Sounds like tomorrow

Lifelike audio and other bright futures

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Now, think about entrepreneurs. What does the job take? To build a business from just an idea, you’ve got to be independent, aggressive, a risk-taker. You’ve got to have drive and always put the business first. A touch of ruthlessness wouldn’t hurt. Not long after earning her Ph.D. at Cornell University in 2010, Thébaud thought about this view from her vantage point as a sociologist. She observed that the traits people associate with entrepreneurs have also been shown by researchers to be associated with men.

“People often think that men and women are born that way, so if they’re going to be entrepreneurs, we should just train men to be entrepreneurs,” she says. “But when you look at the research, the traits people associate with entrepreneurs have less to do with being a man or a woman. It’s more likely, unconscious bias. The judges were always looking for that something extra. Yes, the oboist you’re hearing is obviously well-trained; but is she exceptional, brilliant?”

Thébaud did a study in which she asked hundreds of university students to rate identical investment pitches presented under made-up men’s and women’s names. Respondents saw men’s business ideas as more viable and worthy of funding, because they systematically judged the women less competent or skilled than the men. The penalty was larger in the U.K.

Tellingly, Thébaud found that female presenters could close much of the gap with men in cases where members of both sexes had highly innovative pitches to make. On the other hand, men were regarded as competent whether their proposals seemed innovative or not.

All of this has something to do with women receiving just 19 percent of angel funding and an even smaller share of venture capital. Startups with women as CEOs get about 3 percent of venture capital dollars.

So here’s the pitch for venture capital firms. The same basic pitch could be directed to banks that make small business loans, and for that matter to employers evaluating job candidates. It has two parts.

First, wherever possible, decide blind. Black out the names on initial applications for funding, and assign numbers instead. Have assistants scan documents for clues about the genders of applicants in order to hide them.

Do this regardless of your own background. Women participating in Thébaud’s studies, it turned out, shared the gender biases of men.

The new, blind applications will allow more women in the door and might advance candidates of different races and religions. By keeping more of the best people in the running, this step alone will make you money.

Second, divide up decision-making and hold everyone accountable. Develop consistent criteria for who looks like a leader. Ask people who’ve listened to an investment pitch to justify their decisions to others who weren’t present, always based on the agreed-upon criteria.

“What do we take as evidence of competence and the kind of go-getter personality we want to see, and what do we throw out? What’s just posturing?” asks Thébaud. “You trust your gut. Sure, it got you this far. But bias is everywhere. There’s every reason to think it costs you. 

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The younger you are, the more good a good landing will do you, later.

A broken hip commences, or greatly speeds, the decline of many people after age 65. Assuming you’re standing upright into your seventh decade, anything that prevents a fall or a fracture on impact could win you years of life and independence.

Get started early, however, and there will be time to bank bone density. By eating well and exercising, that is, especially before 30, people can stimulate bones to grow strong and stay that way longer.

Not just any exercise counts. After seven years of studying what happens to young people when they land on their feet, Michele LeBlanc, a professor of exercise science, has come to understand the value of impact. (She collaborates with students and colleagues, notably the current department chair, Steven Hawkins.)

Fit individuals sometimes have terrible bone health, including a surprising number of young female athletes, LeBlanc says. When she and Hawkins studied a group of high-level male runners, they found that some had osteopenic spines in spite of doing about 100 miles a week. Bone density in their lower bodies was fine.

People in low-impact sports like swimming and cycling would do well to train with exercises such as burpees that use body weight for resistance, or to try out jump training, aka plyometrics, as shown in the photo. Luckily, these exercises are popular now with young people.

“They’re doing it to become more powerful with their muscles, but they’re also helping their bones.”

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Future’s bones
A committee of past honorees selected Murphy and organizational behavior and development. She is recognized for her work in undergraduate and graduate studies leaders in an Advertising Campaigns class.

Students launch biochar campaign to save water in Thousand Oaks

With about $3,000 in funding from the city, the university and community members, students implemented their “Take CHARge” campaign to promote residential use of biochar, a soil amendment made from charred and shredded plant waste. Biochar reduces the need for water and fertilizer while improving plant health. The students first pitched the idea to city and business leaders in an Advertising Campaigns class.

About 50 students and community members turned out for a workshop in March on Arabic calligraphy with Muhammad Habb, an adjunct faculty member in the Religion Department.

In her final collegiate race, Melissa Skiba ’15 pushed out in front of runners seeking the 5,000-meter national championship, then took control with about a lap and a half to go. She clocked a 17:04.04 to win the NCAA Division III title by more than four seconds.

“I have been wanting to do this the past couple of years and working so hard to accomplish it,” she said. “I was just really, really happy to have actually done it.” Skiba watched the tactical race unfold on a cool, windy May 23 in upstate New York before making a move about halfway through. She would lose her lead to more than one competitor before the final 600 meters.

“Tired to be more relaxed than I was in previous years, and I think that played a big part,” she said. “I knew I had done all the training and just went out there and had fun.”

At left, Skiba is pictured at the SCIAC Championships earlier in May, where she won two events.

National champ

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deliver the keynote speech welcoming new students at Opening Academic Convocation in August.

Special Olympics host

The university was set to house and entertain 97 Special Olympics athletes and coaches from Mongolia, San Marino, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Tajikistan July 21-24, as part of Thousand Oaks’ contribution to the global event.

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After 30 years, Kingsmen volleyball to return in January

The team will have to travel the nation to compete in the small but fast-growing NCAA Division III sport. Before 2006-07, the Banana Slugs of UC Santa Cruz were the only Division III men’s program in California.

When Cal Lutheran last competed in varsity men’s volleyball, from 1978 to 1984, it was as a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Don Hyatt ’76, T.C. ’81, in the Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame for coaching the Kingsmen and Regals, led the men to a fourth-place finish in the national playoffs in 1979.

Before becoming a Hall of Fame coach for the Regals, James Park ’86 played on the men’s team for its last two years of existence.

“Those were probably two of the best years, and not just college, but of my life because some of the friends that I made there I am still in contact with today,” said Park, who later coached Kellee Roosel at Moorpark College. Roosel is the Regents head coach as well as assistant coach for the new Kingsmen team.

“I’m really happy for Kellee, and what she has done here has been incredible,” Park said. “Both Kevin and Kellee have been doing really well with the women’s program, and I’m sure it will translate to the men.”

Head coach Kevin Judd

Assembling an intercollegiate team from scratch is no small task. Men’s volleyball head coach Kevin Judd, who took the job in June, knows that well after helping to bring a men’s program to Moorpark College in 2002. The Raiders advanced to the state championship tournament in their first year and won it in their fourth. Now, Judd harbors hopes of early success in the spring.

While continuing his longtime role as assistant coach for the winning Regals program, Judd has spent months combing the West Coast and the country for future Kingsmen. Although he’ll have the only men’s varsity team in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, the region is thick with players. Most local high schools offer the sport, and Southern Californian junior colleges compete in conference play.

Judd’s ideal recruit is “athletic, competitive, but yet very humble,” and a good student. “It helps to be tall,” he said.

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Farewell, one-and-only art director

The magazine you’re holding looks as if it does because of Michael Lynn Adams ‘72. And that’s true of every issue of every Cal Lutheran alumni magazine going back to the early 1980s, when the Kingsmen Quarterly was first published in a journal-size format.

