True Grit
Why we need athletes to succeed
Investing in home

In 2006, the same year that he enrolled in his online master’s program, Vince Scarpinato, MBA, ’10, his wife Lisa, and their daughter, Taylor, began the earnest dinner-table conversations that soon would lead to the founding of Kitchen on the Street (KOS), a nonprofit dedicated to alleviating hunger, especially among schoolchildren. The organization distributes backdrops of nutritious food on Fridays, year-round, to about 1,300 kids at 22 schools in Phoenix and, now that one of Scarpinato’s co-workers is involved, to another 200 children in San Antonio schools. As the Scarpinatos were once astounded to learn, the “bags of hope” are often the only food these children get on the weekend.

Corporations, churches and hundreds of volunteer supports KOS, and last year it received a $100,000 grant from the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team for a mobile food truck. The truck is used for cooking demonstrations and brings in revenue for the “bags of hope” program.

Meanwhile, the Scarpinatos have found the sense of purpose they were seeking around the dinner table. Lisa eventually quit her job as an aviation claims adjuster for cooking demonstrations and brings in a mobile food truck. The truck is used for cooking demonstrations and brings in revenue for the “bags of hope” program.

As an MBA student, Scarpinato leaned more about how businesses seek new patrons than about how a nonprofit can shed them. Nevertheless, he is now using principles that he learned through his MBA emphasis in financial planning to rethink the fight against hunger.

This year, KOS is piloting a community-based program in Phoenix, known as Market on the Street, in an attempt not only to bring fresh food into “food deserts,” but also to establish an emergency fund for people in poor communities without markets.

Think of it as a “small, little investment company,” Scarpinato said. The initial capital comes from donations of rescued food, crops that otherwise would have been thrown away, plowed underground or fed to animals. KOS delivers the food to the makeshift market, sells it for $1 or $2 a bag, and puts the proceeds into a fund that can help community members survive a “life event” such as an illness or a major repair. With matching funds from corporations and individuals, the pot will be big enough to draw on.

“This is for people who just want to start to put a few bucks away, so that if junior needs a tooth pulled, they have the money for it,” Scarpinato explained. Borrowers would have to pay the money back in a fixed period, at no interest.

With the community-based model, Scarpinato hopes to avoid shortcomings of some aid programs. Taking money from outside of the community can create a culture of dependence, he said, and loans between neighbors create enemies, not a sense of solidarity.

“These people have to start to depend on one another in times of need, and that doesn’t mean loaning money to each other or going to the pawn shop,” he said. “We’ll know we’re making an impact when we see less kids who actually need food.”

Learn more about KOS at www.kitchenonthestreet.org. CLU-trained financial planners are available to discuss financial planning for people in poor communities without markets.

“People can’t help enough,” Vince said.

“You see kids with better attendance, better grades, less behavior problems, better health. You see these numbers, and it’s like, wow, that’s just from kids getting food on the weekends.”

For all that KOS has been able to accomplish, Vince Scarpinato cannot help noticing that the need never goes away. He is not comfortable with giving away food, he said, if giving creates the expectation that free food will always be available. He dislikes the sound of publicity for food banks that cites growth in the numbers of people served.

“Kitchen on the Street doesn’t do that. Our objective is to have less kids needing food,” he said. “What we’re trying to figure out is, what does ‘done’ look like? How do we put ourselves out of business?”

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Cover Photograph by Brian Stethem ’64
This summer Mark Covia, MBA, ’78, concluded his national-record streak of running at least one mile a day for 45 years. He is a championship cross-country coach at Antelope Valley College, where he ended the streak and where the photo was taken. “I’m still getting a few a mile a week from people who have just learned that the streak is over. I’m shocked that so many people were touched or inspired by this. All I did was go for a run,” he said.

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In Luther’s Land, Renewing a Tradition
Marja Møgk, chair of the English Department, reflects on the two-week travel seminar that has taken CLU faculty and staff to Germany since 2008.

Views from the Seminary by the Bay
On Jan. 1, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley is set to become part of CLU, bringing a group of alumni back into the fold.

Persistence and Perfectionism
Alumni reached extraordinary heights in two sports that are all about grit, belief and hard work. Their stories remind us what we love about athletes.

27 Writing Aid Wins Design Prize
To help people with disabilities, master’s students in education built the Doodle Bug. Now they’ve won a chance to take their invention to market.

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22 Features
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Multimedia professor Tim Hengst ’72 wins a lifetime achievement award for his work as a medical illustrator:

Eye spy

A tri-scope in an ophthalmological operating room at Johns Hopkins gives Hengst (r), a surgeon and a surgical assistant the same view of the back of a patient’s eye. Hengst’s medical illustrations begin with pencil sketches, which he later scans into a computer and manipulates with software.

For nine years in the ’70s and ’80s, Tim Hengst ’72 wore scrubs and carried a sketchpad to operating rooms to get to know the world of the eye. After earning his fine art degree at CLU, he launched his career as a medical illustrator and teacher at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

During 38 years as an illustrator, Hengst – who is also a CLU multimedia professor and chair of his department – has filled more than 50 textbooks with interior views of the body: ankles and shoulders, heart surgery, facelifts and breast augmentations. At this year’s Association of Medical Illustrators meeting in Salt Lake City, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor conferred by the association.

There’s no anatomy more complex than the eye, Hengst’s specialty. “The only way to really appreciate it is to look at it in a live situation,” he said.

Because Hengst’s drawings are teaching tools, he flattens the anatomy into two-dimensional views that ophthalmological students must learn to read.

In recent years, Hengst has returned to fine art as a hobby, using his photographs, sketches and Photoshop skills to make digital abstractions, some of which he has exhibited in regional art shows.

The cross-sections at right show the removal of vitreous gel from the middle of the eye to repair a detached retina, a procedure that can restore sight.

With the area illuminated using a light cannula, the tiny flashlight at left, the surgeon uses a small tool to cut up and suction out the vitreous gel.

Once most of the gel has been removed, a heavy liquid called perfluorooctane (PFO) is inserted into the cavity to press the retina back against the eye wall.

As the retina settles back in place, the surgeon removes the flap of a retinal tear.

An aspiration needle with a flexible tip, seen at right, vacuums the rest of the fluid out from behind the retina. The surgical team also replaces the PFO with air to restore normal pressure in the eye.
Letter to the editor

Election of bishop signals change for the better

Changes in civil rights are often very slow to occur, so I was delighted to read about the election of the Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin, a faculty member at Cal Lutheran, as bishop of the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA and the ELCA’s first openly gay bishop (see photo below and “Religion professor elected ELCA bishop,” Page 13, August 2013).

How things have changed in 12 years.

In 2001, a former Cal Lutheran faculty member, the Rev. Paul Egertson, was forced to resign with a month left in his term as bishop for the very same parishioners of a number of Antelope Valley churches early in his term, but he told many of us about his support for LGBT ordinations, in part due to the fact that his own openly gay son, Greg (CLU ’78), was denied ELCA ordination after graduating from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley.

As a Cal Lutheran alum and the proud father of a Cal Lutheran senior who believes in equal rights for all, I pray for a time when the issue of sexual preference won’t be an issue in any area of life.

Gerald M. “Gerry” Price ’68
Lancaster, Calif.

