Hitting Pause
Campus Ministry offers up ways to take a break.

London Medal Haul
Barbara Collins’ Trail
NBA Learns Cal Lu Lessons
Higher Poker
Changed by Haiti
“Mary and I are grateful for CLU’s outstanding leadership in helping each generation of students discover their sense of vocation. When our son Davy died in 1999, our nephew Jeff Jirele established the Davy Wennes Memorial Scholarship for students in English and creative writing. The entire Wennes clan continues to add to this scholarship every year. I have been working to help CLU fund an endowed chair for Youth and Family Ministry. These two outstanding efforts are in our estate plan. If you are looking for a way to invest in the future of the church or want to help future generations discover their calling to serve God and the world, Mary and I encourage you to invest in CLU.”

—the Rev. Howard Wennes

A former bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and two-time interim president of CLU, the Rev. Howie Wennes has served the University in many capacities since 1975. His wife, Mary, graduated in 1980 with a master’s degree in special education, and their daughter, Sally, received her CLU teaching degree in 1988.

The Orville Dahl Society was established to honor those who provide for the University in their estate. It was named in recognition of CLU’s founding president, Orville Dahl, who gave life to what was then California Lutheran College. As envisioned by Dahl, a key element to the fulfillment of our mission is the continued growth of the University’s endowment. Howie and Mary share that vision.

The Orville Dahl Society gives everyone the opportunity to carry on Dr. Dahl’s work. Membership in the society is open to all who have made some form of estate or deferred gift commitment of any amount to CLU.

If you believe that you qualify for membership or would like information on how to become a member of the Orville Dahl Society, call the Office of Estate and Gift Planning at 805-493-3166 or visit our website at www.clugift.org.
It was University Pastor Melissa Maxwell-Doherty’s idea to construct a labyrinth behind Samuelson Chapel. Students Shireen Ismail, Jamie Morriss, Jae Park and Mollie Winninger, and the Windham-Hughes family, walked the path for this long-exposure photo.

FEATURE STORIES

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Swimmer Cortney Jordan brings home four medals from London, matching her total from Beijing’s Paralympics. How does she keep doing it?

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Biology professor Barbara Collins chose her direction in life and has shown almost 50 years of CLU students how to do likewise. She shares her story in a memoir.

18 We Like Mike. So Does Jordan.
The new coach of the NBA’s Charlotte Bobcats had a profound impact on CLU athletes in the early 1990s. Many of these graduates pursued his vocation.

22 What Does the Poker Master Want?
Jesse James Sylvia, a true man of numbers, came in second at the world championship of poker. What will he do now? With luck, finish that CLU math degree.

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A labyrinth for walking and contemplation, located behind Samuelson Chapel, is a place to stop. And we all need to stop, explain University Pastor Melissa Maxwell-Doherty and Jesse McClain, last year’s student body president.

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Callutheran.edu/Connect

Like what you read here? Not so much? CLU Magazine welcomes letters to the editor. Send to clumag@callutheran.edu or the mailing address shown at left. Please include your name, phone number, city and state.
At Kwan Fong, historian’s

Where history professor Paul Hanson traveled this year in western India, he noted few changes from his first visit 40 years ago. In spite of proliferating satellite dishes and cell phones, rural life survives in “the most photogenic place in the world.”

Women and children fetch water from wells and rivers, dried dung cakes remain the primary cooking and heating fuel, and religious festivals are seasonal high points.

Hanson still stands out as a curiosity toting his digital SLR and striking up conversation in Hindi.

“You have to take time to become part of the local landscape. Sometimes that only takes a few hours, or sometimes you’re around for a day or two, and then people start to resume their normal kinds of activities,” he said.

Photographs from his trip last February and March will be on display at CLU’s Kwan Fong Gallery of Art and Culture. “The Earth Where You Stand” opens Dec. 1 and runs through Jan. 26.
At Kwan Fong, historian’s lens on India

‘Carbon Nation’ worth a look for MBAs, Lutherans
The latest CLU Magazine looks great, and I loved the cover article about how MBAs get ahead by focusing on the environment (“Doing Right by Planet, MBA Students Do Well,” August 2012).

The article came to mind as I listened to NPR’s Science Friday and director Peter Byck talking about his film Carbon Nation. Although people may not agree on climate change, they are in favor of wind, solar and geothermal energy. Scientists at UC Berkeley are also working with California beef ranchers to use more composting and recycling of animal waste, which ends up saving on grain feed and water, producing better meat products, and, coincidentally, returning carbon dioxide to the ground. The latter provides additional income through carbon offsets.

When it comes to national defense, Byck says, a race is on right now between military bases to see which one can become the first to have total self-sufficiency in energy. Right now, electricity comes from outside the base, making it vulnerable to terrorists, overloads and shutdowns for repairs.

Another thought Byck suggests is that the fossil fuel folks have designed their efforts since the late 1980s to get us to talk about climate change (we have debated endlessly), and as long as we talk about it and only talk about it, nothing gets done.

People of Lutheran ilk ought really to see the connection with the care of creation.

I also found the article about Jarvis Streeter (“The Universe According to Jarvis”) to be insightful, inspiring and a complement to the “green” article.

The Rev. Paul E. Christ ’66
Hickory, N.C.

Inspired by Jarvis Streeter
Although I enjoy every publication of CLU Magazine, August 2012 contained one of the most touching and inspiring articles ever, “The Universe According to Jarvis.” Kevin Matthews wrote an informative, entertaining and very special read. I look forward to the professor’s latest work, God and the History of the Universe, and, of course, wish Dr. Streeter and his family Godspeed.

Steve Seper ’98
San Diego, Calif.
A CLU Graduate School of Education initiative to use drama techniques to teach any school subject won this year’s Ventura County Arts Council Art Stars Award for Arts Education. The award for Project ACT, launched in 2008 with a $1 million U.S. Department of Education grant, was presented on Oct. 3.

Under the program, based on 15 years of research by associate professor of education Michael McCambridge and professor emerita Julia Sieger, teachers incorporate drama into their lesson plans. Instead of sitting for quizzes, children demonstrate that they’ve understood a science unit or a short story with movements, pantomime or improvisation.

“It’s not about acting. It’s about using these techniques to teach the content,” explained McCambridge. He and Sieger found that “the more active [the students] are, the better they understand the concepts.”

Project ACT (Active, Collaborative, Transformative) has been expanding beyond elementary schools in Moorpark to other parts of Ventura County and, this year, to middle schools.

On the morning before the awards presentation, McCambridge was at Los Cerritos Middle School in Thousand Oaks observing two English classes. Seventh-graders posed in a series of dramatic tableaus that they invented to illustrate the opening chapter of Lois Lowry’s The Giver. Their teacher, Gina Mandell, M.Ed. ’06, has been learning McCambridge’s drama-centered approach for three years.

Rebekah Hale ’03, a teacher candidate in the Graduate School of Education, introduces an eighth-grade English class at Los Cerritos Middle School to the complex ideas behind medieval alchemy, using techniques pioneered by CLU’s Project Act. “This is the kind of purposeful play I want to bring to my classroom,” she said.

“It’s kinesthetic, it’s visual, it’s auditory learning – so all modalities are being accessed,” she said.

McCambridge pointed out that Mandell’s students were given time to talk with one another about the chapter and then to plan their tableaus. “Studies show that students talk to each other about three minutes a day,” he said. “Here, they talk to each other constantly.”

Jack Gilbert’s Legacy Survives

Within days of the death on Aug. 2 of John “Jack” B. Gilbert, 91, his wife, Carol, and son, Rod, were back on campus extending his generosity to CLU. The most recent gifts from the family – the most generous donors in the history of the University – will establish Jack’s Coffee Shop as a campus hangout within the Ullman Dining Commons to be completed in 2014, and endow the John B. Gilbert Scholarship for Business Ethics.

So a legacy continues. It was Gilbert who effectively initiated the building boom that continues on campus today. He made his first gift in 1985 and contributed mightily to the capital campaign that was launched in 1999. In addition to the Gilbert Sports and Fitness Center and Gilbert Arena, which opened in 2006, many CLU facilities and programs “that do not bear his name exist because of his support,” said President Chris Kimball. “The University’s success over the last decade is due in large part to Jack’s vision and commitment.”

Gilbert was chairman of the board of Zero Corp. and, later, TOLD Corp., a former member of the CLU Board of Regents, a self-made, self-educated entrepreneur; the owner of one of the first Social Security cards issued in 1936 with the New Deal, and a great smoker of fine cigars. He was the first recipient of the Hall of Fame Award presented by the Ventura County Economic Development Association in 1989 and, in 2010, was inducted into the Tri-County Business Hall of Fame. He received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from CLU in 1990.
Enrollment at CLU stands at an all-time high of 2,804 undergraduates and 1,401 graduate students. Overall, that’s more than a 100-student increase from last year, including jumps in the numbers of undergraduate transfer students and international students.

“When it really came down to it, I had to think about what was going to be the right fit for me,” said Gurpreet Sahan, who transferred from Moorpark College to major in psychology.

CLU admitted 264 transfer students this fall, up eight percent from last year and 57 percent from four years ago. More than a quarter (27 percent) of the traditional undergraduates currently studying at CLU arrived on campus as transfers.

Including all undergraduate and graduate programs, one in nine CLU students today is a citizen of another country.

Even as CLU attracts more students, it is accepting a smaller percentage of undergraduates (44 percent) and climbing in the closely watched U.S. News & World Report college rankings. This year the University leaped four spots to 14th among regional universities in 15 Western states.

In a community service activity during orientation, more than 600 freshmen, new transfers and peer advisers removed an invasive species called ice plant from Ventura Harbor wetlands and began replacing it with native species.

Admission Office Pops Question

Did Cal Lutheran send out the first college admission letter containing a marriage proposal? Talk about wanting to get accepted.

Last year Troy Tittlemier of Palmdale, Calif., told his girlfriend, Aimee St. Pierre, that she would have to read the letter aloud to him when it finally came from CLU. It mattered so much that he wouldn’t be able to look.

In a way, he meant what he said. Tittlemier, now a 26-year-old junior majoring in geology, realized late that he wanted to become the first person in his family to get a college education. He set his mind on CLU while attending Moorpark College and recovering from a 2009 motorcycle accident that, in nearly killing him, gave him “different goggles for looking at my own life.” So, yes, he’d been anxious about the admission decision, and the award of a substantial academic scholarship.

But in truth, Tittlemier had another, better reason to feel nervous on the evening of Oct. 26, 2011. Unbeknownst to St. Pierre, he’d already tucked away the real admission letter as she – in his aunt and uncle’s kitchen, in front of family members who were in on the conspiracy – began reading from a fabricated letter that arrived with the thick bundle of materials welcoming him for the spring of 2012.

A few paragraphs into the letter from CLU, in words that Tittlemier had inserted there, a baffled St. Pierre indicated that it was time to pop the question. He knelt and proposed, she exhaled something signifying yes, and the couple was married on June 9 of this year. (Her painfully real surprise is recorded in a home video.)

Setting aside how he won her heart, how did Tittlemier get CLU to stuff a customized letter into a real admission packet? More than two years ago, he started contacting Ineke Dyer, now CLU’s associate director of admission, about transferring. Informally, she would become his academic adviser, charting the path for his successful application.

“I would say I knew what I wanted more than if I was 19. Private [college] was definitely the way I wanted to go,” he said. Gradually, both Tittlemier and Dyer gained a lot of confidence about his chances of being accepted, and he “just kind of sprung the idea that the acceptance letter could be manipulated.”

