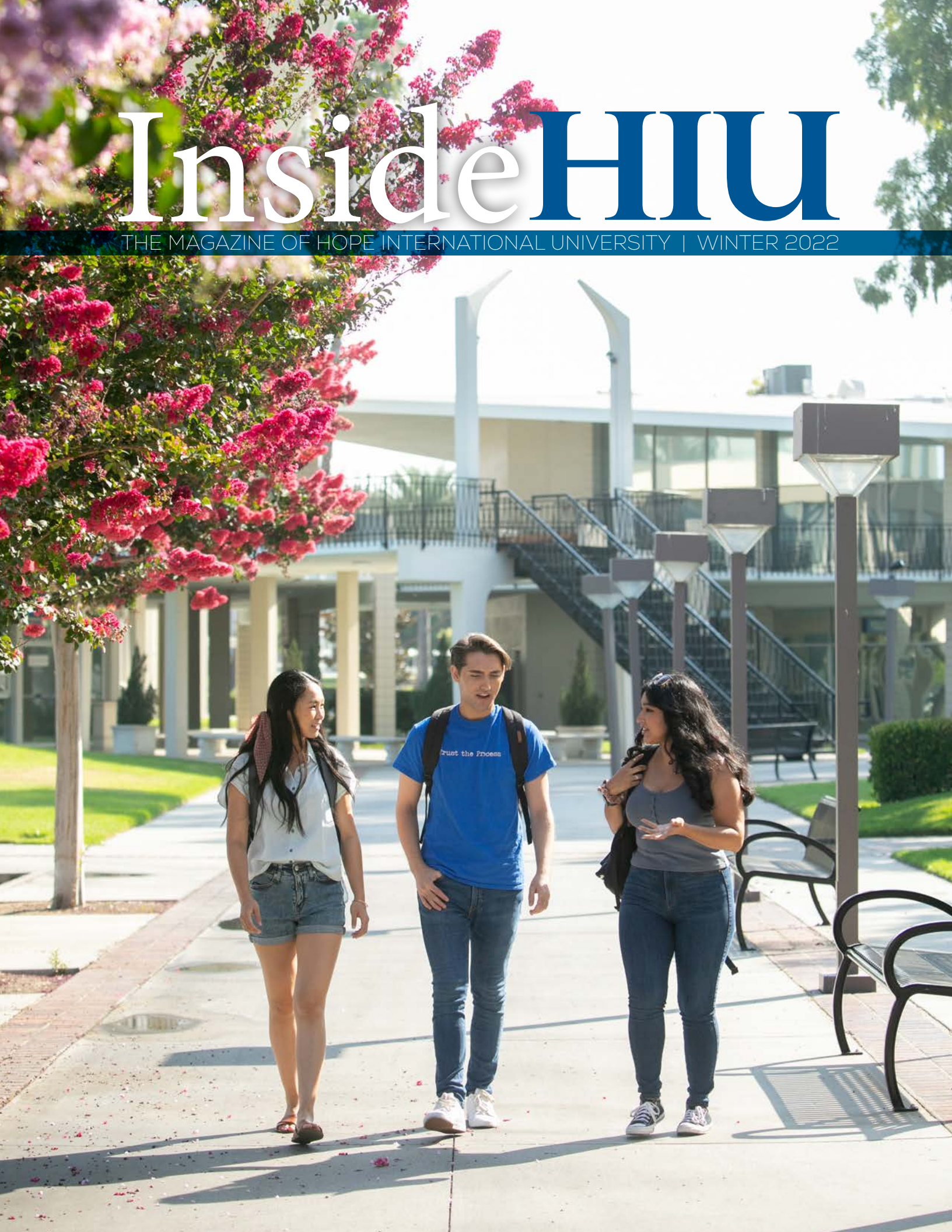
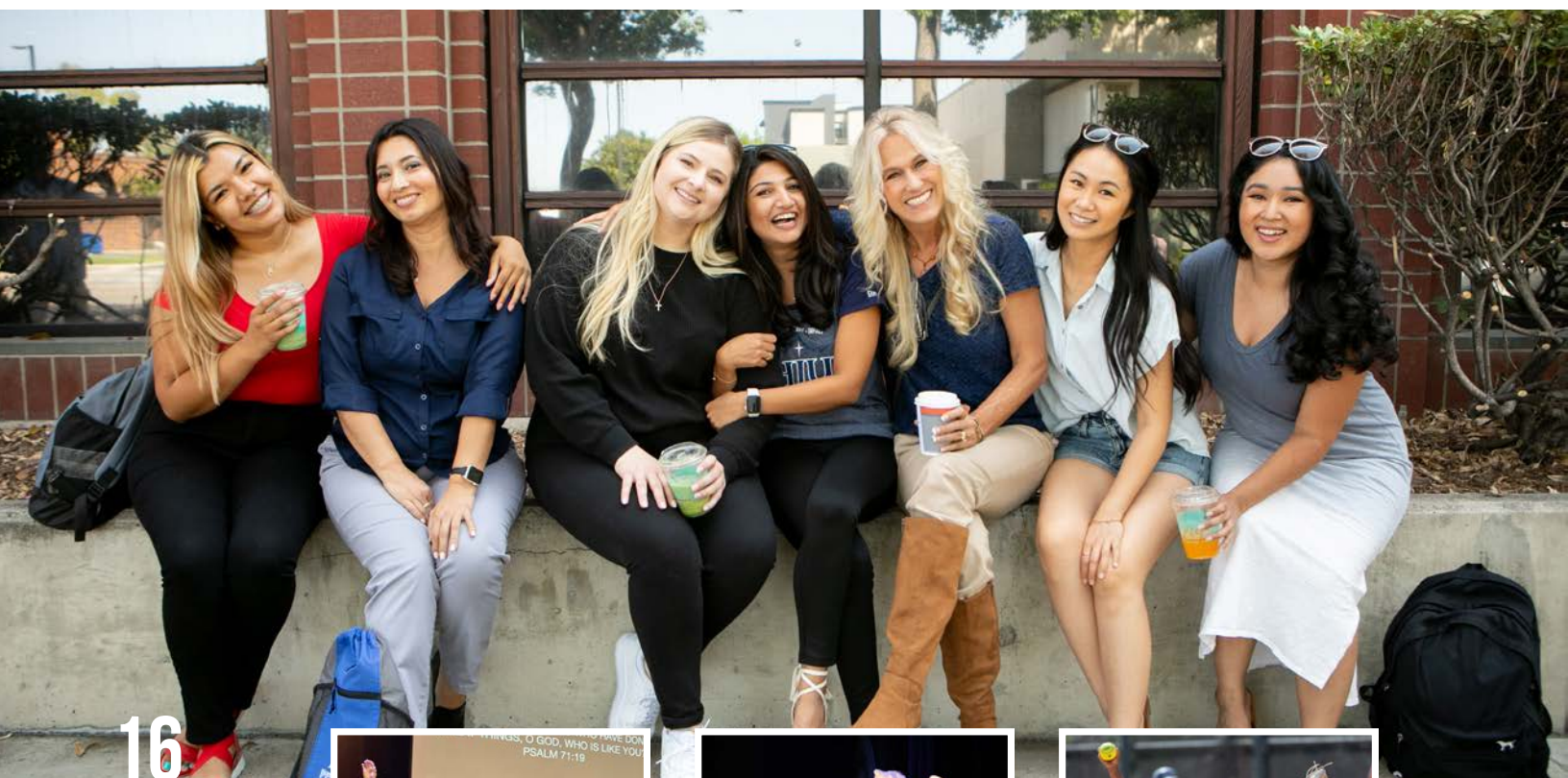