Corrections to August 2013 issue

Campus Highlights: The violinists pictured on Page 10 are Melissa Walker (l) and Rebecca Cardone ‘13. Walker was misidentified. Class Notes: The photo caption at the top of Page 31 should have identified Patty (Hurd) Perry as a member of the Class of 1967.

Historic installation of ELCA bishop in Kingsmen Park

The Rev. Mark Hanson (l), then the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), officiated Sept. 21 as the Rev. Guy Erwin became the fourth bishop of the Southwest California Synod. For 13 years until this fall, Erwin was a professor of religion and history at CLU and the Gerhard and Olga J. Belgum Professor of Lutheran Confessional Theology.

The installation of Bishop Erwin was a historic moment for gays in the Lutheran church as well as Erwin’s community of Osage Indians in Oklahoma. In attendance at the ceremony in Kingsmen Park were the first openly gay bishops of the Episcopal church: the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson, retired, and the Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool.

I only met Bishop Egertson once, when he visited with parishioners of a number of Antelope Valley churches early in his term, but he told many of us about his support for LGBT ordinations, in part due to the fact that his own openly gay son, Greg (CLU ’78), was denied ELCA ordination after graduating from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley.

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Lancaster, Calif.

The Alumni Association organized this year’s Painting of the Rocks on Labor Day during New Student Orientation.

New and approved: It’s not ADEP anymore

The CLU undergraduate program that is designed for working adults 25 and older who often have completed some college will add a communication major next year and, in a first, hire three dedicated, full-time faculty members.

This year, the program, formerly known as the Adult Degree Evening Program, has a new name: the Bachelor’s Degree for Professionals. It continues to offer evening and online courses in Woodland Hills, Thousand Oaks and Oxnard. The professionals program was founded in 1985 with about 35 students and now has more than 2,000 alumni.

In September, the program honored an alumnus and two educators for their dedication. California Credit Union president and CEO Ron McDaniel ’88, a CLU regent, received the outstanding alumni award (see Page 37), while associate professor Paul Wittman (pictured) and lecturer John Crenshaw were recognized by the program as outstanding full-time and part-time faculty allies, respectively.

Enrollment hits a new record

With more than a 100-student increase among traditional undergraduates over last fall, total student enrollment stands at an all-time high of 4,282 at CLU’s campuses from Woodland Hills to Santa Maria. In the spring semester, the University expects to add about 80 graduate students at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley (see Page 18).

After crunching the numbers, administrators are crediting this year’s gains largely to efforts at student retention that began just five years ago. That was when CLU brought on its first director of retention, longtime staff member Angela Moller (’96) Naginey, M.S. ‘03, to follow up on alerts from faculty members about students’ struggles with money, grades and personal or family issues.

“Nobody was going after these people in an organized way,” said Naginey, who sits down face-to-face with students whenever possible to identify the core concerns.

The following year, in 2009, CLU launched its 4 to Finish program, which guarantees graduation in four years to students who declare their majors early on and meet other expectations high for growth in both populations.

Many students did not know they had access to campus health services with $10 co-pays, according to Jason Peplinski, a CLU doctoral student who, as chair of the recently created Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC), has a seat and a vote on the Board of Regents. There are also counseling services and now, more convenient 20-a-meal plans.

The Writing Center and Student Life are hiring staff to serve the students and GPSC, and Campus Ministry sets aside special hours for prayer and reflection at centers in Oxnard and Woodland Hills. This year, the first graduate student club formed, focusing on wellness. (Above, international graduate students attend fall orientation.)

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Gallegly fellowships help two to stay for MPPAs

The long-serving congressman has launched a fundraising campaign for the Elton and Janice Gallegly Center for Public Service and Civic Engagement, which also aims to bring visiting scholars and host public events.

Full-tuition graduate fellowships awarded under a new CLU center for public service came around just in time for Nina Kuzniak ’13 to continue her education at CLU, instead of moving away for a master’s in public policy program and possibly picking up additional college debt. “Because my graduate research is a spinoff of my undergraduate research, I am able to continue using the local community resources that I tapped into — the organizations that I spoke with and became almost friends with,” said Kuzniak, who is looking into how sex education affects young women’s perceptions of and access to health care.

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In coming years, Gallegly Fellows will be selected early enough to get a head start on the MPPA during their fourth year of undergraduate study, putting them on a fast track to the advanced degree five years after starting college.

To learn more about supporting the Gallegly Center, call 805-493-3158 or visit www.callutheran.edu/gallegly.

Historian Leonard S. Smith’s “incredibly lucky” life included 29 years of teaching at CLU, from 1969 to 1998, and the publication of books on Lutheran intellectual history and historiography in his last years. In 2009, he and his wife, Sharon, celebrated 50 years of marriage and gave thanks again for four children, their spouses and four grandchildren. He died on Aug. 8 at the age of 81.

“Most things in life happen to you, and you don’t decide your own fate, usually,” Smith said in an interview last year. He added, “Myself, I believe that the good Lord looks out after drunks, babies and Leonard Smith. ... somebody’s been looking out after me. Most people feel that, I feel it my whole life.”

Because his father was the Rev. A. Leonard Smith, pastor of a big Swedish Lutheran congregation in tiny Stanton, Iowa, the younger Leonard had contemplated becoming a Lutheran pastor. Although he didn’t take that direction, he mentioned it to the president of small, two-year Luther College in Wahoo, Neb., who advised him that he therefore needed three years of German, two years of Greek and a history major.

“That decided my life,” he said.

In the Army in 1954 after four years of college, Smith became the clerk responsible for correspondence at the headquarters of his infantry division in Germany. His interest in German culture and history deepened.

His dissertation adviser at Washington University in St. Louis helped him to get a two-year Fulbright Fellowship to study from 1962 to 1964 at the University of Gottingen, “which at that time was the best university in Germany in the field of history and had the best library,” Smith conducted archival research for his dissertation in both West and East Berlin and communist East Germany.

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CLU wins top Interfaith Youth award

Fresh off of winning this year’s $1,500 prize from Chicago-based Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) for the Best Overall Campaign to promote cooperation among students of different religions or no religion at all, Interfaith Allies at CLU is making its presence felt on and beyond campus. In the words of biochemistry and art double-major Shireen Ismail, who is Muslim, the group works “toward human goals that will benefit everyone” on issues from homelessness to water consumption.

The students promote interfaith understanding at monthly dinners and on visits to religious sites. Outside of the flagpoles this fall, seniors Eric Fruth and Wes Tenney (pictured, at left) yelled out trivia questions and passed out books and T-shirts. People can almost always name three pillars of Islam, but not five, said Tenney, an atheist and an officer with the Secular Student Alliance. Passers-by also struggled to identify Hindu religious texts and the seven Roman Catholic sacraments.

In addition to prize money, the national award included three free registrations for CLU students at IFYC leadership institutes. Last year, five students and three faculty members attended with a grant from the Vesper Society.

As part of the winning campaign, the Interfaith Allies joined with other Lutheran universities in the nonprofit organization Water to Thrive’s push to spread awareness about the global water crisis and raise money to build wells in rural Africa. The CLU water-wise campaign culminated with a weeklong challenge to students to track their water use and consumption, drink only tap water, and donate the money they would have spent on other beverages to build a well in Ethiopia.