Dyer wasn’t sure she could get permission for the stunt, but Tittlemier’s enthusiasm about CLU made her want to try. “He just bled purple and gold,” she said.
A group of current CLU students shared lunch and conversation in September with the leaders of all five synods in the Southwest, Region 2 of the ELCA. The Lutheran bishops — seated, from left, the Rev. Mark Holmerud of Sierra Pacific Synod, the Rev. Dean Nelson of Southwest California Synod, the Rev. Murray Finck of Pacifica Synod, the Rev. Steve Talmage of Grand Canyon Synod and the Rev. Jim Gonia of Rocky Mountain Synod — and their staffs participated in meetings on campus Sept. 10-11.

Hillel Club President Allison Himber (l) and club member Nicole Spardaro stand in the sukkah, or temporary shelter, that students of different faiths built outside of Samuelson Chapel in October. The group of students spent one night in the structure during the eight-day Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot.

Belle Michael, a rabbinical intern and the newest member of the Campus Ministry team, led traditional blessings at a public gathering by the shelter. With its open door and roof, the sukkah symbolizes peace and hospitality.

“One of the coolest things about CLU is you come here thinking you’re going to a Lutheran school, but once you get here, there is no sense of any one thing. You just know you’re a part of something bigger than you,” junior Uriel Najera told the Ventura County Star.

BRIAN STETHEM ’84

Luther Olmon, a founding father of California Lutheran College, died Sept. 16, 2012, at the age of 92. As a member of the Committee of Twenty-Five, he helped draft the Articles of Incorporation for the new college and served on the Board of Regents from 1961 to 1969. He taught philosophy at CLC for one year then moved to UCLA, where he was campus pastor for 24 years and a counseling psychologist for 15. He also served as an interim pastor for congregations and as part-time chaplain at the Veteran’s Hospital in West Los Angeles. He was honored at UCLA for his leadership in the religious life of the university and by the City of Los Angeles for his selfless giving and care for those in need and for his role in creating the Meals on Wheels Program in West Los Angeles. After retiring from UCLA, Luther and his wife, Elaine, became senior mentors at CLU. They served as advisers for CLU’s Chapter of Habitat for Humanity for 10 years and received the Habitat for Humanity Award of Ventura County for outstanding service in housing ministry. He received the Christus Award from CLU in 2006. He earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from UCLA, a Master of Divinity from Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Ill., and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years and is survived by three sons and six grandchildren.
‘Bronze that bike’: Remembering Lyle Sladek

Until just days before he died from a stroke on July 15, Lyle Sladek, 88, was a familiar sight on campus, pedaling his bicycle across Kingsmen Park, stopping in the library to read the newspapers, and attending weekly faculty lunches. The former professor began teaching math at California Lutheran College in 1963 and served as department chair from 1965 to 1976. Although he retired in 1994, he continued his frequent rides around campus and his connections to CLU.

A reserved, dignified and somewhat offbeat figure, Sladek practiced conservation and “invented recycling before anyone knew what it was,” said former Graduate School of Education dean Allen Leland, who recruited Sladek to the college. The professor was seen on campus collecting cans for recycling during his last days. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, four daughters and three grandchildren.

The comments about Sladek included here have been collected from interviews, the Kingsmen Regal Facebook page, and other memorials and articles published on the Web.

“Lyle was a mathematician. He applied math to the world around him to help neighbors and friends in so many practical ways and to impart to his students a guide to teaching and using math in everyday living.”

Allen Leland, former dean, Graduate School of Education

“Dr. Sladek was kind and giving. He taught me an advanced math course during breakfast one semester when I was just not getting it from another professor. He said, ‘Michelle, please meet me for breakfast every day at 7 a.m. We will discuss the important topics.’”

Michelle (Campos ’92, M.P.A. ’99) Blas

“Lyle had a distinct place in my mind as an example of living with graceful simplicity, in harmony with the environment and being physically active. I never saw him in a car or rushing to a place or forgetting to say hi to everyone.”

Jamshid Damooei, professor of economics

“Lyle was on the first faculty committee of which I was a member when I first came to CLC in 1982. I learned then that we were both Army veterans and he shared his story with me briefly. I remember that he played pool with students in the SUB and because of his knowledge of geometry would usually win. He had a very dry wit and would laugh with his whole body.”

Michael Arndt, professor of theatre arts

“I still remember playing pool with him in the student union and it turning into a lesson in angles, etc.”

Mario M. Rodriguez ’86

“I remember that he had a great sense of humor. He always came into the geology offices to tell jokes. He was from South Dakota, so he loved this one: Q. What was the best thing about Custer’s Last Stand? A: He didn’t have to go back through South Dakota.”

Linda Ritterbush, professor of geology

“Bronze that bike and place it in Kingsmen Park.”

Cory Hughes ’86

“I would often run into Lyle at Trader Joe’s. He would pump his bike over there and park it. He wanted a fresh banana with no spots every morning.”

Mary Hekhuis, M.P.A. ’80

“I became curious about the old man in the cafeteria, the only one who came every morning. I was 56. At breakfast or at the library, we talked about politics, his life on the farm in South Dakota and his experiences. I visited him every time I came back to CLU.”

Masamichi “Michi” Kira ’03, former student from Japan
International art conference keeps it real

About 150 people from all ends of the art world and several foreign countries came to Ventura, Calif., in October for a four-day conference organized by the Art Department to tackle the biggest questions facing serious visual artists on today’s scene.

This ambitious affair, dubbed TRAC 2012 for The Representational Art Conference, zeroed in on 21st-century uses of the hard-won skills of master painters and sculptors. Associate professor Michael Pearce, department chair and conference co-organizer with Michael Lynn Adams ’72, argues that “contemporary traditional art” receives far less attention than it deserves both from galleries and the academy.

In an address kicking off the gathering, New Republic art critic Jed Perl dropped ice water on the idea that modernism or abstraction has been the enemy of representation in art. Picasso, Matisse, Mondrian and Miró emerged yet again as heroes, while “Warholism” came in for criticism as a “one-two punch kind of art, that hit you with an idea and that was about it.”

Perl showed a broad appreciation for representational artists, but reserved choice terms of abuse for those who, while they may be able to imitate human forms and faces, have no traffic with tradition.

“Representation’s great claim on the arts is not in the way that it connects an artist to reality, so much as in the way that it connects an artist to traditions that engage with reality…” Perl said. “Reality itself can’t be your lifeboat.”

Near the back of the room, Kimberly Frassett, the owner of Masterpiece Classical Academy in Huntington Beach, Calif., sought to capture Perl’s speaking presence – his head inclined at the high podium – in a pencil sketch which she surrounded with her notes.

“People are often thinking I’m not paying attention, especially if I’m drawing,” she said afterward. “I can’t really focus unless my hands are doing something.”

College is forever on cloud Google

No matter when you went to CLU, you can get your own name@callutheran.edu email address. If you like Gmail or want to try it out, now is the time to request an account. Starting this fall, current students and alumni are getting CLU-branded Google accounts with the Gmail interface, and with messages old and new sitting on Google’s servers instead of CLU’s.

According to Julius Bianchi, associate provost for Information Systems and Services (ISS), the University did not make the change for the small savings on data storage. Instead, the idea was to improve service by retiring the old Web Mail interface and giving all current students access to Google’s suite of apps for classroom collaboration. In the near future, professors will be able to include their students automatically in online groups using these apps.

Perhaps best of all, these educational accounts are free of commercials, Bianchi said. Neither current students nor alumni will be presented with the narrow, horizontal band of clickable advertisements that Gmail users are accustomed to seeing or mentally blocking.

CLU is phasing out the old Web Mail interface.

Alumni who never had CLU email accounts or who lost access to them since college can start again by sending a message to helpdesk@callutheran.edu.
Regals swim captain piles on Paralympic medals

Senior Cortney Jordan takes three silvers and a bronze at the London Paralympics, matching her haul from 2008.

By Kevin Matthews

Although senior Cortney Jordan comes from a family of competitive swimmers, she was reluctant to take up the sport herself as a youngster and often thought of quitting. Born with cerebral palsy, she suffered disappointments at meets with able-bodied athletes.

“"I was always last. Paralympics allowed me to realize that I was a good swimmer," said the 21-year-old from Henderson, Nev., who started racing at age 7 and discovered competition for swimmers with disabilities at 13.

Today, Jordan deserves to be known as a phenomenon in the water. She owns eight Paralympic medals, four apiece from the games in London and Beijing, and still more oversized coin from three world championships. From the London Paralympics held Aug. 29–Sept. 9, she brought home three silvers and a bronze.

In order to medal this time around, Jordan had to hone her technique, because the field was much faster than four years ago. The record time that she had set for her classification in the 50-meter freestyle in Beijing, for example, would not have garnered a bronze this year for Team USA. In London, Jordan took silver in that event instead of gold, while improving from 33.84 to 33.18 seconds.

In her six events in London, she clocked five personal bests. How did she do it? Jordan credits her training this summer in Minnesota, where she lived with Paralympic Team USA co-head coach Tom Franke and his family. In Franke's daughters, a runner and another swimmer, she found ideal companions for cross training, including cycling, running and P90X home workouts.

Cross training helped Jordan to extend her workouts beyond her allotted pool time. Her coach did not want her in the water past the morning session, she said, because she is prone to fatigue.

“If I work out too much, then my body will shut down. I’ll lose my ability to walk, basically,” Jordan explained. “It gets so tired it just stops working. But if I don’t work out enough, then it gets really tight, and it’s hard to use. So it’s a fine balance.”

In the pool, Jordan concentrates on kicking hard and efficiently with her right leg to compensate for her much weaker left side. Cerebral palsy affects her right side only, “but it hinders my balance in the water, and balance is super-crucial in swimming. I’m the equivalent of someone who doesn’t use their legs.”

To raise her left arm out of the water, Jordan bears down with her right hip while extending her right arm, also breathing on the same stroke. When she first competed, she was not able to lift the arm above the water and ended up dragging her entire left side.

Particularly difficult for Jordan are simultaneous motions of the two sides. That’s why she’s had most of her success in freestyle competition and the backstroke. Still, she is a tough all-around competitor, taking bronze in 2008 in the 200-meter individual medley, which includes breaststroke and butterfly, and just missing a medal in that event this year.

Crying for joy on podium after podium, Jordan relished her victories in London. But she ranks at least two other recent honors higher.

One of those was being selected as captain of the U.S. Paralympic swim team, an “incredible” group of people competing across 14 classifications.

“We have people who have no arms and no legs, and they can swim. We have people who are quadriplegics and they’re swimming. We have blind swimmers. Any excuse you can think of to not swim, or to not do something – they have overcome so many challenges. I don’t even feel like I can compare to any of them,” said Jordan.

Continued on page 12
What smashes glass ceilings? Hard, accurate throws.

Head softball coach Debby Day has more than the ordinary desire to win. She believes that she has problems, “seriously—can’t-go-shoot-baskets-with-my-friends problems.” Competitive is not the word. In fact, there is no single word for it. Day is “don’t-lose-at-Candyland-to-my-daughter-when-she-was-3-years-old competitive. But that’s made me who I am as a pitcher.”

In August, Day became the first woman to pitch a winning game at the NAFA (North American Fastpitch Association) World Series, the largest event in men’s softball. Actually, she won three games as a starter at the “A” tournament in Topeka, Kan., including a two-hit shutout, with her team Balboa Fastpitch. Day played professional softball in Japan, and she pitched the University of Arizona women’s team to the 1991 national championship.

Her “men’s career” started 15 years ago when local women’s league competition wasn’t satisfying for her and a teammate’s boyfriend asked her to join his team. From the beginning, it was a hard adjustment for some of the boys. Nobody threw fruit at her, but she has endured name-calling and carefully aimed verbal digs, as the first woman at many a tournament.

