The Grape Bug
Giving in to the lure of a life in wine

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It took a lot longer for computer technology to become as pervasive as solar’s already becoming. So renewables are happening. They’re happening very fast.

Now, owing to speedy growth in the renewable energy sector and his own strengths, Fritzemeier is placing his bets on companies that are pushing advances in solar and wind power. Collaborating with different technical people in each case, he runs the business side of efforts to 1) re-vamp the manufacture of solar modules to bring down costs, 2) build a new kind of wind turbine for locations near cities and 3) harvest the sun’s energy more efficiently using polarizing film instead of silicon.

For the wind project, he also supplied some know-how and his garage, where the company built its first prototype. He will need help from mechanical engineers to make a turbine prototype worthy of testing in a wind tunnel.

So while he’s not the technical guy, as an entrepreneur, Fritzemeier remains attuned to startups that are defined by their approaches to technical challenges. By far, the most speculative project he’s involved with is the attempt to replace silicon, a semiconductor, with cheap, lightweight plastic film that has a theoretical potential to harness far more of the solar energy hitting rooftops. As he balances risk and reward, Fritzemeier is prepared for surprises along the way.

Entrepreneurship “is never a straight line,” he said. “You’ll start out to do something that may work. It may be interesting. But you may have to change directions three, four, five times before you get where you want to be.”

For ‘startup guy,’ multiple bets on green energy

In spite of his background working on NASA’s space shuttle, Les Fritzemeier, MBA ’01, is not, as he puts it, “the technical guy” for any of his startup businesses. When he spoke with us in April from his home near Boston, he was an employee or a co-founder in five new companies, only one of which had any sort of public profile.

Fritzemeier used to be the technical guy all day long, before he turned entrepreneur. Upon earning his engineering and materials science doctorate from Columbia University in 1984, he went straight to Rockwell International in Canoga Park, California, where he helped to develop space shuttles. When Fritzemeier later assisted with the space shuttle’s turbine engines.

In 2011, six years after starting Wakonda Technologies Inc., Fritzemeier tests a solar array for the U.S. Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. Shown in the photo at right, the system set records for speed of deployment – under 15 minutes – and solar power generation per kilogram.
Out of clay

A SCULPTOR RETURNS TO IMMORTALIZE, IN BRONZE, THE FARMER WHO PLANTED CAL LUTHERAN.

Paul Lucchesi is aiming for a six-foot Richard Pederson, a scale that he estimates is “a little larger than life.” There’s some guesswork at each stage of producing a bronze sculpture from a fired-clay original. The finished tribute to Cal Lutheran’s first, most consequential benefactor will stand outside Soiland Humanities Center by the end of the year, smiling in the direction of Kingsmen Park with his hands on an ordinary shovel.

Late in April we met Lucchesi – an unhurried New Yorker who has resettled in West Virginia’s mountains – at the Lutar Center of producing a bronze sculpture from a fired-clay original. The finished tribute to Cal Lutheran’s first, most consequential benefactor will stand outside Soiland Humanities Center by the end of the year, smiling in the direction of Kingsmen Park with his hands on an ordinary shovel.

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Undergraduate speaker set his goal of becoming a Ryan Glatt '14 significant mergers. extremely useful as he got himself and his company through six in human resources,” he told the graduates. Custodio said that “If I could survive my childhood, certainly I could survive 16 NBCUniversal’s vice president of human resources for studio Bachelor’s Degree for Professionals and MBA program and Custodio began a career in human resources. In junior college, he discovered the bottom rung of a corporate buses. MCA/Universal Studios owned the concession at that time, and Custodio ‘99, MBA ‘07, told of being orphaned at age 6 and is a Cal Lutheran regent. He summed up a theme that could serves as director of educational services for Simi Valley’s schools, he finished his education this year with a doctorate in educational leadership. As a teacher and administrator in Conejo Valley schools, he finished raising her 9-year-old son. Juan Manuel Santos ‘98, M.Ed. ‘03, Ed.D. ‘14, had never set foot on a campus until an anonymous benefactor paid for the basketball camp that introduced him to Cal Lutheran. He earned his history degree while playing sports, working in his family’s business and selling ice cream at rodeos and dances. After serving as a teacher and administrator in Conejo Valley schools, he finished his education this year with a doctorate in educational leadership. Speaking for Santos’ cohort was Juan Popinski, Ed.D. ‘14, who serves as director of educational services for Simi Valley’s schools and is a Cal Lutheran regent. He summed up a theme that could be heard in many of the stories: This world doesn’t owe us anything; it doesn’t even owe us a living. In fact, we owe it something. We owe it our time, our ingenuity and our talent. We are important and we are needed. It is time to develop a backbone — not a wishbone. Seminarians in Berkeley earn Cal Lu degrees This magazine is not the first to say it: but here you have it, 2014 graduates of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University, as loudly as we know how. Congratulations and welcome to the alumni family! Theological Studies degrees, and another took a Master of Arts. Twenty-four of this year’s graduating seminarians earned Master of Divinity degrees, awarded master’s degrees, certificates and other recognition for the first time as a graduate school of Cal Lutheran. Twenty-four of this year’s graduating seminarians earned Master of Divinity degrees, the credential often taken on the path toward ordained ministry. Two students earned Master of Theological Studies degrees, and another took a Master of Arts. For Ricardo Riqueza, MTS ‘14, who is from Campinas, Brazil, a major city inland from São Paulo, the master’s program was an opportunity to study pedagogy while “learning about God.” He wants to teach, whether about Lutheran theology or math or the transcendental visions of Emerson and Thoreau. He likes working with college-age adults and may pursue a Ph.D. “It was very clear that [my professor] wanted me to succeed,” Riqueza said, adding that he found strong support in a writing course: “It’s a small community.”

