How a ‘titan’ of mangoes put college first

BY FRED ALVAREZ

The youngest of eight children in a family that squeezed out a living by picking and packing Ventura County’s citrus and avocados. As a sophomore at Santa Paula High School, he was putting in 20-plus hours a week in Limoneira’s accounting department, and soon after graduation, he worked full-time in accounting and administration on the job. As a third-grader in the schools their children attended. His mother joined various school boards, in spite of limited English skills. And his father often worked maintenance, while his mother worked in Limoneira’s bustling packing house. Neither of his parents had attended statewide education conferences. Nevertheless, Loza said, they were heavily involved in the schools their children attended. His mother joined various school committees, and one year filled a vacant seat on a local school board, despite her limited English skills. And his father often served as the regional representative to statewide migrant education conferences.

Loza enrolled at Cal State Northridge when he graduated high school, but he worried that it would take too long to earn his degree given his full-time job at Limoneira and state budget cuts that limited course offerings. That’s how he landed at Cal Lutheran, enrolling in the Bachelor’s Degree for Professionals program. Designed for working adults, the accelerated program allowed Loza to do coursework in manageable chunks, and earn his degree in much less time.

“It was an excellent program,” said Loza, who earned his degree in business management. “The staff was very good, and they understood that we were adults trying to get back and finish our degrees after spending time in the real world.”

Today, Loza’s world is getting larger all the time. The company gets its mangoes from Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil, and Loza frequently travels the globe to meet with suppliers and customers. Freska also is broadening its horizons, driving into the rapidly expanding avocado sales and distribution business.

From his vantage point, Loza sees a bright future for both products, citing growing demand in an American market that is yet to be fully tapped. Even while he tends to worldwide business ventures, he has sunk deep roots locally and takes every opportunity to give back to a community – whether it’s financing the local Fourth of July firework shows or supporting youth sports programs. “I have been offered jobs elsewhere, but I opted to make it work here,” said the father of three, who met his wife, Veronica, at Limoneira Ranch. “This is the best place to live.”

Chuy Loza’s mother filled a seat on the school board, in spite of limited English, and his father attended statewide education conferences.

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DECEMBER 2015
A tale of two marches

Twice in the late 1960s, classes were cancelled for the day so that hundreds of California Lutheran College students and employees could march down Moorpark Road in demonstrations with distinct messages.

In some retellings of Cal Lutheran’s history, the larger, second march for peace – which was Thousand Oaks’ part of the massive, nationwide Vietnam Moratorium Day protest on Oct. 15, 1969 – has been forgotten or conflated with a memorial march for Martin Luther King Jr. that was held a year and a half earlier, five days after he was murdered.

Now seems like a good time to repair the confusion and to jog decades-old memories, since this issue of CLU Magazine looks at a few connections between education and issue-oriented activism.

April 9, 1968, a day of private and public funeral services for King in Atlanta, was bright and “broiling-hot,” by all accounts, in Thousand Oaks. A racially mixed group of 300 people, mostly CLC students, left campus after lunch for the Conejo Village shopping center at Moorpark and Brazil Street, wearing shorts and carrying anti-racist signs reading, “God is Black too!” , “Not Black, not White, just Man as Man,” and “I Have a Dream” (also “I Had a Dream”). They heard speeches including a eulogy of King by religion professor James Kallas before taking motorized transport back to campus, where meetings continued until 5 p.m., according to the Mountclef Echo.

Fast-forward 18 months to Oct. 15, 1969. The activities began early with sign-painting, the writing of letters to President Nixon and Congress, and a 10 a.m. screening in the gym for 800 viewers of The War Games, a film about an English town in an imagined nuclear holocaust.

After lunch, 1,000 students from CLC, Moorpark College and Thousand Oaks High School formed a line more than half a mile long and marched to the post office to mail the letters composed in the morning. Then they crossed Moorpark Road to the Village Square parking lot to hear speakers, beginning with CLC President Raymond Olson. All evening, after a 7 p.m. film screening, students held an open forum with readings of protest poetry and frank exchanges of views.

A nearly identical sign reading “Blood Isn’t Cheap,” with the same lettering, appears in a Thousand Oaks News-Chronicle photo from Oct. 15, 1969. So there’s little doubt which march is depicted in this file photo. We just don’t know who took it.

DECEMBER 2015

What else can you tell us about this 1969 march? (Write to clumag@callutheran.edu.)
CODY JONES THROWS FOR USA
The Paralympic javelin champion travels to Qatar for his first meet on international turf.

Two-time defending U.S. Paralympic javelin champ Cody Jones, a junior from Simi Valley, grew up playing baseball. Just two years ago, he hadn’t touched a javelin.

A lot has changed in a short time. This October, Jones traveled to Qatar to join Team USA at the Track & Field Paralympic World Championships. The Paralympic javelin champion travels to Qatar for his first meet on international turf.

THROWS FOR USA

CODY JONES

NEW VP: Melissa Maxwell-Doherty, M.Div. ‘97, a longtime campus pastor, is now the first person to serve Cal Lutheran as vice president for mission and identity. She oversees the Office of Campus Ministry, Congregational Relations, the Segerth-Lahm Center for Faith and Culture, and the Office of Seminary Relations; co-leads interfaith efforts; and collaborates closely with others including the administration of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. She will be responsible for communicating the university’s “exemplary work in promoting diversity and inclusivity.” Rabbi Belle Michael, executive director of Stiller club on campus, also attended. This was only the second time that ADL Santa Barbara Tri-Counties has presented the award.