# Inside HUU

THE MAGAZINE OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY | WINTER 2022







16



10



23



12

# InsideHIU

WINTER 2022



## CONTENTS

- 4 President's Perspective
- 6 Servant Leaders in Action
- 8 Passing the Torch
- 10 Student Spotlight
- 12 Royals Recap
- 14 Commencement Celebration
- 16 DMFT: HIU's First Doctoral Program
- 20 Focus on Faculty
- 23 Spring Musical VIP Night
- 24 Alumni News & Notes
- 26 HIU Golf Challenge
- 28 Donor Honor Roll
- 31 In Loving Memory

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**HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY** | Founded in 1928, HIU is a regionally accredited Christian university that integrates faith, learning, and service. HIU students receive a transformative educational experience and are prepared to serve the Church and impact the world for Christ as exceptional servant leaders.

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# PRESIDENT'S

**Legacy.** That word didn't mean a lot to me when I was a young man. In recent days, it has become a deeply important term for my family and me. In 2022, I lost both of my parents. Mom passed away in January and my father passed away in September. As I wrote their eulogies, I was keenly aware of their profoundly impactful legacies. My sister and I were blessed to be raised by parents who loved the Lord, served the Church, and loved us with all their hearts.

It is an impossible task to reduce an entire life into a few hundred words that make up a eulogy. Accomplishments, careers, awards, and family members: these are all easily summarized into a statement that describes a sense of a person. However, it cannot ever explain the true depth of the real and lasting legacy one leaves behind. We often will never know how our lives impact people because it may take years, or even decades, to see the effects of our lives, passions, gifts, and talents.

A conversation, a gift, encouraging someone to make a change in the direction of their life, challenging someone to go into ministry: each of these events can change the trajectory of a life forever. In the case of my father, it was a local

church pastor who pulled my dad aside after his first semester of college and said "Bob, I think God can use you in ministry. Have you ever thought about being a minister?" That's all it took, a pastor who saw something in my father and was bold enough to speak into his life.

My father, in turn, left a large state university and headed off to bible college in the fall of 1950. Seventy years later, he was still preaching. Two weeks before he passed away, my father preached a sermon on heaven. He preached about the glory of heaven and how much he looked forward to being in the presence of the Lord and my mom.

I say all this to pay honor to my mom and dad, but equally important, to highlight the role that the local pastor made with just a single conversation. When I was in college, a fellow student named Sylvester preached in our Dorm Devotionals series. His message was called: "Start where you are, use what you've got, do what you can." That was a liberating message for me. As a sophomore in college, I had been feeling overwhelmed with how far away living an impactful life seemed. In that simple message I realized there were things I could do to move someday into the now.





# PERSPECTIVE

There are things we can all do now. As you consider your life, your talents, gifts, resources, passions, and relationships, I simply ask what do you have, what can you do, and why not start now? Our students need you. They need your prayers, they need your love, and they can certainly use any gifts you would pour into the General Scholarship Fund.

I want my life to be more than a few paragraphs on a memorial service program. One of my favorite sayings is that our kids are the arrows we shoot into the future. The same is true for the students we support: they are the arrows we shoot into a world that desperately needs Christian leaders and to know the love of the Lord. That's the kind of legacy I want: to impact this and future generations to serve the church.

One of the last things my dad did was to recruit two very sweet young ladies from his church to come to HIU. They sang with him at the end of his sermon about heaven two weeks before he went home. These young ladies sang the song again at his memorial service three weeks later. I swelled with pride, sorrow, and joy. The joy was because these young students represent the promise of the future, supported by gifts of people like us who provide

scholarship dollars to help prepare them to lead effectively in churches, businesses, classrooms, and so much more.

I want my life to be more than a list of things I did. I want my legacy to be as strong as mom and dad's. I am committed to helping launch as many of these young leaders as I can. What is your legacy? What will it look like? There are so many good things we can do, whether we have a few years or decades left. What can we do? How many young leaders can we help launch into the future?

I pray for you, that your legacy is strong, deeply impactful and targeted to make a significant difference in the lives of those that will make a difference in the lives of those they will lead and serve. Thank you for being part of the HIU legacy and our nearly 100 years of service to the Church and impacting the world for Christ.

**Paul H. Alexander, Ph.D.**  
University President





## CREATING A GREAT "AUTXCAPE"

### Hope for Families with Autistic Kids

#### **Melina (BA '15, M.Ed '17) & Jordan (BA '14) Gipson**

have both found their passion in working with children, particularly those with autism. The couple are both Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) at The Autism Collaborative Group located in Orange County, California. Though they studied different subjects while at HIU – Melina studied Elementary Education while planning to become a teacher and Jordan had studied Business Management – their love for the autism community and servant leadership unite them in their latest project, and as a married couple.

Aside from their working roles, the Gipsons and their friend, Markus Trujillio, have embarked on a project to provide families with autistic children a place to vacation with their unique needs in mind. The group purchased and renovated a home in Joshua Tree that is now available for families to rent. The home, called AUTxcapes, provides a safe and inviting place to get away and relax.

"To me," Melina shares, "AUTxcapes is an opportunity for families to spend quality time together, and to decompress. It has been designed with safety and relaxation for autistic individuals in the forefront of our minds. It has been a passion project for me and my team."

The home (pictured, right) has safety features like gate alarms, cabinet latches, and tamper resistant outlets to give parents peace of mind while on vacation. Other fun features specific to the autistic community include a foam floor in the kids' room, backyard miniature golf, a theater room, and sensory lights.

"We love what we do and truly care about the individuals we spend time with day to day," says Melina. "We saw a need for the families we serve to have a place to relax and unwind with their families, without the added stress of worrying about their housing accommodations and the lack of autism-friendly considerations." A majority of families the Gipsons work with have mentioned they haven't been on a vacation

as a family due to worry about how aspects may affect their child, such as change in routine or lack of sensory resources.