No longer, unless of course he changes his mind. Six years ago, Adams made a serious return to oil painting. Then, in 2011, he retired after almost 32 years as Cal Lutheran’s head of publications, a role he’d stretched every way from creating the first university website to co-founding the multimedia major.

Adams has stayed with his alma mater part time to teach, to co-organize three international art conferences (see trac2015.org), and to give this magazine, in December, its latest major design tweaks.

With the freedom to choose, painting is the thing he’ll do “until I can’t.” His subject is vitality: the concentration of the world.” To see things his way from here out, we plan to follow Michael.lynnAdams.com.
Melinda Roper wants Cal Lutheran students to remember something — a class, a counseling session, a club, the country they met through Study Abroad, a counseling session, a club, the country they met through Study Abroad, a counseling session, a club, the country they met through Study Abroad, a counseling session, a club, the country they met through Study Abroad. “Think of at least one such memory. Think of a single staircase will replace the old Caf’s split steps, leading down to lounge space and game tables. A native of Seoul, Korea, Klassen earned her bachelor’s degree in chemistry at Sogang University, a master’s in chemistry at Kansas State University, a master’s in chemical engineering from Case Western Reserve University. Her doctoral work and specialties were artificial intelligence, machine learning and pattern recognition. She is survived by her husband, 35 years, Ron, and daughter and son-in-law Sue Jean and Brandon Woodmansee, grandson Owen, two brothers and one sister. Memorial services may be sent to the Dr. Myungsook Klassen Scholarship, University Advancement Office at Cal Lutheran. For information, contact Lana Clark at 805-493-3163 or lclark@callutheran.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

Myungsook Rhee Klassen
July 24, 1950 – May 6, 2015

Myungsook Klassen, professor emerita of computer science at California Lutheran University, died on May 6 at her home in Thousand Oaks. She was 64.

Klassen came to Cal Lutheran in 1998 following 10 years of teaching at universities in Taiwan and Hong Kong, as well as several years working as a programmer and systems analyst. She developed Cal Lutheran’s Master of Science in Computer Science program and served as its program director for 10 years. She also taught traditional undergraduate students and adults in the Bachelor’s Degree for Professionals program. Before her death, she set up a scholarship for students majoring in computer science or chemistry. A native of Seoul, Korea, Klassen earned her bachelor’s degree in chemistry at Sogang University and went on to earn a master’s in chemistry from Kansas State University, a master’s in computer and information science from The Ohio State University, and a doctorate in computer engineering from Case Western Reserve University. Her doctoral work and specialties were artificial intelligence, machine learning and pattern recognition. She is survived by her husband, 35 years, Ron, and daughter and son-in-law Sue Jean and Brandon Woodmansee, grandson Owen, two brothers and one sister. Memorial services may be sent to the Dr. Myungsook Klassen Scholarship, University Advancement Office at Cal Lutheran. For information, contact Lana Clark at 805-493-3163 or lclark@callutheran.edu.
Prince William of the Valley, aka Willy, a white Westie terrier who is the nominal owner of an account on the social network Instagram, paused from munching baby carrots to congratulate his “big sister” Elizabeth Mertel ’15, aka Liz, for finishing, cum laude, her bachelor’s degree in business administration.

That and thousands of similar gestures, not all by very cute pets, made the 52nd Commencement ceremonies on May 15-16 different from those held just five or 10 years ago. For the academic year, Cal Lutheran conferred 767 bachelor’s, 546 master’s and 48 doctoral degrees, with 10 of the latter going to the first alumni with a Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology.

To appreciate major life transitions, people need ceremonies. Today, they also need social media, to share impressions and extend the lives of ceremonies. Before any speakers went on at William Rolland Stadium, you could check in on people painting fingernails violet and gold.

During Saturday’s Undergraduate Commencement, parents and degree candidates tweeted inspirational quotes from Lisandra Castro ’15, who addressed the crowd on behalf of fellow graduates in the Bachelor’s Degree for Professionals program.

They talked about a tribute in song to Cal Lutheran by Jimmy Sweeden ’15. In a matter of days, more than 1,000 people had dropped by YouTube to watch a recording of it. Graduates and their loved ones also talked Commencement, no doubt, in groups on Facebook – where the official Cal Lutheran page tallied thousands of likes for two photos – and on more private and ephemeral services such as Snapchat, a mobile messaging app.

In the end, social networks helped to make sure that parents got thanked for their sacrifices. As Myles Moore ’15 put it on Instagram, “I wouldn’t be anywhere without these two people right here. Thank you Mom and Dad and Maya #clualumni #classof2015.”

Lisandra Castro ’15 (at top), a mother of three and foster mother who earned her degree two decades after starting college, began cognitive therapy with Cal Lutheran professor Carol Genrich when she was a high school sophomore suffering from prolonged amnesia caused by viral encephalitis.
Multiculturalism is a big part of training for school counselors everywhere, not just at Cal Lutheran, right? Are you saying we’re doing something radically different?

Gail Uellendahl, Ph.D. (T.C. ’03, department chair): We are doing something radically different. It’s an inside-out approach where students are asked to learn about themselves and reflect on their own multiple identities. And it’s woven throughout our whole program.

Heidi Coronado, M.S. ’04, Ph.D.: The multiculturalism that most people teach is very academic. But the cultural proficiency framework we use says there’s a connection between the heart and thinking, and that the experiences you have gone through have made you the person you are.

In our society, we are not encouraged to go into depth and really think about that. If we have the opportunity to check our experiences and also how we form perceptions of others who are different from us, that really brings change.

I understand the four of you are going through this very personal process as a group. Why did you decide to do that?

Uellendahl: Having made the decision as a faculty that we all wanted to adopt the cultural proficiency framework as the model that we use for training our students, we realized, Hey, we have not gone through that journey ourselves. We’re asking our master’s students to go through this very reflective, deep, sometimes messy work. And so we needed to walk the walk.

Cynthia Jew, Ph.D.: You can do this process individually, but we’re asking our students to bring this to the workplace. And at the workplace you have boundaries. You share minimal stories. But you really don’t share. And this process encourages us to do that.

Please tell me something, each of you, about your background and how it makes a difference to you as an educator.

Angela (Namba ‘02) Rowley, M.S. ’05: My dad was Japanese and my mom is Norwegian. They faced some definite issues and concerns from people, and I remember that growing up. But because of that I think I was raised with this idea of being very open to new things and people whose life stories are very different from my own. It probably wasn’t until I was a faculty member that I started recognizing that that’s been a story in my life all along.

Coronado: Being a 1.5-generation immigrant from Guatemala – which means I came as an adolescent – and growing up in a working-class family, and being an undocumented student.

For education’s ills, a strong dose of self-awareness

Beginning with this year’s graduates, master’s degree students in counselor education are all embarking on journeys of self-discovery. They’ll examine their own biases and limitations in cross-cultural settings, and will be challenged to keep doing so for the rest of their careers. Their faculty mentors – now on the same journey – explain what that ought to mean for schools.
That’s all part of what I bring that contributes to a wealth of diversity. Being half-Mayan and half-Spanish, being Latina.

Now that your students are being made to think about their backgrounds and cultural baggage, what difference is this making? Does it change what happens in class?

Coronado: After taking the first class about cultural proficiency, people come ready to have deep discussions about social justice, about culture, about biases in society. They just are ready, while, before, they weren’t there yet.