‘This world doesn’t owe us anything’

At sendoff for largest-ever graduating class, alumni stress self-reliance. This world doesn’t owe us anything’

About 800 graduates took their Cal Lutheran bachelor’s degrees this May, the largest class ever. Counting all those receiving master’s and doctoral degrees in education, management, psychology and — this year for the first time — theology, the number of new alumni is greater than 1,400.

2014’s Commencement took place not only on May 16 and 17 at William Rolland Stadium in Thousand Oaks but also the night before at a hotel in McMinnville, Oregon, and a week later at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley.

In Oregon, it was about midnight on the morning of undergraduate commencement when five seniors on the baseball team processed through a tunnel formed by their teammates and collected their degrees, following a 12-inning postseason heartbreaker of a game.

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Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary awarded 24 Master of Divinity and two Master of Theological Studies degrees as well as one Master of Arts and eight Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) certificates at ceremonies in May. Pictured left to right are Ricardo Riqueza, Nathaniel Allen, Jacob Mayer, Kirsten Moore ’97, Tyler Crabe, Cary Bass-DeSachies, James Freuhling, Marie Anderson, Gaza Yadeta, Mary-Alyce Burligh, Emily Olsen, Gretchen Rode, Anthony Rhodes, Sara Gross-Samuelson, Brock Klohe, Dorothy Cottingham, Tomas Bayou, Amanda Nelson, Casey Kloehn ’10, Rachel Ekslesen ’04, Jennifer Tillman, Paul Kacynski, Israel Jurich and Rebecca Swee. Riqueza and Yadeta earned MTS degrees, Kacynski has an M.A. and Mayen is a TEEM certificate recipient. M.Div. graduates not pictured are Tod Benson, Anja Holton, Carol Schneider and Emily Trubey-Weller.

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300 students, faculty and staff bought tickets to the performance at Gilbert Sports and Fitness Center in April. Some decisions like this one will get a little easier for students in coming years because of a new CLU scholarship focused on the teaching credential year. 

“Then students assume that Theresa Rogers, an assistant professor of biology, is a vegetarian. But if they ask about it, her reply cheers the meat eaters: “I respect plants as much as I do animals.”

Rogers is full of surprises like that. At first you think she’s going to keep you about the fiber. Getting plenty of it, she says, regularly and from a variety of sources, will promote equilibrium in your gut and, given time, will mean less uncomfortable gas. Can you beat that?

Yes, in fact you can. Fiber reduces the risks of ill small and large, like obesity and diabetes and constipation and heart disease.

So now you’ll like some fiber, right? Well, it’s hardly that simple, says Rogers, eyebrows high. How do you intend to digest it? You’re a human with a few alimentary enzymes that generally work on simple sugars and starches.

Are you going to eat that?

If you know what’s good for you, you’ll include plenty of fiber in your diet. But you’re going to need a lot of help digesting it.

Mike Shimanovsky ‘13, T.C. ’14, entered CLU five years ago, she aspired to become a doctor, but changed her major during her sophomore year.

“I realized I could inspire students and share my love of education with them,” she said. So the Lancaster resident raised fourth grade this year in Moorpark while earning her teaching credential.

Awarded this year to nine teacher credential candidates at a modest level of about $2,500 per student, the scholarship will provide a substantial amount toward tuition in future years. It is expected to support two credential students in 2014-2015 and about 15 to 20 students every year after that. The late John R. Manken, an elementary school teacher and a principal, left the $4.7 million scholarship endowment.

Emilie Evenson was spared from having to take out a student loan this year. “It really encourages me to continue on to grad school,” she said, adding that she plans to return to CLU for a master’s degree in education.

Awarded the Manken Family Scholarship, Evenson was expected to support two credential students in 2014-2015 and provide a substantial amount toward tuition in future years. It is expected to support two credential students in 2014-2015 and about 15 to 20 students every year after that. The late John R. Manken, an elementary school teacher and a principal, left the $4.7 million scholarship endowment.

BRIAN STETHEM ’84

PILGRIM TRAVEL WITH ME

In what was billed as a first on campus, students brought a major musical act to Gilbert Sports and Fitness Center in April. Some 300 students, faculty and staff bought tickets to the performance by rising hip-hop artist Chiddy Bang (left), a native of Philadelphia.