The students say their issue-oriented goals emerge from discussions about their Mormon, Sikh, secular humanist and other views.

“My personal goal is that deep discussions that have their roots in people’s cultural background and faith tradition, or lack thereof, can happen anywhere… that interfaith discussion becomes a norm on campus,” said Ismail, who spent one morning this fall posting Polaroid photos showing people with whiteboards on which they had written notes about their deepest beliefs. “That’s what I would like to see.”

Man about Southland

Hüicho Lé (aka Luis Peña ‘12) makes fresh pencil strokes on a large drawing hung on campus for the exhibit Southland: Drawings from Southern California. At about the time the Kwan Fong exhibit was closing, on Nov. 16, he began an anticipated four months’ stay as a studio artist at the Carnegie Art Museum in Oxnard. He is a U.S. Marine and member of Ventura County’s Mixtec community.

Gimbel hits rarest shot in golf

Not just an albatross – a par-4 hole-in-one

Transfer student Jenna Gimbel smacked the first hole-in-one in CLU history, she recorded just one time in the history of the PGA Tour, in 2001.

On Sept. 29 at the Emyrly-Ridde Invitational in Prescott, Ariz., when junior transfer student Jenna Gimbel smashed the first hole-in-one in CLU history, she put herself not two shots under par, but three shots to the good. This is also known as a double-eagle, or albatross, and is harder to pull off as an ace on a par-4 hole than in two shots on a par-5.

To get a sense of how often it happens, well, again, we don’t know, just picture a hurricane passing through Herford, Hereford and Hampshire all in one day.

“As the reality set in that it was not a joke, tears came to my eyes and I gave my coach a huge high-five! I couldn’t stop smiling” wrote Gimbel in an email. “After that hole I was five under par through my next 10 holes.”

Volleyball, Regals soccer, Skiba win SCIAC

The volleyball team went 16-0 in league play to win a fourth consecutive Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) title.

Although the team has stars, its trade mark is balance. Both Kylie McLogan and Jackie Russell ‘13, now a master student, aced from the service line all season. McLogan set a new career kills mark, now with 272 and 201. Defensively, Eason had a 246 and 117 blocks, also had Allie Eason and Pua Mo‘okini-Oliveira, a hurricane passing through Hertford,足足65 layers of soil. So 3 blocks, also had teammates right behind them.

The Regals soccer team likewise captured its fourth straight SCIAC title, with a 4-1 victory over Pomona-Pitzer on the final day of the regular season. Kristina Hulse led not just the Regals but the league in a point total combining her goals, 14, and assists, 10. Taylor Will was right behind with 12 goals and three assists. The senior backfield duo of Stephanie Gilbert and Anna Medler, along with midfielder Bailey Marquez, have been part of championships each year they have suited up for CLU.

Placing fourth, Kingsmen soccer advanced to the SCIAC Postseason Tournament for the second time (2007). Melissa Skiba became CLU’s second SCIAC individual women’s cross-country champion and the conference’s Runner of the Year after winning the SCIAC Championships in Quebec, Canada, from Aug. 12 to 18. Jordan was a Top 30 Paralympic student-athlete to be recognized in the award’s 23-year history.

Log on to www.clusports.com for the latest news and postseason results.
Is “common sense” endangering our planet?

Q&A

A lot of things keep people from understanding just how bad the global climate crisis is. One of them may be the way the human mind works, says professor of philosophy Xiang Chen.

OK, we know that some people don’t want us to worry about the planet warming up. They spend a lot of money to keep people confused about climate change. So my question is, why do we need another explanation for the public’s poor understanding of this issue?

Because there is more to it. Everybody agrees there are misconceptions about climate change. Right now, we need to understand what the causes are behind all of the misconceptions. Political scientists can identify some of the causes. Moral philosophers can identify others. I identify myself as a philosopher of science specialized in cognitive psychology. I’m trying to find, from a cognitive perspective, the psychological causes or sources of the problem.

What about good old denial?

Aside from denial of climate change, there is also a kind of reluctance—the “wait-and-see” approach—that is very popular and very difficult to correct. For example, they conducted an experiment at the Sloan Business School at MIT. This is a top school, and all of the students are very smart. They asked the students, hypothetically, if we completely stopped emitting carbon dioxide, how would global temperature respond? More than a half of the students said that the temperature would immediately begin to drop. They had an illusion that the climate would respond immediately and that we can afford a “wait-and-see” approach to the crisis. But that was wrong. According to one estimate, even if carbon dioxide emissions dropped to zero today, global temperature would continue to rise for about three decades.
Process is totally different from any object. Not only can a process have several different properties, but two processes can occur before we understand process. It is not innate, and it’s complicated.

One of the reasons, I argue, is that we human beings have defects in our cognitive capacity. We are not perfect. Basically, whenever we are confronted with something new, we first try to understand the new entity as an object. This can cause all kinds of confusion if the entity is not an object, something like a chair or a coffee mug.

**How do you know that people think this way?**

My research is in a way different from traditional philosophical studies. I build my arguments on cognitive psychology. They conduct experiments to check their ideas. They have learned that the ability to understand objects is one of the first cognitive abilities humans develop. Even 4-month-old babies understand some basic properties of objects. Another entity, besides objects, is process. A meeting or a conversation is a process. It exists, right? It’s real, as real as you or me. Well, we need about six years of cognitive development to understand objects. So, if what you’re saying is true, people are wired to misunderstand this issue. How are we supposed to tackle a problem like that?

That’s how my work will pay off. If we can identify the cause, there’s always a solution. Even if we cannot eliminate the problem, we can reduce it to a minimum. Still, this very problem reminds us that this is not easy. We have to find the right kind of education.

The greater problem is if we don’t fully understand the causes. Then whatever we do, we just waste our time. Because of this misconception, most people never consider the role of oceans in the process of global warming.

The best-documented examples would be in science education. If you talk to any professor of physics, one of the most terrible misconceptions that students have is to think of heat as an object. This mistake is very hard to correct.

**What does it mean to think of heat as an object?**

To think of “heat” as an object, a thing like a ping pong ball, is an idea popular around the 17th century. A consequence of this material notion of heat is confusion between heat and temperature, so that heat is something you measure with a thermometer. The hotter an object is, the more “heat” it contains. Common sense, right? Well, that’s not how heat works.

Because of this misconception, most people never consider the role of oceans in the process of global warming. Over the last 50 years, the heat content of the oceans has increased from the surface down to depths of 1,000 meters. Even if today we stop emitting carbon dioxide, the oceans are already a fraction of a degree hotter and will continue to release heat into the atmosphere.

**Are there any simple examples?**

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**What does it mean to think of heat as an object?**

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Because of this misconception, most people never consider the role of oceans in the process of global warming. Over the last 50 years, the heat content of the oceans has increased from the surface down to depths of 1,000 meters. Even if today we stop emitting carbon dioxide, the oceans are already a fraction of a degree hotter and will continue to release heat into the atmosphere.

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**So, if what you’re saying is true, people are wired to misunderstand this issue. How are we supposed to tackle a problem like that?**

That’s how my work will pay off. If we can identify the cause, there’s always a solution. Even if we cannot eliminate the problem, we can reduce it to a minimum. Still, this very problem reminds us that this is not easy. We have to find the right kind of education.