It was, let’s not have conflict or let’s not look at how really, truly we can be advocates for everybody. Now they feel more empowered about who they are as people, but also empowered to be advocates for their students.

Jew: For me, the true mark of teaching is whether students are empowered about who they are as people, but also empowered to be advocates for their students.

Coronado: Society trains you that if you’re different, you’re not good enough. That’s the message that our kids get. I go to the schools and talk to them, and either because they have a disability or because they’re a certain color or they’re from a certain neighborhood or whatever – you’re different, so you don’t fit in, you’re less than, you’re not good enough.

Uellendahl: If you’re a first-gen kid, maybe your parent isn’t going down to the school and saying, Hey, I want my kid to be in such-and-such a class. They might assume, The school knows best. If my child was supposed to be in that class, that’s where they’d get placed. Well, that is not exactly so.

Sadie, we have students being told, Oh, you don’t want to do that? You want to play football? That’s too hard. That involves a lot of math. I don’t know about that.

Rowley: And these students have strengths that others may not have. One of my master’s candidates used the example of a first-generation college student who had been able to survive a hard, high school high school with a number of gangs. She was bringing this strength with her and this ability to adapt. She wasn’t telling any of her friends that she got into college, and she was still dressing in a way that – she expressed to him – was appropriate for being with her friends in high school. She didn’t want that taken away from them of being a solipsist. My graduate student’s concern was her seeing that adaptability as an asset. How do I get her to recognize that?

Let’s say cultural proficiency catches fire and that more people are trained in this way. What could the future of education look like?

Jew: This is not hard for me, because I have kids in the family. It just was. My understanding of my cultural background probably occurred later on, when I started teaching at the university.

Coronado: For example, high school students wanted to talk about Ferguson and police violence, because for some of them it affects them directly. But a lot of schools don’t want to bring it up, because they’re afraid that something might explode or the kids are going to get crazy. But really, what they want is to be heard.

Jew: The kids are so inclined now to social media that if the school doesn’t allow a conversation, it doesn’t mean it’s not occurring.

Rowley: And once students know you are a person who is really striving to help them and to give them access, I think they see you. You become known on a campus for that. And so I think you have the ability absolutely to be a change agent.

Jew: Being a counselor is different, like a calling. People will come to this program even if there are no jobs. They’ll spend their money, and they’ll wait. You already know that the candidates you’re getting are called to this. So we’re just offering them a stronger voice.

There’s so much more that we need to be doing, but we only have so much time. What is it that we can give people? By no means will they leave this program thinking that this is the end. If it just begins to open up that door for them, then we’ve done our job.

Rowley, M.S. ’05, and Gail Uellendahl, Ph.D., T.C. ’03.

Coronado: Even if K-12 counselors have large caseloads, they could provide spaces for kids to be heard. They could help kids to empower themselves and to know that they have a valuable voice and – though you can’t control everybody in the school – to know that you’re going to do everything in your power to help them.

Rowley: And once students know you are a person who is really striving to help them and to give them access, I think they see you. You become known on a campus for that. And so I think you have the ability absolutely to be a change agent.

Jew: Being a counselor is different, like a calling. People will come to this program even if there are no jobs. They’ll spend their money, and they’ll wait. You already know that the candidates you’re getting are called to this. So we’re just offering them a stronger voice.

There’s so much more that we need to be doing, but we only have so much time. What is it that we can give people? By no means will they leave this program thinking that this is the end. If it just begins to open up that door for them, then we’ve done our job.

Diana Stephens, a retired Graduate School of Education professor in counselor education, and Professor Jew, who introduced the cultural proficiency model to the department, developed the course that now serves as the cornerstone of its curriculum.
Or a new day for sound recording? A former music major helps to ring in the age of immersive audio.

By Kevin Matthews

An invisible choir hovers in the air behind Brett Leonard ’06, wrapping around from the 3 o’clock position to 9 o’clock and high over his head, because he is a sound engineer and that is where he’s put the singers. Also unseen, the English folk rockers Mumford & Sons and Nashville’s Jerry Douglas, his hands on top of a Dobro resonator guitar, wait up front at stage height.

On this day at McGill University in Montreal, a couple of years ago, Leonard is in possession of original tracks from a recording session by the musicians, who’ve collaborated on their cover of “The Boxer” by Simon & Garfunkel. Lie-la-lie, lie-la-lie.

When the song starts, the small audience is not in Canada anymore. “All the sudden you’re in this close, intimate finger-picking guitar and a single vocalist singing, and then a little lap steel comes in, then bass, and then this choir comes in with the Lie-la-lie part during the chorus, and it blows your mind,” he says. “It’s like you’re in a church.”

Brett Leonard at Commonwealth Studios in Omaha, Nebraska. The 2006 graduate says that the Music Department and Mark Spraggins, the current chair, “put me on the path that I’m on today.”

PHOTOS BY ROBERT ERVIN
Where sound is concerned, the gap between dreaming and waking, between will and belief, is closing fast.

A professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and, concurrently, a doctoral candidate in sound recording at McGill, Leonard likes to talk about today’s new audio experiences as hyperreal, in the sense that they offer heightened sensation and emotion. That aim calls for different strategies on different kinds of projects, but it takes for granted that audio playback can be as direct as any listening experience.

Many like reading a book, the act of watching a movie or playing a video game has always required a willing suspension of disbelief, to apply S. T. Coleridge’s words: You accept fantasy as truth for a while. With eyes closed, you may also imagine that you’re listening to a musical performance rather than a recording.

But as far as sound is concerned, that gap between dreaming and waking, between will and belief, is closing fast. We’re reaching a point where, instead of just playing along, we’ll often have to remind ourselves that experiences with recorded and interactive media aren’t in every sense real.

One of the first Cal Lutheran music majors to graduate with an emphasis in the technology of music production, which is now a separate, fast-growing major – Leonard “lived in the studio” at the Spies-Bornemann Center, where he began developing chops as a sound editor and mixer. As the drummer in a band, he also worked on a CD with friends in his dorm. These days he splits his time among studios, his teaching in Omaha, and live concerts and music festivals, now always as a recording engineer. He is finishing a dissertation and also working with a team at McGill to commercialize a high-end tool for sound professionals under the name of Space Builder.

Among other things, the system allows mixers to reliably reproduce sounds that reflect off of walls and ceilings. Broadly, new 3-D technologies enable two kinds of audio simulation. First, you can now play back a concert with sound that mimics the acoustical features of an original venue. This is one of the applications of Space Builder, a project that spun out of years of work by McGill researcher Wieslaw Woszczyk and others to capture the way that Haydn’s music sounded in the grand salons of Austria and Hungary.

Second, it’s lately become feasible to show your friend Petra what a concert sounded like to Pablo, not that this is necessarily a great idea. As Leonard explains, the human head is an acoustical filter, and since everyone knows the world of sound through his or her own, a simulation passes as “natural” to the degree that it corresponds to an individual’s physiology – “the variation in people’s head size and shape, their earlobe, their pinnna’s shape and contour, even the depth of their ear canal.”

These days turn out to matter for sound engineers in some settings, and they may be to be crucial for the future development of audio headphones. With just stereo technology and an ordinary pair of earbuds, the means are now available to trick listeners into believing that recorded sounds come from multiple directions. Next up, along with better home theaters, could be headphones sold in hundreds of virtual “sizes” for playing immersive audio on plane trips and hikes.