Hip-hop concert draws 300

Next to Kylie Francis (left), in the Moorpark kindergarten classroom where she did her student teaching, are fellow Manken Scholars Emilie Evenson and Rachel Shimanovsky. The 13 graduates all earned teaching credentials in May.
First women’s track title

Baseball has best record in 22 years

All on one Saturday in May at the conference championships, junior Melissa Skiba won both the 800- and 1,500-meter runs and finished second in the 5,000-meter event. Boosted by this performance, the Regals claimed the first outright SCIAC title in program history this spring.

Six Regals advanced to the NCAA Division III Championships, and a trio returned to Southern California as All-Americans. Skiba and Allie Hadley placed second in the nation in respective events, the 1,500-meter race and the javelin throw, while Amanda Hamilton finished sixth in the triple jump. CLU tied for 11th as a team at nationals, which was also the best finish in school history. During the spring, Skiba broke a pair of SCIAC records in the 1,500- and 5,000-meters.

While the women were excelling on the track and in the field, the Kingsmen baseball team produced its best record, 36-10, since the 1992 team finished as the national runner-up. The team claimed its second consecutive SCIAC championship and the 13th in program history, while also winning the second-ever SCIAC Post Season Tournament title to advance to NCAA regional play.

The Kingsmen looked to closer Aaron Roth for 13 saves, tied for the national lead, and pitcher Jake Petersen became the first two-time All-American for CLU baseball, earning ABCA First Team accolades in both 2013 and 2014.

When Ruth Ann Johnson ’65 recalls the early days of California Lutheran College, she remembers a swimming pool, chicken coops, and the very beginnings of buildings and academic programs that would grow a half-century later into California Lutheran University.

“It was a brand new school, so I think our class was brave to be among the first students,” said Ruth, who will be part of the first 50th reunion celebration for the Classes of 1964 and 1965 this October. “I often look back at my choice, and I realize it was one of the best decisions I ever made.”

Ruth joined the Orville Dahl Society more than a decade ago by including Cal Lutheran in her will and as a beneficiary of her life insurance plan. “It’s important to give back when you’ve been given so much. Now we can help ensure the same wonderful experiences we had as students to current students,” she added.

A teacher for 37 years, Ruth remains actively involved with Cal Lutheran as a convocator and class representative. To learn how you can join Ruth in becoming a member of the Orville Dahl Society, please call 805-493-3166 or visit www.clugift.org.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Honoring Karsten ’65 and Kirsten (Bodding ’64) Lundring**

October 27, 2014

Moorpark Country Club

Register at CLUSports.com/victoryclub/golf.php

**I Regal = All-SCIAC times 16**

At the close of her four-year, two-sport career, Lauren Rohach ’14 had 16 All-SCIAC accolades – more than any other competitor, male or female, to don the violet and gold. This most decorated Cal Lutheran athlete was part of six SCIAC titles in eight seasons, advanced to NCAA Division III volleyball regional play four times, NCAA national championships two times each for volleyball and track and field, and earned All-America status as a senior middle blocker last season for the national runner-up Regals. The biology major excelled in the classroom and was selected in 2014 as the SCIAC Scholar Athlete of the Year.
Before Raul Yepez ’13 was the team’s top scorer and Ivan Sanchez ’14 was all-SCIAC, before the two of them enlisted Miguel Silva ’14, a goalkeeper, to transfer from Oxnard College, before they helped to lead Kingsmen soccer to a league championship, and before each one graduated from Cal Lutheran – before all of that, the three shared an unusual, lifelong bond. They had been teammates as 5-year-olds and played youth soccer together for years. They all went to different high schools but stayed in touch.

Silva recalls his first game starting as keeper for the Kingsmen. “They were announcing the starting lineups. They say my name, then Raul’s then Ivan’s. I looked down and thought, ‘Hey, this is pretty cool, all the Oxnard guys are here.’”

If that moment in 2012 felt a little like fate for the three friends, imagine their surprise when they were reminded that they had all played side by side in CLU gear before, more than a decade earlier. That history was also news to head coach Dan Kuntz, who had recruited them.

“We were at the tail end of a 6 a.m. training session before the season,” Kuntz recalls, “and Miguel comes over to me and says, ‘Coach I want to show you something. I want to show you this picture.’”

When Kuntz took a second look at the old team photo, taken when his players were about 8 years old, he noticed something extraordinary. The team members sported oversized purple jerseys that the Kingsmen had worn in years past.

“Does that say CLU on your jerseys?”

Indeed it did, thanks to Silva’s father, who coached the Alianza youth team and who picked up the jerseys at the thrift shop where he worked at that time.

Today, the photo is a reminder of how unlikely it was that Cal Lutheran would end up redirecting the life trajectories of all three young men. Each one is the first member of his family to attend college.

Yepez nearly left the country to play professionally in Mexico, before Kuntz convinced him to visit the campus. So instead, after leading the Kingsmen in goals for two consecutive seasons, he graduated last year with a double major in business and accounting and works for an Oxnard business as an accountant.

Sanchez also wanted to play professionally before he discovered how closely Cal Lutheran’s mathematics major aligned with his interests. The former all-SCIAC defensive player said he will work as a substitute teacher while he plans his next step.