While Melina has always had a servant's heart, this was further instilled while attending Hope International University. "I never would've thought I would be in a place where I hold two credentials that both have helped me serve the autism community. I truly thank the educators who believed in me and pushed me at Hope. Without them I wouldn't have had the confidence to complete my master's and teaching credential."

Melina goes on to say, "My professors modeled the importance of being willing to listen and learn, no matter how far you feel you have made it in your career. This especially rings true in the profession I am in."



In the year the Gipsons were working on the house, which is located two hours away from their home, Melina also completed 1,500 clinical hours, passed the BCBA exam, and gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. "I truly believe God gave us endurance because this house has the potential to bless many families."



# A HEARTBEAT FOR STUDENTS

## Meet Our New V.P. for Student Affairs



**Dr. Joshua Arnold**, HIU's new Vice President for Student Affairs, was invited to church with a friend when he was very young, because his own parents worked on Sundays and were unable to join him. His best exposure to Jesus came through his admiration of that church's pastors.

"I wanted to be just like them, so I pursued theological education," he said, "but, it turned out that I loved the people part of ministry, but I really didn't like preaching, so I asked myself what kind of work would allow me to do the people part, and God led me to minister to students."

Dr. Arnold's journey included serving as Chief Student Development Officer at Life Pacific University in nearby San Dimas and he served most recently as Vice President

for Admissions and Student Development at Bluefield University in Bluefield, Virginia. When his daughter, Bella, was considering colleges, she and her family wanted a spiritually vibrant community, and HIU checked all the boxes. Bella and Dr. Arnold both found a new place at HIU, as the University was seeking a new Vice President for Student Affairs upon the retirement of Dr. Mark Comeaux (see related story on facing page).

"It is a privilege to join the good work God has initiated at Hope International University. Inside and beyond the classroom, what Hope offers is unique, valuable, and life-transforming," Josh said. "This is, absolutely, the happiest I've ever been, professionally."

Leaders in higher education have realized, in the wake of the pandemic, how important the on-campus experience is for students. Dr. Arnold acknowledges that there are less expensive ways to get an education but believes that a community of other believers is both compelling and transformative.

Josh enjoyed the pre-fall semester activities, getting to know student leaders and dreaming with them about the possibilities.

"As the pandemic continues to wane, our team looks forward to reviving many of the favorite traditions that have come to define the HIU student experience. We are also eager to create new ones for an emerging generation of students. We have the opportunity to deliver a distinct experience," said Dr. Arnold.

"We want to re-launch our small groups, grow and mature our residence life and housing programs, and overcome the post-pandemic reluctance of some students to live in close proximity to others, encouraging them to make the most of HIU by living on campus, especially during that first year."

Dr. Arnold completed his theology degree and met his wife, Holly, at Life Pacific University in San Dimas, and earned his M.Ed. and Ed.D. degrees from Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA. Dr. Arnold and Holly, who is a nurse at Pomona Valley Hospital, are parents to Bella, Noah, and Sawyer.



# AN EXEMPLARY CAREER

## Dr. Comeaux Retires with Honors

**Dr. Mark Comeaux's** career in Student Affairs included a long list of jobs, and those jobs often were combined in a single administrative position. He came to Hope International University in 2005, after serving at Crossroads College in Minnesota, where he was, in his words, "wearing so many hats it was crazy."

"At Hope, I was suddenly overseeing a staff that did all of those jobs, and it was a joy to serve in that capacity for 17 years," he said. "My staff members were superstars; they ministered with grace and excellence, and it was a privilege to work with them."

The satisfying accomplishments of those years include expanded wellness programming; a concierge mentor program designed to help students whose professors recommended them for additional help (HIU is one of few institutions at this level to have such a program); and working with Athletic Director John Turek to grow athletics in a way that enhanced the University's presence through the recruitment of students who fit the HIU mission.

Shortly after Dr. Comeaux's retirement from HIU last spring, he received word that his work and ministry were to be honored by the Association of Christians in Student Development (ACSD). The organization convenes student affairs professionals from Christian institutions to help

them keep abreast of changes in education, and learn how other organizations are living their missions, as they help students be successful in their life experiences, operating from a Christian perspective. The ACSD includes member institutions of every size, including such notables as Baylor University.

HIU President Paul Alexander was pleased by the recognition of his friend and colleague. "It's one thing to start well, even work well; it's quite another to invest your entire career to build up generations of young men and women. Dr. Comeaux has been an exemplary model of servant leadership and a constant beacon of what it means to put God first in life, ministry, and career," said Dr. Alexander.

"Mark has worked humbly his entire career, so it is a joy to see that a well-deserved spotlight now illuminates his stellar career in Student Development by the ACSD. Well done, Mark, well done!"

Dr. Comeaux said that the acknowledgment was deeply meaningful and emotional. "It touches my soul," he said, "and it has been a great blessing to help students understand what it means to be successful as Christians."









# WORSHIPING IN DOUBLE-TIME

## Talented Midwest Twins Acclimate to SoCal

Twins **Daunte** and **Dylan Ferguson** grew up playing football in Papillion, Nebraska, and attended Wildewood Christian Church with their parents and siblings. As their musical talents developed, Dylan on piano and Daunte on guitar, the twins' love for football was supplanted by a growing tug toward worship arts and helping with worship leadership.

"I had planned on playing college sports," Daunte explained, "but that changed during my junior year when God called me into worship leadership."

Dylan, on a parallel track, said, "Nebraska Christian College (NCC) just seemed like the place to go."

When the NCC campus closed in 2020, at the end of the Fergusons' freshman year, HIU offered a transition option for students at the Nebraska campus to continue their degree programs online, so Dylan and Daunte became online students. They attended remotely for the 2020-2021 academic year, transferring to Fullerton in the fall of 2021.

The Ferguson twins made the 24-hour trip in separate cars and were happy that the transition was smooth, thanks to the friendliness of the campus community. They quickly joined the Chapel Praise Band and found a loving, supportive community.

"It was an awesome transition, because everyone is so friendly and kind, starting with President Alexander," said Dylan, "and the mentorship of the faculty is great."

"What a distinct joy it has been to see Daunte and Dylan thrive at HIU. I knew



them when they were freshmen at NCC, both very talented and very much on fire for the Lord," said President Paul Alexander. "Now, as they progress toward graduation, I am thrilled to have observed them as leaders here in California. Their peers recognize them as leaders, not just of worship, but of spiritual life on campus."

Daunte has enjoyed the California culture, nearness to L.A., and the variety of available activities.

"There is a little more natural friendliness in the Midwest, but I've found that 'you're not from here, are you?' is a great conversation starter," he explained. "It was easy to become friends with the students I shared online classes with the previous year. It's like, 'Hey, I know you!'"