At 32, Leonard is old enough to remember audiotape cassettes and the “dark days in the Kazaa/Napster era where everything was very low-quality MP3,” a digital compression format that “wrecked audio as it was being coded.”

Given that an entire generation “grew up with bad sound,” he says, the most exciting part of working in the audio field is the return of quality. With the arrival of immersive sound, websites for downloading high-resolution audio and related developments, there’s suddenly a better chance to educate students and consumers.

Today, big-budget motion pictures are routinely recorded in Dolby Atmos, a 3-D surround setup, and hundreds of theaters, including in Nebraska, are equipped to play them back as intended. Now and then, that gives Leonard the chance to ask an unsuspecting viewer about the experience. Did you notice anything different? Anything about the sound?

Although the responses vary, they are usually positive. Leonard says. Often, it’s something indefinable: the movie just felt more real than normal. In a few cases, the person may walk out a little rattled, like someone who just stepped off a roller coaster.

“There have been people who have been kind of creeped out,” Leonard said. “When it’s done well, it’s really hard to separate reality and fantasy.”

WHERE SOUND IS CONCERNED, THE GAP BETWEEN DREAMING AND WAKING, BETWEEN WILL AND BELIEF, IS CLOSING FAST.
“We are in an exploratory kind of situation,” says the Rev. Ruben Duran, M.Div. ’86, director for new congregational development at the Chicago headquarters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). “The church as a whole is not dying; it is transitioning to something different.”

The numbers tell this story of transition. Of 362 “new starts” in the ELCA, only a third are seeking to become traditional congregations with their own land and church building, said Duran in April. The remaining two-thirds are “very creative” and operating on some other model.

Two hundred ten new starts, or 58 percent, are based in communities of color or communities whose primary language is not English. One quarter of these new ELCA-affiliated groups have been launched by people who feel marginalized or are living in poverty.

Social issues and need alike are driving the formation of congregations, according to Duran, who has focused on new congregations during the past nine years of his 15-year career at the ELCA.

In Portland, Oregon, he says, a group came together that was interested in the environment and neighborhood issues, leading to the formation of the Salt and Light Lutheran Church, which is based in a community center. Another small group in Renton, Washington, set up Luther’s Table, a place where anyone could eat for free, gather for coffee or a glass of wine, and just socialize and be together. They created apartments for veterans.

Under the watchful eye of the Rev. Ruben Duran, M.Div. ’86, the bulk of new ELCA congregations are forming among immigrant and minority groups, around social issues, and in places like cafés and community centers. Pastors who do without traditional church buildings, all graduates of Cal Lutheran’s theological seminary in Berkeley, share their visions for 21st-century worship.

“Under the watchful eye of the Rev. Ruben Duran, M.Div. ’86, the bulk of new ELCA congregations are forming among immigrant and minority groups, around social issues, and in places like cafés and community centers. Pastors who do without traditional church buildings, all graduates of Cal Lutheran’s theological seminary in Berkeley, share their visions for 21st-century worship.”
“It’s almost like a free spirit-led church like in the first century of Christianity, where it’s really relational and without structure.”

Misael Fajardo Perez

As his small congregation arrives, they fill the mugs and plates, and when everyone is seated around two or three tables, the service begins. It features Ronning’s guitar music and group discussions, but no sermon, and it takes place not in a church building but at the ELCA’s Pacifica Synod office in Santa Ana.

“When you sit at a table and share a meal over worship and conversation, something transformative happens. It’s a powerful experience,” said Ronning, observing that the risen Jesus broke bread with his disciples as a way of being recognized by them and reconnecting with them.

Once a month, members of The Table have been joining another church in Costa Mesa for a night at a laundromat. They bring with them about $300 in quarters and treat local people, including the homeless, to free washes through the evening and into the early morning hours. A former campus pastor for 21 years at Texas Lutheran University, Ronning believes the focus on dialogue and service, rather than preaching, will continue to draw young adults to his fledgling ministry.

For the Rev. Anders Peterson, M.Div. ’12, a year spent at the bedside of sick and dying people as a resident hospital chaplain in the Bay Area proved formative. He encountered people of different backgrounds, including the non-religious, and took up the challenge of embodying God’s grace for them without necessarily preaching it.

“When you’re present with them, you’re going to love them as best you can while you’re there and not try to force them to be like you,” said Peterson, who is from Minnesota and whose wife is Catholic.

He then spent another year working to bring two San Francisco congregations closer together. One was Lutheran and had no church building, while the other was Episcopal and had a building but few members.

After these experiences with religious differences, Peterson, 31, has decided that his calling is “to care for people who identify as spiritual but not religious, who might describe themselves as agnostic, who come from faith communities but are no longer actively participating.

“There are still a lot of people we see as other but that God calls us to see as neighbor,” he says. Some of these people “are not interested in going to church on Sundays or Bible study on Wednesdays. So what is going to be their thing?”

This year, he has embarked on a mission to find out. Rather than expecting people to come into a church, he is experimenting with ways to “meet people where they are.”

“We’re entering into another potential reformation, and it’s going to feel more secular,” Peterson said.

Secularism, multiculturalism and ethnic diversity are the new norm, and students arriving at PLTS with the goal of becoming ordained pastors understand this, said the Rev. Alicia Vargas, M.Div. ’95, Ph.D., a seminary faculty member and alumna who is serving as interim dean.

But the inability to adapt to changing times is an even greater challenge, according to Vargas: “In 10 years or so,” she said, “some congregations that have maintained the same northern European ethnic makeup and styles of worship since they were founded will be closing their doors as their longtime loyal and faithful members literally die.

By contrast, the motives for launching new congregations vary from one community to the next. “There’s a lot of non-church people in the Latino community,” said Fajardo Perez. “They have a Catholic background, but when they arrive in the U.S., they lose that tradition. And there are a lot of people who don’t feel welcome in that tradition because they’re divorced or single parents.

Of the “new starts” begun since 2009, said Duran, 56 are by people whose churches left the ELCA following that year’s vote on human sexuality, which opened the door to recognition of same-sex marriages and the ordination or reinstatement of gay pastors. That is, the congregations were affirming their support of the new official stance.

Duran, who is originally from Peru, says that churches assume too much if they think that people will find what they’re looking for simply by coming.

“We should be more on a quest, on a journey, and we should have more curiosity,” he said.

That journey does not mean throwing out the past. But it may well involve dispensing with some comforting traditions.

“We welcome that tension. We live in that tension,” Duran said. “And we are looking for leaders who can understand that tension and want to explore it further. Faith is all we need.”

Rachel McGrath is a professional journalist and broadcaster who lives in Thousand Oaks. She has worked as a senior broadcast journalist at the BBC and co-founded an independent entertainment news agency based in Hollywood.
NOTICES RECEIVED AS OF MAY 8

Are you celebrating a reunion this year? Join your fellow alumni for Homecoming & Family Weekend to be held Oct. 9-11, 2015. Special reunion activities are planned in addition to a wide array of Homecoming events. Save the date and we’ll see you this fall!

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Desta Hagos
Destas Abada, Ethiopia, is featured in the book Temskalet: Phenomenal Ethiopian Women released in October by the Network of Ethiopian Women’s Associations, a consortium of local Ethiopian societies working to advance women’s rights and status. The first-of-its-kind book features the stories and photographs of 64 Ethiopian women the NEWA deemed “accomplished and phenomenal.” The release coincided with the opening of the exhibition “Faces of Temskalet” at the Temporary Exhibition Hall at the National Museum in Addis Ababa.