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Marsolian of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. She will be responsible for communicating the principles of Lutheran higher education across the institution. Another alumna, Desta (Ronning ‘96) Goehner, is the new director of Congregational Relations.

FIRST CIO: Zareh Marselian, MBA ‘00, a staff member who helped Cal Lutheran get wired for the Internet in 1994 and launch wireless access in 2002, has been appointed as the university’s first chief information officer after a national search. The structural change reflects the growing importance of campus technology divisions: in addition to keeping the computers running, they are now key players in strategic decisions. This year, Marselian oversaw the completion of a technology-intensive active learning classroom.

President Kimball accepts award for promoting inclusion and interfaith dialogue.

TWO VOTES OF CONFIDENCE: Cal Lutheran earned a 10-year reaccreditation, the longest possible term, from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission. Separately, the Doctor of Clinical Psychology program that was launched in 2010 received its first accreditation from the American Psychological Association (APA) – also for the maximum term, or seven years. The APA designation applies retroactively to cover the first Psy.D. graduates.

ALL ARE WELCOME: President Chris Kimball in October accepted the Torch of Liberty Award from the regional chapter of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) at a gala dinner in Westlake Village. The award recognizes the university’s “exemplary work in promoting diversity and inclusivity.” Rabbi Belle Michael, executive director of Stiller club on campus, also attended. This was only the second time that ADL Santa Barbara Tri-Counties has presented the award.

Management alumni gather in China
In September, President Chris Kimball and the School of Management went to Shanghai, China, to bring alumni together and meet educational counselors and potential new students. Entrepreneur Yifan Tang, MBA ‘14, Zhiling Qian, MBA ‘11, of BNP Paribas and others committed to forming a Cal Lutheran alumni network in China, according to Dean Gerhard Apfelthaler. Most of the 20 alumni at the event were locals, but a few came in from Beijing, Chengdu and Urumqi in the far-West autonomous region of Xinjiang. With Qian, at left in the photo, are Xia Ming of ELS in Shanghai, who helped organize the event, and Shoulin Ran, MBA ‘14.

STILL BREAKING: News from many fronts
In performances Nov. 11-12, student actors assumed the roles of real warriors in Under Fire: Stories of Combat Veterans Across Generations, written and directed by theater arts professor Michael Arndt. Dramatizing the lives of veterans and their loved ones from World War II to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, the work is part of this year’s First-Year Experience for freshmen.

OVERRIDE

Tom Holt ’95, founder and CEO of Ventura-based Urbanle Cafe, with 11 locations, spoke in October at a School of Management event about his drive to become an entrepreneur:

“I wanted to do something that I fully controlled and owned. I wanted to be able to touch the walls. I wanted to be able to design the culture of the restaurant. I wanted to do it all from scratch.”
Ron Poulson
Jan. 6, 1942 – Aug. 30, 2015
Ron Poulson, a former Cal Lutheran regent and longtime supporter of the university, died on Aug. 31 at age 73. A skilled contractor with many years experience in the construction business, Poulson was invaluable to the Board of Regents Construction Oversight Committee. The Ron and Sue Poulson Tennis Center in Cal Lutheran’s athletics complex bears his name.

Poulson served on the Board of Regents from 1998-2007 and on the KCLU Advisory Committee, which sponsored a 25-member Vietnam Vet Honor Guard. He later moved on to the University Advancement Office. For information, contact Lana Clark at 805-493-3163 or lclark@callutheran.edu.

Rudolph Ramseth
The Rev. Rudolph Ramseth, a founding re-gent of California Lutheran College, died on July 23 in Northfield, Minnesota, at age 89. A pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Ramseth was a graduate of St. Olaf College and Luther Seminary. He began his ministry as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy and served congregations in Long Island, New York, and Van Nuys and Sacramento, California. He held significant leadership positions in the larger church, including executive vice president of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church.

Gerald Swanson
The Rev. Gerald Swanson, who taught and provided spiritual guidance to Cal Lutheran students for three decades, died at his home in Thousand Oaks on July 4 at the age of 77. Swanson became Cal Lutheran’s first full-time campus pastor in 1969. He left that role in 1986 and began splitting his time between pastoring churches in Ohio and Michigan before he and his wife, Cal Lutheran English professor emerita Jan Bowman, came to Thousand Oaks in 1999 and was granted emeritus status. He retired in 1999 and was awarded emeritus status.

A native of Illinois, Swanson earned his bachelor’s degree in history from Augustana College. He earned a master’s degree in divinity at the Augustana Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1963. He served as pastor of churches in Ohio and Michigan before he and his wife, Cal Lutheran English professor emerita Jan Bowman, came to Thousand Oaks with their three young children.

The couple remained active at Cal Lutheran following retirement. In 2003, they were honored with the Christus Award for strengthening the bridge between the Church and the university. In 2007, they were named honor-ary alumni.

In the larger community, Swanson volunteered for the Holden Village Lutheran retreat center, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Conejo Valley Hospice and the Southeastern Ventura County Drug Abuse Project. He also served as Chair of the Conejo Valley Refugee Committee, which sponsored a 25-member Vietnamese family and helped them settle in the Conejo Valley in the 1970s.

Swanson is survived by his brother Kent; daughter Mindy Swanson and husband Peter Brownell; sons Kristofer ’99, M.A. ’96, and wife Stacia (Renu ’93), and Karl ’91 and wife Llisie (Vang ’91, T.C. ’96); and seven grandchildren.

When Russ and his wife, Linda, a retired corporate attorney, began to focus on their estate plan, they listed education as one of their top priorities. “We view education as the springboard for a successful career,” Russ said. “Cal Lutheran is featured importantly in our plan.”