This academic year, Dylan is continuing his studies remotely from Nebraska, serving part-time at the family's home church, and he hopes to

serve fulltime after graduation in the spring.

Daunte is back on campus in Fullerton and plans to return to Nebraska after graduation to marry Lilly Dahir, whom he met working at church camp during the "COVID Summer" of 2020.

The brothers look forward to God's direction as they consider the next steps of their respective journeys and are open to following where He leads.

"It felt like I belonged here when I arrived," said Daunte. "I'll go wherever God calls, but I wouldn't be upset if He called me back to California."

When asked if he would consider a call to California, Dylan echoed his brother's response. He laughed and said, "That would be cool. I wouldn't be mad!"

# ROYALS

## 2021-22 HIGHLIGHTS



**WOMEN'S SOCCER:** Under second year Head Coach Scott Dement the Royals were Co-GSAC Regular Season Champions for the first time in program history as they finished with a record of 12-1-3, 6-0-2 GSAC. As a result, Coach Dement was named GSAC Coach of the Year and Ofelia Sosa Cruz was named GSAC Player of the Year. In addition, Ryley Candelario, Siera Pedroza and Luli Bethencourt were named to the All-GSAC team. Bethencourt and Sosa Cruz were also named NAIA Honorable Mention All-Americans.



**MEN'S SOCCER:** The Royals just missed out on the GSAC playoffs as they finished the season with an overall record of 11-3-1, 3-3-1 GSAC. Jesus Vargas and Angel Flores both received All-GSAC honors. Vargas was also named NAIA All American Honorable Mention.

**WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL:** The Royals finished the year with a record of 9-18, 5-13 GSAC. Despite the challenges, Carissa Wiles was named GSAC Freshman of the Year as she finished fourth in the conference with 3.15 kills per set.

**CROSS COUNTRY:** Emma Timmermans qualified for the NAIA National Championship, the second ever individual runner to qualify in program history. The men's team placed seventh overall at the GSAC Championships and were led

by Evan Gesick. On the women's side Timmermans finished 4th at the GSAC Championships to earn All-GSAC honors as the Royals finished seventh overall.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:** Coach Beck Flannagan was named GSAC Coach of the Year as he guided the Royals to a third place finish with a record of 26-6, 14-4 GSAC as they made their second ever appearance in the NAIA National Tournament. Shiane Talley, Ana Resendiz and Jeanette Fine were all named All-GSAC.

**MEN'S BASKETBALL:** For the seventh time in program history the men's basketball team made it to the NAIA Tournament but lost in a nailbiter in the first round to Oregon Tech. Josh Powell-Davis and Anthony Garcia were named All-GSAC. Powell-Davis also received NAIA

All American Honorable Mention honors for the third time.



**GOLF:** Led by second year head coach Britney Sok, the women's golf team won the TMU Spring Invitational, with Sarina Tayui winning the individual title. The women's team also placed fifth at the GSAC Championships, with Day Martinez earning All-GSAC honors. On the men's side, Carter Anderson took home an individual title at the PCH Invitational. The men also placed fifth at the GSAC Championships with Ben Bernard having the best finish, placing 17th overall.





**11 All-Americans**  
**33 All-GSAC**  
**3 Gold Gloves**

**38 NAIA Scholar Athletes**  
**9 NAIA Scholar Teams**  
**48 GSAC Scholar Athletes**

**MEN'S VOLLEYBALL:** Chase Larson and Alfonso Meza Ramos received All-GSAC honors after leading the team to an 8-14 overall record. Season highlights included an upset win over #10 Georgetown.

**TRACK & FIELD:** Shatner Booker-Lowery III, Joseph Clemons, and Michael Ventura were honored as All-GSAC. At the Outdoor GSAC Championships, Booker-Lowery III took home the GSAC Individual Championship in the high jump as the men's team finished 6th overall. The women finished 7th at the GSAC Championships with Emma Timmermans leading the way with an 8th place finish in the 1500 meter race.

**TENNIS:** Carolina Guerrero received All-GSAC honors as she helped lead the Royals to a 4-13 record. The men's team

improved upon last year's performance as they finished the year 6-13.

**BEACH VOLLEYBALL:** Candice Palmer was named All-GSAC for the second year in a row as she helped lead the Royals with an individual overall record of 10-7, including an upset of #2 The Master's. The team finished with an overall record of 7-13, 5-6 GSAC.

**SOFTBALL:** The Royals finished the regular season tied for third place with a record of 37-21, 13-11 GSAC. The Royals went 1-2 at the GSAC tournament as they lost to William Jessup and OUAZ to finish their season. Allie Puente was named GSAC Pitcher of the Year as well as NAIA All-American Honorable mention as she led the GSAC with 361 strikeouts and an ERA of 1.01. Skyler Mao, Caitlyn

Felina, and Makenna O'Toole also earned All-GSAC honors.

**BASEBALL:** In his first year as Head Coach, Larry Mahoney led the Royals to a program best 43-15 overall record and a 24-8 GSAC record as they won the GSAC Regular Season Championship for the second year in a row and GSAC Tournament Championship for the second time. As a result, the Royals received a berth in the NAIA National Championship for the fourth time in program history. The Royals made it to the Championship game in the Lawrenceville Bracket. On top of being named GSAC Pitcher of the Year, Hector Garcia also received NAIA All-American Honorable Mention honors while Mahoney was named GSAC Coach of the Year. Chase Hanson, Demetri Colacchio, Omar Veloz, Greg Lamb, and David Morgan all received

All-GSAC honors. David Rivera, Robert Mattei, and Greg Lamb were awarded Gold Gloves.

**COMPETITIVE DANCE:** The HIU Dance program placed third out of seven at the Midland Invitational, winning two dual meets against Vanguard, and ended the season with an impressive second-place finish out of nine teams at the Southwest National Qualifier.

**STUNT:** In their first year led by Head Coach Kori Johnson, the Royals picked up their first program win over Arizona State and advanced to the NAIA Championships as the fourth best team in the country. Kamea Binnquist and Bernice Lopez received NAIA All American First Team honors, while Angelina Castanon received Second Team honors and Jasmine Rincon and Nicole Contreras received Honorable Mention honors.

# COMMENCEMENT

## CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2022

Prepared for a Lifetime of Servant Leadership

HIU proudly held its 110th Commencement Ceremonies in the Darling Pavilion of the Lawson-Fulton Student Center. In all, 206 undergraduate and graduate degrees were conferred. These new graduates join more than 14,000 alumni who carry HIU's legacy of exceptional servant leadership to locations across the globe.

The main Commencement Address for both ceremonies was delivered by **Bruce Templeton**, longtime HIU

board member. He encouraged the graduates to include God in their plans, because when our plans inevitably go awry, God will work it all together for our good. Student speakers included Brianne Bookout and Shawn Dettmer (Graduate), Brandhon Thomas (Traditional Undergraduate), Amy Carisoza-Watson (Online Undergraduate).

