

Experience

Spring 2014

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WARNER PACIFIC COLLEGE



LEARNING
for a Lifetime



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

For over 30 years, my work in higher education has provided me with the privilege of seeing lives transformed. It never fails to amaze me as I watch God's hand guide the minds and hearts of students in powerful ways throughout their educational experience. Whether it is an 18 year old student who steps onto our traditional campus, unsure of what to do in life, or an adult learner who is investing time and resources to achieve that longed for dream of earning their degree, God is working in the lives of our students.

For many, college is a place to find answers. However, through a Christ-centered, liberal arts education, Warner Pacific prepares students to articulate, embrace, and respond to the questions of life. As students pursue their studies in our relational environment, they begin to better understand their strengths and discover how to put those strengths into action and fulfill their unique calling.

The College's committed faculty serve as gatekeepers of our liberal arts tradition, guiding students as they develop a Christ-centered perspective that relates faith to their chosen area of study. Through diverse literary exploration, scientific inquiry, artistic expression, and social action, our instructors challenge students to expand their perspectives in order to investigate the ways in which they understand society, community, and faith.

In this issue, I have invited a few of our faculty to share their thoughts on how education in the liberal arts is preparing Warner Pacific graduates to engage actively in a constantly changing world. We have also asked a handful of alumni to reflect upon the ways in which their experiences at Warner Pacific have prepared them to embrace diverse career opportunities after college. Through their stories you will gain an understanding of how a liberal arts education develops students with the intellectual capacity, practical leadership skills, and spiritual perspective necessary to excel in their chosen field and find personal fulfillment in their lives.

Through the foundations of a liberal arts education, Warner Pacific College is providing a welcoming and inclusive space where individuals, families, and communities can dream, achieve, and flourish. God created us to be curious, continually seeking His fingerprints in the world that surrounds us. As we uncover these mysteries through the training of our minds and hearts, God is honored in our learning.

To God be the Glory!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrea P. Cook, Ph.D.
President

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Experience

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Learning for a Lifetime

BY MELODY BURTON

The over-educated and under-employed liberal arts graduate is a trope commonplace in American society today. Graduates face a career landscape that is markedly different than the one the previous generation found after college. Recently, the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems and the Associate of American Colleges and Universities published a report titled, “How Liberal Arts and Sciences Majors Fare in Employment.” The report is based on an analysis of U.S. Census and other economic data, and provides a broad view of employment outcomes for recent graduates, as well as for more experienced workers.

Of those surveyed, 4 out of 5 employers agree that all students

should acquire broad knowledge in the liberal arts and sciences. When asked to identify the ranges of knowledge and skills that are important for recent graduates wanting to pursue advancement and long-term career success at their company, 55% of employers indicated that they want employees with both field specific and broad range knowledge and skills. Finally, 93% of employers agree that candidates’ demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than their undergraduate major.

All of this data gets to the heart of what many who work in higher education already know, the most valuable outcome of a bachelor’s degree is cultivating the habits of

a lifelong learner. This is intrinsic to the experience found at Warner Pacific, which is dedicated to providing students from diverse backgrounds an education that prepares them to engage actively in a constantly changing world. Of course, a mission statement is only powerful if it is lived out. So, we caught up with five alumni and asked them to share their thoughts on the value of a Warner Pacific education.

The Rev. Andria (Cotton) Skornik, ’05, earned her degree in Communication Arts and now serves as Assistant Priest in an Episcopal parish outside of Chicago. “My experience at Warner Pacific was great preparation for becoming a preacher,” shares Skornik. “On any given Sunday, I have the challenge of keeping



people awake and engaged, exploring issues in their difficulty and complexity, and making a case for hope and redemption without resorting to easy answers. A big part of the Humanities Core at the College is about making connections across disciplines, articulating issues in terms of paradox, and learning to craft a compelling argument, all of which are essential to the art of preaching.”