The greater problem is if we don’t fully understand the causes. Then whatever we do, we just waste our time. If you talk to any professor of physics, one of the most terrible misconceptions that students have is to think of heat as an object. This mistake is very hard to correct.

**What does it mean to think of heat as an object?**

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By Marja Mogk

I did not grow up Lutheran, so the travel seminar introduced me to “enormous Luther” – his earthly language, his larger-than-life presence. He became real to me when he had just been, well, in many ways, Gumby. What I discovered wasn’t entirely easy. Martin Luther was not an easygoing character and shared many of the tragic intolerances of his century. But he also pushed those around him to move beyond their comfort zones to create, with community at the center of their awareness, a better world.

He was a great champion of public education for children – boys and girls, across class lines – long before that was accepted in Western Europe. As he pointed out in his Address to the Counsilmen of Germany in 1524:

Now the welfare of a city does not consist solely in accumulating vast treasures, building mighty walls and magnificent buildings, and producing a40 goodly supply of guns and ammun. Indeed, where such things are plentiful... and indecisive, fools get control of them – (it is so much the worse for everyone). A city’s best and greatest welfare, safety, and strength consist rather in its having many able, learned, wise, honorable, and well-educated citizens.

And what kind of education did Luther have in mind? He was a champion of the liberal arts – before that was accepted in Western Europe. As he pointed out in his Address to the Counsilmen:

On the 2011 tour, geology professor Bill Bilodeau climbed a tower in the town of Bautzen, located in eastern Germany not far from the Czech Republic and Poland, to snap the larger photo at left. The faculty and staff trips go to places such as Torgau, where Martin Luther’s wife, Katharina von Bora, is buried (top left), and Wartburg Castle, where the church reformer took refuge and translated the New Testament into German. This year, CLU travelers on a biking excursion out of Wittenberg saw a sign for Zahna and made it their lunch stop.

Since the summer of 2008, about 70 CLU employees have gone on the University’s Lutheran Identity Travel Seminar, visiting sites in the former East Germany. Associate professor Marja Mogk, chair of the Department of English, gave reflections on this year’s two-week journey as the devotion at an October faculty meeting. They are edited and condensed here.

Luther’s goal with this curriculum was to move his people to understand the world beyond the limits of their own town walls. He argued that if “children were instructed” by quality faculty:

They would then hear of the doings and sayings of the entire world, and how things went with various cities, kingdoms, princes, men and women. Thus, they could in a short time set before themselves, as in a mirror the character, life, counsels, and purposes – successful and unsuccessful – of the whole world from the beginning.

Luther was not the only Lutheran we encountered in Germany during the seminar who made a difference. There was August Hennemann Francke, founder of the Francke House, committed to educating children of all abilities; there were the Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Paul Schneider, who died in concentration camps for their commitment to the value of human life; there were the citizens of the GDR, during the communist era who likewise found the strength to resist at great personal risk through their Lutheran faith.

Of course, every religion or system of ethical thinking has those who through faith or commitment to humanitarian values are able to live into the fullness of humanity or to transcend it. But these are the Lutherans ones, and it was change-making for me to “insert” them where they worked, advocated and died.

It has changed my sense of CLU’s “middle name,” my appreciation for a university that would invest in this kind of opportunity for its faculty and staff, and in their relationships with one another, and my appreciation for my colleagues with whom I traveled, whose thoughts helped me to understand my own – and whose fabulous, eclectic personalities still make me smile.

One of the testimonies in my cohort is that new faculty-staff relationships and co-curricular collaborations are thriving as a result. I know there’s a bike trip planned. My colleague Lisa Lo- berg and I are giving a paper at UCLA in a few weeks – a project that we thought of together in Germany.

Now, when I tell people I work for a Lutheran university and they want to know what that means, I can draw on our experiences this summer to answer the question.

And I can take these experiences into the classroom with me, so that perhaps I can help my students expand beyond their comfort zones and town walls, and I can too, until we become, well...

More enormous in and within the Lutheran tradition.

Thank you.
At a time when the Lutheran church is rethinking what pastors do and where to look for them, a seminary in Berkeley is set to become the newest CLU graduate school. This spells a return to alma mater for a few current students – and promises new approaches to education.

By Kevin Matthews

Rachel Eskesen ’04 imagines herself preaching, possibly in the Bay Area, at a church that offers continuing education programs. But maybe she’ll also be a part-time hospital chaplain or, for a spiritually motivated group, a hula-hoop workout instructor.

With church attendance in long-term decline and the definition of membership undergoing change, there’s demand for flexibility about how and where people worship.

“As opposed to church being a place where people go, what does it look like in a context where people already are?” Eskesen said.

“There’s a kind of flexibility on the West Coast, a kind of innovation…. I don’t know if it’s the climate or the culture or the fact that there is not a Lutheran church on every corner that makes it different.”

– Rachel Eskesen ’04
Meanwhile, Casey Kloehn ’10 will request her first pastoral call in Washington, D.C., to care for congregations and, with them, to respond to “the gospel’s call to seek justice.” She could serve herself in a capacity that would allow her to live out her vocation as a leader and professional tournament angler.

The merger puts PLTS, which has its own $10 million endowed endowment, on firm financial footing and opens many possibilities for collaboration with CLU faculty in religion, education, nonprofit and IT management, psychology and other fields. The only seminary in the western U.S. affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), which is now celebrating its 25th anniversary, PLTS has roots in a theological seminary founded in Portland, Ore., in 1910 that moved to Seattle four years later. It has been in Berkeley since 1952.

Students and administrators are talking about how the merger will affect seminary education. There is interest in a new seminary curriculum, a pre-seminary track for CLU undergraduates in any major, a Thousand Oaks branch of a program to identify new church leaders, and, of course, interdisciplinarity teaching both on the Web and in person.

This December, for example, CLU School of Management professor Paul Witman, a Methodist preacher’s kid who has often offered training to groups of pastors, will guest lecture at PLTS on the uses of social media in marketing campaigns as well as worship services.

“There are all kinds of areas that we are offering in graduate studies that fit nicely,” said Leanne Neilson, CLU’s provost and director of TEEM, graduates of the program go on to work full time as pastors, but their past work experiences afford them opportunities to pursue two callings at once.

This kind of “bi-vocational” work, though it is probably as old as preaching, appears to be increasingly common for seminary graduates, according to church officials and educators interviewed for this article.

“Of course, the marketing, music and theology programs that students pursue at CLU are designed to prepare them – everything they’ve learned from experience and all the skills and perspective that education adds. Even Eskesen’s high school German was useful in Bratislava, the Slovakian capital, she said. “People would ask me, ‘Why did you learn German?’ and I would tell them, ‘I think it was in preparation for this internship.’”

In years to come, Kloehn sees seminaries changing to allow students to pick up more skills that complement a theological education. For her own part, she may find time yet to take advantage of CLU’s graduate-level courses in public policy and administration.

From a very young age my pastoral leadership was instilling in me the idea that there was a lot of work to be done to make our world better, and that it was part of our job as a church to participate in that,” said Kloehn, who is from Encinitas, Calif. “It was something that I never really didn’t do.”

Even as seminaries develop more interdisciplinary tracks, Kloehn also thinks they will be smaller and ever more interested in the local conditions where pastors will work, both full time and part time.