The couple identified the tax efficiency of naming Cal Lutheran, a non-profit entity, as a fixed percentage contingent beneficiary of their traditional IRA assets. They also have begun using a Donor-Advised Charitable Account as the vehicle to make regular contributions to the university.

“I owe a debt to Cal Lutheran for being there for me at a critical time in my life. Fortunately, my life and career turned out well. We are delighted that we are in a position to repay that kindness and benefit.”

In Memoriam

Ron Poulson

Rudolph Ramseth

Gerald Swanson

Like too many kids after high school, Russell “Russ” Young lost his way in terms of education and purpose in life. Then, having come to the realization that he had “totally wasted” nearly three years, in 1968, Russ applied to Cal Lutheran. The admission office declined his application, but Russ was able to convince President Ray Olson that he was finally ready to buckle down and apply himself.

“At my time of greatest need, Cal Lutheran was there for me,” Russ said. “I found the intimate environment at Cal Lutheran to be highly nourishing for my development. In particular, Dr. Mark Mathews, then the head of the Business and Economics Department, acted in a mentor role...and he helped me to understand the career options available to me.”

Discover how you can help the university live out its mission by including Cal Lutheran in your estate plan. Call (805) 493-3165 or visit clugift.org for more information.

After graduating in 1971 with a degree in economics, Russ was the first Cal Lutheran alumnus to be admitted to the MBA program at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School. Following five years of career accomplishments, Russ was hired into the Treasury Department at ARCO, then the largest company in Los Angeles. He advanced in sequential financial management positions and in 1988 was picked to be on-point for ARCO’s $1.2 billion Initial Public Offering (IPO) of its chemical business. Russ spent nine years in the executive management of Lyondell Chemical, a Fortune 500 company, retiring as CFO & SVP at age 50.

Following retirement, Russ and Linda have focused on their philanthropic interests, including gifted endowed scholarships and athletics facilities on north campus. He served on the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and was chair of the Conejo Valley Refugee Committee, which sponsored a 25-member Viet-

Russell “Russ” Young

In particular, Dr. Mark Mathews, then the head of the Business and Economics Department, acted in a mentor role...and he helped me to understand the career options available to me.”
It is as if he is illustrating a strange adult storybook, but no one has written the literature.

the Cal Lutheran Class of 2014 valedictorian, now 24, had no formal art training. He never considered the life of a working artist until he took an art history class his final semester at the community college.

“That’s what turned me to the dark side of art,” Muliadi said, chuckling and pressing his index finger to his lips.

From childhood, he loved the world of imagination. The homeschooled Thousand Oaks native searched for adventure to counter living in “a nice, quiet town.”

“Riding in the back seat, I would look at the other cars and thought what it would be like if they were picked up and moved elsewhere. What if you could freeze time and explore it?” Muliadi said.

His painting Playing on the 405 (above) offers an imaginative answer to that question. He scouted programs at four-year universities and selected Cal Lutheran because of its atelier approach, where each professor has a studio and creates alongside students.

Except, the energetic Muliadi doesn’t always work alongside his instructors, Pearce said.

“Heard and I will be in the studio painting, and there he will be walking in all sorts of directions.”

Muliadi admits strolling or pacing helps him break through creative roadblocks.

The walks must work. Pearce has seen few students develop a unique style as quickly as Muliadi has.

“It is as if he is illustrating a strange adult storybook, but no one has written the literature,” Pearce said.

Muliadi clearly has an artist’s eye, said Sam Thomas, an associate professor of religion and the model for a gentle giant in another of Muliadi’s works.

“He has discovered a way to express the things he perceives about the world and insights that don’t come out of language,” Thomas said.

The artist spent much of his summer this year at the painting studio in K Building, preparing for his show while working as Pearce’s assistant and helping out in his family’s design business.

Now he plans to pursue a master’s degree and become an art instructor. He hopes visitors to his Kwan Fong exhibit take away the life-affirming power of imagination.

“There is a lot of enchantment to be found in every moment we are alive,” he said.

Colleen Cason is an award-winning journalist and longtime columnist for the Ventura County Star. A Thousand Oaks resident, she has served as advisor to The Echo student newspaper and as a communications specialist for nonprofit organizations.
What do the textbooks that you studied teach kids in the Dominican Republic about race?

Several things. One is that blackness as a physical trait is attached to less desirable social status. In one of the textbook activities, second-graders are looking at occupations, different things you can do for a living. In the illustrations, people who are doing manual labor and jobs with less earning potential are of darker complexion. The lighter the complexion of the person, the more professional the occupations become.

On the white end of the continuum is a white male with yellow-blond hair and a cap and gown holding a briefcase. You’re sort of left with the question, What job is that? But what you do get is a sense of success and prosperity and good education. The actual occupation, which was supposed to be the point, is less important.

What about the woman with the shoe, and the hairdresser? I like those examples. This is the standard of female beauty that you need to reflect to be trusted as a shoe saleswoman or a hair stylist. Straight hair and European traits. You wouldn’t necessarily trust a hair stylist with braids, because, What does she know?

Another idea you see reflected in textbooks is that blackness can be bred out of the family, through the process of “whitening,” or blanco en Spanish. So in images of family units, the children and the grandchildren express fewer and fewer African-like characteristics than the generations before.

This idea is very prevalent, that intermarriage is a way of “improving” the next generation. It’s not a hush-hush conversation.

This idea is very prevalent, that intermarriage is a way of “improving” the next generation. It’s not a hush-hush conversation.

