AN ALUMNUS WITH GAY PARENTS DISCOVERS ‘MESSY GRACE’ p.17

CAN MATH HELP TO PRODUCE BETTER BASEBALL PLAYERS? p.19

A KEY INGREDIENT FOR A HEALTHY MARRIAGE p.43

HOW Good Science MAKES US Better Christians
Help equip students like Ashley!

**YEAR:** Sophomore  
**MAJOR:** Human Biology, emphasis in pre-health care professions  
**CAREER GOAL:** Optometrist or Ophthalmologist

The aid I have received is the sole reason why I’m still here at Biola. Every minute I spend here is valuable, and I constantly remind myself that there are people like you who believe that I can really grow from being here so I can better fulfill my calling in life. I am forever grateful that I can study at a university where I am continually learning more about God and how to defend the fact that science actually proves my faith.

Your gift today will help train students like Ashley to be leaders in the fields of science, technology and health care. Your tax-deductible gift of any size makes a difference for the 84 percent of students who rely on vital aid from the Biola Fund.

Change the life of a Biola student today by giving online:

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See more stories of impact at giving.biola.edu/havethecourage
Sophomore

Major: Human Biology, emphasis in pre-healthcare professions

Career Goal: Optometrist or Ophthalmologist

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COVER STORY p.24

How Good Science Makes Us Better Christians

Five Biola science and health professors sit down for a conversation about the connection between science and faith — and why Biola is seeking to become a leader in the sciences in the years ahead. (Photo by NASA)

FEATURE p.30

Laboratory Labors

A glimpse into Biola's laboratories and offices, where many professors, students and young alumni are engaged in all sorts of interesting and impressive scientific research.

THINK BIBLICALLY p.17

How Should Christians Respond to Gay Loved Ones?

plus Faculty Research Focus / Books by Biolans / Defend Your Faith / Latest Resources

ON THE COVER
Clouds of glowing gas mingle with dust lanes in the Trifid Nebula, a star-forming region toward the constellation of the Archer. (Photo by NASA)

ALUMNI LIFE p.35

Three New Names in Athletics Hall of Fame

plus Class Notes / Alumni Profiles / From the Alumni Office / In Memoriam / Memory Lane

THE LAST WORD p.43
A couple of years ago, Biola put up a series of billboards across Southern California, including a large one not far from John Wayne Airport. Each day, hundreds of thousands of commuters on the 55 Freeway drove past the university logo and four large words: “Think Biblically. About Everything.”

It was fascinating to watch the response to this message. A picture of the billboard that went up on Facebook quickly racked up thousands of “likes,” becoming the university’s most popular social media post up to that point. But in the comments section — as one might expect in an online comments section — some people weren’t so enthusiastic. Some of the highlights:

• “Why not think logically and forget about all of that nonsense instead?”
• “If we thought biblically about everything, including science, we’d still be in the Dark Ages.”
• “Put down your fantasy novel and pick up a science text. The world will be a better place.”

Unfortunately, this kind of thinking is widespread in our culture. For many of our neighbors and coworkers, the Bible seems completely irrelevant. To them, it’s antiquated, it’s outdated, and it’s been disproven by science. And it’s astounding that so many of us would devote our lives to a book written 2,000 years ago in a desert on the other side of the world by people who didn’t know what we know about science.

But actually, as Christians who believe that all things were created by, through, and for Jesus, we recognize — as generations of Christians have before us — that if anyone has a reason to embrace and lead in the study of the sciences, it’s us. As Biola physics professor John Bloom writes in his newest book, The Natural Sciences: A Student’s Guide:

“(T)he study of creation is the glorious pursuit of knowledge and wisdom that comes from thinking God’s thoughts after him. We study the world around us as we might a great work of art like the Mona Lisa: looking for patterns, regularities and style, to be sure, while also being sensitive to the artist’s creativity, clever technique and brilliant execution. … And if this isn’t enough, there is a practical benefit to gaining this wisdom: we can use much of it to relieve suffering, help others and improve our quality of life.”

As you’ll read about in this issue of Biola Magazine, one of Biola’s goals in the years ahead — and one of the highest priorities of the university’s current $180 million fundraising campaign — is to excel even further in the sciences. With plans for a new building, a new school and enhanced programs in science, health and technology, Biola is seeking to fill the void of Christian intellectual and moral leadership in these areas, for a future that will need it more than ever.

In this issue and accompanying online videos, we offer a look at the opportunity and need for Christians to provide leadership in the sciences, and we share just some of the ways that our faculty are using their research and teaching to help a new generation to think biblically about everything, including science.

Jason Newell (’02, M.A. ’13)
Helen MacKenzie’s name came to our field attention. I do remember that we intensely prayed to the Lord for her to come to help us with the need for someone to direct the Garden of Happiness, the name designated for the children’s home we felt we needed, especially for children separated from their parents due to leprosy, as well as orphaned and needy children. I think in 1955 Gladys arrived on the field and continued there until probably about 1978, when due to frail health she had to leave. During her years of ministry on the field, Gladys was certainly devoted to the Lord and to the children and families she so wonderfully helped. She was often called upon to help people in the community with health needs. I can vouch for her dedication as I saw her ministry firsthand because I was field director for 21 years.

I believe I saw Gladys years later in a retirement facility in Pennsylvania. I do not know when she was ushered into the presence of the Lord whom she so faithfully served. She was very greatly loved by her coworkers and staff with whom she worked. I am so glad for this occasion to reminisce on her life.

GENE MCBRIDE
Hesston, Kan.

Opinions should be a maximum of 200 words and include full name, city and state, and class year (if applicable). They may be edited for length and clarity.
Our goal at Biola is to graduate a generation of students who are ethical and excellent professionals in the sciences, grounded in a Christian worldview. These values inherent to a Biola education have attracted more students, with the number of science majors increasing by 79 percent over the past five years. In response, we continue to envision new, expanded and strengthened programs. We are working to recruit top-tier high school graduates, first-generation students, underrepresented minorities and women in the sciences. Biola is moving forward in the sciences with a high bar and bold aspirations.

Pouring into the lives of our students are our faculty. Biola professors not only mentor and teach, but so many of them come with outstanding credentials. Our science faculty have come to Biola from graduate schools like Stanford, Berkeley, Duke, Cornell, University of Pennsylvania, UCLA and UCI. They are engaged in research (see page 30) and excel in teaching. They don't bifurcate their faith and their scholarship. They have chosen Biola because it's a place where they can integrate a Christian worldview into their discipline in a way that gives students a greater picture of God's truth. They are investing in students who are making a difference.

Alumna Sarah Lum ('14) is pursuing a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at Notre Dame, receiving a substantial scholarship in part because of research she did while a student at Biola. Biochemistry major Gabby Odudu ('13) completed an accelerated master's degree in global medicine at the University of Southern California. She is now in medical school at UCLA and a recipient of the David Geffen full tuition scholarship.

Samuel Hammer is a Biola sophomore, a student I have had the pleasure of mentoring. He spent his first two years in a Bangalore orphanage fighting childhood diseases before being adopted by a family in Colorado. Now he's a biochemistry major wanting to give back as a physician, embodying the same compassion health care workers had for him as an outcast in India. Tyler Caldwell ('15) is another student I was honored to mentor. He enrolled in our 3–2 engineering program, a partnership we have with major research universities, and graduated this year with a joint engineering degree from NYU and Biola.

Angela Nicholson ('15) came to Biola as a budding ballerina before being captured by the study of science. Recently she shared her story with a group of science leaders visiting the university. Here is a bit of what Angela said after her summer internships at MIT and Caltech, undertaking brain research.

“Part of the reason I want to get my Ph.D. is that I think it is imperative that there are intelligent, thoughtful people who model what it is to both believe in Christ and be a good scientist. My Biola experience established a strong foundation for blending those two together through the challenging coursework and the emphasis on integration. Having professors demonstrate integration on a daily basis has taught me that faith and science are not at odds, but actually enhance each other.”

As science and technology accelerate and new frontiers open in areas like genetics, reproductive technology, artificial intelligence, sustainable energy and more, we want more Biola graduates like these to be at the tables of decision making and innovation.

Faith and science have for too long been pitted against each other; the tension has been perpetuated by a scarcity of models of scientists, professors and students of faith who are serious about science. Biola wants to change that, and we already are. There are great men and women at Biola who are serious about their faith and serious about science. May there be many more.

Barry H. Corey is the eighth president of Biola University. Visit his office online at biola.edu/president, on Facebook at facebook.com/presidentcorey and on Twitter at twitter.com/presidentcorey.
A SERIES OF COLLEGE RANKINGS RELEASED THIS FALL rate Biola as a national leader in academics, safety and campus life.

In September, U.S. News and World Report again named Biola one of America’s best colleges, placing it in the top tier of the “best national universities” category. The annual publication, which evaluates colleges based on academic reputation, test scores, graduation rates and other factors, ranked Biola at No. 161 overall.

“Biola University’s continued recognition by U.S. News as a top-tier national university speaks to our solid reputation in higher education,” said President Barry H. Corey. “As we move forward in our 10-year university plan and continue to innovate and strengthen our academic programs, I anticipate our ranking will continue to rise in the years to come.”

In addition to U.S. News, several other publications gave high marks to Biola’s academic quality:

- Forbes recognized Biola as one of “America’s Top Colleges” in August, ranking it among the top 15 percent of four-year colleges and universities.
- The Princeton Review named Biola one of 125 “Best Western Colleges” as part of the organization’s annual rankings in September.
- Biola’s journalism program was 27th in the nation in a ranking of college majors offered by USA Today and College Factual — making it the highest-ranking journalism program among Christian universities.

Biola was also recognized in several non-academic areas. Niche, a college ranking and review website, recognized Biola in October as a national leader in both safety and campus life. The university ranked 3rd and 15th in the nation, respectively, in the “Most Drug-Free Campuses” and “Safest College Campuses” categories. Biola was also 40th in the nation for “Best College Dorms,” 42nd for “Best College Campuses” and 46th for “Best College Food.”
“IS THE JESUS YOU KNOW THE JESUS WHO PRAYED THAT ALL HIS CHILDREN AND DISCIPLES WOULD BE ONE? IF YOU KNOW JESUS, YOU’RE ALSO SEEKING TO SERVE AND OBEY HIM, AND THAT MEANS PURSUING A UNIFIED FUTURE FOR THE CHURCH.”
- PETER LEITHART

WHAT WILL THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH LOOK LIKE IN THE FUTURE? Will it become more visibly unified or more fragmented than ever? Where and in what form will the future church thrive? These were some of the questions on the table on Sept. 9, as Biola University’s Torrey Honors Institute, in partnership with First Things and the Theopolis Institute, hosted a discussion on “The Future of the Church.”

A sequel of sorts to a popular 2014 Torrey event, “The Future of Protestantism,” the #churchfuture event (as it was known on Twitter) featured a capacity crowd in Calvary Chapel (as well as thousands of online viewers) watching theologians of varying backgrounds discuss the contours of ecclesiology and prospects for church unity.

This time around the panel represented a “bigger tent” of Christian traditions: Simon Chan of Singapore, one of the world’s foremost Pentecostal theologians; Ephraim Radner, an Anglican theologian from Toronto; Thomas Rausch, a Catholic theologian from Loyola Marymount University; and Biola professor Fred Sanders representing “low church” evangelicalism. Biola professor Matt Jenson served as moderator.