The lessons learned in the classroom combined with the deeply relational nature of the campus were vital to Skornik as a young student. “A significant part of my discernment to the priesthood began while I was at Warner Pacific. I remember many office visits with professors, agonizing over what I should do with my life. They didn’t give me ‘the answer’ but they helped me think about my gifts and interests in relationship to the issues I cared about.” The work that Rev. Skornik gets most excited about today was first cultivated during her time at the College. “The philosophy seminar on community was where I realized that I wanted to create communal spaces and opportunities for people to engage in the kinds of conversations we were having in that class,” Skornik explains. “Today, I am able to enjoy a calling that includes creating spaces where people feel connectedness to God and others.”

Roy Adams, ’09, is discovering the benefits of his Warner Pacific education on the battlefield as an Emergency Care Sergeant in the Army. “There are many experiences that I can point to that shaped my life while attending the College,” says Adams. “Perhaps the hardest hitting moment came during my junior year while taking one of Terry Baker’s philosophy classes.”

“I thought that my grade was good enough to finish the term with a C, and neglected to do an assignment. But, when the final grades were posted, mine was not passing. Professor Baker called me to his office and informed me that the one assignment was required for the class. I pleaded with him, noting how this would make me ineligible to run track in the spring. He understood, but saw that it was an important life lesson for me to learn that actions have consequences, and ultimately we are accountable for our own

choices. In the face of losing my athletic scholarship and having to drop out of school, I rose above the adversity and found a way to take an online class. This fortitude, inspired by my professor, led to a great year for me academically and athletically.”

This type of real-world preparation is a key component to Adams’ personal and professional success in the military, where he trains and mentors Army Paratroopers in medical and combat skills. “I had wanted to be a soldier ever since I was a child,” shares Adams. “Being out of the classroom for five years, I cannot immediately recall some of the ‘book smarts’ a college degree requires; however, every day I utilize the critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills that I developed during my time at Warner Pacific.”

Ruby Mitchell, ’09, is currently pursuing a master’s degree in social work and found her calling serving overseas as well, through her time in the Peace Corps. After earning a B.A. in Cross Cultural Ministry, Mitchell found herself using her undergraduate experience immediately upon graduation. “I walked away from Warner Pacific with a solid liberal arts education, and four years of experience of living in a small community,” Mitchell explains. “Being in the Peace Corps demanded nothing less than these two components. By the time I was placed in my own village with a two-year assignment to work on youth development, I was familiar with the pace and intimacy of close community. I knew the importance of my own conduct and reputation; I also knew the importance of treating others with respect and consideration. The breadth of coursework provided foundational knowledge for any type of class or project that my community could want. It was learning to ‘continuously learn’ that made it possible to tackle everything from planting gardens to teaching nutrition or developing English activities.”

Of course, it was more than just the time spent in the classroom that shaped Mitchell. “At the end of my sophomore year I went on a Missions@WP trip with Dr. John and Gwen Johnson, two other



students, and president emeritus, Jay Barber. We were in Myanmar, a country where the men wear a traditional long skirt called a lungyi. President Barber was given one as a gift, and wore it during a lesson that he taught on Elijah. I will never forget him demonstrating the story of Elijah ‘girding up his loins’ and running to Jezreel by hiking up his own lungyi and jogging across the stage, to the shock and joy of everyone attending,” Mitchell recalls fondly. “It was a moment of comedy and a moment of cultural exchange. It was also a moment when I was witness to the complex blends of humility, wisdom, and humor needed for effective cross-culture work.”

Earning a degree may not necessarily be the starting point of a career, often it is the next step on a path that has already begun. Bill Hall, '13, knows that better than most. Hall, who earned his B.A. in Business Administration, is the Director of Services at Swagelok Northwest, a national producer and distributor of fluid system support. For Hall, the convenience of the Adult Degree Program (ADP) was a primary factor in choosing to complete his degree. “The one night a week format really appealed to me as a working adult with a family. It allowed me to maintain family time and study at times that had less impact on my wife and daughters.”