After changes to Dominican law and a court ruling revoking citizenship by right of birth, people of Haitian descent face an uncertain future in the Dominican Republic.

At the core of the citizenship crisis are ideas about race and Dominican national identity that get reinforced in schools, explains Sheridan Wigginton, chair of Cal Lutheran’s Department of Languages and Cultures.

Since 2000, Wigginton has made seven trips to Santo Domingo, the Dominican capital. In her doctoral dissertation, the professor of Spanish used school textbooks as a lens for understanding cultural attitudes.

Q & A

Brian Stethem ’84

Since 2000, Wigginton has made seven trips to Santo Domingo, the Dominican capital. In her doctoral dissertation, the professor of Spanish used school textbooks as a lens for understanding cultural attitudes.
compared to the Spanish heritage. It was important that they had some way to explain why they didn’t look Spanish and also were not necessarily attached to Africa. Looking like Africans means looking like Haitians. So we have to find a middle ground.

Indio creates a wonderful out, used in this politically motivated way. It’s taken hold, and right now it’s part of the ethnic culture of the country. It really does provide that safe space of, why we’re not Spanish, why we’re not Haitian.

Is it possible to say you’re Dominican and black? Negro (black) as a color term does exist, but it’s used in a very limited way. Typically, it’s limited to people from Africa or people of Haitian descent in a derogatory sense. Of the various terms that are used to describe combinations of skin color, nose shape, lip shape, hair texture, eye color, freckles — no matter what that combination may be, if you are a Dominican citizen, then you are not negro.

What’s changed for those of Haitian descent? People who have lived as completely documented Dominican citizens – and rightfully so, based on the constitution – are now having their citizenship revoked. Even for those who had paperwork, the government said that citizenship was going to be invalidated retroactively.

So these are people who, because they have Haitian ancestors or even just look Haitian to someone, could end up stateless? They will be in effect stateless. They don’t necessarily have any well-developed connections in Haiti or any other country because they haven’t lived there.

When you first went to the Dominican Republic in 2000, you couldn’t have foreseen tensions at this level. I wonder, does it feel to you like the current government is enacting what its officials learned in elementary school? What I found interesting about the school curriculum was that color and appearance played such an important role. It’s seen as important in the second grade for such young children to start framing the parameters of Dominican identity and to start practicing categorizing based on physical appearance.

I don’t think you can say the border officials are there with the textbooks matching people up and putting them on this bus or that bus. But the textbooks provide insight into a cultural perspective that gets manifested in other ways. And one way that Us-versus-Them mindset does manifest itself is in the new legislation about citizenship. For all practical purposes, the people who are going to be affected by this are the less educated, darker complexioned, poorer Dominicans of Haitian descent.

Coming from the U.S., what did you think of the racial dynamics you found there? It didn’t take long for me to see the similarities. The labels were different. The groups in competition were different. But the foundations for tensions – immigration status, physical appearance, education levels, socioeconomic status – all that’s the same. It felt familiar.

Tell me about the host family you lived with. How did they understand their own race? It was a family that in the U.S. would be a black family. They were very tied to their identity of moreno (brown), so they were long families moreno, self-identified.

The summer before I got there, they had hosted another black, female student who had her hair in braids. The host mother told me how glad she was I didn’t have trenzas, or braids. She’d told the other girl she was going to take her to have her hair done, because you can’t walk around looking like one of those Haitians.

It was a clear message: “As a family living in this neighborhood, we also have a reputation to maintain. We can’t have people thinking that Haitians are coming in and out of our house, and wander through the neighborhood to get to our house.”

Did they want you to go to the hairdresser, too? Yes, oh yes. I had my hair straightened one time to be the nice guest. That lasted maybe a week. After that, I just washed it and started over.

Expecting Anything, Expecting More When You’re Expecting

Complications in childbirth can lead to additional problems, including some that women should not have to live with. By understanding the issue from all sides, researchers at Cal Lutheran and Stanford University are working to improve health outcomes for mothers.

TEXT BY KEVIN MATTHEWS // ILLUSTRATIONS BY VIVIAN SHIH
In every peaceful-looking city and town, a minority of new mothers is fighting desperate struggles.

“Before this project, you could hear little details. But there’s more behind closed doors,” she said. “People who’ve already had kids might talk about it with each other… Knowing that I haven’t gone through any of it, they might not be comfortable talking to me about it. Which I understand.”

In every peaceful-looking city and town, Conner realized, a minority of new mothers is fighting desperate struggles. One woman has a seizure while driving herself and her baby to the hospital. Another suffers postpartum flashbacks and refuses to visit a hospital. Their testimony, on paper, makes them sound as though their health would also need to be cared for.”

Regardless of educational level, women report that they did not see the complications coming. They didn’t know they could have long-term bladder problems, chronic sexual dysfunction, increased risk for heart disease, or infertility. No one had told them. In many cases, no one advised them to seek treatment where appropriate. Problems that, as a rule, no one’s expecting.

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Doctors also are harmed by an almost universal silence about what can go wrong in childbirth. In delivery and emergency rooms, medical professionals work under high pressure and sometimes extreme uncertainty, observe Banker, who pays special attention in interviews to how obstetricians and other nurses navigate crisis situations.

“They’re really just supposed to be able to provide that medical care and know exactly what to do every second … and keep people alive under all circumstances,” she said. “Once medical training is complete and you’re the expert, it’s hard to have frank conversations, even with colleagues, about multiple ways to handle crises. Banker thinks matters might improve “if it became more standard for doctors to be able to debrief after serious or complicated situations, if it became common for them to acknowledge things that maybe they would have wanted to do differently.”