Each speaker gave prepared remarks for 10 minutes apiece, followed by a roundtable conversation with questions posed from Jenson and members of the audience. The event concluded with brief remarks from theologian Peter Leithart, whose 2013 essay “The End of Protestantism” sparked the dialogue explored by these two Biola events.

Chan spoke first and began his talk by pointing out that from an eschatological perspective, the future of the church is certain.

“Christ will one day have his bride without spot and wrinkle,” he said. “Without faith in this church that Jesus built, I don’t think there is much point discussing the future of the church. Our hope in its future is the promise of Christ.”

Radner echoed this sentiment, arguing that “there are today churches who will become the Church, but only as the Church becomes the bride presented to Christ.”

As for the current vitality of the church, panelists seemed to agree that it was a mixed bag.

Chan noted that while the Western mainline Protestantism tradition is “probably beyond repair,” he had “guarded optimism” about the church’s future in the Catholic, Orthodox, evangelical and Pentecostal traditions, though each has both strengths and weaknesses.

Rausch had similar observations about the changing profile of global Christianity.

“If Christianity is diminishing in the West, it is flourishing in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as Christianity’s center of gravity shifts to the Global South,” said Rausch, who pointed out that much of this growth has come in evangelical, Pentecostal and charismatic churches.

Both Chan and Rausch noted that the strengths of Global South Christianity also present challenges to the ecumenical movement. Where the former prioritizes experience, the supernatural and deep spiritual affinity with “primal religiosity,” the latter is more cerebral in its focus on the nuances of theology, creeds and confessions.

Still, Rausch was hopeful that the priority of mission would lead to common ground. If anything should move separated churches closer together, he suggested, it should be the urgency of the growing number of religiously unaffiliated, especially among young people.

Sanders picked up the theme of mission in his remarks, focusing on the importance of evangelization over ecclesiology. The key question for evangelicalism, argued Sanders, is not “What church do you belong to?” but rather “Do you know Jesus?” Evangelicalism is not a church with an ecclesiology but a movement with a mission. Evangelicalism began, after all, with conservative defectors from liberalizing denominations who sought to “band together and stick to the old faith.” The interdenominational cooperation of evangelicalism, suggested Sanders, is a sort of model of ecumenism.

In his concluding remarks on the evening’s discussion, Leithart agreed with Sanders’ point that “Do you know Jesus?” is the central question. But he challenged the audience to ask: “Is the Jesus you know the Jesus who prayed that all his children and disciples would be one? If you know Jesus, you’re also seeking to serve and obey him, and that means pursuing a unified future for the church.”

- BRETT MCCCRACKEN

ONLINE EXTRA

WATCH A VIDEO OF THE FULL EVENT AT WATCH.BIOLA.EDU/FUTURE-OF-THE-CHURCH.
The Birth of Blackstone

New residence hall features whiteboard walls, breakfast-themed cafe

THIS FALL, 318 Biola students have the privilege of being the inaugural residents of Blackstone Hall, the newly minted residence hall named after Biola’s first dean, William E. Blackstone.

Located on the north end of campus near Sigma, Blackstone provides the most affordable rooms on campus — 160 of them, spaced across two all-male and two all-female floors — and is heavy on community spaces both inside and outside the building, including a new outdoor courtyard. The residence hall is also Biola’s first to include an in-house eatery, which specializes in breakfast-all-day entrees like waffles and made-to-order breakfast burritos.

Due to its efficient design, use of sustainable building materials, recycling of construction waste and designated parking for clean air vehicles, Blackstone is on track to become Biola’s first facility to receive LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Other notable features include a multipurpose room for meetings and lectures, a fourth-floor terrace and natural gas barbecues (a first on Biola’s campus). Lounges throughout the building feature whiteboard walls for doodling, note-taking and community artistic expression.

Junior Tebraie Johns, a resident assistant on Blackstone’s “UNITED” floor, said the first semester of living in Blackstone has been “delightful and distracting.”

“Delightful because of the freshness and cleanliness of the building,” he said, “but distracting because of the smart 60-inch TVs on almost every wall, equipped with Netflix and YouTube! So basically nothing is going to get done, but by the grace of God we will overcome!”

- BRET MCCRACKEN

THE NEW RESIDENCE HALL IS NAMED AFTER BIAOLA’S FIRST DEAN, WILLIAM E. BLACKSTONE.
Blackstone Takes a Bow

Biola’s newest residence hall debuted this fall, in the space formerly occupied by the Sigma parking lot. Blackstone Hall, named after Biola’s first dean, “forgotten founder” William E. Blackstone, welcomed its inaugural 318 residents in August and celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 6. The four-story building is the first new residence hall built on campus since Horton Hall opened in 2006. It is also the first residence hall to include its own eatery, Blackstone Cafe. Read more about Blackstone on the previous page.

Photo by Ryan Gobuty | GENSLER
For Student Missionary Union (SMU) President Brady Lee, choosing to attend Biola was almost a no-brainer. When visiting his older brother, who also attended Biola, Lee recalled thinking, “The people here are so kind and Christ-centered.” Needless to say, that experience left a huge impression on the now senior Christian ministries major — Biola was the only school he applied to.

Lee’s involvement with SMU had a rather unconventional start. During Missions Conference his freshman year, the student-run organization needed actors to help in the “global awareness room” for Haiti. Lee, an illusionist since the age of 10, was able to fill the role of “witch doctor,” making objects levitate and doing other magic tricks. The following year was when Lee attended an SMU event to hear previous missions teams share their testimonies, and to say he was “moved” would be putting it lightly. “I was so rocked,” he said, “I thought, ‘God is doing amazing things in the world and I want to be a part of it.’”

The rest is history. Lee went on two mission trips to India and is now president of SMU, holding a vision of loving others at home and abroad. Lee’s work and experiences with SMU have made a profound impact on him, and he hopes to share that with his staff and those around him.

“One of the core values that I want to instill in my staff this year is a love for people,” he said. “You know, really reaching out and loving students and people. Overall, we have passionate students whose hearts are for the Great Commission, and God is working powerfully.”

- STEPHANIE KIM
WE ARE, IN FACT, **made to love God:** **to love God not for what God gives,** **but to love God for who God is.** OR, AS SATAN, THE GREAT THEOLOGIAN, SAYS, TO LOVE GOD FOR NOTHING. YOU CAN PUT THE PRINCIPLE ALMOST IN THESE TERMS: WE EITHER love God for nothing, OR we don’t love God at all.”

Yale University theologian **MIROSLAV VOLF,** preaching on Job 1:1–12 in undergraduate chapel on Sept. 25

“CHRISTIANS WHO ARE FIXATED ON THEIR RIGHT TO BE HEALTHY AND WEALTHY, TO **NAME IT AND CLAIM IT.**” BECAUSE THEY ARE “KING’S KIDS,” DON’T REALLY KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THANKFUL. THEY WILL NOT PRAY — INDEED, THEY CANNOT PRAY — ‘THE LORD GIVETH, THE LORD TAKETH AWAY, BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD.’ THEY FORGET THAT AS SONS IN THE SON, AND CO-HEIRS WITH CHRIST, THEY ALSO SHARE IN THE SUFFERING OF THE SON OF GOD.”

**BARONESS CAROLINE COX** of Queensbury, 2015 recipient of the Charles W. Colson Conviction and Courage Award, speaking at Biola’s spring 2015 commencement in May

“WE ALL HAVE TIMES WHEN WE cannot feel love, BUT THEN IT’S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THERE’S NOTHING SENTIMENTAL ABOUT LOVE. LOVE IS NOT about feelings. IT’S ABOUT DOING. AS PAUL REMINDS US, FAITH without deeds is dead.

LOVE WITHOUT ACTION IS DEAD. SO PLEASE REMEMBER TO believe in love EVEN WHEN YOU CANNOT FEEL IT, AND TO DO LOVE, LIVE THE LOVE, TO **reflect the calling OF THE LORD OF LOVE.**”

Singaporean theologian **SIMON CHAN,** preaching on Colossians 1:3–14 in undergraduate chapel on Sept. 9
CAMPAIGN PROJECTIONS

ON DEC. 1, BIOLA UNIVERSITY HOSTED a 24-hour online giving challenge in conjunction with #GivingTuesday, a global day of generosity that comes annually on the heels of Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

Biola’s #GivingTuesday challenge raised more than $124,000 for student scholarships as part of The Campaign for Biola University. Everything raised on Dec. 1 will be applied toward student scholarships in fall 2016.

“What we experienced on Giving Tuesday was yet another historic moment in the life of this university,” said Adam Morris, vice president for advancement. “We are overwhelmed by the generosity that was poured out by alumni, parents, faculty, staff and so many students! God multiplied our efforts and the work that went into planning for our first-ever Giving Tuesday fundraiser was another step forward for the Biola University community becoming a culture of generosity and gratitude.’

This wasn’t the first time Biola University has held a 24-hour online giving challenge. The #BiolaTen10 campaign in 2013 challenged alumni, supporters and friends to donate $10 or more on Oct. 10, 2013, an effort that raised more than $16,000 in one day for student scholarships.

Supporters #JoinBiola to raise more than $124,000 on #GivingTuesday

This year’s challenge on #GivingTuesday had a much more ambitious one-day goal: $100,000.

“We aimed high because the need is great,” said Chris Johnson, campaign marketing manager, who is spearheading the event. “Biola is committed to a more affordable future for students, and we believe that a single day of generosity can make a big impact.”

SUPPORTERS #JOINBIOLA TO RAISE MORE THAN $124,000 ON #GIVINGTUESDAY

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The most urgent priority of The Campaign for Biola is the raising of additional funds necessary to break ground on the Alton and Lydia Lim Center for Science, Technology and Health. This 91,000-square-foot facility will greatly enhance Biola’s science programs and enable the university to better prepare a generation of students to be ethical and excellent professionals in health care and the sciences, grounded in a Christian worldview.

In August, Biola received a generous gift of $1 million to support the building. The donors, who wish to remain anonymous, are Biola grandparents with five grandchildren who have attended or are currently attending the university. They have seen firsthand how Biola offers solid biblical teaching that is applicable to all arenas of life.

“A good education is the foundation for family, church and country,” they said in an email. “Biola mirrors the way education began in America, teaching a balance of biblical, spiritual and practical truths for living and making the world a better place.”

In order for Biola to continue as a leading institution of Christian higher education, however, the new science building and expanded vision for the sciences will be crucial, they said. “Biola has a great need to expand its science program to compete with other larger schools in this critically important area,” they wrote.

HELP US BREAK GROUND!

To date, more than $45 million has been secured toward the Alton and Lydia Lim Center for Science, Technology and Health. Two key fundraising milestones remain to allow for groundbreaking and occupancy. To help raise the funds needed to break ground, send your gift in the enclosed envelope.

An additional $5.4 million is needed by January 2016 in order to break ground. We could get there a number of ways, with your help. Here’s one scenario:
FOR CHRISTINE TIXIER ('15) competitive swimming was something that she had consistently performed well in, but her excitement and passion for the sport had filtered out over the 11 years spent in the water. Although she was excited about starting her freshman year at Biola, she was uncertain about her decision to compete on the swim team.

Four years later, she graduated as one of Biola’s most decorated swimmers in program history. During her time at Biola, Tixier won eight national championships, 12 All-American honors and two NAIA Women’s Swimmer of the Year awards, while also breaking 11 school records and three national records.