“We can’t prepare all of our leaders in a handful of places,” she said. “We need to prepare our leaders where they are and where their people are.”

Although changes to the world that seminary students are entering come from every direction, the core of the matter is globalization, that ready and rapid circulation of people, goods and ideas that marks the age.

Everywhere Eskesen has gone since graduating from CLU in 2001 – Cairo with the Young Adults in Global Mission program, England for a master’s degree in literature, Slovakia to preach and teach at both Bratislavia International Church and a Lutheran high school, and also her hometown of Auburn, Wash. – she has found “people who are feeling transient” and seeking a sense of belonging.

“It’s not assumed that you are a churchgoer here (in Berkeley), so it’s a very real place for pastor training for a post-Christian context,” she added.

Like any other exciting career prospect, the ministry appeals to young CLU alumni at PLTS because it demands so much from them – everything they’ve learned from experience and all the skills and perspective that education adds. Like any other exciting career prospect, the ministry appeals to young CLU alumni at PLTS because it demands so much from them – everything they’ve learned from experience and all the skills and perspective that education adds.
This year, CLU alumni reached extraordinary heights in sports that are all about determination, belief and hard work. Their stories are reminders of what we love about athletes and why we want them to succeed.

On July 29, 2006, Mark Covert, M.A. ’78, eclipsed what had been up to that time the nation’s longest running streak at 38 years and five days. And he didn’t stop there. He would keep the streak going another seven years until this past summer, covering in total some 150,000 miles over 16,437 days. To put it in perspective, that distance is more than halfway to the moon or the equivalent of more than six laps around the earth at its equator.

To keep the running streak alive, Covert, 63, put in at least one mile per day despite a broken foot, arthroscopic knee surgery and kidney stones. He ran through everyday challenges and every milestone in life – his marriage and the birth of his four children, through job changes and holidays and family vacations.

“Just because it’s Christmas doesn’t mean you can’t put on your shoes and go for a run,” said Covert, a stellar collegiate cross-country competitor who started running in high school because he was too skinny to play football. “I was not the most talented guy and I knew that in order to be as good as the guys around me I was going to have to be tougher and train harder. The streak grew out of that.”

Lindsey (Benson ’09) Valenzuela won the silver medal in this year’s Reebok CrossFit World Games.
A good number of people came to look on this as something very special, and at some point I began to realize this was going to be much bigger than I was.

Hobbled by a structural collapse in his right foot that will require reconstructive surgery, Covert chose to end the streak on his own terms last July 23, exactly 45 years from the day it started.

Lindsey (Benson ’09) Valenzuela, a three-time All-American and captain of the Ragga volleyball squad, wasn’t born yet when Covert was getting his master’s degree in education at CLU. She hit a different kind of sports milestone this year, on her road to becoming one of the most well-rounded athletes on the planet.

Fresh off of being crowned Southern California regional CrossFit champion, Valenzuela took the silver medal in the 2013 Reebook CrossFit World Games. She made a late push in the four-day, 12-event competition to climb onto the podium at the StubHub Center in Carson, Calif., the last week of July.

CrossFit has boomed in popularity since it emerged more than 15 years ago, as unpredictable as a rough week at the office: The athletes do not know exactly what events they will be asked to do until the competition starts.

In addition to swimming and rowing and good old-fashioned weightlifting, Valenzuela’s specialty, CrossFit offers events with names like The Cinco (a combination of deadlifts, weighted one-legged squats and an 80-foot handstand walk) and Naughty Nancy (a 600-meter run up and over a berm followed by 25 weighted overhead squats).

To win silver this summer, Valenzuela finished in the top 10 in six of the 12 events. A weightlifting specialist, she had her best performance in the Clean and Jerk, finishing second among the competition’s 48 female athletes. She totaled 821 points for the competition and earned more than $65,000 for the games.

When Covert began his streak, with a 15-mile run through and around Griffiths Park on July 23, 1968, the running craze of the 1970s had not yet swept the country, and he wasn’t thinking about being a trendsetter.

Froshy graduated from Burbank High School, he had simply set out to lay a foundation for his college running career. The plan worked to perfection. Logging more than 100 miles a week, he became cross-country champion at the community college level and then national champion in 1970 running for NCAA Division II Cal State Fullerton. The next year, he would help lead Fullerton to an NCAA title.

In 1972, Covert placed seventh in the U.S. Olympic marathon trials, and in that race became the first person to cross a finish line wearing a pair of Nike’s “waffle” racing shoes.

Following college, Covert kept running and the streak kept growing. When it reached 10 years, he started to realize that it was a big deal, and when it reached 20 years he was regularly hearing from people around the country who drew inspiration from his dedication.

“A good number of people came to look on this as something very special, and at some point I began to realize this was going to be much bigger than I was,” Covert said. “I never thought about how long it would go. I knew it would end somewhere down the road, but I didn’t want it to end because I had gotten sick or hurt. I wanted it to end when I wanted it to end.”

On the last day of the streak, this July 23, Covert completed a single, slow mile outside the stadium at the community college in Lancaster where he coaches and teaches, surrounded by family, former teammates, friends and admirers.

In the end, his streak ranked as the world’s second longest, runner-up to the ongoing 48-year streak of Great Britain’s three-time Olympian Ron Hill. It drew praise from all corners of the globe and, days before it ended, special recognition on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

“Not only has he run through history, he has made it,” Oregon Rep. Earl Blumenauer read in a proclamation. “Nevertheless, Covert’s true impact has been on the many hundreds of students he’s coached over the years. He instilled in them not only the skills needed to be successful athletes, but perhaps more important, the skills needed to be successful in life, especially dedication and perseverance in the face of obstacles.”

Covert hopes that anyone who paid any attention to the streak learned something about commitment and the need to do your best at all times, whether it’s at play or at work.

“Our sport is all about training, about who puts in the work and who doesn’t,” said Covert, who woke up the day after ending the streak and went for a bike ride. It surpised no one that he is now putting in 100-plus mile weeks on the bike.

“For me nothing has changed,” he said. “And I’m still getting a few emails a week from people who have just learned that the streak is over. I’m shocked that so many people were touched or inspired by this. All I did was go for a run.”

For anyone who knew Valenzuela, then Lindsey Benson, at CLU, her continuing commitment to excellence comes as no surprise. She was a four-year varsity letter winner, three-time All-American, volleyball team MVP and CLU Female Athlete of the Year who was twice named to the First All-SCIAC Team and in her senior year earned a spot on the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American Second Team.

After graduating with a degree in exercise science, she was named to the University of California, Los Angeles, volleyball team and in her senior year earned a spot on the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American Second Team.

During college, Valenzuela began performing Olympic weightlifting as part of her off-season training regimen, and that naturally lent itself to the strength aspect of CrossFit, a mix of high-intensity exercises that test everything from balance to speed. With college behind her, she came to enjoy the camaraderie and challenges of her new sport.

“Not only has she all that ferocity and relentless that she had as a player,” said CLU volleyball coach Kelly Roessel, who remains one of Valenzuela’s biggest supporters and who has watched with great interest as her CrossFit career has blossomed.

“She’s absolutely perfect for that type of competition,” Roessel added. “You have to be a total athlete. You’re trying to beat somebody else, but I think Lindsey’s biggest competitor is herself. That’s why she’s so good. She is never satisfied.”