To start more conversations, the researchers are sharing insights from the study. Already, their work has informed The National Partnership for Maternal Safety, an initiative from the Council on Patient Safety in Women’s Health Care that reaches out to every birthing hospital in the country.

To fill holes in popular guidebooks on pregnancy, the team also plans to communicate directly with women and people in supportive roles, sharing research findings with organizations like Lamaze International and on “mommy” blogs. To outreach to women changes some of them look at a pregnancy or at the whole question of having children, says Conner, that’s not necessarily a bad thing.

“Having kids in the future is something that I have considered, and that hasn’t changed at all,” she said. “I just know that I will be much more informed than the average woman.”

Finding out what to look for in health care professionals and hospitals and knowing “how to build a support system of family and friends” are major advantages, says Conner. “I just know that I will be much more informed than the average woman.”

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Bottom line: being as prepared as possible is a different proposition from knowing what to expect.
In a burst of student activism 30 years ago, Cal Lutheran sold off the last of its stock in companies doing business in apartheid-era South Africa, and members of the student congregation joined an underground struggle to protect Central American refugees. What exactly got these Samaritans off their donkeys?

BY KEVIN MATTHEWS
Two pithy pieces of writing come to mind for Ron Dwyer-Voss (Voss ’87) whenever he thinks of the Rev. Swanson, or Pastor Gerry, who died this July (see Page 8). One of these, a quote from the Catholic priest and author Andrew Greeley, hung in a frame on Pastor Gerry’s office wall, illustrated with the figure of a dancing Jesus. It read, “Jesus and his trouble-making go merrily on.”

The other was a letter to the editor that he recalls seeing in The Echo, containing a three-point “exegesis” of Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan. When CLU Magazine was not able to locate the letter in paper and online archives, the Rev. Lapp produced a copy of it that he’d preserved for 30 years in scotch tape.

Swanson wrote:

1. The Good Samaritan went for a ride on a donkey.
2. The Good Samaritan got off his ass and did something.
3. When the Good Samaritan got off his ass and did something, he brought a similar message to the United States on a speaking tour in May 1985, when he was still the most recent Nobel Peace Laureate. On stops at UC campuses, he urged students to keep demanding that their university system divest billions of dollars of stock in companies operating in the apartheid state.

Tutu told a UCLA crowd, “Don’t let anyone delude you into believing that what you do today is of little moment. Don’t let them say to you, and then believe it, that it’s merely a matter that doesn’t even embarrass the South African government. I want you to know that you are giving very considerable encouragement to the victims of one of the most vicious systems the world has ever known.”

It so happened that South African Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu brought a similar message to the United States on a speaking tour in May 1985, when he was still the most recent Nobel Peace Laureate. On stops at UC campuses, he urged students to keep demanding that their university system divest billions of dollars of stock in companies operating in the apartheid state.

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Service projects in the 1980s included the annual Conejo Valley Job Corps Walk, in which students raised money for the cause of world hunger.

Swanson invited Lapp and Dwyer-Voss to come with him to witness Tutu’s forceful oratory in person at UC Santa Barbara. On the car trip back to Thousand Oaks, Dwyer-Voss said, the two young men had questions. Most involved how to dismount a donkey.

Skills were needed for the students to turn conviction into action, and not only moral encouragement. They had religion professor Byron Swanson to walk them through complex ethical questions. Sociologist Pam Jolicœur stood out for her ability to impart critical thinking skills. From business professor James Esmay, who had grown concerned about racism in South Africa in the late ’70s while teaching in Botswana and Swaziland, Dwyer-Voss learned how to read the business press and company financial filings.

What Pastor Gerry added to this, above all, was “space” for calmly reaching conclusions, according to Simpson.

“He had a way of being engaged and very interested, but also I never felt pressure or judgment or a certain direction,” she said. “I think that quality, at least in my experience of life, is really rare.”

At a weekly series of “Christian conversations” and less formal meetings, students discussed the legacy of U.S. slavery and Americans’ obligations to South Africans. They also talked strategy: What were the implications of a year-old boycott of the country’s white-owned businesses? How much would the students’ cause be aided by official support for divestment from the American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America?

Soon, Dwyer-Voss and others were sitting in front of the Caf at lunchtime to tell classmates about Soweto shantytowns and to collect signatures on a petition. In 1985, you could speak directly with nearly every undergrad that way.

According to the Los Angeles Times, about 500 students had signed the petition by December, when Dwyer-Voss and Lapp presented their case to the Board of Regents, an encounter facilitated by CLU President Jerry Miller. Because the proposal met with resistance, the campaign leaders were surprised that evening to receive a phone call from Miller informing them that their motion for divestment had carried. Two months later the offending investments were purged, keeping up the momentum for action at colleges large and small.

Not content with that success, members of the student congregation turned to the question of sanctuary for refugees from civil wars in El Salvador and Guatemala. About 100 U.S. churches and a few cities had declared themselves in the support of the movement, arguing that the U.S. government was downplaying a refugee crisis for political reasons. “These people were showing up on the doorstep of our country just brutalized,” said Lapp. “We had of course the very famous story of Archbishop Oscar Romero being assassinated – while giving Communion I mean, that really hit home for us. And then we had our own Lutheran bishop in El Salvador abducted and tortured. And these were things the religious community was paying close attention to.”