Class Representative

Lea Lamy
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Mark Wiederandres ’68, Camarillo, California, finished a book-signing tour early this year for his 2014 historical novel Stevenson’s Treasure, which is earning great reviews, according to Mark. He has a screenplay optioned to a film company and anticipates publishing his second book next year. Mark took up writing as a second career after retiring as a government research psychologist and “after raising three fine kids” with wife Eda (Rhody ’70).

Class Representative

Linda (Gulsrud) Harris
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Pattie (Florini) Blasnick Long Beach, California, is retired after 39 years as a K-3 special education teacher in the Los Nietos School District. Her daughter, Amanda, earned a bachelor’s degree from Cal Lutheran in 2009 and an MBA in 2011.

Class Representative

Jim and Judy (Wacker) Day
jmjudys@suddenlink.net

Michael Coppersmith, Georgetown, Texas, retired in May 2014 after 31 years as senior pastor at Our Savior’s Community Church in Palm Springs, California.

Class Representative

Allan Spies, Denver, Colorado, was reelected to the Board of Directors of Thrivent Financial last fall and began his new term in February. He has been a board member since 2005 and currently serves on the Human Resources and Strategic Oversight and Marketing committees.

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Debra (Spotts ’81)

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Robert ‘73, T.C. ’74 and Laisné (Smith) ’74 Hamilton, left, of Lakeport, California, traveled to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, in December with Andrew ’81 and Debra (Spotts) ’83 Blum, also of Lakeport, for the wedding of the Blums’ daughter Christine.

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James and Judy (Wacker) ’69 Day, Lake Havasu City, Arizona, at Chimney Rock State Park, North Carolina, on Easter Sunday.
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Class Representative
Jon Backstrom
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Dottie (Romani) Sterling
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Erik Bertelson
Dublin, California, was honored as Dublin Citizen of the Year at an awards ceremony in February. Erik is music director at Wells-Middle School and has been head of the band program for decades. In March, he led 162 students on their annual pilgrimage to Disneyland and their march down Main Street.

Mark Miller, Los Angeles, has been a football official for the Los Angeles Unified School District for 25 years and was voted by the CIF to work two state playoff games last season including the state championship. Mark also coached high school football, ran an action photo business for 17 years, and worked as an actor as Mark Graciale.

Julia (Malloch) Spaulding
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Garrett De Buizer
Figure 10 shows the output of the GAUSS integration, which is a parallel implementation of the GAUSS equation solver. The GAUSS equation solver is a widely used tool for solving systems of nonlinear equations. The parallel implementation of the GAUSS equation solver allows for efficient computation on large-scale problems. The solution matrix computed by the GAUSS equation solver is used to evaluate the performance of the parallel implementation.

The solution matrix is a dense matrix that contains the solution values for each variable in the system of equations. The matrix is stored in a compressed format to save memory and computation time. The parallel implementation of the GAUSS equation solver distributes the computation of the solution matrix across multiple processors. Each processor computes a portion of the matrix and then communicates with other processors to assemble the complete solution matrix.

The performance of the parallel implementation was evaluated using a set of benchmark problems. The benchmark problems included systems of equations with varying sizes and complexities. The results showed that the parallel implementation of the GAUSS equation solver was able to achieve significant speedup compared to the serial implementation. The speedup increased with the size and complexity of the problem.

The parallel implementation of the GAUSS equation solver is suitable for solving large-scale problems with sparse and dense matrices. The code is written in C++ and has been tested on a variety of hardware platforms. The code is open-source and freely available for download.

The code can be compiled with the following command:

```
$ gcc -std=c++11 -I /path/to/headers -o gauss gauss.cpp
```

The code is compatible with most Linux distributions and has been tested on Ubuntu 18.04. The code requires the following libraries:

- **GSL**: the GNU Scientific Library
- **OpenMP**: the OpenMP API for parallel programming

The code is easy to use and can be integrated into existing applications. It is licensed under the GNU General Public License (GPLv3).

The code is freely available for download from the following GitHub repository:

```
https://github.com/myusername/gauss
```
Matthew Burgess, Nashville, Tennessee, received a Grammy for playing percussion on the Mike Farris album Shine for All the People, which won the 2014-15 Grammy Award for “Best Roots Gospel Album.” Matthew sends special thanks to Dan Godding of the Music Department, writing, “He taught me ‘The raisins may bite the cane, but the caravan moves on’!” Best analogy of the music industry EVER!

Kristi (Johnson) Haar, Moorpark, California, joined Active Interest Media in February as copy editor, Muscle & California, a subsidiary of Nielsen, the multinational market research company M Squared Consulting, has co-founded in 2008. With the mission to reduce unnecessary euthanasia of companion animals in northeast Indiana, HOPE opened a high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinic in June 2010 and expanded to offer low-cost wellness office visits and vaccines in 2012. The organization has grown to a staff of 20 full-time employees including two full-time veterinarians, annual revenues of more than $3 million and 10,000 surgeries per year. Grant funding comes in large part from PetSmart Charities. Petco Foundation and ASPCA. Melissa was honored in 2013 with the “40 under 40” award for business people under 40 making a difference in the community.

Lori Radcliff, Fort Collins, Colorado, is an associate stylist with Stella & Dot. Before returning to Colorado in 2011 to launch her own business as an independent rep for the jewelry/ accessories company, Lori spent 20 years in publishing and marketing in Los Angeles, including at Paramount Studios and Ticketmaster Corp.

Andrew Gordon, Longmont, Colorado, visited the National Maritime Museum at the Naval Dockyards in Bermuda in March.

Denise (Eberhardt) Brown, T.C. ’95, Simi Valley, California, was named Teacher of the Month for December 2014 by the Conejo Valley Unified School District. She teaches fourth grade at Glenwood Elementary, a Title 1 school where she has taught since 1996.

Russell White, T.C. ’96 and ’01, Thousand Oaks, was named boys basketball coach of the year by the Los Angeles Times in April. Russell, in his ninth season at Ojai Carmelite High School in Encino, led the Celts (29-7) to the state Division IV championship and the Southern Section Division IV-A title.

Satish Subramanian, MBA, San Ramon, California, published a book in March titled Transforming Business with Program Management. Hardcover and eBook editions are available online at amazon.com and in retail stores. Satish, a principal at the Solomon-Edwards company M Squared Consulting, has more than 25 years of management and technology consulting leadership experience. While earning his MBA at Cal Lutheran, he served as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Management.

Carrie Representative
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Class Representative
Melissa (Elam) Baffa
Ventura, California, received a Science Communication Fellowship with the Nautilus Live Expedition from the Ocean Exploration Trust in January. On May 30, she joined Robert Ballard – the oceanographer who discovered the Titanic wreck – and a team of scientists on the research vessel Nautilus for three weeks traveling the Eastern Pacific Ocean, visiting the Panama Canal and the Galapagos Islands and observing live research of marine life and hydrothermal vents on the ocean floor. During the voyage, she shared the scientists’ discoveries and her experiences with the outside world through live satellite broadcasts, social media and a six-part series in the Ventura County Star. A former junior high and high school marine biology teacher, Melissa is currently vice president of programs and volunteer services for Girl Scouts of California’s Central Coast. As part of her yearlong fellowship, she will continue to share her experiences with the Girl Scouts and other audiences. She is scheduled to speak at the Museum of Ventura County in July and at Cal Lutheran in September.

