ministry partners with these churches to establish long-term relationships in the community. Aside from AVM, Dyk has a career in information technology and enjoys photography. He is married to his wife, Kim (‘76), and has three children and two grandchildren. They live in Orange County, Calif. For more information about AVM or how to become involved, visit aguaviva.com or facebook.com/AVMinistries.
George Bell (’82)
The tallest living American-born man

George Bell is someone you can’t help looking up to. Standing at his full height of 7 feet 8 inches, Bell (’82) was named the “Tallest Man in the United States” by the Guinness Book of World Records in November 2007. (The title was later claimed by Ukrainian-born Igor Vovkovinskiy in 2010, though Bell remains the tallest American-born man.) A native of Virginia, Bell transferred to Biola in 1981 for his senior year, where he played as a center on the men’s basketball team. After graduating, he went on to play for several years with the Harlem Globetrotters and Harlem Wizards teams — and also made a memorable, globally televised starring role at the closing ceremonies for the 1984 Summer Olympics. Bell has worked with youth in juvenile detention centers since 1990, and he currently works as a sheriff’s deputy in Virginia. He recently shared some of his story with Biola Magazine.

I left Biola in ’82. I studied therapy and recreation so I took several courses, I guess you could say with the sister major of recreation, basically.

Our [basketball] record was great that year. We went all the way to the national finals. We lost that year to South Carolina I think it was, and we finished up at 33-1.

I had a great coach there, Dave Holmquist, and he really taught me a lot that year. Basically, he really helped my game.

I always had dreams of doing things in life and traveling the world.

Playing for [the Harlem Globetrotters and Wizards teams] gave me an opportunity to travel so much and see parts of the world I never dreamed of seeing. It was wonderful. And playing the sport itself was good. That was a dream of mine to play basketball. I wanted to play NBA but never got an opportunity to play. But at least I feel like I carried my dream about as far as I could.

If you look up the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles and the closing ceremonies, you will see the special thing that was done — this alien appeared on top of the [Los Angeles Memorial] Coliseum. And that was me. I did that.

That was a very unique experience. I’ll never forget that. That was as close to Hollywood as I ever experienced in my life. They had to make a body cast and everything else. It took about half the summer to do it.

People try to make life so hard for most tall celebrities, like we are aliens. We are not. We’re just tall.

I’m glad that I have the mentality that I never look at my stature that God gave me as a problem. When people see me they don’t see this struggling, low self-esteem kind of a guy who’s mad at the world, who tries to stay away from people. That is not me. Everything you do, George Bell does it. And that’s how I can make my life as normal and as comfortable because I enjoy having fun. I enjoy being around people.

I began working with the youth in the juvenile detention areas in the state of North Carolina, and I found that was a pretty interesting field. Those kids were really seeking out for someone to love them and to help them and teach them. And as time went on, I did a lot of work with kids. I tried to do as much as I can. I’d go talk to them, visit with them.

Myself and the tallest man in the world got together for a few days last year. He was 8-foot-3, about 27 years old.

It was very unique to meet someone taller than me because I never have met someone who was taller than me. I’ve met guys who were close to my height, maybe an inch or two shorter, but never anyone taller than me. That was the first time in my lifetime, and it was a wonderful experience to see. That was the first time I could look up to a man, standing up. It was a wonderful experience.

ONLINE EXTRA:
Watch footage of George as “the alien” in the 1984 Olympics at magazine.biola.edu.

Jehoaddan [Strain, ’09] Kulakoff resides and freelances in Highland Park, Calif., with her 6-foot-7-inch husband and runt cat, Darkness. More of her work can be found at Tusssk.com.
David (’06) and Emily (Bates, ’06) Rummelhoff happily announce the birth of their first child, Liv Margaret Rummelhoff. She was born on May 24, 2011, weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces, and measuring 20 inches long. David and Emily were married on Dec. 12, 2008, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Allentown, Pa. David and Emily currently live in Cincinnati, Ohio, where David is a stay-at-home dad and grad student seeking his master’s in religious education from Loyola University New Orleans, and Emily ministers to the mentally ill as a researcher in the department of psychiatry at the University of Cincinnati.