At the height of a campaign lasting close to two years, the students were providing about $40 a month toward rent and expenses for between nine and four people, according to a November 1987 article by Simpson, who was then the ASCLU president. Lapp briefly met the first family from El Salvador, and Dwyer-Voss recalls raising funds by asking classmates for donations in the amount of one slice of pizza money once a month. The safe house was a collaborative venture, so students met with peers from Pomona, Pitzer and Scripps colleges, Claremont School of Theology, UCLA, UC Riverside, UCSB and USC.

Trouble-making by Pastor Gerry’s charges has never ceased, and they continue to draw lessons and strength from their Cal Lutheran years. In 1994, Dwyer-Voss and Lapp separately have organized communities on issues such as affordable housing, and Simpson has devoted her career to challenging institutions of higher education on social justice issues.

“I’m realistic. I don’t know if our efforts made any difference,” Simpson said. “But it was just an affirmation that how we live at Cal Lutheran does matter for other people. We live in a world where there are these connections, and we do have obligations to each other to work at justice and more equitable societies and more equitable communities.”

“At this very small university, we picked up these questions in a very serious way. I think that’s significant.”
Thank you to our Cal Lutheran alumni, students, family members, faculty and friends for making this year’s Homecoming & Family Weekend another memorable event. From the Alumni & Friends Golf Classic to the 4th Annual Loop da Lu 5k Family Run/Walk, to the Family Festival and Carnival, purple-and-gold pride was sprinkled throughout campus! #CLUAlumni

“As I stood under the pepper trees in Kingsmen Park, observing the smiling faces of our Cal Lutheran family, I was reminded how this place has empowered so many of us to do great things in the world, and will continue to do so for many more years to come.”

Erin (Rivers ’97) Rulon, MBA ’06
Executive Committee President, Alumni Board of Directors

SAVE THE DATE 2016 Homecoming & Family Weekend
Oct. 28-30, 2016
The ’77ers: They run things

All three of them are from Southern California, all graduated in the same Cal Lutheran class, all have written the university into their wills, and now, all are at the helm of major university functions and schools. You believe alumni remain involved at Cal Lutheran. Look who makes up the university administration.

“It’s not them,” says Brian Stein-Webber ’77, M.Div. ’82. “It’s us.” Stein-Webber left a photo taken outside of the Pearson Library, the interim chief administrative officer for Berkeley-based Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, the newest Cal Lutheran graduate school. The Rev. Melissa Maxwell-Doherty ’77, M.Div. ’82, who has been a co-campus pastor since 2000 and served in other university leadership roles, was promoted this fall to the newly created position of vice president for mission and identity (see Page 6). And Steve Wheatly ’77, J.D., who started working for the alma mater in 1992, was named vice president for university advancement 12 years ago.

“Alumni have the ability to be the most influential force in the future of this university,” said Wheatly, whose service to Cal Lutheran is “the most fulfilling work that I’ve done in my life.”

TAKE CAL LUTHERAN WITH YOU

Rosalie (Sakumto) ’64, MFA ’90i Sommer, Camarillo, Calif., is pictured on Lake Titicaca, Peru, en route to the floating islands of Uros. Her April itinerary included Lima, Cusco, Paracas, and Machu Picchu.

Follow the Flag in Three Easy Steps
1. Request your flag from alumna@CalLutheran.edu
2. Pose with your flag
3. Share your picture online via Facebook or CalLutheran.edu/alumni

WHERE WILL YOU TAKE US THIS SUMMER?

#clualumni

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Cal Lutheran’s growth continued in 2014-2015 with the opening of Ulman Commons and the new Westlake Center. Our commitment to students and rigorous academics was affirmed with renewal of our regional accreditation with the WASC Senior College and University Commission for 10 years. What’s more, the Doctor of Clinical Psychology program also earned accreditation from the American Psychological Association.

These milestones, and many more accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff, are highlighted in the 2014-2015 Annual Report, now available online. I encourage you to review it and join us in celebrating our progress as we live out the Cal Lutheran mission to educate leaders for a global society.

Chris Kimball
President

For more details on our year, as well as the Honor Roll of Donors, please visit CalLutheran.edu/annualreport.
Class Notes

"I would love for them to go to a small school like Cal Lutheran. I would love to see them carry on that tradition."

— Tami (Clow ’96) Ditlefsen

When Homecoming weekend rolls around, there is one Cal Lutheran family that could well charter its own bus to travel to campus.

Denny Clow ’65 was the first of his family to graduate from Cal Lutheran, where he met and married classmate Cherri Ross. They were followed by Denny’s brother Lance ’69 and Lance’s daughter Tami (Clow ’96) Ditlefsen and Kelly (Clow ’99) King.

The family connections don’t stop there—Tami married classmate Eddie (Ed) Ditlefsen ’96, the son of Cal Lutheran alumni Beth (Windress ’69) and Gary ’69 Ditlefsen. And it was Lance’s sister-in-law, Judy Kinsman Kauffman, who introduced him to his wife, DeeDee.

Given the family tradition, and a lot of encouragement from their dad, Tami and Kelly grew up with Cal Lutheran and always knew they wanted to attend the university.

“When we visited family in California, we always visited campus and get our T-shirts,” Tami said. “As an 18-year-old (student), I appreciated living on campus. Being in a smaller environment gave me the support I needed to excel, not only in academics, but to grow in other areas of my life. In general, I felt well and I felt I had people I could talk to.”

After graduation, Tami earned her teaching credential and now teaches kindergarten in Twin Falls, Idaho. She and Ed are the parents of two young daughters.

“I would love for them to go to a small school like Cal Lutheran,” said Tami. “I would love to see them carry on that tradition.”