“When there were a lot of moments of seeing where we started, where we came from, and where we are now that I took pride in,” he said.

Silva, the last one to arrive at CLU, also just graduated with a degree in exercise science and plans to become a physical therapist.

“When all three came on board, the lifelong teammates gave the Kingsmen a boost. Having won just three games in each of the 2010 and 2011 seasons, the team saw its hard work culminate in 2013 as Cal Lutheran earned the third seed in the SCIAC Post Season Tournament. From there, the Kingsmen upset No. 2 Whitman in the semifinals and then captured their first-ever Post Season Tournament title by beating Chapman 1-0 in overtime. “”To see three young boys who somehow came from that little team – somehow had God’s connection to this CLU thing and then ended up at the same university – graduating all within a year of each other, to me that is the most rewarding thing you could ever see as a coach,” Kuntz said. “But also I think these are the kind of stories that are all over this university.”
The commencements of Fortunate Hove

For a girl exposed to all of the dangers of war, education meant everything. That much has not changed since she left Zimbabwe.

By Kevin Matthews

The sound of a door opening often wakes Fortunate Hove ’11, MPPA ’14, with a start. It’s been that way since she was in seventh grade, the year she felt so lost that she missed Rhodesia’s national school exam. At that time, late in the 1970s, the war of liberation was spreading to her part of the country, which was soon to become independent Zimbabwe.

Like other young villagers, Hove (pronounced HOH-vay) was drafted into one of the black revolutionary groups opposing white-minority rule. She carried food to a guerilla base for the first time at age 11, and the work did not stop. School became optional. Hove prepared meals, fetched water, listened to Maoist political indoctrination, and attempted to keep herself and her family out of trouble. Used as a human shield, she evaded gunshots by...
Valley in 2002. In the Valley, she worked as a drug she'd left behind when she fled to the San Fernando Valley. She was also the mother of two children, whom she later managed public relations for a steel company. Forced from age 11 to provide support to local guerillas fighting the white colonial government of her country, then Rhodesia, Fortunate Hove would study military history and become a fine observer of the people around her. In her 2013 memoir, Tender Eyes: Memoirs of Villagers in Conflict (1964–79). The Midlands province where Hove grew up did not see active fighting until the mid-1970s.

In 1976 the guerillas visited the local council offices and shut them down. They tore the paperwork, took money from the cash boxes, and gave it to villagers who were at the offices. They emptied the local beer hall which sold Chibuku, a traditional brew made from malts, which was a fund-raising project for the local council…. The guerillas went to the local Dip Tank and confiscated the keys from the man in charge of dipping. That was the last day the cattle were dipped [for tick] for four years.

Spread of anarchy

In 1980 the guerillas visited the local council offices and shut them down. They tore the paperwork, took money from the cash boxes, and gave it to villagers who were at the offices. They emptied the local beer hall which sold Chibuku, a traditional brew made from malts, which was a fund-raising project for the local council. The guerillas would visit the local Dip Tank and confiscate the keys from the man in charge of dipping. That was the last day the cattle were dipped (for tick) for four years.

Conflicts within conflicts

Villagers who had visited each other began to lie and turn against each other and this caused many deaths. It was like there was a bigger war going on and then another deadlier war among individuals. As the war progressed, older girls began fighting over the boys’ honor or comrades and soon, the parents began to wonder what kind of “serving” the girls were doing at the base. The comrades or guerillas had to correct some girls who wanted to wear extremely brightly colored clothes because the colors would betray the campers to the enemy.

Misplaced suspicion

One man was killed because he had bought a portable short wave radio and other villagers did not know what it was. They thought it was a communication radio given to the man by government soldiers to report on guerilla movements.

Misdirected revenge

Some of the farmers packed their bags and left while others were detailed to fight for their farms even to the shedding of blood. One such farmer was a white man given the nickname Makhuhle by local people as he was very fierce and agile enough to avoid being hit by the bullet…. I was playing the game with a vengeance. I did not realize that I was fighting to redeem the time that I had lost during the war. I played my heart out.

Hove’s dream

It was a matter of time before danger caught up with all of us. I was only 14, and facing the futility of life. I did not lose hope. I still believed that one day I would go to university and acquire a degree. How? It was not clear yet. I needed to survive the war. I had a dream, and if the war spared me, I hoped that I would be able to acquire my degree and influence change for women and girls.

Discovering childhood at war’s end

I enjoyed playing sakakona. For agility, the girls had to tack their dresses in their underwear as they ducked the ball thrown from both sides that were manned by the opposing group. The idea was to be swift and agile enough to avoid being hit by the ball…. I was playing the game with a vengeance. I did not realize that I was fighting to redeem the time that I had lost during the war. I played my heart out.

Lasting damage

In the mid-’90s… a former soldier was closing all the air vents and windows of his house. Neighbors found the action bizarre and thought that it was newsworthy so they called me over. In both of her countries, she learned that she could gain the trust of other women and found “a passion” for working with them.