“Guys joke differently than girls, and there’s always a little bit of truth behind their joking,” she explained. Not to mention the players who balk. Up to the night before the NAFA series began, a few of the younger men in their 20s were “saying they weren’t going to play against us if there were girls out there.” Day also plays on a 40-and-over team, where the ball players are far more likely to send photos of her to their daughters.

The key to it all is to perform, she says, “hitting the catcher exactly where they want it, every time” – because “winning silences critics.”

“I’m a little fiery when I play. I tell my [Regals] girls, ‘Don’t come watch me,’ because I’d probably get in trouble,” Day said, cracking up. “They’d make me run, I think.”

In addition to swim team captain, she is the student director of the Writing Center, an officer in Club Teach, a member of the Phi Alpha Theta history honors society, and an aspiring elementary teacher in the liberal studies major. Under assistant professor of exercise science Janie Rider, Jordan has taken an interest in adaptive physical education for kids with disabilities.

“My main goal in life is to help people,” she said. “I want to do that. And so wherever I’m needed, I’m sure I’ll end up.”

Jordan also intends to compete at the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro.
Five programs nationally ranked
Kingsmen golf and water polo hit Nos. 1 and 2

After a tournament win at the Embry-Riddle Invitational in Prescott, Ariz., the men’s golf team reached No. 1 in the national rankings, while men’s water polo earned a No. 2 ranking in Division III at one point this fall. Five programs have held spots in the top 16, including women’s soccer, volleyball and football.

When regular season play ended on Oct. 27 for both of the nationally ranked women’s teams, the Regals soccer and volleyball squads stood in very similar, very enviable positions. Each team had earned its third straight regular-season Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title. Both were the top seeds in the SCIAC Tournament for the third straight year. And both had suffered only one loss in conference play.

For the latest Kingsmen and Regals athletic news, visit www.clusports.com.

Football has its 300th win and first Smudge Pot, as Kingsmen look for fourth straight SCIAC championship

In a season of milestones, the Kingsmen football team notched the 300th win in program history on Sept. 29, against Pomona-Pitzer, and a fifth consecutive victory over the rival University of Redlands Bulldogs on Oct. 6.

The win over Redlands was sweetest and, this year, earned Cal Lutheran a special prize. Head coach Ben McEnroe had proposed having the two SCIAC powerhouses play, henceforth, for the Smudge Pot, a trophy that celebrates the citrus industries in Ventura and San Bernardino counties.

Redlands accepted his good-natured challenge, with the final result that CLU took home a retired smudge pot – an oil-burning heater once used to keep frost away from orchards – to paint violet and gold and keep until next year’s contest.
All the Ways of Stopping

The Office of Campus Ministry is offering a new menu of suggestions designed to provide a pause, or mini-Sabbath, for the whole CLU community on Thursday mornings at 11:15 – or whenever you can find a moment.

University Pastor Melissa Maxwell-Doherty and senior Jesse McClain, last year’s Associated Students of CLU president, have worked for two years on changes to the 24-hour meditation chapel located directly under Samuelson Chapel’s steeple. This fall, with help from the ASCLU Senate, Lord of Life student congregation, and Facility Operations and Planning, they oversaw the construction of a labyrinth behind Samuelson Chapel for walking and contemplation.

Other than the new day and time, how is Chapel hour different this year?

Jesse: I’ve enjoyed working on this shift from Chapel hour to Sabbath hour. We’re saying, “We would love for you to come to University Chapel and be part of that community, but if that’s not your thing, we have resources for you to use.” Most importantly, it’s a time to take off, an open hour for people to do different things. You shouldn’t work or study during this hour.

Melissa: The change of schedule gave us an opportunity to rethink again: what resources can we provide to encourage people to stop? We’re offering suggestions of ways to pause, to Sabbath, to unplug, to reflect – to breathe in your body, mind and heart.

This is very countercultural, but it’s consistent with the Judeo-Christian heritage. “Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.”

Maybe today, in our world, it’s not so much about taking a whole 24-hour day. Maybe today it makes sense for us to think about “Sabbaths.”

What are some of the things people can do?

Jesse: We’ve created meditation walks around campus, we’ve revamped our Wennes Meditation Chapel this summer, and we’ve done a lot of work to create an open hour for people to do different things (see Campus Ministry via www.callutheran.edu).

Can alumni living far from campus participate somehow in this Thursday Sabbath?

Jesse: Even if it’s 15-minute Sabbaths throughout the week, you can still take that 15 minutes. You can still just be quiet or do something that’s for you in the middle of your workday. There are lots of things you can do while sitting at your desk that are incredibly refreshing.

Melissa: I’ve been given little finger labyrinths to do while sitting. This summer, we discovered an online labyrinth with music and prompts. I’m quite sure that if I were wearing a cuff, my blood pressure would have gone down.

Tell me about the labyrinth on the Chapel grounds. I mean, it sounds like a good place to get lost.

Melissa: It’s different from a maze. A maze you come in and out of in different ways; something might be hidden; you don’t know where the ending is. A labyrinth you walk in, and then you’re in the center, and you walk out.
Jesse: There are no tricks. There are no dead ends. There’s one path, but how you walk it can change every time – depending on attitude, depending on focus, depending on what you’re feeling that day.

Now it sounds like a trail.

Melissa: It’s an ancient device and practice of walking. Probably the most famous labyrinth is at the Cathedral of Chartres in France. That one is very large, maybe 24 loops, and has areas shaped kind of like roses. We went with one that fit the space behind the Chapel, with I think 14 loops.

Jesse: Twelve. There are six on each side.

Melissa: And then there’s the center, which is about three widths of a path in size. At some point, we’re going to put something there in the center. But it’s also meant so that you can sit and ponder.

What made you want to put a labyrinth here?

Melissa: This is not the first labyrinth we’ve had on campus. [Art professor] Michael Pearce’s class put one up, of rocks, near Nygreen, and that was there for a time. At Scandinavian Festival one year, he put one out in the grassy area between the creek and the library.

Our synod, our ELCA region, has had a labyrinth. It comes in a sort of Christmas tree box, and you set it up in three pieces. We had people walk the labyrinth in Overton.

More and more places are putting them in as a tool of contemplation: a lot of hospitals and churches. An alum in the Bay Area tells us they’ve put in a concrete labyrinth outside their church. Anybody walking out in the street can use it. The church of another alum out in Palm Desert had put in a labyrinth when the University Choir went there this past year.

What do you like about labyrinths?

Melissa: Walking a labyrinth, I have this sense in my body that, oh, I’m arriving. And then, I’m actually thrust outward again.

Do you ever think, I’ve learned my lesson. I’ve got it? And then you’re in the path of life and you think, Oh my gosh, I didn’t learn that at all. I’m still a work in process. Life is like a path.

Jesse: Life is a path.

How has the Meditation Chapel changed?

Jesse: It’s been a long process. We added, for example, holy books from different traditions, Qurans in English and Arabic, incense, prayer rugs, books about prayer. Part of it is that we have a growing number of Muslim students on campus, and they really don’t have a space where they can go pray when they need to, so we’re trying to create that.

But the Meditation Chapel is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and it’s for anyone who wants to use it.

Are the changes, overall, meant to stress an interfaith approach?

Melissa: That’s definitely a Lutheran way of living in the world, and we’re very blessed in this community to have so many different faith traditions.

I’d say we’re doing two things. We remain committed to a bold proclamation of the Christian gospel and, at the same time, a radical welcome and inclusion to those of all faiths, or none at all. I think if one just says, “CLU is doing interfaith,” it really misses the creative way we live here together.

An ancient seven-loop design
Early years in New Jersey
I received dolls for Christmas, while my brother got boy things: an electric train, an erector set, and one year, a chemistry set. I can remember what he got because I wanted those things too. Without them, as a result, my education in manual dexterity and putting things together was terribly lacking.

After my brother went off to school, though, I took over his chemistry set. Many of the reagents had been used up, but there were still enough left for me to have fun.

Marriage proposal
It was in late April, around the time of my birthday, that we went out driving in the park. Larry had an old Buick, and afterwards, we stopped in front of my house to talk for a bit. We would often do this, chatting for a bit about classes or things we liked to do. Then Larry said, “I hope that sometime we can live together.”

That was pretty vague, I must admit, but I took it to mean a marriage proposal, and I quickly accepted it. We were engaged and would get married!

A student struggling to keep up on one of biology professor Barbara J. Collins’ nature hikes gave her the title for her new memoir: “Dr. Collins, you sure do lead a mean trail.”

And she has. The girl from Passaic, N.J., went away to live two years in Germany, earn a Ph.D. in geology, become an expert botanist in Illinois, and teach full time with five young children and no such thing as maternity leave. She climbed mountains, took students on field trips to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii and California’s deserts, and continued to teach way past retirement age. The 83-year-old’s stories are full of love, sadness and laughter.

The following are excerpts from You Lead a Mean Trail: Life Adventures and Fifty Years of Teaching, published this year by Lutheran University Press.

Trailblazing professor remembers it all
Biology professor Barbara Collins chose her direction in life and has shown almost 50 years of CLU students how to do likewise.

A student struggling to keep up on one of biology professor Barbara J. Collins' nature hikes gave her the title for her new memoir: “Dr. Collins, you sure do lead a mean trail.”

And she has. The girl from Passaic, N.J., went away to live two years in Germany, earn a Ph.D. in geology, become an expert botanist in Illinois, and teach full time with five young children and no such thing as maternity leave. She climbed mountains, took students on field trips to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii and California’s deserts, and continued to teach way past retirement age. The 83-year-old’s stories are full of love, sadness and laughter.

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chose her direction in life and has shown almost 50 years of CLU students how to do likewise.

Five children later, disabling the television set
It was about a month later that we finally told the kids that we had purposely broken the TV. I think the kids understood why we had pulled the plug. For me, it was the best thing that we ever did. Greg came home and read or went out to play instead of plopping in front of the set. That year was the first of a whole series of years that Greg got straight A’s in his classes.

Travel study to Australia and New Zealand
Now it was back to Auckland and home. By this time I was getting attached to the kids. It was like they were all my own children. Some people in New Zealand actually thought they were all mine. At one of the camps that we stayed at, I announced that I had 16 kids. You can imagine the looks that I got. One guy wanted to know where the lady with the 16 kids was going to stay because he wanted to go elsewhere.

Cracking glass ceilings
When growing up, I never remember seeing a pregnant woman. Maybe it was an unwritten rule that a pregnant woman was not to be seen. Dr. Strunk, the head of the department in 1964...informed me that there was a rule saying you could not teach if you were pregnant. I commented that if I had known, I would have continued teaching at Northridge. After speaking to the administration, he called me in and said that I would be able to teach. He had told them that if the students had not seen a pregnant woman by now, it was about time they did. So times were changing and I was in the forefront of this change.

Leading a mean trail
Looking back, the comment from one of my students, “Dr. Collins, you sure do lead a mean trail,” begins to make sense in more than one way. That statement was particularly true for the time in which I grew up. The road I followed was different from the expected. Science was not a field that most women pursued. My love for athletics and competition did not really fit in with the role for females at the time either. Maybe it was a mean trail receiving a Ph.D. degree in a field that women rarely pursued. No one in my family had received a Ph.D. degree, and certainly not any women. It wasn’t until much later that I learned that I was the first female at the University of Illinois to get a Ph.D. degree in the field of geology.
How did one basketball coach have such a profound effect on CLU athletes in five seasons? And why did Michael Jordan and the NBA take so long to hire him? By John Cressy

Ask those who played for Mike Dunlap at Cal Lutheran in the early ’90s, and these are words that immediately come to mind to describe their coach.