Valenzuela said she owes much to her teachers and coaches at CLU. She works out and coaches at DogTown CrossFit in Culver City, where she puts into action the lessons she learned on the court and in the classroom about health and fitness.
She also has co-opted the one-word motto that came to define and drive the CLU volleyball squad – believe. In fact, the word appears on her shorts and other workout gear to remind her of what can be accomplished with focus and effort.

“I learned from my teammates, my teachers and my coaches that you have to believe in what you are doing in order to be successful,” Valenzuela said. “If you work hard, have determination and believe in what you are doing, whatever dream you have you can accomplish.”

In October, she headed to Berlin as a competitor is herself. That’s why she’s so remarkable broad interest in disability, derived from their students’ diverse needs. Last year, the same group made it to the last round of RESNA’s design competition with their CLU Clip, a simple mechanism of fastening a walking cane to a desk or table to prevent tripping hazards, particularly for blind people.

Since then, the students have distributed roughly 800 CLU Clips, according to Hankins.

Following the crash course next spring in marketing and design for manufacturability, the graduate students hope to get injection-molded or 3-D printed Doodle Bugs – that brand name might change – into stores. Retailers might ask between $8 and $10 for them. The students would also be glad to work with schools and foundations to distribute the writing aids widely.

“ Especially in preschool, developmentally, children draw – they scribble. It’s part of developing their language skills. ‘Look, I wrote you a story. Daddy, It says the horse did this, the horse did that…’ and that is part of their language acquisition,” said Black.

“All I’m doing is working out,” Valenzuela said. “But if I can help someone make themselves get up in the morning and want to make themselves better just by seeing me compete or seeing me do a workout as an example, that’s great. Knowing that I can help somebody else is going to help me get up in the morning.”

Fred Alvarez is a high school history and journalism teacher who lives in Ojai. For more than two decades, he was a staff writer for daily newspapers including the Los Angeles Times and the San Diego Union-Tribune.

She has earned a master’s degree in coaching and administration from Concordia University and is deriving as much satisfaction from working with clients in the gym as she does pushing through her own workouts.

“All I’m doing is working out,” Valenzuela said. “But if I can help someone make themselves get up in the morning and want to make themselves better just by seeing me compete or seeing me do a workout as an example, that’s great. Knowing that I can help somebody else is going to help me get up in the morning.”

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Say it with a picture!

Upload photos of your family vacations, alumni reunions, and adventures around the globe at www.caltherman.edu/alumni. We’ll run them in the magazine or post them on the alumni website.

And don’t forget to Follow the Flag! Request your CLU ALUMNI flag by email at alumni@callutheran.edu.

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And don’t forget to Follow the Flag! Request your CLU ALUMNI flag by email at alumni@callutheran.edu.
Betty (Luttrell) Kyle, Knoxville, Tenn., recently received her nursing degree from Roane State Community College and works as a hospice nurse.

Class Representative
Tony White
dwitzer90@gmail.com

Class Representative
Diann (Colburn) Spencer
galenaspencers@gmail.com

Patti (Higgins) Papa, Agoura Hills, Calif., was named principal of Ascension Lutheran School in Thousand Oaks in August. She has 20 years of experience teaching kindergarten through fifth grade as well as eight years of administrative experience as principal at Samis Elementary School and Ramona Elementary School in Oxnard.

Class Representative
Mari Rodriguez
mmrodrig@endver.net

Rob Burden, San Diego, Calif., was promoted to National Director of Sales at Paramount Property Tax Appeal in August. He joined the company in February.

Class Representative
Franc Camara
franc_classrep@hotmail.com

Debbie (Elliott) Sellers
debcoll06@gmail.com

Rob Griffith, M.S., Fresno, Calif., took over as superintendent of the Summerville Union High School District in Sonora on July 1. He has 26 years of experience in education as a classroom teacher, coach and administrator. Most recently, he was the principal and school supervisor at Central High School in Fresno. Robert has traveled to Mexico to build houses for homeless people and to Africa on multiple occasions as a guest teacher. In March, while visiting family in Dakar, Senegal, he and his wife, Lois, participated in an Operation Christmas Child distribution.

Class Representative
Janet Gardner
gardeny@roodrunner.com

Class Representative
Jake Donaldson-Prince
jprince007@tdcglobal.net

Steve Devolites, Simi Valley, Calif., moved to varsity girls’ basketball coach at Thousand Oaks High School this year after coaching the junior varsity for the past two years and the freshman-sophomore teams before that. He was selected as the Marc-Montagne League Coach of the Year for the 2012-2013 season and Ventura County JV Coach of the year in 2011-2012.

Class Representative
Julie Donlan
jprince007@tdcglobal.net

DesAndra (Pilkington) McGuff, Huntington Beach, Calif., was inducted into the Carpinteria High School Athletic Hall of Fame on Nov 9. She was a three-year starting pitcher for the Warrior’s softball team. DesAndra went on to earn All-American honors at CLU and was inducted into the Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

David Rowlands, Fhilmore, Calif., assumed his new position as city manager of Fillmore in August. He moved from Clayton, Ohio, where he also served as city manager.

ALUMNI NEWS

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Stephanie Hassaney
Associate Director
Samantha Putnam
Assistant Director
Melinda Fishman
Administrative Assistant

Office of Alumni & Parent Relations
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Secretary
Andre Andojian ’14
ASCLU-IG President
Marirae (Hegelband ’15) Aschbrenner
(jim-Beassy ’16 (At Large)
Arnold Moberger ’11 (At Large)
Charlie Boyd ’10, MBA ’11
Mary (Maddi K) Brantmeier
Dennis Butler ’11
Mike Calkins ’08 (At Large)
Amy Downing ’06
Gretchen (Grimes ’80) Gutierrez
Cindy Hanley ’11 (At Large)
Rafael Marino ’12, MBA ’10
John Mooney ’14
Brooke Morris ’11 (At Large)
Courtney Parks ’05, MBA ’09 (At Large)
Jason Pappas, Ed.D. ’14
CASE-Chr
Jean Rakow ’89 Sandin, M.P.A. ’86, Ed.D. ’12
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Russell White ’84

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Rob Griffith
Fresno, Calif.

DesAndra (Pilkington) McGuff
Huntington Beach, Calif.

Steve Devolites
Simi Valley, Calif.

Betty (Luttrell) Kyle
Knoxville, Tenn.

Give Every Student the Tools to Succeed

Because of a tuition increase, junior communication major Megan Callery was home to San Diego this summer unsure if she would be able to return to finish her last two years at CLU. But when she called the financial aid office to explain her dilemma, she was told that sufficient scholarship dollars would be available.

Today, she’s thankful for the many opportunities and activities afforded by a university that she didn’t even want to attend until the warm welcome she received on Admitted Students Day won her over. Since then, she’s been a peer adviser, enthusiastic volunteer and active participant in class discussions. But most of all, she’s grateful for CLU scholarship donors who give generously to help families with limited resources.

“T would thank them profusely, a million times over,” she said.

The CLU Annual Fund enhances academic programs, strengthens scholarships and provides resources that improve the quality of life on campus. Your donation allows students to pursue their passions and discover their purpose.