Wes and Kristen (Howard, ’08) McClain celebrate the birth of their first child, a beautiful daughter, Camille Renée. Born Aug. 4, Camille weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 inches long. Camille was born at Sutter Tracy Community Hospital in Tracy, Calif., where the couple reside. Wes works in nearby Livermore as engineering manager for a fire protection company while Kristen is a stay-at-home mom and independent consultant for a faith-based company, Thirty-One Gifts.

Adam (M.Div. ’08) and Holly (Peters, ’99, M.A. ’05) Pivec welcomed their second child, Elizabeth “Lizzie” Blue, on Sept. 16, 2011. Lizzie joins her 3-year-old sister, Kate. Adam and Holly live in Fairbanks, Alaska, where Adam serves as an associate minister at Bethel Church. Holly stays home with the girls and researches and writes about the New Apostolic Reformation. See Holly’s blog at www.spiritoferror.org.

DEATHS

Gordon Coulter (Ed.D. ’03) was born June 6, 1943, in Glendale, Calif. He died at the age of 68 on Sept. 15, 2011. Gordon became a Christian at age 4 and entered into a life of ministry after college. He married his wife, Lindy, on March 18, 1967, who joined him in ministry. Gordon served as a pastor at Neighborhood Christian Fellowship and a full-time professor of Christian education at Azusa Pacific University. He was the director of the new youth ministries minor at APU in 1973. Gordon worked as a youth pastor for Downey Free Methodist Church from 1969–72 and was also the executive director for Suburban Youth for Christ from 1965–69. He also served as chaplain at Booth Memorial Hospital and Home for Unwed Mothers. From 1975–79, he served as a full-time police officer for the city of West Covina. When he left the department as an officer, he became their official chaplain. Aside from youth ministry, another of Gordon’s passions was music. He played the string bass and trombone, often accompanying the musical talents of his mother and two siblings.

Wanda J. (Hazelton, ’55) Humble was born in Luan, Shansi, China, on May 29, 1933. The daughter of missionaries, Wanda grew up speaking Chinese as her first language. Her family lived in America briefly while she was growing up, and she attended elementary school in the United States before going back to China. Wanda graduated from Biola in 1955, where she held two leadership positions as a student. She served as president of the King’s Daughters and secretary of the student body. She married her husband, Arny (’56), in 1956, and their family later grew to include four children and nine grandchildren. Together, Wanda and Arny served as missionaries in West Borneo, Indonesia, under the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society. While there, Wanda started a women’s ministry and led the youth ministry. After 23 years in West Borneo, she moved to the island of Java, where she led marriage and family workshops with her husband and taught at the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Indonesia until 1999. Wanda died on Feb. 17, 2011.

Send Us Your News & Notes

Please limit your updates to 60 words and include your years of graduation or last year you attended Biola.

Death announcements must be submitted by a family member or be accompanied by a photocopy of a published obituary.

Books authored by alumni may be featured either in News & Notes or in the Book by Biolans section, depending on space availability.

In order to appear in the Books by Biolans section, self-published books must have a back cover endorsement from a known name in the book’s field.

Photos must be at least 1 megabyte for digital photos. Photo inclusion is based on space availability. Print photos will not be returned.

Your update will appear in the first available issue.

Jurassic Park, Mrs. Doubtfire and The Fugitive were the top grossing movies
The Dallas Cowboys won the Super Bowl “I Will Always Love You” by Whitney Houston was a chart-topping hit Cheers ended its 11-year run “Pogs” became an international sensation

When the Class of 2015 Were Infants ...

The year is 1993. It’s the year when most current Biola freshmen were born. It’s also the year when:
• Amazon.com was born.
• Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls won their third straight NBA championship.
• It was announced that the World Wide Web would be free to anyone.

When the Class of 2015 Were Infants...
1969 was the year of Woodstock and the year the first man landed on the moon. It was also the year Biola took one giant leap into “mixed bathing” by constructing its first coed swimming pool! Or not... This is actually a photo of the 1969 Rose Hall expansion. The hole you see is Rose Lower level, muddy from the heavy rains of the winter of 68-69. It wasn’t until five years later — in 1974 — that Biola constructed its first real pool. (And yes, it was coed!).
At Biola University’s six graduate schools, nearly 2,000 graduate students are currently pursuing master’s and doctoral degrees in a wide variety of fields. 

COULD THIS BE YOU TOO?