“I was working in this field prior to attending Warner Pacific but earning my degree allowed me the opportunity to advance,” explains Hall. “The program prepared me with the skills I needed to advance in my company to the highest level under the president. I am now a trusted advisor, which would have not been possible without the opportunity to earn my degree at Warner Pacific.”

The relational nature of his ADP cohort made an impact on Hall. “The bond that was created with my learning team was truly amazing. I thought we would get through the classes and go our separate ways but we are still in touch a year after graduation. Great friendships were formed! The openness and brutal honesty that was shared is a testament to the design of the classroom format.”

Gretchen Bossio, '07, '08, has discovered that her training opened doors to a career that she had never expected. Bossio, who earned her bachelor’s degree in Administration of Nonprofit Organizations, and a master’s in Management and Organizational Leadership, is a wife, mother, and freelance writer.

When asked to explain how her educational experience has prepared her for life today, Bossio sees God’s hand at work. “My most important role is the one I play in my family. Although I attended Warner Pacific for education and training in a professional manner, I walked away with the confidence to embrace whatever work God led me to fulfill. In this season of my life, that work is primarily being a wife and mother. It is more rewarding and exhausting than I could have ever imagined, and I daily call on the Lord for grace as I aim to grow in my marriage and motherhood. In the evenings, I am a blogger and work on freelance projects for a number of parenting websites including ‘Baby Gizmo’, ‘What to Expect’, and ‘Natural Parents Network’. My passion for motherhood blends beautifully with these writing opportunities.”

Through conversations with each of these alumni, one thing becomes clear; a liberal arts education should not be seen as a golden ticket promising the future of your dreams. Rather, the experience of being nurtured within a relational, liberal arts environment provides you with a well-stocked toolbox, ready to serve you in building a promising future, wherever God may lead.

Gretchen Bossio agrees, “...the pivotal years I spent at Warner Pacific influenced my career path greatly; first working in nonprofits, then in sales, and currently in my lifelong calling as a mom and in my hobby-turned-part-time-career in freelance writing. Higher education opens doors. Even more, having a degree where I practiced thinking outside of the box rather than just memorizing and reciting facts, has allowed me to flourish in each of my various positions. Warner Pacific equips students with foundational skills to thrive and traverse a world that is constantly changing while also staying very much the same. How’s that for a paradox?” ■



Liberal ARTISTS

BY TONY KRIZ

Tony “The Beat Poet” Kriz is a sought after teacher and speaker on faith and culture. At Warner Pacific, Kriz is a popular adjunct professor and the College’s Author in Residence. His most recent book is “Neighbors and Wise Men: Sacred Encounters in a Portland Pub and Other Unexpected Places” (Thomas Nelson, 2012). You can find Tony at tonykriz.com or follow him on Twitter @tonykriz.

I cannot tell you how many times I have been sitting in a cafe in some obscure corner of Europe or the Middle East, only to have my companions make fun of me for being an “American.” It always starts with something like this:

QUESTION What do you call someone who only speaks one language?

ANSWER An American.

That’s funny, right? The subjects seem unending. They include American tourists, U.S. foreign policy, and Hollywood commercialization. Sometimes, the jokes turn to insults. Not fun. One of the favorite critiques is how poorly Americans are rated in primary and secondary education. The real bummer is that they always have the data to support it. The information is not hard to find. One recent study of fifteen-year-olds from forty developed countries places the U.S. as 26th in Mathematics (not good), 21st in science, and 17th in reading. Ouch... and this from a country that regularly claims to be a world leader.

Imagine the scene. I am sitting in a cafe at a low table, colorful tapestries all around, hot chai in small glass cups, tinny music coming from mounted speakers, and my companions have just informed me that I come from a stupid people. How would you feel?

Now, when this happens, I usually just say, “You are right. We have some real educational issues in our U.S. schools.” And then I ask, “Would you ever send your children to an American high school?”

The answer is always a resounding and often laughter infused, “No!”