When she decided to study again, she felt at home at a Lutheran university. Although she has been on a long journey of discovery as a Christian, she was raised a Lutheran and keeps a missionary’s work ethic and hours. “In my darkest time, when I was out here alone, it was the Lutheran hymn that really saw me through,” she said.

With her children now studying at Moorpark College and Thousand Oaks High School, Hove’s ambition is to earn a doctorate in international relations or a related field, and to apply her expertise to gender issues of global significance, including human trafficking. She would prefer to remain near Los Angeles to address those issues here.
Worth risking

Two graduating biochemistry majors and an international MBA student took the top prizes in CLU’s first Business Design Concept competition, where they pitched ideas for new products and services to a panel of outside judges.

What appeals to you about becoming entrepreneurs?
Travis: I’ve always liked building things. I’ve always been that way. I chose biochem as my major because I love science, but overall, the more I know about something, the more I can try to find a problem that’s there and come up with a solution to it.

How did you get started on this path?
Ying: I started my own online store that sells Korean-style clothing. I would buy the clothes in [South] Korea and sell in China, because Chinese people like to buy them, especially clothes from some TV shows and Korean movie stars.

Ying: The entrepreneurial style here in America is very creative. American people are not afraid to fail. But in China, if you fail, you’re done. We need to switch this idea.

What will you do with your cash prizes?
Ying: I want to do some research, to see if there’s a way to trade clothes between America and China. For an online market in women’s secondhand clothing website?

Ying: A lot of people. For example, international students. My friends spend money to purchase a lot of clothes, and when we go back to our country, we need to sell some of them.

Who are you working with on the business concept?
Travis: She’s got a bunch of businesses already! Small businesses.

Garrett: That’s more than we’ve done.

Do you mainly want to pursue the concepts that won the competition, or are you thinking about other business ideas?
Travis: Pursuing multiple ideas is possible. I think once you get something up and running and self-sustaining, you get that drive and itch to try it all over again.

Ying: The entrepreneurial style here in America is very creative. American people are not afraid to fail. But in China, if you fail, you’re done. We need to switch this idea.

What need does your business idea fulfill?
Garrett: Right now, there’s no cheap and easy, pretty definitive salmonella test out there that gives results in a couple of minutes. My goal is making things safer. Instead of having to trust a lab, you can put the responsibility for safety in the consumer’s hands.

What will you do with your cash prizes?
Ying: I want to do some research, to see if there’s a way to trade clothes between America and China.

Travis: Re-engineering the prototype and possibly starting an LLC.

Garrett: For me, it’s money to actually make another Silicon Valley or San Diego area.

We’re trying to get more people to be entrepreneurs – and not to just go after becoming a doctor. You can have a business on the side.

CLU Business Design Concept Competition Winners

First prize, $1,000
Garrett Naumann ’14
For salmonella detection strips to prevent food poisoning

Second prize, $500
Travis Domm ’14
For a machine to distribute medication in thin film strips that are taken orally

Third prize, $250
Ying Lu, International MBA program
For an online market in women’s secondhand clothing and accessories

Honorable mention:
Malika Urasaki, Class of 2016
For a mobile hairstyling business serving the elderly in their own homes

The Future Treps student club hosted the event, and the School of Management awarded prizes.

For more information on their business concepts, email Garrett, Travis and Ying at gnaumann@, tdom@ and yling@calllutheran.edu.

Q&A

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AUGUST 2014 19
Crushing on grapes

By Mark Storer ’89

The business of wine exerts a powerful pull on those who go near it.

I remember finding myself kneeling in the dirt at a vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills near Lompoc, California, when I’d been writing about wine for a little over two years. I wasn’t there for sunsets and beach houses, linen and fresh produce, or to make like Russell Crowe in A Good Year. Instead, the wine bug, as so many of us call it, was driving me to seek out what a life in wine really means, with the long days, the sales junkets and the low profit margins, as well as how the stuff is made and how it changes.

Like many others living in the world of wine, or on the outskirts, I’ve never made a living at it. I’m a teacher and freelance journalist who has a sommelier certificate to his name along with one amateur winemaking prize. I write feature stories and I teach high school students the finer points of Shakespeare if I can. There is symbiosis here, since the complexities of wine require study and provoke writing.

Still, I’m only caught up in this because wine chose me. Something similar happened to other Cal Lutheran graduates, many of whom have the bug worse than I do. I can’t imagine why anyone supposes a life in wine resembles a tasting tour. From my observation, most people who have the bug reap modest, if any, financial rewards from the work they do. They frequently hold down two jobs or look...
“Many of the best wines come from small producers who do not get rich and sit on the porch at sunset.”

for a tiny industry niche to avoid giving up on their dreams.

Take the Kasten family up in Napa. John ’74 is an architect with his own business, Kasten Design, and Cynthia (Roleder ’75, MBA ’80) works as a human resources consultant after 21 years as personnel director for the City of Napa. She also teaches part time through Chapman University.

They got into wine in the 1980s with a group of amateurs at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Napa who called themselves Leap of Faith Vintners, using a label with a Trinity symbol designed by John, who was an art major at CLU.

“One thing led to another and our all-consuming hobby took on a life of its own,” Cynthia said.