So while basketball legend Michael Jordan and the NBA’s Charlotte Bobcats raised eyebrows around the sports world when they hired the little-known Dunlap as head coach last spring over such high-profile candidates as longtime Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan, ex-Lakers player and assistant coach Brian Shaw and former Missouri coach Quin Snyder, don’t count his Kingsmen players among the doubters. They say he is the best-kept secret in basketball.

“My reaction was, ‘It’s about time,’” said Paul La Mott ’96, a member of Dunlap’s 1993-94 team that went 25-3 and reached the NCAA Division III Southern Sectional. “I mean, what took so long?”

As La Mott’s former teammate J.R. Woods put it: “Now the world’s going to experience what we’ve known all along.”

From 1989 to 1994, Dunlap’s teams came together, transforming a struggling NAIA program into an NCAA Division III powerhouse. Kingsmen basketball players from these years are still a tight group that gets together for reunions and continues to seek out its mentor’s advice.

According to Russell White ’94, the boys’ varsity basketball coach at Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino, it’s no accident that so many of Dunlap’s former players became coaches at the high school, community college and college levels — about a dozen at last count.

Y LIKE MIKE

Straightforward.
Focused.
Intense.
Demanding.
Passionate.
Brilliant.
A basketball savant.
Dunlap Disciples
CLU players under Mike Dunlap who became basketball coaches or sports administrators:

Kenny Caesar ’95, M.A. ’05, head coach at Mater Dei High School in Chula Vista

Bryan Cantwell ’94, former head coach at Chaminade High School in West Hills

Derrick Clark ’95, head coach, Metropolitan State University in Denver

Kelly Crosby, former assistant coach at Metro State and Utah Valley State

Brannon Hays, former head coach at Metropolitan State and Colorado Christian University; now assistant women’s coach at San Jose State

Chris Johnson, former head coach at Chadwick High School in Rancho Palos Verdes

Paul La Mott ’96, assistant coach at the University of La Verne

Rupert Sapwell ’95, Director of Sport at Trinity College in Gawler, South Australia

Russell White ’94, T.C. ’96, T.C. ’01, head coach at Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino

J.R. Woods, assistant coach at Newbury Park High School

Jeff Young ’91, M.A. ’03, former head coach at Chaminade High School and current assistant at Clovis West High School

CLU assistant coaches under Mike Dunlap:

Alan Major, M.A. ’03, head coach at University of North Carolina-Charlotte and former assistant at Ohio State

Steve Spencer, M.S. ’94, current head coach at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa and former assistant at UCLA

“He had a major influence on me and a lot of the other guys,” White said. “The fact that so many of us have gotten into coaching is the ultimate compliment to him, don’t you think?”

Dunlap’s former players just aren’t coaching; they’re also winning. White’s high school teams have made the CIF-Southern Section playoffs six consecutive seasons, claimed a CIF-SS championship, and made three state championship appearances. Before arriving at La Verne University as an assistant coach, La Mott in 2011 guided Big Fork High School to the Montana State B semifinals.

Dunlap’s two successors at Division II Metropolitan State in Denver, as it turned out, had both played for him at CLU and then served as assistants – Brannon Hays and Derrick Clark ’95. Hays compiled a 98-27 record in four seasons (2006-10) at Metro State, before giving way to Clark, who has led the Roadrunners to a combined 47-15 record the past two seasons.

“Brannon and I have had big shoes to fill,” said Clark, who served under Dunlap a combined eight years in Australia and at Metro State. “You’re measured by the success Mike Dunlap had here at Metro State, but I welcome it.”

For Dunlap, getting to the top of the profession has been a winding, 32-year journey. In addition to head-coaching jobs at CLU and Metro State, stops along the way included assistant positions at Division I schools Arizona and Oregon and the NBA’s Denver Nuggets. He even had a three-year stint as head coach of the Adelaide 36ers in Australia’s National Basketball League.

Last year, Dunlap served as interim coach at Division I St. John’s University in New York, filling in for head coach Steve Lavin while he recovered from prostate cancer. Under difficult circumstances, Dunlap’s team performed admirably in the powerful Big East Conference, going 13-19 overall, and helping him gain an interview with the owner of the Bobcats, none other than Michael Jordan.

“When I sat down with Mike and I heard him explaining what he’s capable of doing,” Jordan told the Charlotte Observer, “I said, ‘I can play for this guy.’ I said, ‘if that’s a guy I can play for, then that’s a guy everybody can play for.’

Mike Dunlap’s Kingsmen basketball squads won three straight SCIAC titles in the early 1990s.

Since Dunlap’s tenure, CLU basketball has had just one, very successful head coach. Rich Rider enters his 19th season on the job this year with a record of 287-165.
“He’s very fair. He’s very honest. He’s straightforward. There are no curveballs. He has a strong passion for the game and that’s hard to teach people,” Jordan continued. “I’m a strong believer if you have a passion for something, you’re going to figure it out. That’s the thing I saw in him more than anything else – his passion for coaching.”

This season, Dunlap faces a daunting task in Charlotte. The Bobcats had the worst record in NBA history last year at 7-59, with 23 losses coming in a row – another NBA record.

However, if his tenure at CLU is any indication, happier days are in store for Charlotte fans.

When Dunlap arrived on campus, the CLU basketball program had recorded just two winning seasons – 14-13 in 1979-80 and 16-14 in 1987-88 – in its 28-year history. In fact, during Dunlap’s first year in 1989-90, the Kingsmen went a dismal 5-21.

But over the next four seasons, Dunlap managed a turn-around for the program while guiding it successfully into NCAA Division III competition. The Kingsmen went 61-22 over his final three seasons with three straight Southern California Inter-scholastic Athletic Conference titles. His final team at CLU in 1993-94 was ranked No. 1 in the nation at one point.

Sure, Dunlap had talented players. He had Jeff deLaveaga, CLU’s all-time leading scorer with 2,549 career points, and he recruited a pair of outstanding Australian players, Rupert Sapwell ’95 and Jason Smith, who both later enjoyed long pro careers in their country.

But, as La Mott pointed out, Dunlap “has an extraordinary ability to get the best out of his players. I thought I was a good player when I came to CLU, but after Mike Dunlap taught me, I became a good player.”

What sets Dunlap off from many of his colleagues, his players say, is his work ethic. “His drive to be successful is off the charts,” said White.

“You could not arrive for practice early enough or leave late enough,” La Mott remembered. “Coach was always there before you. He was like two people.”

Woods, who is district manager of ADP Payroll Services in Woodland Hills and the assistant boys’ basketball coach at Newbury Park High, said, “When I first came to Cal Lutheran, I thought, ‘This guy is crazy!’ I’d never been around someone who cared so much about details.”

As for Dunlap’s three-hour practice sessions, well, they weren’t for the weak-kneed or the thin-skinned. And not even the biggest stars or hardest working players could escape the wrath of their coach. White remembers getting kicked out of practice for not paying attention, and making a tearful apology that allowed him to return the next day.

Woods shared a story about the time he and teammate Bryan Cantwell ’94 were late for a team meeting. As punishment, Dunlap demanded they report at 5:30 the next morning to run the hills around the CLU campus. Woods and Cantwell got there on time, but Dunlap was nowhere to be found.

“We’re thinking, ‘What’s going on here?’” Woods said. Dunlap let them nervously cool their heels for three hours before finally showing up to lecture them on tardiness. Point made.

Needless to say, Woods and Cantwell never were late for a team meeting again.

That’s Mike Dunlap, say La Mott, White and Woods. He’s no-nonsense, but he’s fair, holds no grudges and always has his players’ best interests at heart. All he demands is that they be punctual and play hard.

“It’s tough love, for sure,” said White, who models his coaching style and disciplinary approach after his mentor.

Dunlap’s CLU alumni say he brought much more to the program than winning ways. Woods’ years playing basketball for the Kingsmen “were the greatest of my life.” Twenty years later, Woods said he still keeps in close touch with a number of former teammates. That, he said, is an equally important legacy of Dunlap’s.

“They’re still my ‘go-to’ guys,” Woods said. “Coach instilled in us that a team is like family and that would never change over time. And he’s right.”
In July, as nine players advanced to the World Series of Poker Final Table, Jesse Sylvia led the field with nearly 44 million chips, putting him in position to go the distance in October.
Kingsman ace cashes in $5.3 million, misses ’08 after name

By Kevin Matthews

Jesse Sylvia takes the runner-up’s prize after a marathon World Series of Poker final. Now, will he finish that math degree?

Whenever Jesse James Sylvia went home to Martha’s Vineyard during college, his area code flipped from 805 to 508. He always noticed numbers. As a child with what he describes as “slight OCD,” he would “do things in fours.”

“That’s cool if you knock on something three more times, but it can get you in trouble if you hit your sister and your mom yells at you and you’re like, ‘I’m going to have to do that three more times.’”

Sylvia, the last player to go bust at poker’s world championship early on Oct. 31, got to satisfy his craze over numbers for (count ’em) four years as a math major at CLU.

“The Math Department was amazing,” he said. “I think, to say that they helped me with poker — no, what they’re teaching is mathematically so much deeper than what poker requires of you.”

The 26-year-old took home the second-place prize of $5,295,145 from the World Series of Poker Main Event Final Table in Las Vegas, the culmination of a year of no limit Texas hold ’em and other poker games. The series took a long break in July when nine players emerged from a field of 6,598 entrants, with Sylvia as the leader in chips.

What Sylvia hasn’t yet taken home is a college degree, and he still wants it. He lacked one math course for graduation in the spring of 2008, he explained. Now he thinks of himself as a CLU graduate but wishes it were official.

“If I make a list of things that I need to get done in life, that’s probably the first one on the list,” he said in August, while preparing for his Final Table appearance and planning a move from Las Vegas to LA with his girlfriend.

It was during Sylvia’s college career that poker “went from a distraction to becoming a full-time job.” He paid cash to buy into tournaments, borrowing time on his roommate’s or another computer to play online.

One afternoon, he entered a series of simultaneous contests from a terminal in Pearson Library. By evening, he’d been knocked out of all but the biggest one, which had about 8,000 people who had paid $200 to play for a top prize of $200,000.

Around 9:30 p.m., Sylvia, or someone at a nearby terminal, kicked into the 52-card combat with about that number of players remaining. Sometime after midnight, the students were exchanging high-fives as Sylvia and two top opponents finalized a deal, a “chop” in poker jargon, to divvy up the money pot, leaving him with roughly $110,000.

“I’m writing out this deal with someone else, and I’m demanding two grand more because I feel like I’m entitled to that. It was just funny because the other math majors are getting the math behind it, but they’re just like, ‘This is ridiculous.’”

Math professor Karrolyne Fogel once did a double take when she heard an amount her student had won online. But she was not fazed this fall upon learning that he was going to the finals of the biggest event in professional poker.

“If I ever found out he was working some desk job someplace, then I would go, ‘What happened?’” she said.

The thing that stands out about Sylvia in Fogel’s memory is the haikus he wrote on his exams: exactly five, seven and five more syllables about the exam itself, or how he wished he’d studied for it more. He started writing the math-themed verses as a sophomore in her course on, yes, game theory, and his classmates took up the challenge with him in a course on algebraic curves.

Math students are regularly drawn to capstone projects on games and gambling, according to Fogel. She supervised one senior’s work on the dice game craps, while another took a purely scholarly interest in blackjack after attending a conference with her in Las Vegas. Sylvia did his capstone on voting theory, a subset of game theory, because he discovered that Fogel had expertise in that field.

“A lot of people when they think about math, think about numbers,” she said. “But it’s really more about methods of thinking and organizing information. And so strategies and how you analyze strategies and keep track of them is a very mathematical type of thing to be doing.”

Knowing about the math behind poker allows Sylvia to respond to some situations quickly, he said. But other college subjects have meant as much to him. He came away from professor Marylie Gerson’s course on social psychology with the insight that people are not “special snowflakes.”