But then I ask them, after a dramatic pause, often stirring my chai to fill the time, “Okay, now answer me this; if you could send your children anywhere in the world for their college/university education, where would you send them?”

The answer is always the U.S.

This is not an endorsement or an indictment of the U.S. educational system in any

broad sense. Instead, it is a support of the higher education philosophy affectionately known as “liberal arts.”

Warner Pacific is a Christ-centered, urban, liberal arts college. Liberal arts philosophy is based in ancient education. Originally it was seen as the essential, broad-based learning, believed to be fundamental for any and all contributing citizens of a free and just society. The belief was that mind and soul must be fueled and inspired by interdisciplinary academics.

Many places around the world have not organized their higher education around a liberal arts philosophy. Tight disciplinary specialization is encouraged from a young age (as early as high school, and sometimes even earlier.) This means that by the time a student gets to university age, their education is almost exclusively focused on vocational and technical competencies in a single, narrow field. This structure can create a siloing of knowledge and experience.

However, innovation most often happens in the hazy places between disciplines. I believe these hazy places are particularly nurtured and encouraged in a liberal arts incubator. In such a setting, every student is encouraged to hold in tension a dynamic breadth of studies in one hand, while simultaneously grasping a subject of specialization in the other. Within this dynamic, no area of study is barricaded away from the others.

In my areas of study we are seeing the power of this dynamic crossover. In the subject of Communications, many of the best epiphanies of innovative change are coming from researchers in the realms of Sociology and Neurology (to name a few.) In the area of church imagination in our new post-Christian North America, we are leaning heavily on vocationalists, community developers, and secular artists to help us see what we could not otherwise see from within the exclusively church-training silo.

I am proud to work at an institution like Warner Pacific where the seedbed of innovation is being ever-nurtured through its liberal arts philosophy and commitment. I

am thrilled to help every student, no matter their field of study, to process the spiritual, character, and humanity-serving implications of their future occupations and passions. Finally, I count it a great gift to serve as a reader and cheerleader to students building out their interdisciplinary “masterpieces” in HUM 410, the senior thesis project in which students explore personal, social, ethical, and religious issues related to their chosen disciplines, through the lens of a humanities perspective.

As I look to the future of the Christian church and our society in general, I believe we need to dream and learn... maybe like never before.

We need more educators who are also artists.

We need businesspeople who are also environmentalists.

We need theologians who are also biologists.

We need athletes who are also medical practitioners.

We need entrepreneurs who are local/global historians.

We need lawyers who are musicians.

We need social workers who are economists.

We need chefs/cooks who are urbanists.

We need... you.

My question to you is simply this; in light of the tremendous gift you have been given to be nurtured among the Warner Pacific community and within the Warner Pacific commitment to a Christ-centered, urban, liberal arts mission:

In which hazy places will you choose to play? Between which disciplines do you hope to innovate, create, imagine, and inspire? What unique contribution will you dare to dream?

In his poem, “Oh Me! Oh Life,” Walt Whitman inspires us, “That the powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse.” ▀

1 Knights Draft Ten Year Old to Women's Basketball Team

Warner Pacific College has chosen 10 year old Lexy delos Reyes as the newest member of the Knights' women's basketball team. Lexy has been battling cancer since she was 14 months old and was drafted through a partnership with Team IMPACT, a nonprofit organization that matches children who are facing serious illnesses with college athletic teams in order to "inspire, motivate, and play against challenges together." Lexy was drafted during a special ceremony held at the College in which the students, staff, and faculty welcomed her to the team with pompoms, cheers, and her own Knights jersey. As a new recruit, Lexy will provide encouragement at practices and support to the Women's Basketball team at home games. Learn more at warnerpacific.edu/lexy.