Out of the pool, Tixier was also honored for her excellence in academics. She received two NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors along with two Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-American honors. Despite all of these remarkable achievements, Tixier has remained humble and level-headed with each passing year.

“Christine has never been the kind of swimmer who pressures herself to swim or puts a lot of expectation on herself, and I think that it’s one of the things that made her so successful,” said head coach Eddie Shepard. “One of the things that I saw change between her first year and senior year was that she really learned to want to be successful. She loved the competition and she enjoyed the challenge of racing.”

Throughout her freshman year, Tixier wrestled with wondering if she should continue swimming. Her love for the sport had not sparked yet and she questioned whether or not it was something that God wanted her to pursue. After a successful first year at the national championship meet — which included winning the 100-yard butterfly and setting the national record — Tixier felt the affirmation that swimming was something that God had planned for her time at Biola.

“The Lord just kept reaffirming in me that I am swimming because he has given me the ability to do it,” Tixier said. “I know that he has enabled me to do well, to swim fast, and that’s a gift that he has given me. I think he wants his creation to reach their fullest potential and I think that’s why I train hard.”

As the chapter in competitive swimming closes for Tixier, she steps onto dry land for the next chapter that focuses on her human biology major. Over the summer, she traveled to Indonesia for an internship to study science and biology in a cross-cultural environment.

“I don’t know what I was expecting, but I was surprised that the equipment and techniques that they use are just the same as those that we use here, even in our labs at Biola!” she said. “It was very affirming to see that the training I have received as a science major really is excellent preparation for real-life science.”

Now back in the States, Tixier is working as a homeschool chemistry teacher in Brentwood City, Wash. She hopes to one day work in a lab full time with the hopes of continuing to teach on the side.

- LAURIE BULLOCK AND KRISTINA NISHI

GET IN THE GAME! For all the latest news on Biola’s student-athletes — including live updates during the games — follow Biola Athletics on Twitter: @BiolaAthletics.
Caleb Kaltenbach (M.A. ’07) is an alumnus of Biola’s Talbot School of Theology, lead pastor of a large church in Simi Valley, Calif., and a married father of two. He’s also an emerging voice in the discussion of how Christians should engage the LGBT community. That’s because Kaltenbach has an insider perspective, having been raised by a dad and mom who divorced and independently came out of the closet as a gay man and a lesbian. Raised in the midst of LGBT parties and pride parades, Kaltenbach became a Christian and a pastor as a young adult. Today, he manages the tension of holding to the traditional biblical teaching on sexuality while loving his gay parents.

Kaltenbach’s unique story is detailed in his new book Messy Grace: How a Pastor with Gay Parents Learned to Love Others Without Sacrificing Conviction and landed him on the front page of the New York Times in June. Biola Magazine reached out to him to talk about his book and his perspective on how Christians can better navigate the complexities of this issue with truth and grace.

In your book you say that it’s time for Christians to own the issue of homosexuality. What do you mean by this? How would you like to see this play out?

Christians can own this issue by caring enough to get to know the whole person. If you think that identifying as LGBT is mainly about sex — that’s shallow. The theology of “whom we have sex with” might be black and white, but the person and related experiences aren’t. Once my mom told me that she and her partner hadn’t been intimate in years. I asked why she still called herself a lesbian. Her response was that she had a community filled with friends, acceptance, a cause and deep feelings. It reminded me that people have depth. Care enough about a person not to reduce them to their sexual orientation. If someone who is LGBT says that it’s not mainly about sex, why immediately throw the “homosexuality verses” their way? Talk about holy living down the road. Perhaps Christians can own this issue by being kind and making a new friend.

You challenge Christians to stop avoiding or merely “tolerating” LGBT people, but to engage in meaningful relationships with them. What should that look like?

The more Christians stop treating people in the LGBT community as “evangelistic projects” or “those people,” the more meaningful relationships will develop. Here’s the secret to engage in meaningful relationships with anyone: Treat people like actual people. Embrace the tension by developing friendships over meals, coffee and more. Engage in conversations. Try to understand who they are as a person (experiences, hopes, dreams, fears, etc.). Don’t seek to “fix” anyone, but point to Christ. Here’s a hard truth I came to learn over the years: It’s never been my job to change someone’s sexual attraction. God didn’t call me to “restore” LGBT people to a straight orientation. It’s not even my job to change lives. It’s God’s job. He has great experience in the “life change department.” My responsibility is to love people, make friends and journey with them.

You write that one definition of love is holding the tension of grace and truth. What do you mean by this and who do you think models this sort of love well?

The uncomfortable feeling in the tension of grace and truth is love. We love the person and God as well. However, love never harms. A theological conviction should never be a catalyst to treat someone poorly. We can accept the person without approving of their choice to be in (or pursue) a same-sex relationship. Love people, but remember what the Bible teaches. Deepen your relationships, but hold firm to conviction. Never give up on the person or Scripture. Love never takes sides. Love has no exception clause. I see this love lived out by some parents of gay teenagers. These parents love their kids no matter what and nothing about their relationship changes. They thank the teen for...
trusting them with this part of their life. At the same time, they hold true to what Scripture says not only about sexuality, but also about loving others.

What happens if our “love” is not accepted at all because we still hold to truth? What would you say to an LGBT person who argues that “acceptance but not approval” is not actually love? Isn’t that the direction society is moving, that anything short of full approval is actually bigotry?

To the LGBT person: Be careful taking a hardline stance on something that isn’t your foundational identity. Your main identity shouldn’t be defined by your sexual orientation; rather God should define it. People are entitled to their beliefs. Many examined Scripture, believe that sexual intimacy is for a man and woman in marriage, and aren’t homophobic or hateful. If these people are loved ones (being loving towards you) why shut them out? Don’t distance yourself because they don’t agree with you or the kind of relationship you might have. Don’t treat others who disagree with you the way you wouldn’t like to be treated. They might be intolerant in your mind for not agreeing with you. However, are they treating you poorly? Do they love you less? Do they not value you anymore? Don’t become intolerant by not giving them margin to have different views.

How should and how shouldn’t Christians respond if someone in their life or church community confides in them about same-sex attraction?

Christians make too many mistakes when someone comes out to them. They try to advise counseling. At some point, they will throw out Bible verses concerning homosexuality or marriage. Some Christians try to “relate” and often compare same-sex attraction to other sins like murder, theft, etc. Emotions like depression and anger will usually set in. Unfortunately, these are all the wrong things to do. Everyone needs counseling, the person coming out probably knows how you interpret the Bible regarding sexuality, and they don’t want to be compared to Hannibal Lecter or Gordon Gekko.

This is a moment to listen and affirm your love for them. Think of it this way: The people coming out to you have chosen to share a very intimate and personal part of their life because you are someone they value. You can never get this moment back, and responding the wrong way is devastating.

How should a Christian respond if invited to a same-sex marriage ceremony? Is attending a gay wedding a tacit affirmation of the sacredness of the vows being exchanged?

Attending may put you in a difficult position as one who believes marriage is for a man and woman. However, you’ll have influence in your relationship with the married person. Fear shouldn’t keep you from a situation where others disagree with you. There might be a chance to share your faith with others at the wedding. Later, when the newlyweds have a season of doubt or turmoil, you might be the person they turn to (giving you the chance to share Jesus). But there are also reasons why you may not want to attend. Hurt feelings may result, but God created marriage for him and the couple. You need to stand for truth, and this might be one of those times. In the end, the couple might recognize and remember your integrity. Either option could carry relational difficulty, doctrinal tension or emotional baggage. My advice: Pray about it and represent Jesus well with your decision.

If celibacy is the only option for a same-sex-attracted Christian who wants to remain biblically faithful (you argue this in the book), what can the church do to better minister to these people? Can we just casually tell them “no sex for you!” and leave it at that?

Some argue the Bible doesn’t address same-sex loving monogamous relationships, so it’s fine. However, all passages dealing with homosexuality agree that same-sex intimacy isn’t God’s design — monogamous or not. Sexual intimacy is from God for a man and woman in the covenant of marriage. Outside of marriage, there shouldn’t be any expression of sexuality. Our sex-obsessed culture makes celibacy out to be cruel, when it’s a blessing. There’s more focus on God, freedom in life, acknowledgement of attraction while still holding to biblical convictions. Intimacy isn’t only sexual; it is also experienced through lifelong friendships, supporting causes and family. The church must create an atmosphere of relational opportunities for single people. For example, if a single person is sick, hospitalized, or needs help — the church should support them through small groups, funds and other ways. Celibacy is a sacrifice for Jesus, and the church needs to prepare for that sacrifice.

What are some ways local churches can better minister to the LGBT community?

Allow people to “belong before they believe.” If you’re going to ask people not to identify with the LGBT community, you’d better have another community ready for them! Give people margin for God to work in their lives. Healing and spiritual heart surgery takes time. Help people to feel safe about admitting struggle without fear of backlash. Create an environment where it’s OK for teenagers to ask questions and be authentic. Train youth leaders to listen and ask the right questions. Create support for parents of gay teenagers. Spend time with LGBT people outside and inside your church (they are there). Listen, ask questions and learn. Don’t allow church policies to hinder needed conversations.

How a Pastor with Gay Parents Learned to Love Others Without Sacrificing Conviction

Caleb Kaltenbach (M.A. ’07) is the lead pastor at Discovery Church in Simi Valley, Calif., and the author of Messy Grace: How a Pastor with Gay Parents Learned to Love Others Without Sacrificing Conviction.
Pitching a New Statistic

Professor Jason Wilson’s mathematical formula could forever change baseball

JASON WILSON, associate professor of mathematics at Biola, finds God’s beauty in a place where few people think to look — statistics.

Wilson has published many articles in both the mathematical and biblical fields. His most recent work is the Quality of Pitch (QOP), a formula he helped develop that evaluates the quality of a baseball pitch. Jarvis Greiner ’12, a former Biola pitcher, created the formula for an extra credit assignment in Wilson’s statistics class.

Wilson, who has his doctorate in applied statistics from the University of California, Riverside, recognized potential in Greiner’s idea and helped develop a sophisticated formula that could be presented to major league teams. The formula now measures five variables of a pitch: location, velocity, total break (horizontal and vertical), the breaking point and the maximum height.

Since Greiner’s original idea, Wilson has been working alongside him and his father, Wayne, to get the QOP to become an accepted statistic among the baseball community. They have met and talked with multiple professional teams, including the Los Angeles Dodgers, and have tested and studied Biola’s own baseball team to make improvements on the formula.

Wilson and Greiner propose that the quality of the pitch is the foundation for the quality of the rest of the game.

“The quality of the pitch is foundational to everything else. The batter’s skill and ability is very important, but how do you measure how well you did against a batter until you can measure what kind of a pitch he faced?” said Wilson. “So in our theory, what we are doing is the first step in a series that could go on.”

As the three wait for feedback from MLB teams about their recent proposal, Wilson continues to teach and invest in his students at Biola. He is currently working on a book called Statistical Apologetics, attempting to connect the two areas by displaying the laws and mathematics in creation that reflect intelligent design. Wilson also hopes to develop a faith integration class for the math and computer sciences department in the near future. He believes that the integration of faith in mathematics, specifically statistics, is not a far reach.