Now Kasten Family Winery produces about 400 cases each year from a vineyard they own in the Oak Knoll region of Napa, mostly Bordeaux blends since varietals from that region of France do well in clay loam soil, according to Cynthia. They sell directly to consumers through their website and to local restaurants. The couple’s daughters, Laura (Kasten ’05) Solomon and Sarah Kasten ’08, pitch in at the winery while maintaining day jobs of their own.

Four hundred cases of wine may sound like a lot, but not if you’re trying to make a living from them. In one of the industry’s ironies, many of the best wines are “boutique wines” that come from small producers who do not get rich and sit on the porch at sunset. Instead, they’re crushing grapes in their garages or in small barns with flecks of paint peeling off, or in buildings with aluminum siding next to a metalworking company.

Like Cantara Cellars in Camarillo. Next to the little airport for private jets, Mike Brown, MBA ’94, and his wife, Chris, have transformed a humble industrial office space into a winery and tasting room that is named after the housing tract where they live in Moorpark. The Browns make 2,500 cases a year, including an elegant, balanced Chardonnay and a Zinfandel that I like as well as any I’ve tasted (disclosure: we are friends).

Still, just like the Kastens, Mike keeps his day job, as director of operations at a furniture manufacturer in Oxnard. That means very long hours during the harvest, when he travels five hours to Lodi and back again with all of Cantara’s fruit.

There is anecdotal evidence that the wine bug infects children, possibly through the eyes. Kristen Kate Smith ’05 grew up looking at the vineyards and scenery in Santa Maria. This spring, she moved with her husband to Paso Robles to run direct-to-consumer sales for Eberle Winery, after jobs at Cameron Hughes in the Bay Area and Larrtizia Vineyard & Winery in Arroyo Grande.

“At its soul, it’s an agricultural job and everyone is very grounded and, of course, the culture is not to imburse themselves in the wine experience,” Smith said. “I wanted to work in a place where I could soak up that kind of energy, and the wine business is that.”

Things worked out this way in spite of Smith’s double major in political science and history and her master’s in international relations from Cal State Stanislaus. For a while she ployed those degrees in jobs that left her exhausted and frustrated each week.

The wine bug lay dormant for 20 years or more in the system of Stephanie Ehlers ’99, who grew up in Lodi where her father worked for Mondavi wines. “I saw harvests done all my life and I was always fascinated,” she said, “but after a while, the appeal wore off.”

Recruited to Cal Lutheran as an athlete, Ehlers studied communication but was unable to land a reporting job, so she went to work on a harvest to earn money. From there, she moved on to working in the lab, learning the science of winemaking known as oenology.

“At some point, you catch the grape bug, and I did and wanted to learn more so I went back to school,” said Ehlers, who is earning a second bachelor’s degree at UC Davis with a specialty in pest control.

Ninety percent of the wine produced in the U.S. goes to what’s called the “bulk market.” Larger winemakers and producers like Gallo buy grapes or grape juice from vineyards all over California, Oregon, Washington and elsewhere. That ultimately goes into the modestly priced bottles you find on grocery store shelves, and there’s nothing wrong with them. They’re a good bargain and some even taste pretty good.

There are many of the best wines come from small producers who do not get rich and sit on the porch at sunset.”

Grace Stufkosky ’01, M.S. ’06, a commercial and editorial photographer, extensively photographs architecture, food, and wineries and vineyards in Arizona. See more of her work at www.gracestufkosky.com.
Chardonnay, equally balanced between acidity and oak with a

At the Atascadero winery, my wife and I tried a rich 2000

land but sources the fruit. He buys multiple varietals from

Like many winemakers, he doesn’t own expensive vineyard

does it full time.

So, after many years of night school, travel and teaching

the U.S., the distributors make all the rules.”

spend much time going from state to state,” he said, “because in

Taiwan, China, Korea and Vietnam and is trying to get into

selling his own in Japan.

about international trade in California wines and decided to start

upstairs. If you go, you might get the opportunity to walk up

a family or friends have a wooden plank between a couple of

basements to be had on the Central Coast, he has the wine

Keith Nichols, MBA ’83


By the Rev. Mark C. Pederson, M.Div. ’91 (PLTS)

Wine’s a marvel. The Bible tells me so.

I serve as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in McMinnville,

Oregon, in the epicenter of the Willamette Valley, and I know firsthand how difficult the wine business can be. In 2008, my wife, and I joined two other couples from church to open a wine shop in our downtown, and it didn’t survive the bad economy. At that time, I was asked to make wine the theme of a small group Bible study. I could not find a resource on the subject — so I wrote my own. It’s called The Theology of Wine. This is the most popular Bible study I have ever done, and perhaps the only one anywhere that includes a tasting fee. I’m not sure if these two circumstances are related.

In 2011, I spent a sabbatical leave working the harvest at Coeur de Terre Vineyard. The owners, Scott and Lisa Neal, were patient with me and I was able to learn the basics of winemaking. The information has come in very handy in my work as a pastor, which really shouldn’t come as a surprise. Jesus was a winemaker, wine and vineyards are mentioned more than 500 times in the Bible, and the vast majority of the references are positive. According to Psalm 104, wine was given to us to “gladden the human heart.” Actually making wine is a tremendous amount of work, and I am now struck by how many of Jesus’ stories about work begin, “There was a man who owned a vineyard.”