FYLCs Highlight Semester Experiences

The First-Year Learning Communities (FYLCs) at Warner Pacific shared their first-semester experiences through a series of community events. These events were student-led opportunities for each FYLC to showcase how they have explored the themes of Christ-centered, urban, liberal arts, and diversity through the lens of their course topics. Events included multiple interactive presentations, a thinking dinner, a film festival, and an evening of music appreciation. Find out more about FYLCs at warnerpacific.edu/fylc.

Freshmen Impact City Council Vote on Human Trafficking

Freshmen in the First-Year Learning Community (FYLC) Faith, Justice, and Portland, had their voices heard during the December 2, 2013, testimony before Portland City Council. Throughout the fall semester, these students studied the massive impact of the commercialized sexual exploitation of children in Portland. The FYLC shared their findings with the Warner Pacific community at a Chapel service on November 21, and offered students the opportunity to sign a petition in support of a budget ordinance that would provide vital resources for our city's most vulnerable. During the City Council meeting, professor Stephanie Mathis presented a letter to the Council on behalf of the FYLC students along with the signed petition. The ordinance passed and the Council also voted to include an emergency clause to expedite its implementation. When asked to vote, Commissioner Fritz highlighted the importance of the students' work by saying, "The Warner Pacific students have just made my speech for me, I don't need to repeat the reasons to pass this. Thank you all for your work on this." Watch video of the testimony at warnerpacific.edu/freshmen-impact.

Hip-Hop Takes Center Stage at Diversity Lecture Series

The 2nd Annual Diversity Lecture Series welcomed prominent authors and scholars, Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, Dr. Christopher Emdin, and Rahiel Tesfamariam as part of a compelling, three-part event titled, "It's Bigger Than Hip-Hop: Community, Education, and Spirituality" at McGuire Auditorium on the College's Mt. Tabor campus. This three-part series featured thoughtful discussion and critical analysis on a broad range of topics. Rooted in the mission and core themes of Warner Pacific College, the Office of Diversity provides the resources and programs necessary for developing and supporting a richly diverse campus, while also reaching out to honor voices throughout the greater Portland community. Learn more at warnerpacific.edu/diversity.



Freedom to Flourish Empowers Graduates to Pursue their Dreams

Incoming first time freshmen who enroll in the traditional undergraduate program at Warner Pacific College beginning in the fall of 2014 will no longer have to worry about how they will pay back their student loans once they graduate. Freedom to Flourish, a loan repayment assistance program, empowers graduates to secure a well-paying job after graduation or ensures their ability to repay their loans while following their dreams. To be eligible to receive loan repayment assistance students must:

- Earn a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) from Warner Pacific College
- Be employed at least 30 hours a week and earn less than \$37,000 annually after graduating

The level of assistance is based on income level. Freedom to Flourish is provided at no cost to the student and covers all student loans including federal student loans, private student loans, and Parent PLUS loans. Warner Pacific College is the first undergraduate program in the Portland Metro area to offer this groundbreaking initiative. Learn more at warnerpacific.edu/freedomtoflourish.

2 Winter Storms Put Homecoming Celebrations on Ice

An extended storm covered the Portland area in snow and ice, causing the College to close for two days of classes and postponing all scheduled Homecoming activities. Due to the unfortunate timing of the storms, Warner Pacific is rescheduling key events that were to be held over the weekend of February 6-8, including the Distinguished Alumni Awards, the Athletic Hall of Honor Induction, and the reception honoring retiring faculty members. This year's Distinguished Alumni honorees are **Nicole (Yerden) Wells '98**, and **Dr. Kerry Kuehl '81**. The Athletic Hall of Honor Induction will recognize outstanding former student athletes **Darcy Fast '69**, baseball and basketball; and the 1982 and 1983 volleyball teams. The reception to honor retiring faculty will provide an opportunity for students and alumni to share their appreciation of Dr. John Fazio, Dr. Lou Foltz, and Phyllis Michael. For more information on when these events will take place, find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/warnerpacific](https://www.facebook.com/warnerpacific) or visit warnerpacific.edu/alumni.