“Even in a math or statistics class, my agenda really is that students are growing spiritually while they are in the class learning about the material. That is my No. 1 thing — their personal growth,” Wilson said. “I think there’s an intellectual component to math that teaches you how to think critically and how to train your mind; statistics are super valuable for becoming a good consumer for our society. Those are all things that strengthen us as people but it’s worthless if it’s not submitted to Christ and used for his glory.”

- LAURIE BULLOCK
CONFUCIUS FOR CHRISTIANS: WHAT AN ANCIENT CHINESE WORLDVIEW CAN TEACH US ABOUT LIFE IN CHRIST, by Gregg Ten Elshof (professor of philosophy), Eerdmans, August 2015. Ten Elshof reflects on perennial human questions with the teachings of both Jesus and Confucius in mind. In examining such subjects as family, learning and ethics, he sets the typical Western worldview against the Confucian worldview and considers how each of them lines up with the teachings of Jesus. He points to much that is deep and helpful in the Confucian tradition, and shows how reflection on the teachings of Confucius can inspire a deeper understanding of what it really means to live the Jesus way.

SEEING IN THE DARK: FINDING GOD’S LIGHT IN THE MOST UNEXPECTED PLACES, by Nancy Ortberg ('78, M.A. '83); Tyndale House, July 2015. Christians are supposed to be “the light of the world.” Yet we seem to spend most of our time stumbling in the dark. We want a clearly marked path and a panoramic view of the future, and God gives us only fleeting glimpses of what lies ahead and just enough light to take the next step. So what do we do? We take the next step. From an ancient cave in Turkey to the California coast, Ortberg highlights the often unexpected, sometimes imperceptible, yet always extraordinary means God uses to light our way through even the most painful and challenging moments in life.

THE NATURAL SCIENCES: A STUDENT’S GUIDE, by John A. Bloom (professor of physics), Crossway, January 2015. Whether it’s widely promoted debates streamed over the Internet or a big-budget documentary series on TV, the supposed “conflict” between science and faith remains as prominent as ever. In this accessible guide for students, Bloom introduces readers to the natural sciences from a distinctly Christian perspective. Starting with the classical view of God as the creator and sustainer of the universe, the book lays the biblical foundation for the study of the natural world and explores the history of scientific reflection since Aristotle. Bloom argues that the Christian worldview provides the best grounds for scientific investigation, offering readers the framework they need to think and speak clearly about the pursuit of scientific knowledge.

THE GRAND PARADOX: THE MESINESS OF LIFE, THE MYSTERY OF GOD AND THE NECESSITY OF FAITH, by Ken Wytsma (M.A. '01, M.A. '04), Thomas Nelson, February 2015. The life of Christian faith is and always has been a beautifuly awkward reality. Following Jesus is done — can only be done — in the messiness of this world into which we were all born. Yet many Christians expect the walk of faith to be easier, neater and relatively devoid of hassles. So perhaps it’s time for a frank conversation about the true nature of Christian faith. Maybe there are many desperately in need of a clear dialogue about how — despite living in a turbulent, chaotic world — our greatest joy is found in our pursuit of God. In The Grand Paradox, Wytsma seeks to help readers understand that although God can be mysterious, he is in no way absent.

WHO’S PICKING ME UP FROM THE AIRPORT?: AND OTHER QUESTIONS SINGLE GIRLS ASK, by Cindy Johnson ('04, M.A. '06), Zondervan, February 2015. Johnson’s refreshing and comical commentary on adult Christian dating provides readers the much-needed opportunity to laugh and celebrate single life for what it is: joyful and complicated. Beneath the candor and self-deprecation, the book is built on the question, “Does Jesus actually care about dating and singleness? And if so, how does he enter into it?” The result is a powerful and much-needed safe place for vulnerability and honesty around singleness. This book addresses head-on the difficult reality experienced by singles in the church, as Johnson pushes readers to seek Jesus first, even when they don’t get the things they want.

THRIVING IN BABYLON: WHY HOPE, HUMILITY AND WISDOM MATTER IN A GODLESS CULTURE, Larry Osborne ('74, M.A. '78, D.Min. '86), David C. Cook, April 2015. Meet a man forced to live in a fast-changing and godless society. He faced fears about the future, concern for his safety and the discouragement of a world that seemed to be falling apart at warp speed. Sound familiar? His name was Daniel, and with the power of hope, humility and wisdom, he not only thrived, he changed an empire while he was at it. Though he lived thousands of years ago, he has much to teach us today. In Thriving in Babylon, Osborne explores the “adult” story of Daniel to help us not only survive — but actually thrive in an increasingly godless culture.

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK! To feature your publication, send the title, description and cover image to biolamag@biola.edu. Submissions may appear either in Books by Biolans or Class Notes, depending on space availability.
A New ‘Reformation’ That Many Don’t Realize They’ve Joined

If you thought apostles and prophets only lived way back in Bible times and have long since disappeared, think again. Contemporary people calling themselves apostles and prophets have many followers. They are vigorously active in churches in the United States and throughout the world. Odds are, some are active in your own community. These men and women claim they have the God-given authority, divine strategies and miraculous powers needed to advance God’s earthly kingdom so that Christ can return. And they offer people a choice.

If you submit to their leadership, then you too will work mighty miracles. You’ll become part of a great end-time army that will bring about a world revival and cleanse the earth of evil by calling down hailstones, fire and the other judgments of God described in the New Testament book of Revelation.

If you do not submit to their leadership then, at the very least, you will miss out on God’s end-time plans. And if you actively oppose the apostles and prophets, then brace yourself for the fallout. Others must be warned that you are the pawn of a powerful demon, known as the “spirit of religion.”

This may sound radical and unappealing, but the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) is growing rapidly. In the United States, it began taking off in the 1980s and 1990s, when prophets and apostles starting showing up in churches. Today, about 3 million people in the United States attend churches that openly embrace NAR apostles and prophets. And that number doesn’t include the many Pentecostal and charismatic churches that have not openly embraced these leaders, yet have been influenced by their teachings in varying degrees.

And we haven’t yet mentioned NAR churches in other parts of the world where the movement is growing most swiftly — Africa, Asia and Latin America.

NAR leaders call their new movement apostolic because they claim to be restoring apostles and prophets to the church. And they call it a reformation because they say it will completely change the way church is done — and its effects will be greater than the 16th-century Protestant Reformation.

That’s a bold claim. Yet many people who are part of this movement don’t know it’s called the New Apostolic Reformation. In fact, they may not even know they are part of a movement at all. And they may not be fully aware of all the extreme teachings associated with it. But they certainly know of — and follow the teachings of — men and women who believe they are apostles and prophets similar to the apostles of Christ and the Old Testament prophets.

How to Make Evidence for God Disappear

A tutorial for atheist magicians

For several years, I’ve interacted with the University of Chicago evolutionary biologist Jerry Coyne. Coyne doesn’t like me, and I can’t really blame him for that. He’s an atheist who thinks that Darwin’s theory of natural selection solved the problem of biological complexity, at least in principle, whereas I am a Christian who thinks that life is best understood as the product of intelligent design by a divine Creator.

Recently, Coyne published a book, Faith Vs. Fact: Why Science and Religion Are Incompatible, in which he argued that the scientific outlook — with features such as weighing publicly available evidence, testing one’s theories against nature and revising them in the light of contrary data — is really only compatible with atheism. Yet Coyne also argues that he does not hold his atheist worldview dogmatically. Should the right evidence come along, he says, his atheism could be overturned.

But reading further into Faith Vs. Fact revealed a philosophical magic trick concealed in Coyne’s apparent open-mindedness to the power of evidence. It’s a trick worth analyzing in detail, because the move takes away with one hand what was apparently offered with the other. Here’s how the trick works, separated into its three major steps. Watch carefully.

1. Reject the doctrine of methodological naturalism.

Chances are if you’re an atheist, your audience will expect you to endorse methodological naturalism (MN). MN holds that science may explain using only undirected physical or material causes. No appeals to God’s agency are allowed. To quote Harvard biologist Richard Lewontin, we “cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.” MN is thus a fundamental ground rule of science.

Coyne disagrees, rejecting this absolute form of MN. “Lewontin was mistaken,” he writes. Although we haven’t yet seen that Foot, we might. “We can in principle allow a Divine Foot in the door,” Coyne acknowledges — so MN cannot govern science in every aspect. A surprise turn like this throws your audience off balance.

2. Specify the evidence for God that you would accept.

Coyne grasps that there’s little point in allowing the possibility of evidence for God’s existence if one cannot describe what evidence would suffice. So he offers some candidates. “If, for example, supernatural phenomena like healing through prayer, accurate religious prophecies and recollection of past lives surfaced with regularity and credibility, we might be forced to abandon our adherence to purely natural explanations,” he writes.

Seems open-minded, right? Next comes the critical step — and here is where the rabbit of evidence for God disappears into Coyne’s philosophical hat.

3. Say that any explanation invoking divine action is a God-of-the-gaps.

Let’s say we have some longstanding puzzle, such as the origin of life, which many theists see as evidence for God’s existence (that is, the complexity of the first cell requires a non-physical cause with purpose, creativity and the power to bring into existence information-bearing molecules such as DNA). Why isn’t this evidence for God?

Because, Coyne contends, “science” — by which he actually means applied materialism or naturalism — must never be foreclosed by hasty appeals to divine action, or to God-of-the-gaps explanations. What is more likely, he asks, “that these are puzzles only because we refuse to see God as an answer, or simply because science hasn’t yet provided a naturalistic answer? ... Given the remarkable ability of science to solve problems once considered intractable, and the number of scientific phenomena that weren’t even known a hundred years ago, it’s probably more judicious to admit ignorance that to tout divinity.”

Master this conjuring trick, and one can’t lose. No matter how remarkable the evidence for God’s action might be, either in cosmic history or today, one can always make that evidence disappear into the bottomless bag of “the God of the gaps” objection.

Calling Trickery What It Is

There’s a simple reply to this sleight of hand. If God is a real cause, he may have left “gaps” in the natural order as his signature. These gaps — call them designed or created discontinuities — won’t go away, or be dissolved into strictly material or physical causes. The discontinuities exist, not because of the incompleteness of our scientific knowledge, but rather because they are real markers left in the world, indicating the handiwork of a divine intelligence.

Science as a genuinely open enterprise, where all the causal possibilities, including design, are on the table for discussion, must consider that we can discover and map these discontinuities. Coyne shouldn’t pretend that he’s truly weighing the evidence for God’s existence if he intends to sweep everything puzzling to materialism into his magician’s bag.

Science — not to mention philosophy and theology — deserves better.

Paul A. Nelson is an adjunct professor in Biola’s Master of Arts in Science and Religion program. He is also a fellow of the Discovery Institute and has a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in the philosophy of biology and evolutionary theory.
New

The Kind Kind of Christians
Kindness is not just about performing random, nice acts such as picking up a stranger’s check or taking out your neighbor’s garbage. As President Barry Corey shared at the Fall 2015 Convocation Chapel, “the virtue of kindness is rooted in Scripture, forged on sound Christian theology” — it is a brave and radical way to live.

Popular

A Different Point of View
Our world today is as divided as ever. Different beliefs, affiliations, parties and more have driven society to look inward, making it increasingly difficult to see from someone else’s perspective. In this 2010 Torrey Memorial Bible Conference video, Ed Gilbreath shares how we can see the world through “eyes transformed by God’s Spirit.”