“People think similarly. Once you get into that mindset you can understand that your opponents aren’t thinking all that differently from you, and you can delve into what they’re thinking about in any given hand,” he said.

Fogel sees her former student as a lover of learning, not just “schooling”: “That’s what wins, is that curiosity about learning,” she said. “I don’t think he thinks he has all the answers. I didn’t see that when he was in school, and I haven’t seen anything in the news articles that makes me think that’s changed.”

As for his one outstanding math credit, Sylvia confessed that he has fantasized about “hiring some guy in India to do it for me [online], but I think I’m going to do it myself, especially now that I told you that.”

“It’s the kind of thing that feels like busywork, and I hate doing busywork,” he continued. “I’m really good, when I have something like that to do, at distracting myself with other things.”
Lynda (Benton ’64) Elmendorf, Frazier Park, Calif., at Sag Harbor Village during a three-week trip to Southampton, N.Y., in July.

Class Representative

Ruth Ann Johnson
raj036@att.net

John Lundblad, Vista, Calif., retired in June after 14 years with the City of Oceanside. He looks forward to hiking and camping in Anza Borrega Desert State Park in the winter and the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the summer. In addition to spending time with his children and grandchildren, gardening and working on projects around the house, he plans to volunteer with the North San Diego County Food Policy Council and San Diego Botanic Gardens.

Class Representative

Judy Halweg
judybugila@gmail.com

and his wife, Lynne, were cruising the St. Lawrence seaway from Montreal to New York, where they viewed the fall foliage then attended some Broadway plays. Daniel is semi-retired but serves as medical executive director of the Department of Medical Imaging at St. Joseph’s Medical Center, where he has been practicing radiology for 34 years. He and Lynne have been married 45 years and have two children and three grandchildren.

Don Hermansen, Redwood City, Calif., has been a dentist for 36 years and is on the Council on Peer Review of the California Dental Association. He is a convocator from the Sierra Pacific Synod. Don and wife Hollace have four children, three of whom are CLU graduates. Other family members who graduated from CLU include two sisters, three nieces and a nephew.

Sasha William Kwapiski, Alta Loma, Calif., has completed several long-distance bicycle rides in recent years, ranging from 1,000 miles in 19 days to 3,200 miles in seven weeks. This year he rode the Pacific Coast (Canadian border to Mexican border) in 36 days as a fundraiser to benefit the Rancho Cucamonga Animal Center, finishing the 1,867-mile ride on July 9. Future plans include rides from Central Tennessee to upstate New York (next summer) and along the length of the Mississippi River.

Daniel Storvick, Prescott, Ariz., retired in May after 24 years as a pastor at American Lutheran Church. During his tenure, Dan’s congregation founded Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Prescott Valley and established The Rock youth ministry center as well as programs for children, women, people recovering from addiction, the needy and others. In addition to spending more time with family and pursuing hobbies, Dan plans to stay involved in ministry by preaching and teaching in churches in Arizona and Minnesota.

Paula Morgan-Martin, Vincennes, Ind., retired in May after 27 years as an elementary school teacher with South Knox School Corp.

Joe Stouch, Palmdale, Calif., retired in May after 40 years with the Antelope Valley High School District. He will spend his free time fly-fishing, target shooting, traveling and enjoying “six wonderful grandchildren.”

Class Representative
Paula Morgan-Martin
teachtheworldtosing@gmail.com

Tom McGarvin ’69 (l), Tucson, Ariz., and Craig Marburger ’70, Tigard, Ore., at the 23rd Great Southwestern Wrinkleneck Flyfishing Invitational at Cyclone Lake, Ariz., in May. Tom has attended all 23 events, and this is Craig’s fourth.

Don Hossler
hossler@indiana.edu

Mike Riley
mikerileymodesto@gmail.com

Class Representatives
Adele Broas-Trent
vikingteacher2002@yahoo.com

AUGUST 2012 25
BIRTHS

Anyá Vie Barkhuff on May 1, 2012, to Gemma (Anderson ’03) and Justin ’03 Barkhuff.

Aaron Jacob Blacker on March 23, 2012, to Noelle (Forde ’02) and Casey Blacker.

Jackson Le Haywood Lorenz Burgwald on March 18, 2012, to Morgan (Lorenz ’02) and Shawn ’02 Burgwald.

Reed James Christie on April 23, 2012, to Breana (St. John ’03) and James Christie.

Emmaus Paul Gravrock on May 6, 2012, to Marisa and Erik ’02 Gravrock.

Derek Dean Hammerslag on June 30, 2012, to Kelly (Jaeger ’01) and Scott Hammerslag.

Trygve Michael Hanks on Jan. 28, 2012, to Merie (Vermillion ’07) and Michael ’08 Hanks.

Zoe Mel Myers on March 24, 2012, to Ana Ceci (Mel, M.S. ’07) and Daniel ’02 Myers.

Seth Daniel Round on July 10, 2012, to Brenna (Sandeen ’04, T.C. ’05) and Paul Round.

Leilani Jazmin Torres on Feb. 8, 2012, to Ariana Robles ’10 and Ricardo Torres.

Chandler Anthony Wiese on March 20, 2012, to Nicole (Cunningham ’06, M.S. ’09) and Brian Wiese.

MARRIAGES


Carrie Baez ’08, MBA ’11, and Joseph Hernandez on April 21, 2012.


Cheryl Donoho ’08 and Sam Walton ’08, MBA ’10, on April 28, 2012.

Kelli Garretson ’08 and Jesse Weiss on Aug. 11, 2012.

Katherine Helms ’08, T.C. ’11, and Joshua Banday ’08, T.C. ’10, on June 10, 2012.

Krystle Kagawa ’04 and David Amezcue on July 14, 2012.


Michelle McLaughlin, MBA ’00, and Gabriel Renteria on Sept. 15, 2012.

Courtney Parks ’05, MBA ’09, and Matt Holland ’03, MBA ’09, on Aug. 25, 2012.

Michelle Roa ’10 and Justin Fairhurst on June 23, 2012.


Jared Voeltz ’02 and Margaret Pourtemour on March 31, 2012.

Burke Wallace ’02 and Ryan Eikenbary on Aug. 28, 2012.

Amanda Wheelon ’06, MPPA ’12, and Nikolaus Namba ’04 on April 31, 2012.

Xiao Xiao, MBA ’09, and Brian Monteath on July 3, 2012.

MILESTONES

‘74

Lea Lamp
leainaz48@gmail.com

Gretchen Glick, Solvang, Calif., worked with Artists World Magazine on the September issue, which focused on Charcot Marie Tooth Neuromuscular Disease. Gretchen has started making “wearable art” jewelry.
from vintage buttons, beads, charms, shells and wood chips. She received a first prize in a March show and a Best of Show in a May competition.

Linda (Endow) Hall, Bonners Ferry, Idaho, teaches Spanish at Bonners Ferry High School and is an adjunct professor at North Idaho College. She was a volunteer at the London Summer Olympics. Her son Adam, who is a wrestling coach, placed in the top six at the Olympic Trials. Linda and her husband, Roland, celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary in July. They have two sons.

Charaline (Yu, M.A. ’86) Maxim, Oxnard, Calif., has taught at Mesa Union School for 37 years.

Joyce Robinson, M.A., Ojai, Calif., was elected second vice president of the Ojai Festival Women’s Committee for the coming year.

Vicki (Vasco) Green
vg4jesus@gmail.com

Ken Woods
kwood1@dc.rr.com

Vernon Cook, M.S. ’77, Thousand Oaks, Calif., retired in January after teaching at California State University, Northridge, for 16 years. He plans to travel, assist students with research, teach SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) and continue to lecture in Germany and Europe.

Kai (Campbell) Thoni, Saint Paul, Minn., is leading 19 students from Northwestern College on a nine-week (October-December) intercultural studies internship to Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Jordan and England.

Don Krampe, M.P.A., Murrieta, Calif., hiked to the peak of Mount Whitney, the highest summit in the continental United States, to “gain publicity” for his campaign for the U.S. Senate. The 83-year-old former Marine departed on the 22-mile hike to the 14,500-foot summit on May 23 and returned to base on May 25, just 12 days before the California primary election.

Lance Marcus, Simi Valley, Calif., a managing director of investments with Merrill Lynch, was named among Barron’s “America’s Top 1,000 Advisors: State-by-State” last spring. Lance has been with Merrill Lynch for 32 years and this is his second appearance on the Barron’s Top Advisors list.
Mary, M.S. ’80, and Howie Wennes with Amanda (Boggs ’92) and Eric ’92 Berg at St. Patrick’s of Dalkey near Dublin, Ireland.

Class Representative
Ginny Green
lhommeduphoto@aol.com

Janet Baird, T.C. ’83. Thousand Oaks, Calif., has taught in the Conejo Valley Unified School District for 30 years. She participates in the local Relay for Life and the Health Schools Walk every year.

Annette Dawson-Davis, Camarillo, Calif., is an estate planning attorney with Dawson-Davis Law. She recently opened her new offices in Camarillo where she prepares wills and revocable living trusts.

Isabella Roberts, 11-year-old daughter of Tori Nordin ’81 and husband Steve Roberts, Austin, Texas, proudly represents CLU on College Day at Hill Elementary School.

Alicia (Thornton) Campbell, Santa Ana, Calif., is owner of the Batty Lady, an online quilting supply company that won a national contest from the Fairfield Processing Corp. As the winning owner, she received a trip to the International Quilt Show in Houston, Texas, in October.

Keith Parks, Camarillo, Calif., was named director of Hospice of the Conejo in February. The 35-year-old grassroots volunteer hospice and bereavement support center serves individuals and families in the Conejo Valley, Simi Valley and surrounding areas.

Della Greenlee, Thousand Oaks, Calif., retired as CLU’s director of foundations and scholarships on Aug. 31, after exactly 36 years with the University. She began at CLU as faculty secretary on Sept. 1, 1976, and nine months later became executive secretary to President Mark Mathews. In 1981, she joined the Development Office as associate for grants development and was named director of grants and scholarships the following year. The Santa Barbara-Ventura County chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (now the Association of Fundraising Professionals) named her Professional Fund Raiser of the Year in 1995, and CLU honored her with the Inspiration Award in 2004.

Diana (McClellan) Lanane, Bishop, Calif., was unable to attend her 20-year class reunion because she was directing the youth musical Seussical for Playhouse 395. She has taught high school choir since 2001 and has worked with Playhouse 395 for the past six years.

Mel Fleeman, Glendora, Calif., was hired as a 401(k) compliance specialist with YP.com in April. He also finished his second season as a referee with the American Basketball Association.

Tim Nelson, MBA, Moorpark, Calif., is president of Platinum Castle Holdings, a real estate investing and consulting company he founded in February 2011. He also is president of Platinum Claims Services for auto insurance claims adjusting. He and wife Kathie (Depp ’85) have been married for 27 years and have three children.
Wendy (Olson) Beckemeyer, MBA ’93, Pittsburgh, Pa., was hired as vice president for enrollment and financial aid at Robert Morris University in July. She recently served as vice president for enrollment at Chatham University.

Julie (Westwood) and Steve Pesklo, New Brighton, Minn., celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in August. Julie is a certified public accountant and works for a small CPA office. Steve is president of SoftLake Solutions. They have four children and are hosting an exchange student from Belgium.