CLU ANNUAL FUND

WWW.CALLUTHERAN.EDU/GIVE OR CALL US AT 805-493-3829
Class Representative
Anne Christenson
calistics@gmail.com
Elizabeth (Amrhein) Below, Davis, Calif., became an independent distributor of Premier Designs Jewelry in October 2012. She is using her business to raise awareness and funds for Courage Worldwide, an organization that offers rescue and restoration to young victims of sex trafficking.

Adam Rauch, T.C. ’03, Thousand Oaks, Calif., was named principal of Mesa Verde Middle School in Moorpark in August. He was principal of Mountain Meadows 21st Century Learning Academy last year.

Class Representative
Colin Hanley
calitics@gmail.com

Mary Jane (Bill) Turner, a 1986 alumna of Cal Lutheran College and current president of the NAIA Women’s Softball Coaches Association, will induct two Cal Lutheran softball legends into the NAIA Softball Hall of Fame at the NAIA Softball Coaches Association Annual Convention in Atlanta, Ga., on March 15.

Prudence Gemmell
First Team All-American by the National Softball Coaches Association/National Fastpitch Coaches Association in 2005, the only player in Cal Lutheran history to be chosen First Team. She was selected NISCA/NFCA Second Team All-American in 2006 and was a First Team All-West Region selection in 2005 through 2007. She was selected First Team ALL-SCIAC all four years, SCIAC Player of the Year in 2005 and SCIAC Scholar Athlete of the Year in 2007.

Bill Turner ’85
Football
For Bill Turner, football was the name of the game. From 1981 through 1984, he helped the Cal Lutheran football team achieve a solid record of successes, going 8-2 and 9-2 his first two seasons. He amassed an outstanding record as a punter, achieving a total of 10,750 yards over his four years of play. This accomplishment earned him a ranking of third in Cal Lutheran football history with an average of 41.09 yards per punt. In 1984, he led all NCAA Division II schools with a punting average of 45.2 yards, and in both 1983 and 1984 he was selected to the NAIA First Team All-America.
a 10-month program that helps community members develop leadership skills.

Eric ‘01 and Cindy (Ham ‘01) Stoffregen, Durham, N.C., with Elise, 3, and Nathan, 2 months, at Fort Mason last spring.

Class Representatives
Inga Magi
Angela (Namba) Rowley
Nicole Hackbarth
Linda Catherine Le, MPA
Claudia Bill-de la Peña, M.P.A.
Amanda (McClendon, M.Ed. ’06) Clark
Ang. Rowley
Katie (Bashow) Johnson
Mark Nielsen
Amanda (Walker) Schaub
Courtney Parks
Donna Cartwright- Stapleton, M.S.
Rosalyn (Sayer) Shelton
Wes Sullivan
Claudia Bill-de la Peña, M.P.A.

Christopher Hauser ’04, Phoenix, Ariz., near Interlaken, Switzerland, in May. He was part of a team of firefighters from the Scottsdale Fire Department that represented Scottsdale and the U.S. in the annual Firefighter Festival (Firefighter Festival) competition. His team came in 11th out of 44 teams. Chris has been a firefighter with the Scottsdale department for six years and is also a paramedic and rescue technician.

Class Representative
Dane Rowley ’04, M.S. ’08, Moorpark, Calif., CLU director of international admissions, visited with Jen-Yi “Meditc” Chen, MBA ’11, (c) and Yu-Chen “Edward” Lin, MBA ’13, in Taipei in September.

Class Representative
Holly (Halweg) Baxtone
Tiffany Stutum
J.R. Wise
Adam Ericson

Anashe Akrum, M.S., was hired as assistant director/career counselor in Career Services at Harvey Mudd College in May.

Brad Hendrickson, Chatsworth, Calif., is director of marketing at Global Management Partners in Westlake Village.

Kevin Holt, Thousand Oaks, Calif., was promoted to digital crisis services coordinator with The Trevor Project in October. He is a member of the Programs staff, coordinating the TrevorChat program.

Sean Piwarski, Huntington, W.V., is in his second year as a Ph.D. student in toxicology at Marshall University.

Ian Cassuto ’06, Ventura, Calif., flashes the CLU flag as he prepares for the final manipulative test at an emergency response for HAZMAT class at the FEMA/Center for Domestic Preparedness training center in Alabama. He works for Gold Coast Ambulance Emergency Medical Services in Oxnard and has been through two training programs at the FEMA center.

Katelyn Kruse
J.R. Wise
Aneesha Akram, M.S., was hired as assistant director/career counselor in Career Services at Harvey Mudd College in May.

Jesse Knuzan
Kris Hogue
Kenny Hogue
Casey Klock
J.R. Wise
Katherine Crow
Brad Hendrickson
Anashe Akrum
J.R. Wise
Katelyn Kruse
Aneesha Akram
Kris Hogue
Casey Klock
J.R. Wise
Katherine Crow
Corrine Barroso, MBA, Simi, Calif., joined AmeriFlex Financial Services in July. Her primary focus is the financial needs of women and the launch of The Woman Investor program.

Wren Cherry, Thousand Oaks, Calif., published her first novel, A Festive Magic, in eBook format in July. It is now available from Amazon and other publishing outlets. Wren, who “grew up reading and daydreaming about faraway worlds,” is brain-storming a prequel.

Thousand Oaks, Calif., published her first young adult fiction novel, I Thirst in eBook format in July. It is now available online and through bookstores.

Marcos in January.

Melissa (Harbison) Patao, Simi Valley, Calif., is pursuing a master’s in public health with a specialization in community health sciences at UCLA. She also is working with the Ugandan-based nonprofit ACM Ministries to bring clean water to villages in Uganda.

Anne Sherman, Thousand Oaks, Calif., published her first novel, A Festive Magic, in eBook format in July. It is now available from Amazon and other publishing outlets. Wren, who “grew up reading and daydreaming about faraway worlds,” is brain-storming a prequel.

Gina Marinello-Sweeney, Thousand Oaks, Calif., is co-founder of the 360 Therapies Academy, a school for students with learning disabilities. She also has a specialization in community health sciences from the University of St. Augustine in San Marcos in January.

Marcia (Harbison) Patao, Simi Valley, Calif., is pursuing a master’s in public health with a specialization in community health sciences at UCLA. She also is working with the Ugandan-based nonprofit ACM Ministries to bring clean water to villages in Uganda.

Anne Sherman, Thousand Oaks, Calif., published her first novel, A Festive Magic, in eBook format in July. It is now available from Amazon and other publishing outlets. Wren, who “grew up reading and daydreaming about faraway worlds,” is brain-storming a prequel.

Class Representatives

Bree Gibson
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Sierra Ronning
cronning@gmail.com
Ryan Strand
ryantownsend18@gmail.com

Airman 1st Class John Suacedo ’10 display the CLU flag after being graduated from the U.S. Air Force Emergency Management Technical School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. The USAF Emergency Management career field is responsible for responding to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, high-yield explosive, major mishaps and natural disaster events.

byron monisch, thousand oaks, Calif., spent the summer in Maui as a relief pitcher for Na Koa Ikaika, a team that plays in the Pacific Association of Professional Baseball League. One of the highlights of the summer was a trip to Japan and the opportunity to pitch at Nagano Olympic Stadium, site of the opening and closing ceremonies for the 1998 Winter Olympics. Byron led the team with a 1.28 ERA in 21 innings out of the bullpen and helped win the league title. Also on the roster was Josh Larson ’11, a former CLU teammate who played with the Hawai team last year and invited Byron to tryouts in San Diego.