Editor’s Pick

The Compatibility of Workplace and Ministry
How do you live out your Christian faith in the workplace? It is easier said than done — people often make a distinction between the “business as ministry” mindset versus full-time ministry. In this video, however, Talbot School of Theology professor Scott Rae shares that there is value in both of these approaches.

Highlights of resources and events from Biola’s academic centers

Center for Christian Thought
cct.biola.edu

The 2015–16 CCT theme is “The Meaning of Love.” Visit CCT’s website to learn more about this year’s research questions. Keep an eye out for events!

Center for Christianity, Culture & the Arts
ccc.biola.edu

Join the CCCA during Advent for daily online devotionals written by members of the Biola community and featuring songs, poems and visual art.

Center for Marriage & Relationships
cmrr.biola.edu

The Biola CMR has launched a new website that gives students, couples, mentors and others the relationship resources they need. Keep an eye out for events!

Stay up to date! Want to learn about all the latest resources — including chapel addresses, lectures, video discussions and more — as they are released? Follow @biolu on Twitter or subscribe to Biola’s YouTube channel!
"The heavens declare the glory of God," writes the psalmist. In this image, our planet and our galaxy — earth and the Milky Way — are shown from the International Space Station. (Photo by NASA)
Say the words “science and faith,” and people’s minds tend to go straight to the supposed standoff between Genesis, geology and genomes. But there’s so much more to the conversation than debates over creationism. Science needs Christians to be active voices in questions of ethics, medicine, ecology and more. And Christians need science to give us a greater understanding and appreciation of God’s world — and our role as stewards over it.

*Biola Magazine* recently gathered five faculty members in the sciences at Biola to discuss these dynamics and related questions about science and Christian faith. The filmed discussion was moderated by biological sciences professor Jason Tresser, and included physics professor John Bloom, nursing professor Donell Campbell, biological sciences professor Hyuna Lee and chemistry professor Jonah Chang. What follows is a transcript of their discussion, edited for length and clarity. A video of the full conversation is available to watch at magazine.biola.edu.
Jason Tresser: There are a lot of people today who have an understanding that there’s a conflict between science and Christianity. John Bloom has recently written a book called The Natural Sciences: A Student’s Guide, and John, I wonder if you could start our conversation by commenting on how as Christians we resolve this perceived conflict between science and faith.

John Bloom: Well the conflict is a bit of a myth. ... If you look historically at Christianity and science, it’s been more of a partnership. As Christians, we’re seeking truth, and in science you’re seeking truth in the physical world, so the two really work well together as a partnership. I think that’s how we all approach it here at Biola.

Tresser: I feel like the definition of science has gotten too narrow, that “science” now means you have to do science with a certain worldview. ... As Christians, that’s what we have a conflict with — that we have to look at science just through a naturalistic lens, and not give any room for explanation beyond that.

Bloom: In the history of the relationship between Christianity and science, Christianity actually gave the right lens or right worldview — that we have to look at science just through a naturalistic lens, and not give any room for explanation beyond that.

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Tresser: I feel like the definition of science has gotten too narrow, that “science” now means you have to do science with a certain worldview. ... As Christians, that’s what we have a conflict with — that we have to look at science just through a naturalistic lens, and not give any room for explanation beyond that.

Bloom: And what do you do with what you know? You apply it to help others.

Tresser: I’m wondering if we can comment on how each of us has found that our background and training in science has helped us to think about how to serve God or to walk out the Christian faith?

Jonah Chang: I think because I studied chemistry in graduate school, I gained an appreciation for how difficult chemistry is. It took me five or six years to try to replicate what a natural organism does in a couple hours in water as a solvent. There were some really incredibly difficult things that I couldn’t do. So it really gives me this sense of awe and it produces within me a sense of humility when I see that even the best technologies that we have in chemistry today don’t even come close to what a natural organism can do.

Tresser: Two words that I wrote down in preparing for this are awe and humility. Just to see the amazing, intricate design that God has put in the genetic code of every organism. ... It’s awe-inspiring and for me it follows with a humility of just like, “I only have a scratching knowledge of the surface of what genetic complexity is.” It leads me to appreciate how much care and design and thoughtfulness God has put into his creation. It’s just very humbling.

Bloom: You guys are looking under the microscope on the biology side, and I step back to astronomy, which is one of my favorite areas in physics. The Hubble Deep Field photos give us scale looking the other direction — the microscope and the telescope — at what God has made. At that scale you see the same balance and tuning and precision and design. It’s on a scale that’s really mind-boggling because it’s bigger than me, way bigger than me. What that returns me to is our definition of God: the Creator of heaven and earth. We’re just seeing all the things that God has made ... worshiping the God who did this.
Tresser: What’s something that you wish that other Christians knew about your discipline that would help them and encourage them in their walk and in their faith in Christ?

Bloom: I think it’s the sense that God is the Creator. ... For me, studying science is to get a better appreciation of God. That’s what I’d like students and just Christians in general to have: a better sense of, “What is God?” Well, look at his handiwork.

Hyuna Lee: And we see the Lord’s handiwork in everything that we do. Even just us as organisms, as human beings, made out of genome — which is composed of four bases, just four letters, three billion of which make us each so unique. As Psalm 139 says, we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Tresser: When my students come in during their first year of general biology they all want to be medical missionaries, which is wonderful because they want to share the gospel and they want to care for the sick. But what I always want to try to convince them of is that there are so many other ways that you can serve God in studying his creation and studying science. ... If that’s environmental science, environmental chemistry, organic chemistry, cell biology, there’s more to the sciences than just being a doctor.

Campbell: That’s really true, there’s a lot of ways to make a difference.

Tresser: Being a doctor and being in health care is wonderful; that’s why we’re talking to a nurse!

Campbell: Well, and sometimes, my challenge as a nurse is to take the highly technical, the very complex and to try to synthesize and simplify it, to put it into words that can be communicated at the bedside or with family members who are grieving or hurting or trying to make sense of whatever is going on within their own bodies or the bodies of their loved ones. If we stay in the strongly scientific and the molecular and the cellular discussion, we’ve lost them. So we need to do both. We need to understand it from varying aspects.

Tresser: As professors, each of you is deeply committed to preparing students to go into careers and graduate programs in sciences and health. Why do you believe it is so vital for Christians to go into these fields?

Chang: As chemists we are trained to eventually go into two major areas: academics or pharmaceuticals. And so we really want [chemists] to have strong moral fiber to, for example, report correct data on the efficacy of a drug or to actually carry out the research for which we asked for federal grant money. We need this type of honesty and integrity in science today. ... We need people who will report the correct data even if they end up with a result that is not favorable or with a project that is not a success.

Tresser: We have to make sure our students know that glorifying God, not getting another grant, is the end result of their research. Giving false data is not glorifying to God. I think we can provide unique leadership there.

Bloom: There’s also an ethical component in the sciences where people say, “Well, if we can do it, then we should.” ... We should be cautious of this kind of thinking and that’s something the Christian perspective can offer.

Campbell: I would love to see believers in positions of influence all throughout science, health and technology. ... As you mentioned, it is helpful to have a counterbalance or someone who at least is going to ask a question from a different perspective.

Tresser: I think one unique thing Christians bring as well is that if we really believe that God’s creation is worthy of studying for its own sake, we have the chance to enter areas that are kind of neglected by the scientific community. Because if it’s not immediately profitable or does not have an immediate end in mind, then a lot of things aren’t going to get funded and they’re not going to be pursued. But if we are just pursuing God’s creation to show his glory, then we can go explore...
those things that are being overlooked and we might actually bring wonderful profit to health care and to the pursuit of knowledge.

Lee: We see a lot of Christians going on to mission fields, helping out the poor, and then we see this small crowd of intellectuals all around the world who have such influence. I think to be able to reach this crowd of people, we ourselves have to be equipped intellectually as well to be able to converse with them; to be able to rationally explain to them and really share the gospel. I think that’s our calling.

Bloom: I sometimes think of the scientific community as an unreached people group. It takes a certain language, a certain set of skills, a certain reputation, to gain a voice for Christ in this discipline. We need more Christians doing that.

Tresser: We come from a diverse educational background, with degrees from major public and private research universities. But only a few of us have been students at a Christian university. So what do we hope students gain from our classroom in a Christian university that we didn’t encounter in our secular universities? Why might a science student want to choose Biola as opposed to a larger state university?

Bloom: One reason is that at Biola, a science student is not forced to look at the world through the naturalistic blinder, but to see the world, like we were saying earlier, through the eyes of God as the Creator. We are studying his handiwork. This doesn’t explicitly show up in a homework assignment all that often, but it’s more that it percolates through how you approach these things. That makes the Biola experience eye-opening, rather than “put on your naturalistic blinders.”

Tresser: What I love about being at Biola is that I think that when students come, they not only come to a science department, but they enter into a community where people are all hopefully, by and large, on the same page. And what we’re doing is we’re trying to serve the Lord and glorify him. I think at a secular university, if it’s a big university you’re probably not going to find much community that’s built around that.

Campbell: I remember in my [employment] interview with President Corey, he asked me, “How will the students know if you love them?” It was a question I must admit I had never been asked. ... The freedom and the encouragement I have at Biola to integrate my theology and my beliefs and to truly love my students is indeed a privilege.

Chang: My answer to that question was that I would give the students the grade that they deserve. Not that that doesn’t happen at other universities, but just like the students at Biola are trying to be faithful to their call as a student, all of us here have a desire to be faithful to God’s call for us to be teachers. One way that I try to be faithful is I evaluate students in a fair and honest way. So if they do poorly in chemistry, they know that it was a legitimate poor performance, but if they do well, that is a potential career path for them. I want them to have a realistic look at what their career path can be once they go through my class.

Tresser: That is a central part of discipleship, too, just being honest with the person that you’re walking through life with; saying, “This honestly is not where you’re supposed to be. Let’s hope you can find what God really wants to do with you.”

Bloom: It’s that kind of care that would stand out to me at Biola. I have students who transfer to other schools as part of the three-two program in engineering and the common thing I hear from them is, “Nobody cares about me here. I’m just a number. I’m here and my tuition pays their salary and they could care less. But you cared.” So I think that’s a huge part of the atmosphere in the Biola community.

Tresser: Biola University is in the midst of its biggest campaign ever, raising $180 million dollars. The capstone of this campaign is the new Center for Science, Technology and Health. I’d like to talk about what we are so excited about and what opportunities are going to open up for us as we get a new building.

Chang: I am so excited for the undergraduate students that now will have instrumentation and lab space so that they can do undergraduate research. I was not a very good student in undergrad, but I had an undergraduate research opportunity and I...
It takes a certain language, a certain set of skills, a certain reputation, to gain a voice for Christ in this discipline. We need more Christians doing that.

- John Bloom

was able to get a publication out of it and it covered a multitude of C’s when I applied to graduate school. The building will allow us to level the playing field for our students, to have them say that they did real research and went through the scientific method, as opposed to the traditional textbook question with the answer in the back of the book. We can really turn them into scientists in their senior years and I’m so excited for the students to have that opportunity.

Campbell: I think it’s pretty cool to see the linkage of science, technology and health. Even though they are very diverse, very distinct pathways, they are forever linked. I think in our world it’s easy to be siloed in a building on this side of the campus and a building on that side of the campus and we intersect when we need to and have to. But we will actually be working side by side and have the ability to create programs and be purposeful and intentional in the intersection of the prerequisites that they are taking in science that are part of nursing, and to be able to be partners. I think this is very exciting.