As a former city councilman and mayor of Twin Falls, Lance is enjoying his second term as a representative in the State Legislature. An economics major at Cal Lutheran, Lance takes pride in the fact that he worked my way through college in four years with scholarships, work-study, student loans and part-time jobs.”

Do you have a son or daughter preparing for college?

Contact the Admission Office for a special campus tour at (805) 493-1185 (undergraduate), (805) 493-1127 (graduate) or Cal Lutheran.edu/admission.
Class Notes

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Thank you, 41 years’ worth

When Dennis Bryant, H’11, started working at Cal Lutheran in 1974, the campus’s indoor venues consisted of the Old Gym, Nygren 1, the SUB and the Little Theatre, and the total number of campus events hovered around 300. Bryant entered as director of events in September, having watched the number of events rise to more than 3,000 annually. During nearly four decades of overseeing setup and takedown for these events, he served as event coordinator and mentor to well over 1,000 student workers. The Alumni Board of Directors named him an honorary alumnus in 2021.

Choir Tour

Sixteen Cal Lutheran alumni and family members accompanied the CLU Choir on a historic musical journey in May to the places where Johann Sebastian Bach lived, performed and composed some of the greatest music of all time. The group also visited significant places in the life of Martin Luther. Along the way, quaint villages, churches and castles provided amazing backdrops and stages for the choir’s performances.

ABOVE: Alumni and family members visit Eisleben, the hometown of Luther. Along the way, quaint villages, churches and castles provided amazing backdrops and stages for the choir’s performances.

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Say hello to the new Cal Lutheran Alumni Spirit Box!

It’s all you need to host a great alumni happy hour, picnic, sports party or any other event that highlights your Cal Lu spirit.

From planning tips and invitations to Cal Lutheran Alumni merchandise, you’ll have everything you need to enjoy reconnecting with fellow alumni and friends.

Request Your Spirit Box Today
Contact alumni@CalLutheran.edu or visit CalLutheran.edu/spiritbox

MARRIAGES
1 Karen Kasper ’97 and Paolo Sasso were married July 18, 2015. (Pages Photography)
2 Mikaela Haley ’09, MBA ’11, and Matthew Collerd were married May 1, 2015. (Laura Christin Photography)
3 Ariel Collins ’08 and Doug Coates were married at Maravilla Gardens in Camarillo, California, on June 5, 2015. (Rich Lander, Chard Photo)
4 Lin Howe ’65 and Donna Pellicer were married April 18, 2015, at the Ventura Harbor.
5 Karen Kasper ’97 and Paolo Sasso were married July 18, 2015. (Pages Photography)
6 Mikaela Haley ’09, MBA ’11, and Matthew Collerd were married May 1, 2015. (Laura Christin Photography)
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8 Lin Howe ’65 and Donna Pellicer were married April 18, 2015, at the Ventura Harbor.

BIRTHS
1 Lillian Margaret Schreck, born on May 24, 2015, is held by mom Monica Schallert ’06 just before her first dip in the family pool.
2 Reid, Addison and Kirsten Madsen ’06 McCormick attend a family wedding in June. Addison was born on Jan. 27, 2015.
3 The Coltin family, Allison Bowen ’06 Brian ’07 and Emma Corinne, 2½, welcomed Hailey Elizabeth on May 22, 2015.

MARRIAGES
Kristen Anderson ’08 and Dan Loghry ’08 on May 9, 2015.
Christa Carlson ’09 and Andrew Walker ’10 on April 11, 2015.
Michelle Coulter-Nava ’13 and Nick Kennedy on June 6, 2015.
Emily Dale ’10, T.C. ’11, and Adam Erickson ’09, M.Ed. ’11, on June 27, 2015.
Hailey Elizabeth Collin on May 22 (photo 7 at left).
Sawyer August Dobrowolski on Aug. 20, 2015, to Gretchen (Handler ’09) and Kamil Dobrowolski.
Eliza Katherine Kern on Feb. 16, 2015, to Natalie and Kevin ’90 Kern.
Addison Marie McCormick on Jan. 27 (photo 6 at left).
Victoria Alessandra Novoa on July 4, 2014, to Diane Scofield ’99 and Ramon Novoa.
Lillian Margaret Schreck on May 24 (photo 5 at left).
Katherine M. Brown ’72 on July 6, 2015.
Helene Heinz, T.C. ’00 and ’02, on July 6, 2015.
Mary Harris ’78 Lanning, T.C. ’84, on Aug. 9, 2015.
Orlando Lee, M.A. ’75, on Aug. 19, 2014.
Nancy (Hayworth ’69) Lone Tollefson on Nov. 11, 2014.

DEATHS
Sandra (Hallamore ’65) Anderson on July 21, 2015.
Lynne Marie Barre, T.C. ’84, on July 21, 2015.
Mary (Harris ’78) Lanning, T.C. ’84, on Aug. 9, 2015.
Nancy (Hayworth ’69) Lone Tollefson on Nov. 11, 2014.
Go discover, young woman

The three big scientific ideas I encountered in college all came together this year. I want the next generation’s voyages to go even deeper.

BY MELISSA BAFFA ’95

Two hundred thirty miles northeast of the Galápagos Islands on the Exploration Vessel Nautilus, Robert Ballard, the famed marine explorer and our team leader, was bouncing and squirming like a kid in his last few miles on the way to Disneyland. It was the 72-year-old’s first time back to the hydrothermal vents he had discovered on the ocean floor nearly 40 years earlier.