Talbot School of Theology
- M.A. (Bible Exposition, New Testament, Old Testament, Philosophy of Religion and Ethics, Theology & more)
- M.A. in Christian Education
- M.A. in Christian Ministry and Leadership
- M.A. in Spiritual Formation and Soul Care
- M.Div.
- Th.M. (Master of Theology)
- Doctor of Ministry
- Ed.D. in Educational Studies
- Ph.D. in Educational Studies

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The Trellises Out Back

When we moved into our house several years ago, the backyard was a mess. The previous owners had large dogs, which had torn up whatever grass had survived from the late ’50s, when the neighborhood was built. And there was that ugly wall separating us from the folks next door. One of our first outdoor projects involved building trellises next to this wall and planting vines that would, according to our plan, climb up and hide that eyesore.

Well, it’s been 20 years since I built those trellises, and I hadn’t given them much thought until about a year ago. Wandering through Rolane’s delightful collection of flowers and plants, I noticed that one section of my handiwork was rotting and falling apart. But the vine was doing well. In fact, it was now holding up the trellis! That made me think about the nature of the trellis, and how it reflects the realities of what we do in ministry. Let me elaborate.

Trellises provide strength and support. The flimsy little vines we planted so long ago were at first not able to stand on their own. We tied fragile limbs to the latticework, which provided them safety as they grew thick and strong. In the same way, parents are a trellis to their children and pastoral leaders to the saints. As we struggle to establish our families and ministries, we need the steadfast support of others stronger than ourselves.

When the children of Israel were in the earliest days of the exodus, their sojourn would have been short-lived without the strong hand of Moses, whose true strength, of course, came from the Lord. Years after the powerful events of that journey, the Psalmist would praise God for his greatness and provision by concluding, “You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron” (Ps. 77:20). As an infant nation, Israel was blessed through the strength and support of faithful servants as they journeyed to the Promised Land.

Trellises guide and direct growth. Vines will go everywhere and nowhere if not given a route to follow. When we look at our children, or at the people God has given us in our ministries, where do we want them to go? In a way, we serve as their trellis by the things we say and live for. I think of Paul’s letter to the Philippians when he writes, “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead” (Phil. 3:10-11). Christian leaders aspire to all kinds of things today — innovative ministries, large crowds, top-notch facilities — but our ultimate goal must always be Christ, and him alone. Our lives should point those around us in his direction.

Trellises supply a pattern for growth. Our goal for the vines on our trellis was “up,” but we were also concerned about “shape.” As we watch our grown children raise their children, we wonder what kind of people our grandkids will become. What kind of character will they possess? It’s sobering to realize that we have a part to play, as do their parents. Paul was able to say to the Philipians, “Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you” (3:17). And again, to the Corinthians he wrote, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1).

Paul was not asking his beloved brethren to be clones. They were all uniquely made and gifted, just as he was. No, he desired that they exhibit the fruit of the Spirit through lives of daily obedience in keeping with their position as saints of the Lord. The vine that follows the trellis’ pattern does not look exactly like the host, but does reflect its general form. Like it or not, we are providing a template upon which others measure their life of faith. We should want that pattern to be reflective of Jesus Christ.

Trellises eventually disintegrate. Even though the trellises in my backyard were well-built out of good materials, the ravages of time and weather have left many of them significantly compromised. They are falling apart, just as we are all falling apart. Our days on this earth are limited. As God’s trellises, we have choices to make. Will we, as we depend on the Lord, provide strength and support to those around us? Will we point others to Jesus Christ? And will we live our lives so that others can follow our pattern of obedience and faithfulness to God?

May we all seek to be faithful as God’s trellises and leave behind a beautiful tapestry of his handiwork in the lives of others.

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LEAVE A LEGACY for the KINGDOM

INCLUDE BIOLA UNIVERSITY IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS

Kelly and Suzanne Larson have a passion for furthering the impact of Biola University and Talbot School of Theology — institutions committed to upholding truth in a world where it’s ever more under attack. This passion recently led the Larsons to include Biola in their estate plans.

The Larsons want to support Biola’s uncompromising commitment to teaching and preaching God’s truth, and so can you!

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Visit biola.edu/mlp to get started.

“This is a day in which there is a tendency to waver in favor of being tolerant of ‘nontruth’ and we think that Biola is a leader in sustaining and teaching a proper biblical worldview.”

– Kelly Larson (M.A. ’08)