Bloom: I echo what Jonah has said in that science is not just textbook stuff. There is a hands-on apprenticeship [aspect] to training in the sciences and we just don’t have the space to do well with our current facilities. The new space will open that up.

Lee: I think that us faculty are also excited about gaining more lab space and to really share that passion with our students.

Tresser: The research I’m doing now is really restrictive because I’m sharing my research space with laboratory classroom space. If you’re studying living organisms, they do not cooperate with you from 1 to 4 on Mondays and Wednesdays. Living things are responding and doing things, and once you start an experiment, you have to have full access to that. So one of the things I’m really looking forward to is having dedicated research space that doesn’t have to be shared with a classroom. It can allow the research and investigation to go at whatever timing it needs to go to. It allows students to ask those more interesting questions that can’t be answered in a short, restricted time period.

Campbell: We do the same thing in our nursing simulation lab. To be able to have a dedicated space set up so we can simulate hospital rooms and have actual practice labs for the students will be very exciting.

Chang: There has to be a payoff. When I go hiking — the rare times that I do — there has to be a view at the end or it’s just not worth it. So for all of those semesters of chemistry and physics and pushing electron arrows and teaching students the fundamentals, they have to be able to see that everything we’re teaching them wasn’t a lie.

Tresser: It’s going to be fun, too, to have that interaction of other disciplines, to be just right down the hall from somebody who’s crunching numbers in statistics and biology stats. I think this will fertilize ideas in us that we wouldn’t have had. You can plan for collaboration, and you can plan a meeting, but you can’t plan to bump into the statistics professor in the hallway and get an interesting idea from that conversation.

Campbell: What kind of research can we come up with if we were rubbing shoulders?

Tresser: Running into you and saying, “This would be really helpful to add to microbiology, because this is what our students are facing this week in the hospital.” That kind of spontaneous collaboration is something that I’m really looking forward to.
Faculty, students and young alumni are not just learning about science in the classroom. They’re doing science in the laboratory. As Biola prepares to construct a new building that will greatly amplify the university’s science research potential, here are snapshots of the impressive work already being done.
WHY BEING A NIGHT OWL IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH

WHAT CAN MICE AND FRUIT FLIES teach us about the dangers of being a night owl? Quite a bit, according to the research of biological sciences professor Behzad Varamini.

Since completing his Ph.D. in nutritional science from Cornell University in 2009, Varamini has been interested in the ways that natural circadian (daily) rhythms of light, dark and sleep affect overall health. As a post-doctoral scholar at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, Varamini’s laboratory research focused on nutrient regulation and metabolism. Returning to the University of Pennsylvania every summer to continue ongoing research projects, Varamini’s latest interest focuses on how circadian rhythms of light and dark affect metabolism.

Looking at the issue on the gene expression level, Varamini’s research (using mice and fruit flies) seems to agree with what doctors have known for decades: that “humans who choose to rebel against nature’s created order of day and night cycles endure havoc.”

People who work night shifts and sleep during the day, or insomniacs who are awake at night, are far more likely to be overweight and obese, as well as more prone to depression, heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s, said Varamini.

Varamini’s research looks at how environmental cues like light affect how bodies process food. If two people eat the same exact diet but one goes to bed earlier and the other is a night owl, for example, the person who goes to bed earlier will probably store their calories less as fat and burn calories better than the night owl. Eating calories within an 18-hour window, or midnight snacking, causes more energy to be stored as fat than eating in a 12-hour window.

“What’s clear is the more we can align our behaviors with the cycles of nature and with life cycles, the healthier we are,” said Varamini, whose work with fruit flies shows that disrupting their sleep impairs memory, accelerates aging and shortens lifespan by half.

Through a directed research class on gene expression, Varamini has involved six Biola students in his experiments with fruit flies. He hopes to have them submit an abstract for a presentation on the research at Experimental Biology, an annual conference being held this year in San Diego. A longer-term goal is to publish something on the research and have Biola students’ names on the paper, something that can help them get into competitive graduate programs.

Varamini’s research has practical health implications but also spiritual resonance. The fact that God made days with a certain 24-hour length and that our bodies are so wired to thrive on that precise rhythm shows that we were made for this world, he says.

“What has been made clear is that rebelling against the created order wreaks physical havoc,” Varamini said. “Living ‘in sync’ with the created order, sleeping and eating at set times, leads to physiological harmony — rebellion leads to accelerated disease and death.”

CLINICAL AND LABORATORY RESEARCH IN INDONESIA

FOR THE PAST TWO SUMMERS, Biola professors and students have received hands-on, cross-cultural experience in global health through a partnership with Pelita Harapan University (UPH), a Christian university outside of Jakarta, Indonesia. As part of a nearly month-long experience, students shadow medical professionals at Siloam General Hospital (SGH), the teaching hospital of UPH’s medical school.

“Eight Biola students were able to act as basically first-year medical students, rotating through different departments and seeing the practice of medicine in different fields and environments,” said biology professor Harvey Havoonjian, who helped develop the partnership with UPH.

Students stay in campus housing at UPH and also participate in cultural immersion experiences as part of the program. This past summer, the program included a research component as well, with four Biola students working in the Mochtar Riady Institute for Nanotechnology (MRIN), a UPH-affiliated biological sciences lab investigating the
anti-cancer properties of Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV). The four Biola students spent the spring semester at Biola in a directed research course on molecular techniques, learning key skills and practicing lab procedures in preparation for the research in Indonesia.

The research experience at MRIN in Indonesia provided a valuable first-hand look into the day-to-day life of a full-time laboratory researcher, said biological sciences graduate Kendall DeKreek (‘15), one of the four Biola students who worked full days in the MRIN lab while on the trip.

“Opportunities to engage in full-time lab work are hard to come by as an undergrad, so I’m very thankful for having been able to participate in this experience,” he said.

A total of 12 students (four doing research and eight doing hospital shadowing/rotations) went on the trip in 2015 and another 12 will go in the summer of 2016, representing majors like biological sciences, human biology, biochemistry and kinesiology.

3D PRINTING
WITH THE HELP OF MILK JUGS

OVER THE SUMMER, engineering professor Albert Yee supervised several students who worked on research funded by faculty research grants he secured.

One of them, sophomore physics major Nathan Decker, studied the use of recycled plastics in 3D printing, developing a 3D printing filament in which 15 percent of the plastic comes from recycled milk jugs. This filament costs substantially less than commercial filament, can be used in most 3D printers, and produces objects with roughly the same quality as those produced with commercial filament.

Decker said he had been fascinated by 3D printing and was thrilled to be able to use a 3D printer during the research.

“It was a rush to be able to design something on my laptop and see it come into existence minutes later,” said Decker, who this fall published a paper on the research in the *International Journal of Rapid Manufacturing*.

Decker said the experience taught him about what it takes to conduct scientific research.

“I was able to work with Dr. Yee to write a research grant, purchase equipment, conduct experiments and write about my findings,” he said. “I learned that scientific research can have relevance to areas like creation care, obedience to the Love Command and the fulfillment of the Great Commission.”

EXPLORING TREE BRANCHES AS NATURAL WATER FILTERS

CLEAN WATER IS A SCARCE yet desperately needed resource in many parts of the world, yet filtration technologies are often too costly for the nations most in need. This dilemma led senior engineering major Kiana Lee to become interested in current research exploring the use of tree branches to filter water. The idea is that trees draw water up through their roots through tissue called xylem, which acts as a natural water filter for the trees as a means of protection.

After reading an article published by MIT about using tree branches as a cost-effective method of filtering water, Lee decided to explore the phenomenon in her own research. Under the guidance of professor Albert Yee over the summer, Lee attempted to study and observe xylem filtration by focusing on the factor of aging in tree branches.

“I wanted to observe how the branch’s filtering capability was affected as the cut off branch got older,” said Lee, who plans to present a poster of her research at the chemistry, physics and engineering department’s “Solving World Class Problems” event.

WHY SOME RACCOON INTESTINES ARE MORE WELCOMING TO PARASITES

FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, biological sciences professor Matt Ingle has been researching Raccoon Roundworm, an intestinal parasite common to raccoons — one that’s known to infect other animals and even humans with sometimes-fatal results. Ingle’s work on the parasite focuses on raccoon genetics and hopes to contribute to the better understanding of the transmission of the parasite and what genetic elements make certain groups of raccoons more or less susceptible to the parasite.

For the past year, Ingle has had about 20 Biola students working with him on the project. This summer, he took three of them to the national meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists in Jacksonville, Fla. While there, they presented some of the work on the relationship between raccoon genetics and the parasite, as well as a poster on the parasite in non-raccoon hosts.

Some of the students Ingle has worked closely with on this research are heading toward a graduate degree or medical school, so having the opportunity to participate in original research is helpful in a number of ways.
“It really helps students develop their problem-solving abilities, as well as their ability to communicate with other researchers and through writing abstracts that get reviewed by a committee,” Ingle said. “It’s helpful regardless of where you go in the field.”

**THE MYSTERIOUS LONGEVITY OF MUTANT WORMS**

WORMS ARE AMONG THE MOST ABUNDANT organisms on the planet and have been well studied in recent decades. But some worms have longer lives than others because of genetic mutations, and biological sciences professor Matt Cruzen is interested in finding out why.

Cruzen’s research focuses on the relationship between caloric restriction and lifespan in Caenorhabditis elegans, a species of nematode worms. The typical lifespan of one of these tiny worms is only 16 days, but some nematodes can live up to 35 days. Cruzen is interested in studying the genetic mutations in worms with longer lifespans to see what causes them to eat less and expel less energy, which leads to longer life.

A handful of Cruzen’s students are highly involved in the research process and work with several different genetic strains of nematodes. They learn to study the worms in the lab in order to characterize their genetic mutations that affect lifespan. So far, the students have found that a certain strain of mutated nematodes has a tendency to eat less. Using a scanning electron microscope to view the worms, students are able to count the number of times each worm pumps food through its mouthparts in one minute. They have found that longer-living nematodes do pump significantly less food than do worms with an average lifespan, demonstrating a relationship between caloric restriction and lifespan in the nematodes.

The research is ongoing for Cruzen and his students, who will next be looking at how nematode lifespan is affected by “brood size” (how many eggs they lay). Cruzen’s students have published some of their nematode research and present their findings annually at the Biola science symposium.

**STUDYING MICE TO UNDERSTAND PAIN MANAGEMENT**

BECAUSE BIOLA CURRENTLY LACKS THE SCIENCE LAB FACILITIES to accommodate certain types of research, some science students at Biola have sought opportunities to gain lab research experience off campus.

Joseph Lee, a junior biological sciences major with pre-med concentration, has been doing research at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine. Working in the Department of Anesthesiology and Pharmacology, Lee’s research focuses on the molecular mechanisms for chronic pain management. His work involves transgenic mice and seeks to find a better control on the clinical understanding of pain by identifying genes that may be molecular determinants of a specific chronic pain state and serve as a target for the development of more specific and safer painkillers.