Bryce Malone, Duluth, Minnesota, joined Amazon as vice president of Dealer Sales and Service in March. The company, which specializes in the development of synthetic lubricants, is headquartered in Superior, Wisconsin.

Dan ‘00 and Heather (Embree) ‘97, M.Ed. ’02, Roschke, Spring Valley, California, are pictured in Bruges, Belgium, in April. They also visited Brussels, the Orval Abbey in southern Belgium, and Paris.

Nancy Davis, Banning, California, checked off an item on her bucket list with a visit to Russia last July with her husband, Charles. Pictured at The Peterhof Palace, one of the stops on a river cruise from St. Petersburg to Moscow.

Scott Thompson, T.C. ’99, Moorpark, California, was selected Division II State Coach of the Year by Cal-Hi Sports after leading the Chaminade girls basketball team to its first state title in her 17-year tenure. She was a finalist for the state’s overall coach of the year and was selected as the Los Angeles Times Division II Coach of the Year. Chaminade (27-4) captured its fourth consecutive Mission League title in the Southern Section Division II and set a division scoring record in the state final defeating Archbishop Mitty of San Jose 80-51.

Kelli (Mccaskill) Dilмер, West Hills, California, was named Division II State Coach of the Year by Cal-Hi Sports after leading the Chaminade girls basketball team to its first state title in her 17-year tenure. She was a finalist for the state’s overall coach of the year and was selected as the Los Angeles Times Division II Coach of the Year. Chaminade (27-4) captured its fourth consecutive Mission League title in the Southern Section Division II and set a division scoring record in the state final defeating Archbishop Mitty of San Jose 80-51.

Bethany Lewis, Jersey City, New Jersey, joined Nielsen, the multinational market research firm known for its television and radio ratings, in November. As a Certified Information Privacy Professional (C.I.P.P.) in the U.S. and E.U., Bethany works with businesses around the world to ensure that consumer privacy is “baked in” to products and services and that they comply with privacy and data protection laws of dozens of countries. Her project management role is embedded in the legal department, so she also does legal research and legislative tracking. Nielsen is located in New York, and Bethany is “having a great time experiencing the City.”

Class Representative
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Ryan Husisinga, T.C. ’04 and ’06, Moorpark, California, has returned to his alma mater as wide receivers coach for the Kingsmen. Ryan, who played quarterback at Cal Lutheran, was wide receivers coach and video coordinator in 1999. He has been head football coach at Hueneme and Moorpark high schools and, most recently, was offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Moorpark–High.

Reneé (Airington) Rock, Moorpark, California, is a founding board member of Slow Food Ventura County, the local chapter of Slow Food USA that encourages the growth of local food communities in addition to promoting good, clean and fair food for everyone through educational activities and dining events. Reneé is a senior lecturer in Cal Lutheran’s School of Management. Religion professor Sam Thomas and Louise Kelly, director of the Center for Academic Service Learning, and three others are also founding board members of Slow Food Ventura County, which launched in May.

Class Representative
Kari Gravrock
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Nancy McKown, MBA ’99, Fort Wayne, Indiana, is manager of business development at the nonprofit health system Parkview Health where she manages three teams of employees. She is acting board president for the Humane Organization for the Prevention of Euthanasia for animals, which she co-founded in 2008. With the mission to reduce unnecessary euthanasia of companion animals in northeast Indiana, HOPE opened a high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinic in June 2010 and expanded to offer low-cost wellness office visits and vaccines in 2012. The organization has grown to a staff of 20 full-time employees including two full-time veterinarians, annual revenues of more than $3 million and 10,000 surgeries per year. Grant funding comes in large part from PetSmart Charities. Petco Foundation and ASPCA. Melissa was honored in 2013 with the ‘40 under 40’ award for business people under 40 making a difference in the community.

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Dan ‘00 and Heather (Embree) ‘97, M.Ed. ’02, Roschke, Spring Valley, California, are pictured in Bruges, Belgium, in April. They also visited Brussels, the Orval Abbey in southern Belgium, and Paris.

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ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Come celebrate this year’s Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. Join us Saturday, December 12, 2015, for a champagne brunch honoring the best in athletic excellence.

ZAREH AVEDIAN
Basketball | Class of 2004
Forward, Zareh Avedian scored more points on the basketball court than any other Kingsman from 2000-2009 with 1,711 and finished with a career average of 20.1 points per game. He earned back-to-back All-SCIAC First Team selections in 2002 and 2003 and, as a senior, he was voted the 2004 SCIAC Player of the Year. He also was selected to the Third Team, All-West Regional squad by D3hoops.com in 2003 and 2004. At the time of induction, he ranks in the university’s basketball career Top 10 in several categories, including fourth in scoring (1,711) and blocked shots (92) and fifth in field goals (634) and free throws (346). In 2004, he was selected the Ventura County Hall of Fame’s College Male Athlete of the Year.

BRENDA (FRAFJORD) DEARTH
Softball | Class of 1992
As a sluggugging outfielder for the Cal Lutheran softball team, Brenda Frajord ranked in the school’s career Top 10 in several offensive categories at the time of her induction. She ranked fourth in triples (16), seventh in batting average (.378) and slugging percentage (.577) and eighth in home runs (7). She also ranked ninth in doubles (28) and RBIs (58) and 10th in stolen bases (25). She was named Second Team All-NAIA All-American in 1991 and First Team SCIAC/NAIA All District 3 in 1992. In 2002, she was selected the Ventura County Hall of Fame’s Female Athlete of the Year.

LARA PHILBY-MCALPIN
Soccer | Class of 1998
Defender, Lara Philby-McAlpin is one of the most honored players in Cal Lutheran women’s soccer history. She was selected NASCAA- NAIA All-West Region First Team in 1995, 1996 and 1997, and in 1997 earned NASCAA First Team All-American honors. She also made First Team All-SCIAC in 1995, 1996 and 1997. She was the SCIAC Player of the Year in 1997, and played her last game called Cal Lutheran in the Umbro Select College All-Star Classic in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She was selected the Ventura County Hall of Fame’s Female College Athlete of the Year in 1998.

JIM THOMPSON
Friend | Class of 1968
Jim Thompson ran track at Cal Lutheran. He also played intramural football and basketball, helping his football teams win the school championship three of his four years. But more importantly, Jim was a long-time member of the Alumni Board of Directors. It was as a board member in 2003 that he became the driving force behind the establishment of the Cal Lutheran Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame and had perhaps the greatest impact on the university. He organized and chaired the Hall of Fame committee in its first nine years and remained an active part of the committee for several years after serving as chair.

CHRISTA YOUNGERN
Track & Field | Class of 2010
In field events where the distance separating school records can be a matter of centimeters, Christa Youngern is the most dominant thrower in Cal Lutheran history by a wide margin. She is a two-time U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches’ Division III All-American in the hammer and discuss. As a senior in 2010, the eight-time SCIAC Champion went undefeated in conference competition and competed at NCAA nationals in all three events, finishing as national runner-up in the discuss. She was named SCIAC Track & Field Female Athlete of the Year, the Ventura County Athletic Hall of Fame’s College Female Athlete of the Year and Cal Lutheran Senior Athlete of the Year.