59-Year-Old WP Runner is a True Inspiration

Running is considered a lifetime sport. While speed and endurance may fade, it's an activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. Still, it's not often you find a 59-year-old man who can handle the competition of collegiate athletics, regardless of the sport. That didn't stop **Fred Willet '14**, an army veteran who enrolled at Warner Pacific under the G.I. Bill and received his eligibility determination from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Eligibility Center in November 2013. You can read more of Fred's inspirational story at warnerpacific.edu/fred-willet.

WP Launches Men's and Women's Wrestling in 2014

In October 2013, Warner Pacific announced that the College will add men's and women's wrestling to its athletics program and begin intercollegiate competition in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) in 2014-15. Warner Pacific previously fielded a men's wrestling program from 1968-75, led by local coaching legend and Warner Pacific Hall of Honor member, Dave Sanville. The College's decision to initiate a women's program is a historic addition for NAIA wrestling, becoming the 15th women's program in the NAIA which allows women's wrestling to become a NAIA-Recognized sport. Warner Pacific women's wrestling will be the third program in Oregon, joining non-NAIA programs at Pacific University and Southwest Oregon Community College. Both Warner Pacific programs will be headed by Frank Johnson. Johnson is well-known in Northwest wrestling circles and has enjoyed success at the high school and college levels as a head coach, and as an ambassador for the sport in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Find out more about WP wrestling at warnerpacific.edu/wrestling.

ADP Students Partner with Project Warmth

Students in the Adult Degree Program collected new winter clothing items for Project Warmth, an endeavor of Feast for Southeast, a grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors in Southeast Portland. Both Feast for Southeast and Project Warmth were founded by WP alumni Roberto and Carolina Selva in 2010. Thanks to the generosity of current ADP students, Project Warmth was able to provide new hats, scarves, socks, and gloves to guests at the 2013 Feast for Southeast Thanksgiving meal. Get involved with Feast for Southeast at feast4southeast.com.

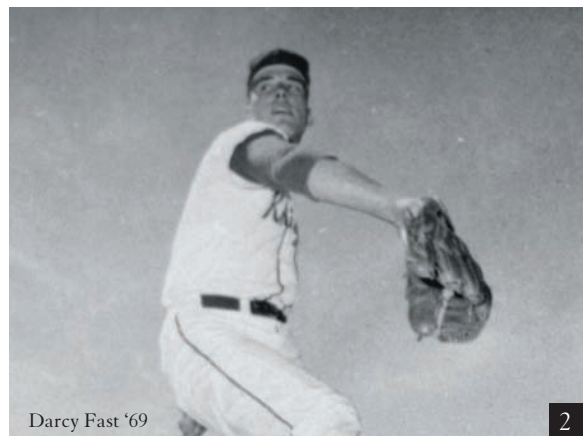


2

Dr. Kerry Kuehl '81 (right) with OHSU student



2



Darcy Fast '69

2



1982 Volleyball Team

2



1983 Volleyball Team

2



[FACULTY PROFILE]

Pamela Plimpton, Ph.D.

Professor of English and Humanities

I have worked at Warner Pacific for over 30 years. It has changed the way I think, learn, and teach, and continues to do so by helping me see how important each and every individual is when it comes to contributing to the “goodness” of the world. Sometimes we may not think that our actions matter in the larger scheme of things, but they do.

A liberal arts education provides training, not only in a particular discipline, but just as importantly in habits of the mind. Recently, I had a student who had made it very clear he was primarily interested in courses in his major. Then for a mid-term project, students had to examine a problem or issue in their major field of study and imagine a solution for it with information from a completely different discipline of study. The student ended up doing a very creative application. I think it opened his eyes to the benefit of looking at his main area of interest through various fields of knowledge. Making connections across disciplines breathes life into the curriculum.

[FACULTY PROFILE]

Ulf Spears, DSL

Adjunct Instructor; Dr. of Strategic Leadership

Working as an instructor at Warner Pacific has informed my own life in a number of ways. As I prepare each lecture, discussion, or activity, I strive to think with the student in mind. My own liberal arts training has prepared me to posture myself as a lifelong learner, and my professional career provides me with the tools I need to instruct confidently as a scholar-practitioner.