The Commencement was divided into two events to help reduce crowding and allow ample room for

social distancing. Graduate Studies students commenced on Friday evening, Traditional and Online Undergraduate on Saturday morning.

Our Spring 2022 Commencement Ceremony marked HIU's 49th year in Fullerton, where the University diligently maintains its commitment to empowering students through Christian higher education to serve the church and impact the world for Christ.









# MAJOR ACADEMIC MILESTONE

HIU's First Doctoral Degree Program

# DMFT







HIU's College of Psychology & Counseling now proudly offers a **Doctor of Marriage & Family Therapy** degree!

*see story on next page >>>*



# MILESTONE

HIU's College of Psychology and Counseling has built a strong reputation in family therapy over the course of several decades, leading to the implementation of its new **Doctor of Marriage and Family Therapy (DMFT)** program which debuted this fall. This significant milestone marks an historic academic achievement for the University.

"This is a tremendously important day in our history," stated HIU's President, Dr. Paul Alexander. "The College of Psychology and Counseling team has worked for years to launch this remarkable program to prepare marriage and family therapists at the highest level, and I know generations of men, women, and children will benefit from these leaders in training. I can't tell you how proud I am of our team who worked so hard to make this dream a reality."

Dr. Laura Steele, Dean of the College of Psychology and Counseling, remarked, "Our focus on marriage and family therapy has created a

niche for HIU, and this is the next step, more than a decade in the making. We designed our DMFT program to provide a challenging and rewarding experience that allows students to develop advanced clinical training and research skills in the area of marriage and family therapy."

She went on to say, "This doctoral degree builds upon and expands our current MFT programs, opening exciting new doors of opportunity for our faculty, students, and alumni. It allows our scholars to delve into deeper research and scholarship, contributing to the wider body of knowledge."

The DMFT program, which requires 60 additional academic units beyond HIU's existing Master's degree program, provides a challenging but rewarding program in which the curriculum will produce strong clinicians and equip students to connect original research to advance the field. In addition to academic course requirements, students

engage in community-based clinical training sites where they participate in real-world experiences with a diverse clientele. DMFT students will also complete an internship for their chosen specialty as well as a dissertation, with special emphases in such areas as counseling for veterans and foster children.

Dr. Susan Hastings, DMFT Program Director, says, "The DMFT Program offers a variety of ways for students to specialize within internships to learn new skills to take them into the next level of their career, including grant writing, supervision, managing a private practice or clinic, or teaching in a university."

Doctoral students will have the opportunity for advanced training in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR). EMDR is a method of treating trauma and other mental health issues through eye movement and related brain mechanisms.

HIU was one of the first universities to incorporate this therapy into its curriculum and was chosen to house the work of Dr. Francine Shapiro, who developed EMDR, in the Darling Library. Due to its EMDR connection, HIU faculty and graduate students have the opportunity to work with the EMDR Foundation, developing such skills as grant writing and non-profit management.

The Senior College and University Commission of HIU's accrediting agency, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, approved the DMFT program in late 2021.







# FOCUS ON



## MEET OUR NEWEST DEAN

Pacific Christian College of  
Ministry & Biblical Studies

**Dr. Carl Toney's** earliest faith memories originate with his family, at Los Gatos Christian Church, in San Jose, California, where he became part of a strong heritage as a very young child, a heritage that was further enhanced when the family moved to Redding. He came from a family of primarily farmers and engineers, which also included an uncle who served as a missionary and pastor, and, when Dr. Toney changed his pre-med major at Wheaton College to a Bible major, his family enthusiastically supported his calling.

That mid-course correction figures prominently in his aspirations for the future students of Hope International University's Pacific Christian College of Ministry & Biblical Studies. Dr. Toney, who earned his doctoral degree at Fuller Theological Seminary, has served on the HIU faculty since 2011. As the new Dean of the College, he hopes parents will be as encouraging to their students' call as his parents were. He believes that the Church needs to send the best and brightest students into ministry education, because the world needs them.

"The world is scarce of hope," he said. "The legacy of HIU is one of great church leaders, and we will continue to celebrate that legacy while looking for the new stories of leadership, stories such as those of Amor Ministries and Solidarity (two ministries that are led by HIU alumni), or churches like Christ's Church of the Valley or Eastside Christian Church."

Dr. Toney wants the Church, and students who are called, to help people fall in love with the body of Christ.

"Doesn't it seem wrong that people love Jesus, but not His body, the Church?" he asked. "We need to activate the hands and feet of Jesus through what we teach and live."

He referenced a recent presentation of HIU's President, Dr. Paul Alexander, that focused on the University's mascot, the Royals, and the "royal law" of the Bible's Love Command, as it appears in James 2:8, instructing Christians to "love your neighbor as yourself."

"We are Royals," he said, "but we are not trustworthy as humans, and we need to love in a way that elevates Christ to the point of bringing people to trust him and love His body, the Church."

Dr. Toney emphasizes the creation of community, especially post-pandemic, and the crucial elements of partnering and mentoring, as central to ministry, and he wants ministry alumni, and others, to take radical trust back to their churches.

"When Jesus shows up, he calls us to follow him; he invited the disciples to go fishing and they changed the world," said Dr. Toney. "We need to be as bright and attractive as Jesus himself."

In addition to his ministry and educator roles, Dr. Toney is a published author of several books, including *New Testament Foundations* and *Ruining Christmas, Rediscovering Jesus*. He is married to Lisa, who is on the pastoral staff of Purpose Church in Pomona. They are the parents of Zoe (a student at HIU), Gus, Pax, and Eden.



# FACULTY



**Onleilove Chika Alston, MDiv, MSW** (Arts and Sciences) authored *Prophetic Whirlwind: Uncovering the Black Biblical*

*Destiny* which covers African and African American Jewish communities, and what these communities teach us about Biblical justice and the Gospel. This work was published by Voices Publishing. Professor Alston is the first African American woman to visit and write about Jewish communities in West Africa, which resulted in this book.



**Tamie Beeuwsaert, M.S. Ed.** (Education) has 32 years of experience in public education comprised of 15 years as an elementary

teacher, 15 years as a site administrator, and 2 years as a district administrator in Education Services at Placentia Yorba Linda USD.



**Rick Chromey, D.Min** (Ministry) is the new historian/guest speaker for American Cruise Lines on the Columbia and Snake

Rivers in the Pacific Northwest, focusing on Lewis and Clark, Oregon Trail and Northwest culture and history. Rick also writes the "Faith, Culture and History" column for Boise's "Christian Living" magazine. In the past 12 months, he's also guested on more than 50 podcasts, speaking on topics related to religion, history, leadership, communication, motivation, parenting and classroom management.