In meeting some of the original winemakers in this area, through a project at Linfield College, I’ve been impressed by their care for creation and the passion with which they pursue their calling. I feel the church has much it can learn from vineyard owners and winemakers. When Dianna and David Lett were first married, they took a detour through the Napa Valley to do some tasting. Although he was then on his way to becoming a dentist, David was instead “struck by the cosmic brick,” as Dianna tells their story. The couple soon moved to Oregon, where David became a pioneer in our local viticulture. I’ve had a glancing blow by that same brick. I don’t want to make wine for a living, but I certainly enjoy drinking a beautiful Willamette Valley Pinot Noir. Every glass is a reminder of how much God loves us and how blessed I am to live in this place.

The Theology of Wine by Mark C. Pederson is available at www.cantaracellars.com. Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, where Pederson earned his master’s degree in divinity, has been part of Cal Lutheran since January.

Wine’s a marvel. The Bible tells me so.

By the Rev. Mark C. Pederson, M.Div. ’91 (PLTS)}
A SLAM DUNK: THE BOWMAN FAMILY

Gary ‘75 and Nancy (Munguia ‘75) Bowman met at a Cal Lutheran dance their sophomore year. Both played basketball, and both went on to teach and coach high school teams. They filled a room in their Simi home with Gary’s basketball trophies, calling it the CLU Room. They tried not to influence the college choice of their daughter, Shelby, who began her senior year this fall at Cal Lutheran.

Gary and Nancy keep hearing fresh reminders of their college days, even without the trophy room as a conversation starter. Thanks to old basketball records that are still on the books, Gary was inducted into the Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame and, this June, the Ventura County Sports Hall of Fame. Nancy, who became a teacher because of biology professor Gart Neilson, was featured in The New York Times for her Innovative Westlake High classes that included cadaver dissection.

After a long absence, they visited campus with Shelby for Admitted Students Day. “Cal Lutheran means the world to me and has helped shape the person that I am today,” said the psychology major. “I look forward to sharing my Cal Lutheran story with others and hearing their own stories as well.”

Do you have a son or daughter preparing for college? Contact the Admission Office for a special campus tour.
Evan White ’06

White, an entrepreneur and master of marketing buzz, accepted his Outstanding Young Alumni Award from the Alumni Association at Honors Day Convocation in Samuelson Chapel in April (and snapped this selfie).

His entrepreneurial spirit was showing when he was a kid in the Pacific Northwest, where he built a leaf-raking and snow-shoveling business.

White became involved with the Lutheran Youth Organization and traveled the country for leadership events. In high school, he created a job for himself in his church’s after-school daycare program and learned the value of playing while you work.

At Cal Lutheran, he developed incredible relationships with faculty, staff and fellow students. He was crowned Freshmen Homecoming King and graduated with honors in communication marketing.

Ever since, White has helped celebrities, brands and entrepreneurs use digital media. With his help, an online poker company purchased the naming rights to a town, a friend traded naming rights to a town, a friend traded a company based on wearing T-shirts and the mobile video application Viddy. White built Ustream a household name. White built a leaf-raking and snow-shoveling business.

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Booster club.

Jason Carignan ’95. Thousand Oaks, recently formed Miravante Brands LLC, an independent brand development company for innovative wine and spirits products. The company launched its first product, Nuant, a single-serve, premium wine in a pouch, in March with national distribution. Jason is co-founder of Vipar, maker of the widely used, eco-friendly Anti-Bottles, which have won numerous awards. He also serves on the board of the American Red Cross Ventura and is a former member of the CSU School of Management dean’s advisory council.

Janet (Ambuehl) Gardner ’86. Thousand Oaks, is a member of the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce and is faculty adviser for the Paintball Club. He and some members of the club are pictured at Sathyabama University in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Richard Roach ’88. Ithaca, New York. A former member of the Vapur, maker of the widely used, eco-friendly Anti-Bottles, which have won numerous awards. He also serves as the Director for the Southern California Synod (ELCA) and will also work in the area of faith formation. Desta, an ELCA youth minister and is faculty adviser for the Paintball Club. He and some members of the club are pictured at Sathyabama University in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

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Valentino Diaz, Mascohat, Illinois, self-published his first novel, Pulchro, which is available in Kindle and print editions via his website www.valentinodiaz.com. He also has two short stories, “Longhat” and “Daisy of a Working Stiff,” available as e-books.

Valentino Diaz, Toledo, Ohio, has two short stories, “Longshot” and “Dia-,” available in Kindle and print editions via his website www.valentinodiaz.com. He also has a novel, Toledo, Ohio, Ry of a Working Stiff,” available as e-books.

Class Representative
Holly (Halweg) Batstone
hollybatstone@gmail.com

 Cory Hughes, La Habra, joined the Department of Defense as a purchasing agent in May. He is assigned to the Defense Contract Audit Agency conducting contract audits in California, Oregon and Washington.