NILS MADSEN
Sailing | Class of 1998
Nil Madsen, a native of Denmark, was recognized for his contributions to the Cal Lutheran sailing program and his didactic role in the establishment of the Cal Lutheran Alumni Sailing Hall of Fame. Nil was a member of the 1997-98 program that finished in third place at the Vasa Invitational at California State University Fullerton and the 1998-99 team that finished in second place at the Cal Lutheran Invitational. As coach of the sailing program for 14 years, Nil has been key to the program’s success as well as the establishment of the Cal Lutheran Alumni Sailing Hall of Fame. He was inducted in 2010.

Visit callutheran.edu/alumni/hof for more information. Early Bird registration ends August 14.
Mary Linda Arroyo, MPPA, Santa Barbara, California, was promoted from sergeant to lieutenant in the Santa Barbara Police Department in February. She has been with the department for nearly 20 years and is the first female to attain the rank of lieutenant.

Chris Hermansen, M.Div., Sussexcia, Georgia, joined Epiphany Lutheran Church as lead pastor last August. He previously served as an associate pastor with Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, and as an associate with Lord of Grace Lutheran Church in Tucson, Arizona.

CJ McAulay, Fullerton, California, is an intern in the U.S. Army’s clinical psychology internship program (CPSP) at Trapper Army Medical Center, Hawaii, where he holds the rank of captain.

J.S. Schaub, Amanda, a graduate of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at Wingate University, has joined California Institute of Technology as its diversity initiative program administrator for the advancement of women in leadership roles working to support the STEM workforce.

Sara Vausbinder, Pasadena, California, founded Jackalope Arts with two partners in November. The art and craft fair features more than 200 indie, trendsetting artisans in a two-day community shopping event. The inaugural event took place in Pasadena last weekend in April. Future events will be held semiannually in Pasadena, Denver and Phoenix.

Aneesha Akram, M.S., Thousand Oaks, opened the WADBOD CrossFit Gym in January. She is the first female to attain the rank of captain in the Santa Barbara Police Department in February. She has been with the department for nearly 20 years and is the first female to attain the rank of lieutenant.

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Jessica (Saly ‘07) Juadines, Las Vegas, Nevada, and her husband, John, a CSI5 certified and CrossFit Level-1 certified trainer, celebrated the grand opening of their WADBOD CrossFit gym in January. The couple started WADBOD as a hobby from their home garage “but now look to change the world in their new business location...” See wadbod.com for details.

April McNally, Thousand Oaks, opened The Nutrition Fix, an express smoothie bar and nutritional coaching wellness club, in Westlake Village in November. ‘I am a proud alumna working in my community to educate people on health and wellness’” writes April.

James Hand, Ed.D., an associate professor and chair of Sport & Health Sciences at Calabasa College in Salisbury, North Carolina, was honored with the North Carolina Athletic Trainers’ Association’s 2015 “Educator of the Year” award in March. Prior to joining Catawba in 2010, he served as an assistant professor of motorsport management at Winston-Salem State University. While at Cal Lutheran, he served as co-director of Clinical Education and director of the Athletic Training Education Program. He also served as director of the Athletic Training Education Program at Wingate University.

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Amanda (Walker) Schaub, Seattle, Washington, is pictured at Big Rock Falls in the Cayo District in Central Belize last Thanksgiving. Belize had been on her bucket list since her student days at Cal Lutheran when she had a chemistry professor from the Central American country.

MILESTONES

BUDDY

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of women. Previous leadership positions include director of development and marketing for Cabildo Music Theatre in Southern California.

Nathan Wintzhorf, M.Div., and Sara Pearson, M.Div., ’11, San Jose, California, were installed as pastors of Prince of Peace church in Saratoga on May 3. Prior to coming to Prince of Peace, where Sara interned five years ago, the husband and wife were pastors of churches in separate communities in Wisconsin.

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Joy (Cyprian) Buechler, Palo Alto, California, is a nurse practitioner in orthopedic surgery at Stanford Healthcare.

Casey Kloehn
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John Ath Thi, MBA ’12, Reseda, California, is a pricing analyst at Quest Diagnostics in Valencia. A dog owner and longtime “dog breed aficionado,” John and former CSULB classmate Beau Alexander launched a centralized website for dog owners, buyers/sellers and businesses in March. Poochlist.com, a “one-stop shop for pooches,” offers a Lost & Found service, an adoption section where agencies and shelters can post available dogs, and a listing of local pet businesses. Created in an effort to solve the unregulated industry of pet sales and to save as many lost pets as possible, the website’s mission is “To help every pooch find its family.” For details, visit Poochlist.com.

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Carmine Castaldo,
Phoenix, recently became chair of the Counseling Department at Sunnyvale High School in the Glenclaire Union High School District. This is her second year with the district.

Aaron Eaton, Matthew Eaton and
Fernando Raigoza Jr., are visual artists with Corbin Creative in the greater Los Angeles area. All three are listed in the credits of the movie Avengers: Age of Ultron.

Luís Peña, Oakland, California, and Harold Muljadi ’14, Thousand Oaks, were featured artists in the In a New World figurative art exhibit at Studios on the Park in Paso Robles in April. Luis, who belongs to a community of Oaxacan descendants, signs his work Huïcho Lé. Paintings by Cal Lutheran art professor Michael Pearce were also featured.

Gary Cushing, MPP, Camarillo, California, was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Cal State Channel Islands during commencement ceremonies in May. The civic and business leader owns Cushing Public Affairs, a firm he founded to lobby for local businesses and organizations. He also owns the Marie Callender’s restaurant in Camarillo.

Morgan Fippinger, Fullerton, California, received a Master of Kinesiology from Cal State University Fullerton in May.

Eric Hueseth, M.Div., Mosca, Montana, was installed as pastor of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Bonner in February.

Trevor Milford, Hanahan, South Carolina, graduated from the U.S. Navy Nuclear Power School at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Goose Creek in March.

Catrina Moody, Reno, Nevada, earned her bachelor’s degree in biology and is a student at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Her brother, Alastair Moody ’15, also a biology major, will join his sister at UNSOM in August. Both were accepted directly into the medical school following graduation.

Stacey Siebrasse, M.Div., Billings, Montana, is pastor at First English Lutheran Church. Stacey, who grew up

Sean Piwarski, Huntington, West Virginia, is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Biomedical Sciences program at Marshall University. He was awarded the Chancellor’s Scholarship last August. In addition to a tuition benefit and stipend, the scholarship offers professional research and career development opportunities and a strong support network.

Nicole Chang, ’11 and Paul ’10 Dilger visited the Temple of the Descending God in Tulum, Mexico, on their honeymoon in March.

Katrina Moody, ’15
kmaryk@gmail.com

Cal Lutheran friends shown with Joy Cyprian ’10 and Evan Buechler ’11 (holding flag) following their Sept. 12 wedding on the beach in Santa Barbara are, from left, Lexy Varnshawksy ’14, Coach Matt Warshaw, Coach Craig Rond, Cody ’09 and Meredith (Butle ’11) Shirk, Cameron Hurdus ’10, Jessica Weaver ’10 and Ashley Tobin ’10

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in Have and attended the University of Montana in Missoula. spent her first year of ordained ministry pastoring in inner city San Francisco before moving back to Montana to be closer to her family.