**Karen Clark, Ph.D.** (Liberal Studies) completed her Ph.D. in Higher Education

from Azusa Pacific University in July 2022. The focus of her dissertation was the transition experience of students on the autism spectrum as they move into higher education.



**George Garcia, LMFT, Ph.D.** (Psychology) recently completed a 21-hour continuing education workshop on "Loss, Trauma,

Resilience, and New Beginnings: Psychodramatic Approaches" at the Phoenix Center for Experiential Trauma Therapy in Media, Pennsylvania. Dr. Garcia brings his experiential training and knowledge to both his clients and his students, enlivening the classroom and therapy room through action-oriented change mechanisms.



**Rudy Hagood, M.A.** (Ministry & Biblical Studies) authored an article for Christian Standard magazine titled "God's Love

Language in Our Unions." In addition to teaching classes at HIU, Rudy serves as Lead Pastor at University Christian Church in Los Angeles, CA.



**Susan Hastings, Psy.D.** (MFT/DMFT Program Director) co-directed Royal Family Kids Camp with the newly formed For the

Children, Santa Ana Chapter. In June, she traveled to Ireland, connecting with Texas Christian University's Study Abroad on Women's Health. Dr. Hastings also completed three Commission of Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy on Education site visits as the site visit chair. Dr. Hastings attended the biannual Council for Christian Colleges

and University Doctoral Forum at Judson University in Elgin, IL.



**Natalie Hewitt, Ph.D.** (English)

presented a paper titled "Signs of Religious Life in the Post-Pandemic Landscape of Emily St. John Mandel's *Station Eleven*" at the Western Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature in April 2022. She also facilitated a panel called "Christian Scholars and Critical Theory." The panel presentations were created by HIU students Isabella Alcaraz, Kaleb Bowers, and Eden League.



**Wm. Curtis Holtzen, D.Th.**

(Philosophy & Theology) coedited and contributed to the book *Looking Both Ways: At the Intersection of the Academy and the Church—Essays in Honor of Joseph C. Grana II* (Claremont Press, 2021). In March, he presented at Virginia Seminary for a conference in honor of Oxford scholar Keith Ward and in Nov. at the "Power and the God of Love" conference in Napa, CA.

**Steve Jung, MSLS, MDiv** (Darling Library) had a chapter titled "Information Literacy Assignments for Biblical Studies" published in *Teaching the Bible with Undergraduates*, edited by Jocelyn McWhirter and Sylvie Raquel, SBL Press, 2022.



**Brian Luhmann, Psy.D.**

(MFT) Developed an Institutional Review Board Handbook for Hope International University. During the Summer 2022 term,

# FACULTY

Dr. Luhmann was hired as full-time faculty for the newly launched DMFT program at HIU.



**Dr. Tamsen Murray** is serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees at Lincoln (IL) University. She also chairs the US Advisory Council for Lakeview Bible College and Seminary in Chennai, India. She serves on the worship team at Newcastle (OK) Christian Church, near her home in Oklahoma City.



**Kasey Philyaw, Ph.D.** (Psychology) was appointed Chair of the new BA in Sport Psychology program that will launch in Fall 2023.



**Jennifer Rich, MLIS, MA** (Library) has become the new Director of Library Services at the Hugh & Hazel Darling Library.



**De Angela Jane Smith, M.A.** (Psychology) is a Doctoral candidate at Liberty University and a member of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies.



**Laura Steele, PsyD,** Dean of Psychology & Counseling, formed a strategic partnership with the EMDR Research Foundation to provide administrative oversight, completed facilitator training for EMDR Institute, and taught the EMDR Basic Training course.



**Russell Stevens, Ph.D.** (Business) was a guest columnist in the local paper and interviewed on the Charlotte Spectrum News. Both featured him as an expert on the Student Loan Crisis.



**Phil Towne, Ph.D.** (Ministry & Biblical Studies) and his wife, Sarah, have recently started on the pastoral staff at Sunny Hills Church of Christ in Fullerton. Phil remains at Hope full-time, while fulfilling his duties at Sunny Hills in a part-time capacity.



At HIU's annual Honors Convocation & Awards Chapel, the University awarded **Erin Galaviz, M.S.**, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, the Rose B. & Edgar B. McReynolds Faculty Excellence Award for the 2021-2022 academic year. The award is presented annually to one HIU faculty member who embodies teaching and learning excellence, as identified by the HIU community.

Professor Galaviz's nomination came from faculty and students alike who commended her for being extremely knowledgeable in her field, "highly present" for students, and especially caring and invested in their success. She was also described as always finding an interesting way to present and explain material, and to relate it to real life. "She fuels and honors students' curiosity and cultivates their hunger to learn."

One student describes Professor Galaviz as "going above and beyond to serve students and the campus

community, providing help and opportunities for learning even outside of class."

Professor Galaviz received her award with overwhelming emotion and later stated, "Receiving this award makes me think of the expression, 'The tip of the iceberg.' Most people only see the success; they don't see all the work that led to that point. I received a lot of guidance along my journey, and I attribute my success to those people.

"My colleagues at HIU have played a huge role in my success. They welcomed me with open arms and consistently provide support. My husband has been my rock. He's helped me prepare lectures, grade, fix equipment, and the list goes on. And foremost, God believed in me, even when I didn't. God gave me someone to lean on, especially on the tough days.

"I feel so blessed to be honored this way, and I see this award as a culmination of everyone that helped me along this journey. What's so beautiful about this job is that I get to be a part of my students' journeys."





# BEAUTY & "THE FEAST"

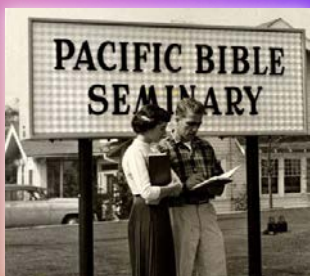
## VIP Reception & Live Theatre Returns

Prior to the closing performance of HIU's 2022 spring musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, alumni, donors, and special guests converged on campus for our annual VIP Reception. Guests gathered in the Darling Library, enjoying themed desserts and decor. HIU administrators, staff, and student ambassadors mingled with guests prior to a wonderful performance of Disney's beloved Broadway-style show.

The event also served as another signal of the return to normalcy, as HIU's annual musicals had been stymied by the global pandemic for the last two years.

2022 marks the 15th year that alumna **Ember Williams (BM '00)** has directed HIU's annual theatrical production. HIU's spring musical has become a popular annual event for the local community as well. Each year, HIU also hosts special matinee performances for local elementary, junior high, and high school students, which include a meet and greet with the cast.





# ALUMNI NEWS

## 1970s >>>

**Charles Miller (BA '78, MA '85)** continues as a full time pastor at Central Park Baptist Church in Central Park, Washington.