Over the summer Lee emailed various doctors and researchers, hoping to gain exposure to the research in the field of medicine. In that process he got connected to the UC Irvine project. This fall he has worked on this research at UC Irvine for 14 hours a week or more. He says Biola has prepared him to apply for medical school in the coming year, where he hopes to pursue a career in surgical specialties and work as a physician in an underserved community.
HELPING TO END WORLD HUNGER —
BY STUDYING PLANT GROWTH

OVER THE PAST YEAR, alumna Kelby (Songer, ’14) Schaeffler has been spending six to eight hours each week doing research in a lab at the California Institute of Technology, one of the world’s most respected research universities. Since first getting connected to the lab by Biola biology professor Jason Tresser, Schaeffler has been studying the developmental mechanisms of plants, specifically in the shoot apical meristem (SAM), using the Arabidopsis thaliana plant. Schaeffler assists one of the postdoctoral researchers in the study of cytokinin signaling pathways in the SAM, specifically how two particular peptide ligands signal and give feedback to one another, determining the size of the plant and controlling leaf and flower development.

“Studying these mechanisms is fascinating and crucial because most of our crops, building materials, medicines and fabrics come from the developmental functions of the SAM, and at least 80 percent of human nutrition derives directly from SAMs,” said Schaeffler, who was a human biology major at Biola. “The researchers have the goal of gaining a fundamental understanding of plant growth with the purpose of attacking the problem of world hunger.”

In addition to this laboratory research, Schaeffler also works 30-plus hours a week as a medical scribe in the emergency room at Lakewood Regional Medical Center and Los Alamitos Regional Medical Center, where she follows doctors on their shifts, taking notes on patient encounters and recording data for the patient charts.

Schaeffler is currently applying to medical school, hoping to begin in fall 2016. She is interested in working in emergency medicine, family medicine or pediatrics.

“I love the fast pace of the E.R. and the satisfaction of being able to help people in their moments of greatest suffering, but sometimes it can be a bummer to not be able to follow up with patients days or months later,” she said. “I love the idea of forming relationships with my patients and partnering with them for many years to live healthy lifestyles and take responsibility for their well-being.”

EARLIER THIS YEAR, physics professor Xidong Chen published a paper in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), the official journal of the National Academy of Sciences and one of the world’s most-cited and comprehensive multidisciplinary scientific journals.

Professor Chen’s paper concerned oxidation-driven surface dynamics and is based on experiments conducted with collaborators from State University of New York and Brookhaven National Laboratory. Chen was in charge of developing a theory to understand and explain experimental results. An important result of his efforts was demonstrating a connection between the Hele-Shaw problem and surface dynamics on solid surfaces.

In addition to this impressive publication, professor Chen has recently been working with students on atomic force microscopy studies of ciliary structures of tetrahymena and surface structures of cancer cells. One of Chen’s student researchers, Sarah Lum (’14), presented results of their research to the Materials Research Society in the spring of 2014. Partly because of her work with AFM, Lum was awarded a sizable scholarship from the University of Notre Dame, where she is now pursuing a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry.

FLUORESCENCE SPECTROSCOPY WITH A SUPERCOMPUTER

CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR JOHN SILZEL’s recent research has used computational chemistry to study the spectroscopic effects related to intermolecular interactions in both natural and synthetic fluorescent materials. Silzel works with students to prepare materials and characterize them by collecting vibrational, absorbance and fluorescence spectra, then comparing the experimental data to the results of theoretical calculations performed on BLESS (Biola Low-Emission Scientific Supercomputer), a solar-assisted 40-node computing cluster built and maintained by professor Xidong Chen and housed in Bardwell Hall. Silzel recently published a peer-reviewed paper on this research along with former student Katrina Lin (’14), who is now in graduate school at the Oklahoma State University College of Medicine, where she is president of the Student Government Association.

SCHAEFFLER: COURTESY PHOTO; SILZEL AND CHEN: JAKE FLOCH
Jane Anderson ('71) knows that Biola was the university God had for her undergraduate years, even if the registrar’s office didn’t agree at first. Anderson was looking to be a pre-med major, a degree that Biola did not offer at the time.

“I called my mom in tears and she said, ‘Did God lead you to Biola?’” Anderson remembers. “I said, ‘Yes, he did.’ She said, ‘Then I think you should stay.’”

Anderson declared a biological science major and took classes outside of Biola to meet the requirements needed for a pre-med major. After graduation she went on to study at UCLA School of Medicine and the University of Southern California for her pediatric internship before taking her pediatric residency at Stanford.

Because of the education Anderson received at Biola with her 30 credits of Bible courses, she has the courage to stand with her convictions when challenged, she said. When she became one of the most outspoken proponents of Proposition 73 — a 2005 California ballot initiative that would have required parental notification before a minor’s abortion — she knew that she would receive backlash and criticism from the medical community. In spite of this pressure, she continued to boldly endorse the bill, even writing arguments for the proposition and signing her name in the voter guide mailed out to all California residents.

Today, Anderson is serving as the vice president of Medical Servants International, a group of medical associates who go into rural areas of third-world countries. They team up with the local missionary or pastor so that they can serve the people in the best way possible. She has also been on staff at the University of California San Francisco as a pediatrics professor for the past 36 years.

Anderson applies the skills and knowledge from her education in the California medical field and uses them in the mission field. She says that her undergraduate years at Biola taught her to stand up for her beliefs and continue to do what is right for both the medical community and for the kingdom of God.

“I was challenged for my faith,” she said. “I was challenged for why I could use Western medicine and go proselytize on the mission field using what the state of California had allowed me to learn. It was because of the classes that I had at Biola, which gave me such a firm foundation, that I felt so comfortable that I didn’t waiver.”

- LAURIE BULLOCK
Joy Pennock Gage (’50) recently published For the Duration: The Changing Fortunes of War, a novel about World War II on the homefront. For the Duration is the story of people in a small town in Douglas, Ariz., who took the president’s challenge and rearranged their lives for the duration.

Dean Fredrikson (’51) recently published Creation and Creation’s God: One God, One Story, One People. The book argues that Genesis presents a vision of ultimate reality that provides a unified account of the origin of the universe, what it means to be human, and how Jesus Christ has demonstrated both the wisdom of God in creation and true humanity in a world of change and dominant evil.

Karl Franklin (’55) retired after 58 years with Wycliffe and SIL (including 32 years in Papua New Guinea as a linguist and Bible translator). He and his wife now live in Waco, Texas, near their daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren. He continues to post materials on his website (karlfranklin.com), where references to some of his humorous stories and other information can be found.

Caren Ware (’84) is a 2015 National Masters Track and Field Champion.

William Watson (M.Div. ’79) recently published Dispensationalism Before Darby, where he demonstrates that John Nelson Darby’s thought was neither aberrant nor original. To the contrary, he was following a long line of British clergy who anticipated the restoration of Jews to a national homeland and the imminent return of Jesus Christ. Watson is a professor of European history at Colorado Christian University, was a Fulbright senior scholar to Moldova in 2004 and a visiting fellow to Oxford in 2007.

Dan Nygaard (M.A. ’80) recently published Star Readers from Out of the East, an innovative retelling of the journey of the wise men to Bethlehem. Respectful of the ancient text and historically accurate, Star Readers offers a logical rationale for one of the world’s most mesmerizing stories. See www.thestarreaders.com for information.

Jim George (M.Div. ’81, Th.M. ’86) recently published several books through Harvest House, including The 50 Most Important Teachings of the Bible: A Boy’s Guide to Discovering His Bible, A Young Man After God’s Own Heart; and A Young Man’s Guide to Discovering His Bible.

Paul Green (’82) has been promoted to professor of philosophy at Mount Saint Mary’s University in Los Angeles, Calif. He has been teaching there in the philosophy department since 1995.

Caren Ware (’84) earned the 2015 National Masters Track & Field Champion title in the 300-meter hurdles and pentathlon at Jacksonville, Fla., competing in sweltering 101-degree temperatures.

Bill (M.Div. ’86) and Pam (Rogers, ’83) Farrel recently published a pair of books aimed at helping men and women become even more effective and experience greater success in their relationships, their work and their walk with God. Bill wrote 7 Simple Skills for Every Man and Pam wrote 7 Simple Skills for Every Woman, both published through Harvest House.

Jennifer Moriarity, ’88 Kane completed her doctorate in educational leadership from Azusa Pacific University.

Mike Fabarez (M.A. ’91) recently published Lifelines for Tough Times, a book on how complete trust in God alone can restore your confidence and hope during difficult times and the power of focusing on God’s eternal goals for you in life’s temporary setbacks. Fabarez is the founding pastor of Compass Bible Church in Aliso Viejo, Calif., and is heard on hundreds of stations across the country on the Focal Point radio program.

Steve Sewell (’91) recently published At a Loss: Learning How to Comfort Others Through the Journey of Grief Using Scripture and Prayer, a helpful book on how to comfort the people in your life during their journey through grief. Sewell has served in community pastoral care roles as a hospice and in-workplace chaplain for the past 11 years and previously served as a youth pastor, seminar and camp speaker, associate pastor, senior pastor and church planter.

Gary Comer (M.Div. ’92, D.Min. ’13) recently published Soul Whisperer: Why the Church Must Change the Way it Views Evangelism. The book shifts the emphasis on “telling” to a “drawing” paradigm. It develops biblically the pattern of Jesus, who did not give static presentations but rather customized his words to each hearer. Soul Whisperer charts ways for Christians to go deeper in evangelistic relationships.

Veola Vazquez (M.A. ’93, Ph.D. ’98) published The Nickel Nuisance, a faith-based, illustrated fictional book for children ages 8-12. Vazquez is a former faculty member of Rosemead School of Psychology. She is currently associate professor of psychology and associate dean of undergraduates in the School of Behavioral Sciences at California Baptist University. Find the book at www.veolavazquez.com.

Chad Owens (’95) published his first book, Don’t Call Me Missionary, which is a story about how he became a missionary in Papua New Guinea that also aims to prepare younger people who want to become missionaries. The book is available on Amazon.

June (Tedesco, ’97) Bliss published her first book, Starfish Street, a coming-of-age story about a cynical art graduate who has become bogged down with her life circumstances. Her great aunt Lorraine offers Maggie a summer job watching over her cottages in Cannon Beach, Ore., where the magnificence of creation and the kind people at the beach lead her to a new life guided by faith.

Dave (’99) and Amy (Smitten, ’01) Knepper joined Gamechurch, a missions organization that strives to bridge the gap between the gospel and gamer culture. Dave serves as the director of logistics. Amy is a freelance writer and recently published Blueprint Homeschooling, a book to help home-educating parents strategically plan their school years.

Kylene (Herr, ’05) Lu runs a T-shirt ministry called SHORT+SAVAGE.

Jim George (M.Div. ’81, Th.M. ’86) is a prolific author. His most recent book is The 50 Most Important Teachings of the Bible.
Tabitha Hernandez-Blanton (’01, M.A. ’04) serves students and teachers

Tabitha Hernandez-Blanton (’01, M.A. ’04) began her career in education by teaching elementary school students in the very district she attended as a child. Having received her bachelor’s degree in Christian education and credential from Biola, this was the launching pad for an impressive career that has since led her to become principal of Wing Lane Elementary in Valinda, Calif.

“I always knew I wanted to go into administration, but I had my hesitations,” she said. “I finally went for it and said, ‘Let’s do it!’ I’ve been loving it ever since.”

The education and mentorship Blanton received at Biola impact her daily life and career. Ideas like, “Your kids are being handpicked for you,” and “There is a reason why you’re going into public education” were impressed upon her throughout her Biola journey, and it all prepared her with a vision and purpose for the work she does today.

“Public schools would be a very, very dark place without Christians on campus,” she said. “That’s kind of my message to our younger generation: Get involved in public schools because this is where Satan is attacking — their little minds. You have to pray for them, cover them in Christ.”