A group of CLU alumni and family joined Andrea (Gerling ’01) Acosta for the San Diego MS Walk in May. Andrea, in orange sneakers holding sign, was diagnosed with MS early this year and channeled her energy into organizing what turned out to be the largest group walking that day and one of the largest groups donating to the National MS Society. Pictured, in no particular order, are Rachel (Oliveras-Larson ’99) and Timothy Catalano, Heather (Embree ’97, M.Ed. ’02) and Dan ’00 Roschke with Kate and Micah, Edgar Aguirre ’99 and Siana-Lea Gildard ’96, Kate Rubke-Foxworth ’01, Jen Crum ’01, Kari Hanson-Smith ’00, Angela (Claros ’01, MBA ’03) and Bryan ’01 Card with Austen, Tyler Robinson ’01 and Juan Acosta.
Mark Glesne ’03

The CLU Alumni Association Board of Directors is pleased to recognize Mark Glesne as the 2012 Outstanding Young Alumnus.

Glesne graduated in 2003 with a major in communication (advertising/public relations) and a minor in sociology. Three years later, the young entrepreneur founded Neutral Dive Gear, a scuba diving lifestyle apparel brand, which he still owns and operates. He currently is Web marketing director at Bed|Stü, a footwear and accessories company headquartered in Camarillo.

An Iraq War combat veteran, Glesne served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2005 to 2011. He is a member of Calvary Chapel Thousand Oaks, where he plays bass guitar on the worship team and serves Sunday evenings as the preaching pastor for Upstream, the college and young adult ministry programs.

As an alumnus, Glesne continues to take seriously CLU’s mission and places a top priority on maintaining a connection to the University. Many current students and faculty know him as CLU’s stern-yet-loving Fitness Boot Camp Instructor, as well as a private personal trainer and nutrition counselor. He has volunteered his time speaking to various student groups on topics relating to business, fitness and nutrition, matters of faith, and politics.

Glesne and his wife, Corissa (Gall ’05), live in Thousand Oaks with their sons, Ethan and Asher.

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Kim Peppi-Kuen ’87 and husband Timothy, Moorpark, Calif., went on a Tiger Cruise on the USS Stennis with a friend, who’s a sailor and “dad” of their foster dog. They are pictured on the flight deck of the supercarrier, which they accompanied from San Diego to Bremerton, Wash., on the last leg of its nine-month deployment. “It took four days and on day three the 20-foot swells got the best of me!” said Kim.

Gene McGary, Santa Maria, Calif., was promoted to sergeant with the California Highway Patrol in May.

Call us about the extraordinary alumni you know!
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Class Representative Julie Donaldson-Prince
jprince007@sbcglobal.net
David Fick, Coto de Caza, Calif., is co-founder and senior director of chemistry at Epiomed Therapeutics in Irvine.
Brett Quilter, Boise, Idaho, was promoted to lieutenant with the Boise City Police Department Alliance in August.

Class Representative Carrie (Jurgemeyer) Donohoe
carelynne@me.com
Tenor’s debut CD boosted by alums, donors

For his first album, Ryan Townsend Strand '12 received a lot of help from his friends, and some more from strangers. Mending Split Seconds, which incorporates songs Strand first sang at his senior recital at CLU, blends the classic with the contemporary, in two cycles of songs on separate themes.

The first cycle, “Songs of Travel” by composer Vaughan Williams, features Jessica Helms '04 on piano, and the second, “Mending Split Seconds,” consists of specially commissioned work by composer Skyler Butenshon '11. Sarah Behymer '12 served as the audio engineer at the studio with the responsibilities of recording and mixing the music.

Strand raised funds for the project through a 45-day campaign on the website Kickstarter.

“Producing the CD was a great experience – especially being able to work on a professional album with friends of mine. I devoted my whole summer to the project, finding the studio to rent, seeing that the pianos were tuned and recording the music. And I had to start my own publishing company with ASCAP. I learned a lot about the recording industry. Now I understand why artists don’t do it themselves!” said Strand, referring to promotion and marketing.

Strand majored in vocal performance and music education at CLU and is now pursuing his master’s degree in vocal performance at Northwestern University. He wants to collaborate again with composers of contemporary classical vocal music as a tenor soloist.

Alumni who wish to purchase the CD can find it on Amazon and iTunes.

“The music you will hear is timeless, and the emotions that are invoked can connect with people of all musical backgrounds,” said Strand.

Mara (Slais) Klassen, Oxnard, Calif., retired in May after 14 years with network technology firm Ixia. She left the high-tech industry with the intention of going into full-time ministry and charitable work. She plans to work with her local church, serving the homeless and global organizations that focus on helping children and the ultra-poor.

Mark Marius, Dover, Del., is a chaplain major with the U.S. Air Force Reserve stationed at Dover Air Force Base.

Marian Carrasco Nungaray, Ed.D. ‘11, Oxnard, Calif., is a full-time professor of counseling at Ventura College. She recently joined the CLU Graduate School of Education as an adjunct faculty member in the counseling and guidance program.

Lori Radcliff, Fort Collins, Colo., celebrated one year as a full-time personal stylist with Stella & Dot in September. The national jewelry and accessories brand was named to Inc. 500’s fastest-rising companies.

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Recent grad takes social network with her

As a communication major with an emphasis in journalism, Heather Taylor ’10 did not know her Web writing addiction would become a career until MyCorporation in Calabasas, Calif., hired her as its first social media manager. She certainly didn’t expect to be supervising her own CLU interns two years after graduation.

MyCorporation helps small businesses incorporate and form LLCs, and supports entrepreneurs applying for trademarks and copyrights. In her new job, Taylor gets to do what she loves — writing and lots of it — every day. Maintaining social media for the company is a constant job, so when her boss, CEO Deborah Sweeney (a CLU regent), suggested she hire interns to spread out the workload, she jumped at the chance.

Heather Taylor ’10 (center) hired interns Kelsey Goeres and James de Haan ’11 from CLU. De Haan is pictured on a visit home to California from his studies in Ireland.

James de Haan ’11, a graduate student in Ireland, responded to Taylor’s Facebook post and became her first telecommuting employee, making the nine-hour time difference work to the company’s benefit. CLU senior Kelsey Goeres rounded out the team.

“It’s really wonderful to have the opportunity to hire amazing people. You need to be prepared when life hands you these opportunities and be ready for them,” Taylor says. “While I knew both of them at CLU, we have been working together for over a year now, and it’s great. I try to be the kind of boss I would want to work for.”

Beyond the day job, Taylor freelances for HelloGiggles.com, a website for women founded by actor and musician Zooey Deschanel, and covers events and interviews celebrities for BettyConfidential.com. She has advice for recent grads working in jobs that are less than they’d hoped for. “It won’t last forever,” she says. “Don’t give up. Keep working hard, be patient and stay optimistic, and your luck will turn around in your favor.”

Andrew Withers, Rocklin, Calif., is principal of Park Elementary School in Mill Valley. He served as principal of Penryn Elementary School in Placer County the past five years.

Class Representative
Kari Gravrock
kgravrock@aol.com

Eric Handke, M.A. ’01, Montrose, Colo., teaches at Montrose High School, where his access class won a door-decorating contest celebrating College Awareness Week. “Our door representing CLU brought home the gold and won us a pizza party!” said Eric.

Matthew Powell, Cedar Park, Texas, was elected Mayor of Cedar Park in May after serving seven years as a city councilman. He is also pursuing an MBA at Concordia University Texas in Austin.

Juan Santos, M.Ed. ’03, Newbury Park, Calif., is now principal of Maple Elementary School in the Conejo Unified School District. He moved to Maple from Sequoia Middle School where he was assistant principal.

Jennifer (Pappas) Stehle, Ventura, Calif., and husband Chris own Naked Longboards. The five-year-old company specializes in surf décor and launched a new line of longboard skateboards in June. All of the company’s products are handmade by Chris, and Jennifer handles public relations and marketing. Visit their website at nakedlongboards.com.
Jesse Hillman, Taylor Lake Village, Texas, is a senior partner overseeing the technology sector at Pan-American Enterprise Solutions, a boutique consultancy firm. He began the Executive Doctor of Business Administration program at the Paris Graduate School of Management this fall. His research is based at Rice University in Houston, and he will attend four symposiums at the Paris campus. 

Dan and Heather (Embree ‘97, M.Ed. ’02) Roschke, Spring Valley, Calif., led a tour to Germany in October. Dan is pastor at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in La Mesa and Heather is a volunteer doula with the University of California San Diego Medical Center. They have two children, ages 6 and 3.

Timothy Gray, Simi Valley, Calif., is vice president and owner of Space Vector Corp. in Chatsworth and served as program manager of a five-year program to upgrade the safety of launch vehicles. The successful completion of the first launch of the Global Positioning System Metric Tracking (GPS-MT) on ATLAS V occurred in February. All future ATLAS and DELTA rockets will carry this system onboard.


Amie Krause, MBA ’06, Newbury Park, Calif., is now senior manager of human resources with Amgen Inc. She has been with Amgen since 2004 and most recently was senior manager of staffing operations.

Robert Larson, MBA, Newberg, Ore., was named director of gift development at George Fox University in May.

Shawn (Dennis ’98) Zeringue, Carol Lynds (mother of senior Jeriann Lynds), Holly Martin-Zeilenga ’02, T.C. ’05, freshman Kristi Kniest, Todd Arrowsmith ’91 and Judi LaSalle (mom of John LaSalle ’06) are pictured, left to right, wearing CLU attire for ASB Commitment Day at West Ranch High School in Santa Clarita last spring. High school seniors were encouraged to wear spirit wear from the university they were planning to attend and faculty members to wear spirit wear from their alma mater.

Burke Wallace, Berkeley, Calif., joined the staff of Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory High School in August. He is chair of the English Department and head football coach.

Erin Neuhaus, San Diego, Calif., is a marketing specialist with Provide Commerce.

Anne Olson, Bothell, Wash., is a regulatory affairs specialist with Sonosite in Seattle.

Krystle (Kagawa) Amezcua, Riverside, Calif., has been a project manager with Kaiser Permanente since last December.

Nicole Biergiel, Santa Barbara, Calif., was promoted to administrative director of the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum in May.

Lisa Buono, M.S., Ed.D. ’11, Newbury Park, Calif., is an assistant professor in CLU’s Graduate School of Education. She was elected to tenure in May.

Steven Guzzo, MBA, Fayetteville, Ark., is strategy manager of planning and
C A L I F O R N I A  L U T H E R A N  U N I V E R S I T Y
GRANDPARENTS DAY
APRIL 12, 2013

Grandparents of Cal Lutheran students are invited to campus for a day of special events courtesy of Alumni & Parent Relations. Visit callutheran.edu/grandparents or call 805-493-3170 for more information.

ALUMNI NEWS

Holly Halweg, M.Ed. ’07, Seattle, Wash., is pursuing a Master of Health Administration at the University of Washington. She was recruited from the MHA program to be the practice manager for the Seattle Pain Center. Holly continues to sing and play hand bells at her church.

Ryan Hostetler, Seattle, Wash., was hired as marketing manager with Space Needle LLC in May. The company manages the iconic building, which is privately owned.

Mary Martinich, Thousand Oaks, Calif., and her husband, Tony, volunteer as ushers at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, and Mary is a member of the Goebel Senior Center Commission. Before retiring, Mary was a quality specialist with United Technologies, Pratt & Whitney Division.

Nikolaus Namba, Thousand Oaks, Calif., has been chief academic officer with Ingenium Schools in Compton since July 2010. The previous five years, he taught in Adams County School District 50 in Westminster, Colo., and earned his master’s in Adams County School District 50 in 2010. The previous five years, he taught both football and basketball at Hamilton High School.

Sam Vieira, North Hollywood, Calif., directed the half-hour production Three Tables by Dam Remmes at Theatre Asylum in June. The production was part of the 2012 Hollywood Fringe Festival, an annual celebration of the emerging arts.