Kelli Campa ’13, Mountain View, Calif., was dropped to third place in the California Angels of Anaheim last spring and completed his rookie year playing for the minor league Orem Owlz in Orem, Utah. Spencer played varsity baseball four years at CLU and one season for the McCallum Thunder in Texas before signing with the Angels.

Class Representatives

Rebecca Cardone
rebeccacardone@gmail.com
Leanne Blackwell, Simi Valley, Calif., joined Mayerson Marketing & Public Relations as an account coordinator in August.

Carly Boulter, Fort Huemen, Calif, was one of the featured artists in a show titled “RiVH presents: Kaleidoscope” at Bombay Bar & Grill in Ventura on June 20. Carly showed her Ventura, County-inspired digital artwork.

Rebecca Cardone, Katy, Texas, is pursuing a master’s degree in women’s studies at University of Oxford. She recently completed a three-month fellowship in development and outreach with Tahiry Justice Center as field research for her dissertation.

Wren Cherry, Thousand Oaks, Calif., published her first novel, A Festive Magic, in eBook format in July. It is now available from Amazon and other publishing outlets. Wren, who “grew up reading and daydreaming about faraway worlds,” is brain-storming a prequel.

Class Representatives

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Kelli Campa ’13, Mountain View, Calif., in front of Animal Kingdom’s Tree of Life at Disneyworld.
BIRTHS
Davis Olaf Anderson on May 23, 2013, to Brianne (Davis ’03, MBA ’06) and Olaf Anderson.
Ilia Elizabeth Batstone on Aug. 20, 2013, to Holly (Halweg ’04, M.Ed. ’07) and Ben Batstone.
Ryder Scott Fenstermaker on April 6, 2013, to Kristy (Agosta ’00, M.S. ’07) and Scott Fenstermaker.
Brendan Garrett Jr. on Aug. 6, 2012, to Jennifer (Gilbertson ’04) and Brendan ‘03, T.C. ’06, Garrett.
Aubreigh Christine Weinberger on July 1, 2013, to Bekkah (Hildebrand ’03) and Brian ’04 Weinberger.
MARRIAGES
Katelyn Harrison ’08, M.Ed. ’11, and Andrew Meier ’08, MBA ’10, on July 13, 2013.
Marina Julius ’04 and Jonathan Robillard on April 27, 2013.
Heather Kanning, M.A. ’07, and John Milm ’91 on May 26, 2013.
Elizabeth Kennedy ’07 and Martin Sophia on April 21, 2013.
Chelsea Logue ’12 and Daniel Pell ’11 on Aug. 11, 2013.
Sarah Rickert ’09 and Erik Nielsen ’07 on April 13, 2013.
Stephanie Sandson ’11 and Heather Kaneen on June 23, 2013.
Christy Surphen ’08, MBA ’09, and Mackenzie Douglass, MPPA ’13, on June 1, 2013.
Krystle Van Deusen ’09, T.C. ’13, and Jonathan Sundberg ’08, MBA ’10, on July 27, 2013.
MILESTONES
Stephanie Sandson ’11 and Heather Kaneen on June 23, 2013.
Christy Surphen ’08, MBA ’09, and Mackenzie Douglass, MPPA ’13, on June 1, 2013.
Krystle Van Deusen ’09, T.C. ’13, and Jonathan Sundberg ’08, MBA ’10, on July 27, 2013.
Marina Julius ’04 and Jonathan Robillard exchanged wedding vows in an intimate backyard ceremony on April 27.

The Cal Lu Brady Bunch attended the Rickert/Nielsen wedding on April 13 in Denver.

A group of alumni members pose for a photo at the wedding of Katelyn Harrison ’08, M.Ed. ’11, and Andrew Meier ’08, MBA ’10, on Aug. 11, 2013.

KRISTY (AGOSTA ’00, M.S. ’07) and SCOTT FENSTERMAKER WITH SON RYDER.

KRISTY (AGOSTA ’00, M.S. ’07) and SCOTT FENSTERMAKER WITH SON RYDER.
Like most Havana days, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 1998, was beautiful. The sun was at its zenith as we gathered on the tarmac to await the arrival of Pope John Paul II, who was making his first pastoral visit to Cuba.

I was a career diplomat stationed in Havana, the Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of Guyana. I had been a young Foreign Service officer and a member of Guyana’s diplomatic corps. I witnessed that in person in 1979 when the Pope made his first international trip to Cuba. This was a trip I would describe as a collective gasp and then spontaneous applause. He was old now, but he still managed to behave accordingly. Seeing others who were completely overcome with emotion as they greeted the Pope did not help any.

However, this Pope was obviously not easily deterred from visiting countries that were considered hostile by the Vatican. His visit was a highly anticipated event both for the millions of Cubans who still considered themselves Catholics, despite the challenges they faced, and for international observers. It had attracted criticism from those who felt that human rights violations on the island should not have been rewarded by a papal visit.

When the plane landed and halted the number of diplomats who had left raised expectations in his wake that had eventually resulted in change.

On a personal level, as a Lutheran, I felt the historical connection of my faith with what the Pope represented to Christians of all denominations, and I had also been fascinated by the way John Paul II was able to unite Catholics and non-Catholics under the banner of peace and justice. His visit was a momentous event in my life, and I have often wondered how much influence Cal Lutheran had on the choices that led me to places such as these.

I sometimes think about the time I spent at Cal Lutheran, where I arrived in 1965 as one of a handful of foreign students. I was a student, had on the choices that led me to places such as these. I have no doubt that the formation I had, the strong Christian values I consolidated, the self-confidence, the feelings of self-worth and dignity I developed within an environment where learning was easy and where personal growth was possible—all were tremendous assets to me in the years that followed. The experience was more than just academic. I sometimes thought of the campus as an oasis of tranquility in the California of the late 60s. And I remember the kindness of many people who reached out to a young woman from another country and made her stay memorable.

At about 4 in the afternoon on that warm January day in Havana, the Altalena plane came into view. Flags of the Vatican and Cuba were hoisted. The plane landed, and after what felt like an eternity of waiting, His Holiness appeared at the door to a collective gasp and then spontaneous applause. He was old now, he was ill, and this was his 81st international trip as Pope. He managed on his own to make it down the stairs.

I recall my struggle to control a range of emotions as I watched the ceremonial proceedings and waited my turn in the long line of dignitaries and nuns who preceded the Pope. I was actually going to meet him! I told myself that I was now a seasoned diplomat with more than two decades of experience and should behave accordingly. Seeing others who were completely overcome with emotion as they greeted the Pope did not help any.

Later, the Papal Representation in Havana presented me with a photograph of the encounter that told its own story.

By Rita Ramli

Before meeting world leaders including Pope John Paul II as diplomat for my country, I had a memorable journey in late-60s Thousand Oaks.
WORK IN PROGRESS

Student life is getting its turn as the main focus of campus construction, with major academic and sports facilities completed in recent years. In October, associate vice president Ryan Van Ommeren (l), Board of Regents construction committee chair Ted Jensen and senior project manager Valerie Crooks checked out the kitchen area of the Ullman Dining Commons, which is set to open in the fall of 2014.