**James "Jim" Price (BA '70)** retired from full-time ministry after 37 years at Diamond Canyon Christian Church in 2017. Jim raised money for Hope For Cambodia and several missions in East Africa. He also served 13 months as interim senior pastor at Discovery Christian Church, as well as teaching and preaching at various churches. Jim is currently teaching courses at HIU. Jim and **Diedra (Stanton/FS '69)** live in Claremont, CA.

women, who then disciple other men and women from the majority faith in South East Asia. Their national teammates are well past the 10th generation of new disciples, discipling others in faith and life. For more than 12 years, Debbie has been on the front of bringing freedom to women who have been caught in human trafficking in this large South East Asian country. She has done international trainings on human trafficking and prays for their freedom.

**Bruce Cramer (BA '83, MA '86)** has four grown children, (two that are married) and has two granddaughters. Bruce and his wife, Cecile, live in Irvine, CA, where he is the Community Life pastor at Shepherd's Grove Presbyterian Church.

the recent Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The District includes nearly 300 churches and 150 schools. Dustin also serves as Senior Pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church, and is presently writing his Ph.D. dissertation at Liberty University.

**Greg Robbins (BA '88)** is the Director of Christian Education at Yorba Linda United Methodist Church. Greg's wife, Julie, is a teacher at Immanuel Church in Riverside. The Robbins have an adopted son, Luke (11), as well as two adult children: Alyssa and Kyle. They also have two granddaughters, Gianna (9) and Lulu (2), and one grandson, Logan (4).

**Craig Canfield (BA '08)** moved to Connecticut to pursue a MA and EdD degrees from Yale University. During his 12 years there, Craig worked at various positions, including two years teaching. Recently, Craig made a career shift out of higher education, and took a position at Leapfrog Technologies, Inc., an edtech company that makes curriculum management software for colleges and universities.

**Kevin (BA '09) and Lani (Smith/ BA '09) Forbes** recently celebrated the birth of their third child, Wyatt. While in the hospital, they discovered that Lani had Stage IV neuroendocrine cancer in her lung, liver, and spine. In good news, the third book in Lani's series was published and received a Kirkus Starred review. Book one in the series won the Real Award for best Young Adult, Best Debut, and Best Christian Fantasy. Lani signed a second book deal with Blackstone Publishing for a new series before she passed away in February, 2022.

## 1980s >>>



**Stephen (BA '82) and Deborah (Brown/ BA '81) Bixler** have been married for 39 years and have been serving together in South East Asia for 18 years. They have four adult children, and eight grandchildren. Steve and Debbie disciple men and

**Tom (FS '83) and Kristen Epperly** are living in Ashland KY. They have four daughters: September, Sarah, Courtney and Haley. Tom works in insurance and marketing.

**Dustin Parker (FS '86)** was elected for a second term as a Regional Vice-President at

## 2000s >>>

**Autumn Acheampong (BA '04)** serves as a missionary in Ghana, Africa, with her husband, Richard, and their family. Autumn is the Director of Education with City of Refuge Ministries whose mission is rescuing children from human trafficking.



# & NOTES

Share your updates and pics  
online at [hiu.edu/alumni](http://hiu.edu/alumni) or via  
email to [alumni@hiu.edu](mailto:alumni@hiu.edu)

**Zach Gibson (BA '05)** has been working for Leidos, a Fortune 500 Government Contractor, for three years. Zach recently accepted a promotion to become an Apple Endpoint Engineer, specializing in macOS Deployment and Support for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in Woodlawn, Maryland.



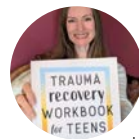
**Robin Joyce (MA '08)** has joined Olive Crest Nevada as Senior Development Director after serving as Director of Advancement at Faith Lutheran Middle School & High School for nearly seven years. Prior to Faith Lutheran, Robin was on the staff at Canyon Ridge Christian Church from 2008- 2015. Robin and his wife, Patty, celebrated 40 years of marriage in September, 2022. They have two children, Jillian and Miles.

Gavin and **Rebecca Larson (BA '08)**, with their two boys, Micah and Noah, welcome their newest member, Marah in September of 2020. In 2021, Rebecca accepted a promotion

at Columbia Memorial Hospital as the Care Management Department Supervisor.



**Stephen (BA '07, MA '11) and Marissa (BA '08) Pate** are happy to announce the birth of their son, Cohen Hamilton Pate, born in January, 2022.



**Deborah "Debbie" Vinall (BS '03, MFT '05)** has released her 2nd book, the *Trauma Recovery Workbook for Teens*, in March, 2022. Her first book, *Gaslighting: A Step-by-Step Recovery Guide to Heal from Emotional Abuse and Build Healthy Relationships* was released May, 2021. Deborah continues her busy private practice in Upland, CA, where she enjoys life with her husband and teenage son.

**Sean (BA '04) and Caryn (Hannan/ BA '05) Weaver** have three children, Liam, Lillian, and Leandra. Sean has served as a middle school teacher in Yuma for the past 18 years and also serves as an

assistant Elementary Director for Children's Ministry at his home church, First Christian Church, Yuma, where he has served for the past 8 years. Caryn is a stay at home mom, and also serves on the PTO of their children's school, is a member of the FCC Yuma choir and serves in the church nursery. The Weavers have been married for 11 years.

## 2010s >>>

**Stanley Abie (BA '19)** is working full time with Central India Christian Mission (CICM) under the leadership of Dr. Ajai Lall.

**Diana Francis (BS '16)** graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary in May, 2022, with two masters degrees, one in Theology (ThM) and the other in Christian Leadership (MACL). Diana is currently in the doctoral program working toward a Doctorate of Educational Ministry program (DEdMin).



Joe and **Amanda (Arnold/BA '12) McCarthy** welcomed their first child, Violet

Marie McCarthy on August, 2021, born at 6 lbs, 6 oz, 19 inches.

**James Marshall (MA '15)** has been promoted to Assistant Principal at Cypress Elementary School in Fontana, CA.



**Faith (Wilson/BA '15) Schierholt** graduated with her Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in June, 2022. In addition, she completed her first unit of clinical pastoral education at UCLA Santa Monica hospital.

## 2020s >>>



**Jessica Navarro (BA '20)** graduated from the USC Rossier School of Education in May, 2022, with PPS credentials in school counseling. She thanks HIU for setting her up for continued success.

**Heather Obara (MSC '20)** is a Crisis Counselor at Boys Town in Nebraska.







## ON COURSE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

HIU hosted its **16th Annual HIU GOLF CHALLENGE** at the Alta Vista Country Club in Placentia, CA, to help fund student scholarships and departmental programs. Our generous donors and sponsors teamed up to give more than \$55,000. Over the past 15 years, HIU's tournament has raised more than \$800,000 to support Hope students.