As a teacher of teachers — and students sent to her office for some extra care — Blanton recognizes that she has an opportunity to both serve and learn each day.

“Each and every day is an opportunity to make things better, to change things up,” she said. “Overall, it’s a privilege being in this position, and I want to keep working to do things well by God’s standard.”

- STEPHANIE KIM
Looking for some **FUN, ADVENTURE AND EXCITEMENT** THIS SUMMER?

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FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

How to Help Our Students While Honoring a Professor

As we close in on the $180 million goal of “A Soul of Conviction, A Voice of Courage: The Campaign for Biola University,” we are taking the “show on the road” to share how God continues to bless Biola in spectacular ways. If you haven’t yet attended one of our regional campaign events to hear about the amazing things that are happening at Biola, I hope to see you soon! One of the things I’m most excited about is the university’s goal to fund scholarships that will help make a Biola education more affordable and available to every student who desires one.

Every semester I teach a great class called Faith and Money, where I hear stories of God’s amazing provision in the lives of Biola students. Many of them have miracle stories. Then, when I am on the road visiting alumni, I hear of how diligently so many of you have worked to pay down your student loans after graduation. So many of you have miracle stories, too. I’ve heard enough stories to know God can and will provide the resources necessary for students who are called to be at Biola. But his plan isn't always easy! And some students have had to make the difficult decision not to attend Biola even when this is their first choice and heart’s desire.

So what’s the answer? I think it is keeping a Biola education affordable, and the best way to do that is to increase the number and sizes of scholarships.

That’s why I am so pleased to have strategic partners like the Christian Community Credit Union to help provide scholarships to deserving students — a few of whom are shown below. The CCCU has provided financial support to more than 50 students to help make their Biola educations possible, and we are so pleased to have them as partners in the preparation of tomorrow’s Christian leaders.

You might say: “That’s great for organizations like the CCCU, but what can I do?” Well, you can help through your support of scholarships at Biola to help students who are struggling to make a Biola education possible.

I’m excited to announce the first of what we hope to be many scholarships designed to honor the great Biola faculty and staff who have made a difference at Biola. This new scholarship is called the Dr. Betty (McCullough) Carden Legacy Leadership Scholarship. Dr. Carden was one of the founders of Biola’s education program, and her work at the university touched generations of graduates, perhaps even you! And we want to remember her for her great work. To give to this new scholarship fund, visit giving.biola.edu. Under Designation, select Other and type in the scholarship name, or make your check payable to Biola University, and be sure to mention Dr. Carden’s scholarship in the memo line.

Together we can ensure that future generations of Biola students can financially afford a quality Christian education. I hope you will join me in making this possible. For together we are Alumni for Life!

If you are interested in recognizing a faculty or staff member who made a difference in your life, you can contact me at rick.bee@biola.edu.
Faith and Finance
Mark Linsz (’86) equips retiring executives to use their skills for nonprofits

MARK LINSZ (’86) believes in working with people. Throughout his career as an executive with Bank of America and in creating his own company, My Next Season, Linsz has focused on the need for integrity and cooperation in accomplishing big goals.

“Something I learned at Biola was the need for people to work together and to be a team,” said Linsz, who began his finance career in the late 1980s with Chicago Research and Trading, at the time one of the largest trading firms in the world.

Chicago Research and Trading was later bought out by Bank of America, and Linsz rose to be one of the top risk executives and later treasurer for the company. During his time as treasurer, Linsz had to navigate through tough financial situations for both the company and its clients during 2008’s economic crisis. He was also responsible for raising capital for Bank of America so that it could withstand the stress of financial instability. Linsz aligned the business values he had learned at Biola while advising investors during that tumultuous time.

“Having the trust of investors and having investors know that what you said was the truth was key,” said Linsz, who credits Biola’s emphasis on integrity and faith integration as “a tremendous help to me.”

Linsz’s job with Bank of America took him all over the world: Chicago, Hong Kong, London, New York and more. After 27 years working with the company, he retired in 2014 and co-founded My Next Season, a company designed to help executives transition from their positions to retirement while still doing meaningful work. One of the ways My Next Season accomplishes this is by partnering with not-for-profits across America.

“We’ve got a tremendous talent pool that’s going to be retiring from corporate America in the next 15 years,” Linsz said. “Helping executives find their purpose, and then also helping not-for-profits with this talent pool has just been incredibly exciting.”

Linsz continues to use what his Biola professors taught him about integrating his faith into every aspect of his life, including the business world. He puts the lessons into practice by placing executives into positions that will use their strengths and knowledge to help the community around them. The company itself donates 20 percent of its revenue to their partnered not-for-profits.

“Having people with integrity, and having people with biblical principles, and having Christians who will be a light out there, is probably one of things that I’m most passionate about,” Linsz said. “Conviction and courage are incredibly important in the workplace. I think the lessons I learned at Biola really played into the way I thought of that in the workplace.”

- LAURIE BULLOCK
Biola Inducts Three Alumni into Athletics Hall of Fame

Biola added three standout athletes to its Athletics Hall of Fame on Sept. 12 during its fourth annual induction ceremony. Two dual-sport athletes — Jessica (Logsdon, ‘02) Pistole and Ben Orr (‘01) — and late Biola President Clyde Cook (‘57, M.Div. ‘60, Th.M. ‘62) were honored for excellence in their sports. Both Orr and Pistole were athletes during Cook’s time as president at Biola and commented on his kindness and genuineness toward them during their time at Biola.

Clyde Cook, Biola’s president from 1982 to 2007, is the third men’s basketball player to be inducted into Biola’s Hall of Fame. Long before serving as president, Cook made a huge impact on Biola athletics — both as a student and as the athletic director for Biola from 1957 to 1960. Cook was a standout basketball player who was once named the CIF High School Basketball Player of the Year and had 13 scholarship offers from major universities. At Biola, he led the league with a 30.1 points-per-game scoring average as a freshman and went on to win two league championships with the Eagles. He averaged in the high 20s throughout his four-year career and spent his senior season as both a player and coach. Cook passed away in 2008 at the age of 72, one year after retiring from the presidency.

Jessica (Logsdon) Pistole spent her time at Biola as a dual-sport student-athlete, competing with volleyball each fall and softball each spring. As the Eagles’ ace pitcher from 1999 to 2002, she holds the program’s career records for wins (80), ERA (0.88), saves (13), appearances (134), starts (106), complete games (88), shutouts (32), innings pitched (757.2), batters faced (2,920), fewest walks per game (0.95) and total strikeouts (580). In 2001, she won the GSAC Pitcher of the Year award and was named an NAIA All-American. She could handle a bat too, ranking third on Biola’s all-time hits list (229) and runs list (139). On the volleyball court, she still holds the single-season service ace record (91) and the single-match service aces record in three-set and four-set matches.

Ben Orr is among the most successful dual-sport athletes in Biola’s history, having earned three NAIA All-American honors across his time as a varsity baseball and soccer player. During his time on the baseball team in the late 1990s and early 2000s, the team won the GSAC Championship three times and advanced to the NAIA World Series in 2001. He was twice named the GSAC MVP and was named to the baseball All-GSAC team three times. Orr ranks inside of the top 10 all-time in six offensive categories and four pitching categories. On the soccer field, he was named an NAIA All-American in 1999 and picked up three All-GSAC honors. He is inside of the Eagles’ top 15 all-time in goals (26) and total points (68).
As alumni, parents and friends of Biola University, you play a critical role in God’s unfolding story by bringing conviction and courage to a world in need.

At one of our upcoming events in your area, join President Barry Corey and fellow supporters to learn how you can continue to be involved in the mission of Biola as we launch A Soul of Conviction, A Voice of Courage: The Campaign for Biola University.

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- Chicago, IL  
- Hong Kong  

*Locations subject to change. For the most up-to-date event information, visit giving.biola.edu/nationaltour.
Don’t You Forget About Me

Long before Mock Rock, Biola’s annual lip-sync competition was called “Airband.” And whereas today’s student “bands” sing to the tunes of Taylor Swift and Bruno Mars, Biolans 30 years ago impersonated Tears for Fears and The Cars. This flashback photo from The Biolan yearbook shows the 1985 winners for best overall group: “Adam and the Way Cools.”

send us your class notes!


We’d love to hear what you’ve been up to. So send us your update of up to 60 words, and be sure to include your year(s) of graduation or last year you attended Biola. We’ll get your news into the next available issue.

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Growing in Gratitude

Grateful marriages are happier marriages

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful."

– COLOSSIANS 3:14-15

LIKE PAUL DID IN HIS LETTER to the Colossians, many of the Old and New Testament writers connected love, peace and harmony with thankfulness. Not surprisingly, scientific research over the last decade has confirmed what many of the ancient writers knew — that grateful people are happier people. They are more satisfied with their life, feel more joyful, and have higher levels of enthusiasm and feelings of pleasure. Research shows that couples that express gratitude for each other are more satisfied with their relationship — they feel closer to each other and are more committed to each other. Such couples value each other, and are more generous toward each other.

Amie Gordon, a scholar and researcher at the University of California, San Francisco, states that gratitude helps spouses feel more committed to each other, in that they recognize the value in their partners — they feel closer to each other and are more committed to each other. Such couples value each other, and are more generous toward each other.

Research shows that couples that express gratitude for each other are more satisfied with their relationship — they feel closer to each other and are more committed to each other. Such couples value each other, and are more generous toward each other.

Robert Emmons is one of the world’s leading scientific experts on gratitude. He has found gratitude is an affirmation of goodness — believing that God gave us many gifts, big and small. (“This doesn’t mean that life is perfect; it doesn’t ignore complaints, burdens and hassles,” he writes, “But when we look at life as a whole, gratitude encourages us to identify some amount of goodness in our life.”) He also sees gratitude as a “relationship-strengthening emotion” because it requires us to see how we have been supported and affirmed by other people.

Researcher and author Shaunti Feldhahn found that 72 percent of men are more powerfully affected by hearing “thank you” than by hearing “I love you,” and 69 percent are powerfully affected by hearing their wives say, “You did a great job at that.”

So, how can we grow in gratitude? Emmons says that one of the best ways to cultivate gratitude is to keep a “gratitude journal,” in which we regularly record the things for which we are grateful. He offers additional suggestions:

• Remember the hard times that you once experienced, as this contrast is fertile ground for gratefulness.
• Recall prayers of gratitude — because through these prayers we find the source of who we are and who we will be.
• Be more mindful. Visual reminders can serve as cues to trigger thoughts of gratitude. Often times, the best visual reminders are other people.
• Make a vow to practice gratitude. Write your own gratitude vow, which could be as simple as “I vow to count my blessings each day,” and post it somewhere where you will be reminded of it each day.
• Throughout the day practice speaking gratitude (e.g., “I feel blessed, fortunate …” or “I have an abundance of …”) and acting gratefully (e.g., smiling, saying thank you and writing letters of gratitude).

This issue’s Last Word comes from the Center for Marriage and Relationship’s blog. This article is adapted from a post that first appeared on Nov. 3, 2015.

Christopher Grace is director of the Biola University Center for Marriage and Relationships and a professor of psychology at Biola’s Rosemead School of Psychology. He and his wife, Alisa, speak regularly to married couples, churches, singles and college students on the topic of relationships, dating and marriage. Grace earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in experimental social psychology from Colorado State University.
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