Class Representatives
Ryan Lisk
ryen.lisk@yahoo.com
Mark Nielsen
kingofdacoast@hotmail.com
Courtney Parks
parks.courtney@gmail.com

Michael Cosenza, M.Ed., Ed.D. ’10, Moorpark, Calif., was elected to tenure and advanced to the rank of associate professor in CLU’s Graduate School of Education.

Brittany Dipla, Reseda, Calif., was hired as a supervisory revenue officer with the Internal Revenue Service in February.

Roxana Fard, Thousand Oaks, Calif., is an associate in manufacturing with Amgen.

Andrea Pappas, T.C. ’12, Thousand Oaks, Calif., is in her first year of teaching art media and mass media (video production) at Thousand Oaks High School. Pappas did her student teaching last year at TOHS, which is also her alma mater, and worked as a substitute teacher in the Conejo Valley Unified School District while earning her teaching credential.

Jason Soyster, Tustin, Calif., is now program manager of Experience Development at Disneyland Resort.

Jaime Stachler, Simi Valley, Calif., has been senior graphic designer for the Arabian Horse Association since April.

Kevin Stone, Valencia, Calif., was named senior director of finance at Funitse Toy Corp. in January. He has been with the Van Nuys company for five years.

Holly Wilson, Davis, Calif., earned a Master of Theological Studies from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in May. In July, she started as program director with Lutheran Episcopal Volunteer Network.

Class Representative
Amanda (Walker ’06) Schaub
schaub.amanda@gmail.com

Krista Bergenstal, MBA, Santa Rosa Valley, Calif., was promoted to sales manager with McKesson Medical-Surgical-Primary Care in September. She was formerly an account manager with Primary Care.

Heather (Boyle) Conway, Simi Valley, Calif., graduated from eight weeks of basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. She is an airman first class and earned distinction as an honor graduate.

Sara Cook, M.S., Oxnard, Calif., is assistant registrar, academic services, at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She assumed her position in June.

Adam Davenport, Los Angeles, Calif., is a surfboard shaper whose catalog includes exclusively ’60s-inspired equipment, like The California Classic, 4065 and The Pig. The fourth-generation Southern Californian, who grew up surfing with his father and uncles, worked on his first blank board as a preteen.

Randall Delling, Ed.D., Simi Valley, Calif., was elected state vice president of the Association of California School Administrators in May. He is principal of North Hollywood High School and was named ACSA 2010 Secondary Principal of the Year.
Davey Harding, MBA ‘09, Simi Valley, Calif., was promoted to Specialist IS Analyst - Data Center Infrastructure Lead at Amgen in June. He has been with the Thousand Oaks company since 2006.

Laura Mason, Moorpark, Calif., joined Cabrillo Music Theater as administrative director in September.

Jennifer Melham, Mission Viejo, Calif., was hired as a freelance copywriter with SuperMedia, LLC, in June.

Karis (Rower) Tressel, Bakersfield, Calif., received her N.D. (Naturopathic Doctor) from National College of Natural Medicine in June. She opened a naturopathic medical practice this fall serving Kern County.

Katrina Wong, Davis, Calif., has been the assistant to the director of the Richard L. Nelson Gallery at University of California, Davis, since 2007. In March, she also became the ArtAbout coordinator for the Davis Downtown Business Association.

Class Representatives
Rosalynd Sayer
princessrosalyn@gmail.com
Wes Sullivan
wsulliv@callutheran.edu

Rich Brimer, Camarillo, Calif., was named president of Studio Channel Islands Art Center in January.

Kenya Galdamez, M.S., Oxnard, Calif., was hired as guidance and college counselor at American School of Brasilia in August.

Kirsten (Boddin ’64) and Karsten Lundring ’65

Kirsten and Karsten Lundring were passionately involved in music while pursuing other academic majors at California Lutheran College. Both were active members of the Concert Choir under the direction of founding CLC music faculty member Robert Zimmerman and continued to sing with “Dr. Z” in a CLU alumni ensemble called The Californians.

Karsten was one of the original members of the Kingsmen Quartet, a men’s a cappella quartet that continues to perform together today. Kirsten accompanied children’s choirs for many years and was pianist for the Thousand Oaks Rotary club for more than 25 years. She also sang in a small group of six women called The Ensemble. They continue to perform annual Memorial Day concerts with The Sherwood Singers, conducted by CLU music professor emeritus Elmer Ramsey, and are members of the Chapel Choir at Ascension Lutheran Church in Thousand Oaks.

Both Kirsten and Karsten have been exemplary supporters of CLU’s Music Department, attending almost every concert during the last several decades, hosting events in their home and making significant financial contributions to the department, including the Lundring Family Music Scholarship.

Class Representatives
Katelyn Kruse
kkruse@callutheran.edu
Tiffany Slattum
tslattu@callutheran.edu
J.R. Wise
wise8403@stthomas.edu

Brad Doty, Littleton, Colo., received his Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in
Tricia Johnson ’11, Campbell, Calif., is an Amigos Fellow in El Salvador with EcoViva, an organization that supports environmental sustainability, social justice and peace in Central America.

“I have always been passionate about sustainable, community-based development and this experience has reaffirmed that,” she said. “Dealing with so many different communities and ideas can be difficult, but it is incredibly rewarding to see the finished product, whether it is a cooperative dedicated to sustainable fishing practices, or a community-based resource management plan.”

Johnson took an interest in sustainable development as a volunteer with Amigos de las Américas in Nicaragua, where she lived with a host family and facilitated community-based projects. She studied Spanish in Guanajuato, Mexico, for a semester and worked on the program staff at the Cuernavaca Center for Intercultural Dialogue on Development, facilitating discussions and workshops on social justice issues. She also interned with the Guatemala Human Rights Commission in Washington, D.C. After graduating, she spent a year teaching at a bilingual school in San Marcos, Ocotepeque, Honduras.

In El Salvador, Johnson is EcoViva’s eyes and ears on the ground. She gathers information about projects, attends meetings, writes blogs and takes pictures.

“Because of my time at CLU, I am here living in El Salvador, working in the position I always dreamed of,” said Johnson, who has decided to extend her time with EcoViva through April.

“Wherever I am, I know that I want Spanish to be a big part of my work, whether that means working here in Latin America or back home with immigrant communities,” added the young alumna. She credits her CLU professors, mentors and friends for encouraging her to go out and do whatever she felt called to do.

To read her posts and view photos, go to http://tinyurl.com/EcoViva2012.
Chris Groff ’88
Men’s Tennis
Chris Groff was a two-time All-American as well as NAIA District III Singles and Doubles Champion during his two years at Cal Lutheran. He led the Kingsmen to the 1987 NAIA District III Championship and an appearance at the NAIA National Tournament, and earned NAIA First Team All-America status in both singles and doubles. He earned the NAIA District III Singles title that year and added the Doubles crown in 1988. In his final season, he finished 33-5 in singles play and 23-7 in doubles and earned honorable mention All-America status after finishing with a No. 4 national ranking.

Brodie Munro ’91
Men’s Golf
Brodie Munro had a standout senior season, earning the NAIA District III Individual Golf Championship and an NAIA All-America selection. He received the national honors after placing sixth at the NAIA National Championship competition. At the time of his induction, he is only the second golfer in Cal Lutheran history to have earned a top-10 finish at the national championship tournament. He finished his two-year CLU career with a 76.18 career stroke average.

Dai Nguyen ’94
Men’s Soccer
One of the premier defensive players in the Division III era of men’s soccer at Cal Lutheran, Dai Nguyen was an All-SCIAC First Team and NCAA All-West Region selection in each of his three years with the Kingsmen. He helped his teams to the first two SCIAC Championship titles in Kingsmen soccer history. During his senior season, Nguyen took NCAA All-America Third Team honors, and the Kingsmen finished undefeated in conference play, posting a 9-0-1 record and earning the team’s second league crown in three years. During Nguyen’s CLU career, the team won 43 games and posted a 32-2-1 record in SCIAC play.

Kim (White ’91) Pezonella
Softball
Kim (White) Pezonella had one of the most prolific four-year careers in Cal Lutheran softball history. She was a two-time NAIA Second Team All-America selection as a junior and senior and was named First Team All-District three times in a row. In her senior year, she hit .427 and contributed 34 runs batted in. She was the first player in Regals history to collect more than 200 career base hits. At the time of induction, she is the only player in CLU softball history to collect 60 or more hits in multiple seasons and ranks in the program’s all-time career top-10 in batting average, hits, triples, home runs and stolen bases. She was a member of the 1988 and 1989 teams that reached the NAIA National Championship Tournament.

Tad Wygal ’82
Football
Tad Wygal was a four-year starter on the defensive line for the Cal Lutheran football team. As captain of the defensive unit his senior year, he was an NAIA Division II First Team All-America selection. He was also named the 1981 NAIA District III Player of the Year as well as CLC Player of the Year. He was a member of four straight NAIA District III Championship teams, including the 1979 team that qualified for the NAIA playoffs his sophomore year. During his collegiate career, the Kingsmen posted a 30-8-2 record including six shutout victories. In his final three seasons, he wrapped up 73 or more tackles including a career best 85 as a senior. In 1981, the Cal Lutheran defense allowed only 109 total points in 10 games.

Melvin Hayashi, M.D. (1940-2012)
Team Physician
Dr. Melvin Hayashi was the CLU athletics team physician for 17 years, serving his last season in 2010. As the primary physician to CLU athletes, “Doc” performed hundreds of operations, held injury clinics for student athletic trainers and allowed them to observe surgeries. He spent countless hours sharing his knowledge and love of sports with the entire CLU community. The respected orthopedic surgeon tended to athletes far beyond CLU, working with Conejo Valley high schools, Moorpark College and the U.S. National Soccer Team, as well as with the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, the 1994 Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg, Russia, the Special Olympics and the United States Olympic Committee drug testing. His talents earned him membership in the USOC Sports Medicine Society.
Mikaela Haley, MBA ’11, is the administrative assistant to the deans in full-time teaching position in August, he was the Rio School District. Before accepting the world history at Rio Vista Middle School in teaches seventh-grade language arts and

Mariko “Mo” Coverdale, Burbank, Calif., took over as head coach of the girls volleyball team at Palisades High School this fall. She also is an assistant coach at Santa Monica College.

Joelle (Cortez) Duff, Ventura, Calif., started her own wedding planning and design business, A Charming Occasion, in January, and reports, “It’s doing really well!”

Adam Erickson, M.Ed. ’11, Ventura, Calif., teaches seventh-grade language arts and world history at Rio Vista Middle School in the Rio School District. Before accepting the full-time teaching position in August, he was the administrative assistant to the deans in CLU’s Graduate School of Education.

Mikaela Haley, MBA ’11, Stevenson Ranch, Calif., was hired as the community association manager with Lordon Property Management in Westlake Village in June.

Christine (Gaal) Johnson, Minneapolis, Minn., is in her first year as a math teacher at Patrick Henry High School.

Lana Lile, Saint-Gilles, Belgium, started a new job as operations manager with the Web startup WooRank in May.

Elese Marion, Puyallup, Wash., joined the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department as an environmental health specialist in April.

Juan Ros, MBA, Simi Valley, Calif., a certified financial planner, joined the financial planning advisory staff of Lamia Financial Group, LLC, in August. Prior to joining the firm, Juan was the director of development for the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation. He is a member of the Conejo Valley Estate Planning Council and the Partnership for Philanthropic Planning of Greater Los Angeles, and serves on the boards of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Tri-Counties and the Financial Planning Association of Ventura County.

Juan Ros, MBA

Ben Hogue

Juan Ros, MBA

caseyjoehn@gmail.com

Juan Ros, MBA

ReShai Tate

rtate@callutheran.edu

Lauren Amundson, Thousand Oaks, Calif., accepted the position of assistant director of Annual Fund at CLU in July.