Participants enjoyed warm sunshine, friendly fellowship, and fun activities, including a putting contest and multiple opportunities to win prizes during the round. The event culminated with a catered, informal awards dinner. The Men's and Women's HIU Royals Golf Teams served as student ambassadors throughout the day.

The entire HIU community expresses our heartfelt gratitude to all who came out to support the University and our students. Special thanks to our faithful sponsors whose contributions helped make this year's fundraiser such a great success: **President Paul Alexander** (Platinum Sponsor), **The Solomon Foundation** (Platinum Sponsor), **CDF Capital** (Gold Sponsor), **Rich & Annette Atwood** (Silver Sponsor), **ONE&ALL Church** (Silver Sponsor), **The Refinery Christian Church** (Silver Sponsor), **First Christian Church Huntington Beach** (Silver Sponsor), **Proline Electrical Contractors** (Silver Sponsor), **Will Mullins** (Silver Sponsor), **Compass Church** (Bronze Sponsor), **Peter C. Foy & Associates** (Bronze Sponsor), **Direct Print & Promotion** (Bronze Sponsor), and **The Wright Image** (Hole Sponsor).

*For more information about HIU's annual golf fundraiser, please contact our Senior Director of Development & Major Gifts, **Ryan McKinney**, at 714-879-3901, ext. 2210.*

# DONOR HONOR ROLL

On behalf of the entire HIU administration, faculty, staff, and student body, THANK YOU to each and every donor. Your gifts are very much appreciated and vital to the success of our scholarship recipients, many of whom otherwise could not afford to attend HIU. You have impacted their lives, as well as countless lives they will touch as they take Hope to their corner of the globe.

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Rizio Lipinsky Law Firm PC  
Strong Lachermann Foundation  
**SWN Investments**

#### **\$1,000 - \$2,499**

FCI Lender Services, Inc.  
Vertical Raise Trust Account

#### **\$500 - \$999**

Aspen Systems  
FaithLife  
Golden Trout Trucking  
Hondo500, Inc.  
Ital Pizza  
JP Morgan Chase Foundation  
Peter C. Foy & Associates  
R & R Dining

#### **\$100 - \$499**

Access Holdings  
AmazonSmile Foundation  
Chipotle  
Esponsor Now, Inc.  
Henkels & McCoy, Inc.  
JC Auto Electric  
NRPC, Inc.  
Pepsico  
Rfrealtor  
The Wright Image  
United Way California Capital  
Region

#### **ESTATES**

(Contributions given to all funds)

Ian H. Campbell Trust  
Franklin Gerard Dagley Estate

Sandra Kae Duncan Trust  
Fields Family Trust  
Pope Family Trust  
The Proffitt Family Trust  
Charles R. Roberts Estate  
Estate of Bonnie Lou Schemmer  
Melinda Steep Trust

#### **TRIBUTES**

(Contributions given to all funds)

#### **In Honor of**

Dr. Paul Alexander  
Russell & Doll Comeaux  
Dr. LeRoy Lawson  
Andrew Schultz  
Albert Wolfe

#### **In Memory of**

Dr. Rodney Allee  
Donald & Dorothy Blumenthal  
Anna Mae Bogan  
Claude Bulger  
Earlene Carter  
Jack & Rosemary Clasen  
Doug & Sue Coker  
Franklin Dagley  
Dr. Joe and Bettye Ellis  
Gordon R. Hahn  
Arnold Hassoldt  
**Kenneth & Marion Hoschouer**  
George Kridner  
Donald Matson  
Edgar & Rose McReynolds  
Douglas A. Michael  
Richard & Carol Miller  
John O'Donnell, Jr.  
Norma O'Donnell  
**Scott Pond**  
Charles Roberts  
Dr. John P. Rowe  
Kathryn Seydel  
Joyce Smith  
**Veta Winick**

THANK YOU!



## LEGACY GIFTS

### SANDRA K. DUNCAN

#### Estate Gift Helps Future Scholars



Hope International University received an estate gift valued at more than \$1,000,000 from the trust of **Sandra Kae "Sandy" Duncan**, who was a member of First Christian Church of National City, California for many years. During the fifties and sixties, her pastor, Ken Huff, helped her establish the trust, which led to this substantial gift.

"Here was a person who established a legacy for HIU years ago, unbeknownst to us," said Michael Mulryan, Vice President of Institutional Advancement. "We are deeply grateful to Ms. Duncan for planning to impact the lives of countless people: the students who will receive scholarships, and the people they will serve."

Sandy, who lived in Chula Vista for many years, was a legal secretary for three decades. She was a caregiver to her friends (including many four-legged ones) and community. She was a member of the Bonita Garden Club, Chula Vista Women's Club, South Bay Historical Society, and volunteered for the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility. She was a longtime volunteer for Chula Vista's Centennial Committee and was known for her generosity and love for life and adventure.

She lived a full life of meaningful activity until she passed away in July, 2021, following a courageous battle with cancer.

### FRANKLIN G. DAGLEY

#### Family Endowment Established



**Franklin Dagley** became a Christian after he became a parent. He served as a deacon, elder, and trustee for his church, and, most recently, became a Senior Saints Pastor, after retiring from a 30-year career in computer programming.

Looking at the notes in his Bible, his daughter, **Dr. Kelly Dagley**, Chair of Biblical Studies for HIU's Pacific Christian College of Ministry & Biblical Studies, said she clearly sees how much he wanted to give through his faith. "Dad knew how much the school affected his kids' lives and he is saying 'thank you,'" said

Dr. Dagley, "but he is also honoring his love for the Church and how this will help build up many."

Franklin's children are HIU alumni, starting with Kelly (BA '94). She was followed by three siblings: Kristina Dagley Stahl (BA '95); Andrew Dagley (BA '96), and Sarah Dagley (BA '98). Mr. Dagley has established the Franklin Dagley Award for Excellence in Biblical Studies. The endowment, valued at more than \$60,000, will produce earnings for the award that will recognize excellent students who are non-majors.

SAVE THE DATE!  
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023



# Spirit of Hope



*A distinguished panel of Alumni in Ministry address the guests at our 2021 Gala:  
(left to right) Ashley Wooldridge, Rudy Hagood, Pete Contrares, Dr. Joe Grana, and Steve Carter*



Our annual *Spirit of Hope Concert & Awards Gala*, traditionally held each Fall, is moving to Spring! Mark your calendar and make plans to join alumni and friends for a memorable evening of inspiration, celebration, and philanthropy. Enjoy delicious food, inspiring music, student testimonials, awards, and a “State of the University” address from President Paul Alexander.

We hope you will join us on Saturday, April 29, 2023, in the Grand Ballroom of the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, CA. Watch for details via email and online at [hiu.edu/spiritofhope](http://hiu.edu/spiritofhope).