We had arrived at a spot 8,000 feet over the vents, and team members went about their work with an eager efficiency. The navigator sent precise, clipped requests to the bridge, adjusting the massive ship mere feet at a time. Working in tandem, pilots of the remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) performed a dance of delicate maneuvers, some of it from muscle memory and some of it in response to feedback from sonar, high-definition video and sensors aboard the ROVs diving beneath us.

Two seats to the left in the ship’s nerve center, or control van, I manned the communications station, fielding questions that came in via Internet as people in homes, schools and workplaces around the world participated in this historic moment live.

I was able to join the extraordinary expedition because, this year, I am serving as a science communication fellow with the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET). As a fellow, I journeyed aboard the Nautilus from Panama to the Galápagos, participating in global outreach and education during dives and special live interactions. My stay on the ship lasted for a little over three weeks in May and June.
dependent upon the sun in some way. But this ecosystem formaldehyde had been brought along on the voyage. include a biologist. When live specimens were collected, they scalding hot, the surrounding water is very cold, just above the chemical-laden slurry rising from the vent openings is der thousands of pounds per square inch of pressure. While sometimes huge creatures that called the vents home. his fellow explorers made an even greater and still more deep-sea hot spring. Bearing a toxic mix of hydrogen sulfide, magma under the surface. Along the way, the student at Cal Lutheran. Called hydrothermal one that I first learned about as a biology discovery of hydrothermal vents and of the unique organisms of plate tectonics and how its forces shape our planet; and the subsequent views on evolution and living things; the theory of plate tectonics and how its forces shape our planet; and the discovery of hydrothermal vents and of the unique organisms that call this extreme environment home. valleys of the oceans, declining marine biodiversity and the exploita- tions like those offered by OET. I was impressed by the young girls serving as interns in the ROV engineering, navigator and video engineering positions. Inspiring the next generation and making fundamental discoveries, though these are wonderful goals, form only part of the rationale for mapping and exploring the oceans in the kind of detail that we did this summer aboard the Nautilus. For example, many of the valuable mineral deposits mined on land today, such as copper, iron and zinc, are believed to have been laid down in the ocean floor by hydrothermal vents mil- lions of years ago. Understanding these processes could help us to pinpoint deposits of vital resources. As a biologist with strong conservationist tendencies, I see other benefits to exploring. I am concerned about the health of the oceans, declining marine biodiversity and the exploita-

Vocations

Robert Ballard, right, with crew members in the nerve center of the E/V Nautilus. Photos by Melissa Baffa ’95.

Most of our planet has never been seen by human eyes.

tapped into something else: a process called chemosynthesis, in which chemicals emanating from the vents are used by bacteria, both in the water and inside the bodies of other organisms, to provide the energy necessary for life. The discovery of this ecosystem set off revolutions in thought about the variety and the origin of life on our planet, and about the search for extraterrestrial life. Put simply, it was a game-changer.

Now that I am back home from my journey of discovery, I’m working to inspire young people, especially girls, to pursue careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), because this is a crucial need for our economy and future workforce. I continue my teaching and outreach for OET mainly through my regular job with the Girl Scouts.

In 2014, women made up 47 percent of the U.S. workforce, but only 27 percent of the workforce in science and engineering. When women do pursue careers in science-related fields, we tend to concentrate on the biological and medical sciences, forgoing studies in computer and mathematical sciences and engineering. This imbalance is more dramatic for underrep- resented minority women, who earn only three percent of bachelor’s degrees in engineering, five percent of bachelor’s in computer science, and six percent of bachelor’s in the physical sciences.

To visualize themselves in STEM careers, girls must be offered educational paths and must also see women in these roles serving as mentors and models. In addition to utilizing formal and informal educators, such as me, to help in this regard, girls need more internship and research opportuni- ties like those offered by OET. I was impressed by the young women serving as interns in the ROV engineering, navigator and video engineering positions. As a biologist with strong conservationist tendencies, I see other benefits to exploring. I am concerned about the health of the oceans, declining marine biodiversity and the exploita-

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PARENTS: If this magazine is addressed to a daughter or son who has established a new address, please notify us at clumag@callutheran.edu or 805-493-3151. Thank you!

The PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Bring the very best students to Cal Lutheran by supporting a Presidential Scholarship. These scholarships are reserved for exceptional students who have achieved academic excellence and are poised to be university leaders. Recipients may be eligible to receive up to the full cost of tuition for four years, putting a Cal Lutheran education within reach for those who might otherwise not attend.

When you support the Presidential Scholarship fund, you fuel the passions of our future leaders, innovators, and educators by giving them the opportunity to excel at Cal Lutheran.

Salvador Brito ’16
Biochemistry
“Being a Presidential Scholar is not only an honor but also a reminder of what I have achieved and what I plan to achieve. While the scholarship itself gives me pride, I believe that it most importantly gives me the key to open doors that otherwise would have remained locked.”

Amanda Hancer ’17
Theology
“Through the generous Presidential Scholarship, my dream of attending Cal Lutheran became a reality. I am incredibly proud to be a Regal, and I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend Cal Lutheran.”

Joseph Enders ’17
Biology
“Due to this scholarship, I am able to make academics my number one priority. I also still dedicate time to JV soccer, several on-campus clubs, and immerse myself in the entire university experience by working with faculty during the past two summers conducting hands-on organic chemistry research. If it were not for the generosity of donors, I would not be able to attend Cal Lutheran.”

By supporting Cal Lutheran’s Presidential Scholarship, you can help provide access to higher education to countless students now and in the future. Learn more at (805) 493-3158 or CalLutheran.edu/giving.

Chris Kimball
President