Terry Maulhardt, T.C., Oak View, aka Terry Madden, was a winner in the L Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future contest for her short story “Animal.” The awards ceremony was held April 13 at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles. The winners received a trophy, cash prizes and royalties, and their stories will be published in the L Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future Volume 30. Terry, also a novelist and award-winning screenwriter, has been writing since high school. She has a degree in biology and currently teaches high school chemistry and astronomy at Villanova Preparatory School in Ojai.

Jessica Thompson, Ottawa, Ontario, and Washington, D.C., earned a master’s degree in international affairs from American University in June. She is director of Program Excellence and Strategic Partnerships for the University of Denver’s Institute of International Studies.

Lauren Amundson, MBA ‘14, Thousand Oaks, completed her MBA with an emphasis in nonprofits and social enterprise in May and leaves in August for central Mexico, where she will spend 11 months as a volunteer through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program. Lauren has worked as assistant director of the CLU Annual Fund for the past two years. If you would like to receive her e-newsletter, email her at Lauren@callutheran.edu.

Brett Bays, Thousand Oaks, is a character technical director with Walt Disney Animation Studios. Last year he worked on the Academy Award-winning film Frozen and the Academy Award-nominated short Get A Horse as technical animator and character rigger, respectively.

Jessica Seaton ‘10, T.C. ’11, Valdosta, Georgia, earned her Master of Science in nutrition and dietetics from Florida State University in December. She was hired as a registered dietitian/nutritionist by South Georgia Medical Center in March.

Luke Woodward, Santa Monica, is a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker in Venice, and he “would love to help fellow alums find their next house.”

In the L Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future Volume 30, Terry, also a novelist and award-winning screenwriter, has been writing since high school. She has a degree in biology and currently teaches high school chemistry and astronomy at Villanova Preparatory School in Ojai.

Erin Boecker, Denver, Colorado, earned a master’s in international development and a certificate in global health affairs from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver in June. She is director of Program Excellence and Strategic Partnerships for the international NGO Arc Solutions.

Anita Meyers, Washington, D.C., earned dual master’s degrees in May— one in international development and one in natural resources and sustainable development from the University for Peace.

Class Representative
Casey Kloehn
caseykloehn@gmail.com

Latonia Williams, Las Vegas, and Bridgette Harriet, (l), Canoga Park, participated in the 5k at the Hollywood Run With the Stars on April 5. Bridgette Hariot ‘11 and Meghan (Allen ‘11) Tarry (l), Simi Valley, and Bridgette Harriet, Canoga Park, participated in the 5k at the Hollywood Run With the Stars on April 5. Bridgette visited the Great Wall of China last September.

Ben Hogue
benh@pacificused.net

Class Representative
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benh@pacificused.net

ReShai Tate
roset@callutheran.edu

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When I was younger, I thought pain was just pain. You felt, you got cuts and bruises. But now, and especially since I became a massage therapist, I see that physical pain and emotional pain are tied together.

A lot of people talk to me during massage. I’ve had some people cry talking to me about their issues growing up. Sometimes people have a headache for, you know, no reason, and then you find out they’ve just lost a friend or family member. I guess I always knew I wanted to be in the health field. But beyond that, I never really knew what a massage therapist was.

I found out I was good at massage because of my dad’s accident in 2002. Not long after my grandfather, his father, passed away, Dad took a fall that really could have killed him. He’s a big guy and fast, and he caught the football we were throwing before he slammed his head on the pavement. I was 15, and it was so strange for my younger brothers and sister and me to see him taken away in an ambulance.

When he came home from the ICU at Los Robles, he was wearing a robe and looked different. When her father, Brett, was recovering from a serious accident, Jackie Jones discovered that she had a gift for massage. She said that the Bible verse 3 John 1:2 fits the profession: “Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul” (English Standard Version).

Massage was not the only thing that helped him, but it was one of the few things he had then. He was out of work for three months and had the loss of Grandpa Wayne on his mind. He didn’t eat that much because he’d lost his sense of taste and smell.

One difference I see now is that he likes to eat more sweet food.

Later, at Cal Lutheran, I discovered how much I loved seeing the results of the work I was doing as a student athletic trainer. I would massage athletes who were injured, and I built confidence watching them get better. Even though I knew it wasn’t all because of me, their backs got better (softball, swimming), or their knees and shin (track) or calf muscles (basketball), or their rotator cuffs (baseball pitchers), necks and shoulders (football). I learned a lot from Kerria Davis, the head athletic trainer, who was always telling me something new about the body, and assistant trainer Cody Owens ’05, M.S. ’08.

One day I just went in there and massaged his neck. It seemed to relax him, so I just kept doing it. Later on, I’d watch TV with him, just kind of hang out. His eyes were closed a lot. I’d massage all through his upper neck, some nights for two hours.

I don’t really remember when he started to come back to being himself. He started walking to the bathroom. Eventually, he would walk down the stairs. It was really a slow process.

As a massage therapist, I learn a lot about my clients’ pain. First, I had to help my dad through his.

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