Kate Vela Carillo, Fillmore, Calif., is a paraeducator IV with Hueneme High School in Oxnard. She assumed her duties in April.

Matthew Czajkowski, Fountain Valley, Calif., is a wildland firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service. He began his duties in the Big Sur region of the Los Padres National Forest in May.

Adam Czajkowski, Fountain Valley, Calif., is a wildland firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service. He began his duties in the Big Sur region of the Los Padres National Forest in May.

Daniel Liles, Phoenix, Ariz., spent July 2011 to May 2012 in New Delhi as part of the Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship program. He was assigned to a community center in a slum that offered remedial education and service in literacy and human trafficking, areas of particular interest to Daniel. The Rotary Club of Thousand Oaks and Rotary Club of New Delhi sponsor the program. Daniel will work with children with disabilities in Las Vegas with Teach for America for the next two years and eventually would like to work with UNICEF.

Rachel Manzo, T.C. ’11, Santa Barbara, Calif., was hired in July as executive assistant to the Head of School and Director of Advancement at Bishop Garcia Diego High School Inc.

Erik Mathre, Thousand Oaks, Calif., was promoted to AMS (association management software) support representative at Rapattoni Corp. in Simi Valley in June.

Albert Mesa, Camarillo, Calif., moved to the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office in Camarillo as a crime analyst II in June. He previously was a crime analyst with the City of Glendale.

Jeremiah Newell, Portland, Ore., started as a fishery technician III with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in April.

Brendan Norton, Simi Valley, Calif., was hired as a graduate programs specialist in marketing and outreach at CLU in June.

Joelle Radford, M.P.P. A., Topanga, Calif., started as an administrative assistant with Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Los Angeles in March.

Michelle (Hampe) Renteria, Laguna Nigu? Laguna Niguel, Calif., has been an accountant with Patrick D. Felde, CPA, in Lake Forest since January.
Katey Wade, San Francisco, Calif., is a social service advocate with the Bar Association of San Francisco.

Class Representatives
Kim Hamon knutson@callutheran.edu
Jesse Knutson knutson@callutheran.edu
Kristen Luna kluna@callutheran.edu

Jordan Barta ’11 (wearing No. 54) was visited by his parents, Joe and Karen, and sister, Camille, while he was playing professional American football in Finland.

Anthony Aker, MBA, Thousand Oaks, Calif., is vice president and co-founder of Tranzlogic in Westlake Village.

Meghan Allen, Simi Valley, Calif., was hired as branch manager of Wells Fargo in Thousand Oaks in July. She also is enrolled in CLU’s online MBA program.

Victoria Axworthy, Simi Valley, Calif., joined the faculty of Campus Canyon College Preparatory Academy in Moorpark in August as a relief teacher/response to intervention (RTI) teacher.

Jason Brennan, Oxnard, Calif., was hired as director of marketing and events at Crunchies Food Company, LLC, in Westlake Village in May.

Ryan Brown, Ping-jen, Taoyuan, Taiwan, has been an English teacher with Gloria English School since February.

Dorthe June Brandt Clemensen, Esbjerg, Denmark, joined PricewaterhouseCoopers in Copenhagen as an accountant trainee in September.

Paige Devitt, Peoria, Ariz., was accepted into the master’s program at the American Film Institute.

Ying “Katherine” He, MBA, Walnut, Calif., is an executive assistant with Pleaser USA Inc. in Fullerton.

McKenzi Hurick, Esoter, Calif., is in her first year as a second-grade teacher with Exeter Public Schools.

Jeffrey Jewett, MBA, Everett, Wash., was hired as marketing director with eBid Systems in Seattle in August.

Tyler Lee, Woodland Hills, Calif., spent a month last spring hiking the historic El Camino de Santiago trail in Spain. The trail was featured in The Way, a movie starring Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez. Tyler is enrolled in a one-year master’s program in Holocaust studies at Royal Holloway University in London.

Kaitlyn Luebben-Halvorson, T.C. ’12, San Diego, Calif., is in her first year of teaching 11th grade U.S. history at Riverside Preparatory High School in the Oro Grande School District.

Corey Marvin, Newbury Park, Calif., is a healthcare recruiter with Maxim in Oxnard. He joined the company in August.

Michael Tobin, Camarillo, Calif., is an emergency medical technician with American Medical Response in Santa Barbara.

Yeraldy Torres, Port Hueneme, Calif., was hired as a financial analyst with Ipayment Inc. in Westlake Village in May.

Jessica Vasquez, M.S., Santa Clarita, Calif., is an adjunct instructor with Los Angeles Pierce Community College in Woodland Hills.

Kristin White, Playa Del Rey, Calif., joined the marketing department at Dogswell in Los Angeles in July.

Mayan White, Calabasas, Calif., is an editorial assistant at Corwin Press in Thousand Oaks.

Janna Wilhelm, Thousand Oaks, Calif., directs the choral program and teaches concert choir, chorus and music appreciation at Thousand Oaks High School. She also directs the elementary and high school choirs at Ascension Lutheran Church.

Brad Yajima, Ventura, Calif., is a sales and marketing coordinator at Vapur: The Anti-Bottle. He joined the Westlake Village company as an intern in October 2011 and moved into his current position in March.

Class Representatives
Bree Gibson gibson@callutheran.edu
Sierra Ronning scronning@callutheran.edu
Ryan Strand ryantownsend18@gmail.com

Patrick Cudahy, Bremerton, Wash., began a year of service with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission in Malaysia in August.

Rodney Dowell, Sherman Oaks, Calif., is an investigator with Investigative Consultants in Torrance.

Corrin Fox, San Diego, Calif., spent her first summer after graduation as an au pair for relatives in Luxembourg and was able to travel to London, Germany, Paris and Finland.

Breanne Gibson, Simi Valley, Calif., is an administrative assistant in CLU’s Graduate School of Education.

Ricky Lucchesi, Valencia, Spain, is pursuing a master’s in contemporary studio performance at the Berklee School of Music’s new campus in Spain’s third-largest city. Ricky thought he was applying for a master’s program in Valencia, Calif., just “over the hill” from his home in Simi Valley and was surprised to learn he would be studying on the Mediterranean coast. He is one of 20 students from around the world who will spend three semesters studying contemporary studio performance at the new Berklee campus.

Elizabeth Luizzi, Thousand Oaks, Calif., is an editorial assistant with Sage Publications.

Caitlyn Melillo, Lynwood, Wash., began a year of service with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission in the United Kingdom in August.

Van Nguyen, Astoria, N.Y., is a public relations coordinator at STC Associates in New York City.

Tearssa Ramirez, Santa Paula, Calif., joined LinkTech Couplings Inc. in Ventura as a marketing coordinator in May.
HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND 2012

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 18-20, 2013
A Heart for Haiti

My first trip to Haiti was a pretty clear sign of God working in my life. I knew I couldn’t go home and just forget what I’d seen.

By Rebecca Costa Smith ’08

A random act brought me to travel to Haiti in 2007. While visiting a new church one Sunday in Valencia, Calif., I responded to an announcement: everyone who was going to Haiti needed to pay in full by 10 a.m. It was 9:45, and I wasn’t sure where Haiti was or what the conditions were like there. I really knew nothing. But for some reason I had this feeling and felt this calling that I was supposed to go on this trip. So I wrote the check.

The beginning of the trip was really hard, and I wanted to go home… until our visit to the Mother Teresa Orphanage. Not just any orphanage but an orphanage overflowing with very sick infants.

That brief visit changed my heart and my life. It was the silence that got to me. There were 90 kids 2 years old and younger all under one roof, but hardly any sound. The kids were weak and undernourished. Some were HIV positive. Some had been abandoned and left to die by parents who had no hope for them.

I was overcome with sadness for what I saw, and at that point, I knew I could not go home and just forget about it.

My life did not change right away. I went home, finished my last semester at CLU, and then took a job as a personal assistant with a wealthy family. That job showed me what I didn’t want in life. After I quit the job, my best friend, Lindsey Connolly, and I got together to plan our next move. Even though she had never been to Haiti, she'd read a lot about it and wanted to help me to start a school there. Alarmingly high numbers of children in Haiti are not enrolled in school.

Lindsey and I, who'd grown up together in Santa Barbara, had college degrees but no experience whatsoever in business or teaching. To raise funds for our new nonprofit, we held rummage sales at home. When we saw how much stuff we could gather and sell, we decided to have rummage sales every day by opening a thrift store. The idea was to save money to start a school in the city of Mirebalais, about 40 miles northeast of Port-au-Prince.

The Ecole Destined for Grace opened its doors in October 2011, three years after we opened our first thrift shop. The school provides instruction and a hot meal every day for 150 boys and girls from kindergarten through fourth grade. Each child is sponsored by a U.S. family, and money from the stores makes up the difference in the cost of their education.

My husband, Tyron Smith, Lindsey and I all work full time for the nonprofit. We've developed a strong community within our little school, which has a staff of 15 Haitian educators, cooks and groundskeepers. The kids – who come running for our van when we return every four months – are genuinely grateful, and that helps us keep doing what we’re doing.

On the first few trips, it was still hard for Lindsey and me to get images of Haiti’s burdens and afflictions out of our heads. But since then, we’ve both gradually understood that we do not feel sorry for the people there. They really have so much more than we have: not things, but family and support systems. You walk by these little huts in the mud and see a family of eight all hanging out together. They’re not looking at Facebook on their phones or otherwise failing to communicate.

In spite of the language barrier and our different backgrounds, the Haitian staff, students and families have become a great support system for us. We work together, trust one another and have fruitful relationships.

I think that my first trip to Haiti was a pretty clear sign of God working in my life. Going to a Third World country was not something I would have typically done. It did not fit into my lifestyle then, but has now become my life. In the end it made me realize there was a lot more to life than meeting my own needs and doing things for myself.

Rebecca Costa Smith and her partners at Destined for Grace take 15-20 volunteers to the school in Mirebalais, Haiti, three times a year. The next trip is in March. For more about the school and Santa Barbara–area thrift stores, visit www.destinedforgrace.org.

Email ideas and submissions for Vocations to kevinm@callutheran.edu.
February
1 Alumni Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m.
1 Artist in Residence: Ignat Ignatov (through March 2)
8 Organ Recital: Kyle Johnson, 7 p.m.
9 Elmer Ramsey in Concert, 8 p.m.
19 Harold Stoner Clark Lectures, 11:10 a.m./4 p.m.
28 Opera: Dido and Aeneas, 8 p.m. (through March 3)

March
2 Alumni Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m.
3 Symphony Concert, 2 p.m.
7 The Man Show (through April 18)
   Sculptures by Aihua Zhou and Béla Bácsi
   Paintings by Pam Hawkes
8 Recital: Kyle Johnson and Eric Kinsley, 7 p.m.
16 New Music Concert, 8 p.m.
23-28 Choir Tour
   (Details at http://www.callutheran.edu/choirtour)

April
2 Choral Concert, 8 p.m.
12 Grandparents Day
14 Areté Concert, 2 p.m.
20-21 Scandinavian Festival
23 Multimedia Seniors Exhibition (through May 18)
26 Jazz Concert, 8 p.m.
28 Symphony Concert, 2 p.m.
30 Honors Day Convocation

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callutheran.edu/events

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“When I was applying to colleges, I wanted a place that would take both aspects of my life seriously—my faith and my intellect. Cal Lutheran has been that place.”

~ Erin Hedrick ’13, a member of the Invisible Children Club (president), the Honors Program, the Lord of Life student congregation and varsity volleyball

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Friday, Nov. 30, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 1, at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 2, at 4 p.m.

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