Carly Mouzes, left, Thousand Oaks, and Jane Galluzzi, Los Angeles, organized the Cal Lutheran “Cruisers for a Cure” team for the Walk to Cure Arthritis held in Exposition Park in May. Their goal was to help the Arthritis Foundation recruit 4,000 walkers and raise $550,000 for research and children’s camps. Jane, who has been named chair of the 2016 event, is an executive assistant for Fraser Communications and Carly is a copywriter for Jafra Cosmetics.

Erik Fruth, Shanghai, China, is one of three Global Changemaker Legacy Award winners chosen by the Foundation for Global Scholars. The legacy award program was created to recognize individuals who are making a meaningful impact in the world. Erik is a researcher with National University of Laos focusing on the effects of multi-country dam development on Southwest Asia’s Mekong River – in particular, how these mega-dams alter the way of life for riverbank communities. His goal is to create practical solutions that serve the community’s need for economic development while preserving ecological sustainability of the river. The recipients of the second annual award, which includes $1,000 to apply toward their global project, were announced in April.

Tara Medrano, Austin, Texas, spent three weeks in June participating in the Saha Global leadership program in Ghana. The program brings leaders from all over the world to train local women to launch profitable social enterprises. As a field representative, Tara helped launch a clean water business in a rural community. The revenue from the business will stay in the community and be managed by local village women entrepreneurs.

Lucy Ballard was hired as a staff nurse at California Lutheran University in 1969, and went on to care for generations of students for 35 years. The 1996 Honorary Alumni award recipient and mother of six, grandmother of 22, and great-grandmother of 19 continues to support the university through her participation in the Orville Dahl Society.

“I have wonderful memories of my time at Cal Lutheran,” said Lucy. “I learned that it wasn’t just a Band-Aid that college kids needed – my role was to help counsel students about life. I have at least three former students who think of me as their mother.”

When considering her retirement investment options, Lucy chose a charitable gift annuity which will pay her an income for the rest of her life. “I knew I’d never have a lot of money to give to the university, yet this gift will benefit myself and the university,” said Lucy, who is the former director of health and counseling at the university agrees to pay you a fixed amount annually to provide for your income in retirement. You will enjoy a tax deduction, attractive rates, tax-advantaged payments, no fees and no investment risk.

Call (805) 493-3586 or email holmes@CalLutheran.edu to learn more.

IS A GIFT ANNUITY FOR YOU?

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Erin Roarond Arthim, M.S., Camarillo, California, was named chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme in September. As chief operating officer, the company has more than 20 employees, nearly half of whom graduated from Cal Lutheran. Other alumni employees not pictured are content editor Francesca Benevento ’14 and junior graphic designer Giselle Fernandez ’14.

Zack McMillan ’14, director of business development with Stratosphere Marketing Solutions, gets a lift from colleagues outside their office in Westlake Village, California. Last Halloween. From left, Ivy Emmons ’13, director of accounts; Megan Rubin ’14, account manager; Brooke Hershey ’13, account manager; Angelica Plantadosi ’14, lead writer; Elizabeth East ’14, content writer; Gwen McConnell ’13, account manager; and Justynta Moore. Casey Preston ’03 co-founded Stratosphere, a full-service Web design and digital marketing firm, in 2002 and serves as chief operating officer. The company has more than 20 employees, nearly half of whom graduated from Cal Lutheran. Other alumni employees not pictured are content editor Francesca Benevento ’14 and junior graphic designer Giselle Fernandez ’14.

If you are interested in learning about the gift annuity, please contact the University Foundation:

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California Lutheran

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No hack for this

In cyber security, others will see you as an obstacle to innovation or a drain on budgets. You’ll wonder whether you’re crazy.

By Pete Brillhart ‘04, M.S. ’07

One of the side effects of higher education is the feeling you really don’t know as much as you thought. For my computer science master’s thesis on “honeynets,” I spent six months watching what happens to machines intentionally left unprotected and exposed to the Net. The thesis consumed my life. I learned a lot of things, including how to use about 30 different open source tools, and also that I was an overachiever. My wife suffered through the process as much as I did, maybe more.

I was tracking efforts by strangers in little Third World countries, as well as in Russia, China, Israel and other nations, to take over computers that were set up against our guest room wall. This was 2002, when Microsoft was putting out almost a patch a day to cover holes in security. Honeynets had been conceived as a way to bait and to turn the tables on computer hackers, yielding valuable information about their activities. I used various operating systems, three physical machines and one machine running a virtual network, so that it looked to hackers like a collection of vulnerable computers.

A light sleeper, I heard the beeps as machines rebooted at all hours. Most of the reboots were caused by opportunistic attackers known as “script kiddies” or by viruses in the wild. Others were botnet attacks designed to add machines to a bot attack. You had to look closely at the traffic down at the packet level to tell the difference. I had gigabytes of data to examine.

I would usually get up for a quick look, note the time, and leave the machine running. At that time, you had about seven minutes to act before something modified your computer. I ought to note that my computers were firewalld from creating new connections to the outside world, to prevent them from being misconstrued.

Today, I work for the Department of the Navy in Ventura County as a senior engineer, cyber security. The job gives me a window on the evolution of information technology in a global economy, so I’m aware of trends that everyone is likely to hear more about.

In the rush to connect more devices and infrastructure to the Internet, many corporations and governments have done too little security testing and evaluation. Entities now are facing the whirlpool effect of having to secure systems after the fact. Some are redirecting budgets toward cyber security and away from profit-making projects.

Corporations are disclosing massive data breaches where cyber criminals have obtained information on millions of people. Theft of credit card information is so prevalent their fraud departments are overwhelmed. We have also seen the growth of militarized cyber attacks by nation-states.

Amid all of this, it’s still not clear that home computer users know whether their antivirus software is working. Mobile devices can hold gigabytes of data, some of which could be very embarrassing if it got out. I am especially concerned about senior citizens on fixed incomes and all the Internet scams directed at them.

Linking medical systems and having that data hosted on a naval base in Port Hueneme, and went on to work for multiple defense contractors and the government.

I’ve had many titles and don’t put much stock in how a position is labeled. I loathe the word “guru” and the phrase “subject matter expert.” If the work is interesting and accomplishes something, there is nothing better than being able to say I achieved this goal today.

Pete Brillhart is a Certified Information System Security Professional. He is grateful to former MBA program director Ron Hagler and associate professor of computer science Craig Reinhardt for their interest in his education.
In the final months before graduation, after years of hard work and sacrifice, some Cal Lutheran students may find themselves without the financial resources to make the final stretch toward earning their degree. The Cal Lutheran family has come together to create the Final Stretch Fund to give a helping hand to these students in most urgent need of support due to a family crisis or emergency.

Dr. Janice (Thompson ’74) Filer and her fellow Alumni Board members recently raised money to support the fund. “I was the first in my family to go to college. If I hadn’t received financial aid at Cal Lutheran, I’m sure I would have graduated but it would have been a family hardship,” said Janice. “Cal Lutheran made a big impact on my life. Without the foundation it provided, I couldn’t have gone on to do all the things I did. Now after 38 years in elementary and higher education, it’s a good feeling to know that I can help others reach their dreams.”

As an independent student with little financial support, the Final Stretch Fund alleviated my financial burden and worry. It allowed me to focus more on my studies and less on how many additional work hours I needed. With only myself and my grandmother as the responsible parties for my education, the support (both financial and emotional) from Cal Lutheran has been invaluable. I would like to personally thank donors for investing in student education; the Final Stretch Fund is a great blessing and has gotten me closer to my goal of earning an MBA.

Cody Harper, Class of 2016