I'm excited by the growing diverse student population at Warner Pacific. I appreciate that the College is committed to encouraging students to explore, question, and dialog on subjects like race, ethnicity, and justice in a safe, healthy environment. I have witnessed adult students who were not used to thinking critically about the world and the issues that affect business, life, and community, gain valuable analytical skills that empower them to solve complex social and organizational matters. A student graduating from Warner Pacific will gain transferable intellectual and practical skills along with a strong sense of societal responsibility.



[FACULTY PROFILE]

Beth DuPriest, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Biology

The opportunity to instruct students from a wide variety of disciplines and backgrounds is more fun than you might expect. I teach future citizens, parents, voters, and community influencers about science; I get to de-mystify it and make it exciting. At its core, science is a way of creating new knowledge about the world in which we live; it's not just a bunch of facts to memorize. By investing in a liberal arts education, students gain an ability to find and evaluate information from various sources so that decisions can be made with a solid foundation of understanding, while still incorporating faith and morality into those decisions.

Working at a liberal arts college has had a deep impact on my life as well. As a scientist, my experiences as a professor at Warner Pacific have taught me to think more creatively, to generate new hypotheses I wouldn't otherwise have thought of. As a teacher, I get excited about finding new ways to connect with students who wouldn't otherwise reach out for help. Witnessing students overcome barriers to learning is truly rewarding.





[FACULTY PROFILE]

Joe Linker

Adjunct Instructor

My parents made career decisions that lasted their lifetimes, and they encouraged me to do the same, to cross the existential threshold to a permanent job only once – into a trade, a service, a profession. However, the world has changed, and now more and more of us are motivated to make second and third career decisions. A liberal arts education creates resiliency and prepares us for change. Through cultivating skills necessary for multiple potential pursuits, we develop the insight to thrive in an ever-changing world of diverse needs and wants. It's a liberating experience.

There is often opposition to courses that don't seem useful, but I have seen resistant students finish a literature class and tell me their lives have changed. It sounds like hyperbole, but for many, the liberal arts engagement provides new perspectives that suggest new possibilities.

Seeing that kind of transformation improves my focus and sense of responsibility. Liberal arts study is about more than making a career decision; it's about how we choose to live our lives and the ability to shape our own futures.

faculty updates

Dr. Jay Beaman



Two New Books from WP Authors

Dr. Jay Beaman, Director of Institutional Effectiveness at the College is the co-editor of “Pentecostal and Holiness Statements on War and Peace.” The book provides a glimpse into the Church’s history as it catalogues Holiness and Pentecostal denominational statements on war and peace.

Adjunct instructor, Dr. Ulf Spears has released a new book titled, “Coaching Leadership Families,” which examines the leadership family model as a key coaching and mentoring tool for the multiplication of healthy, strong families in the twenty-first century.

Author in Residence Named Regular Contributor to “Leadership Journal”

As the College’s Author in Residence, Tony Kriz explores the often paradoxical experiences of faith as he shares stories, real-life conversations, and encounters which prove that God can and will use anyone and anything. He will now be able to share that message with a wider audience of church leaders in his new role as a regular contributor to “Leadership Journal.” Kriz is the author of “Welcome to the Table: Post-Christian Culture Saves a Seat for Ancient Liturgy” and most recently, “Neighbors and Wise Men: Sacred Encounters in a Portland Pub and Other Unexpected Places.” “Leadership Journal” is published quarterly by Christianity Today International, and provides today’s church leaders with biblically faithful, pastorally practical writing. Their mission is to serve Christ’s church by keeping leaders informed, encouraged, and connected to the global community of leaders.

Stephanie Mathis with Think Out Loud host, Dave Miller.



WP Professors Challenged to “Think Out Loud”

Think Out Loud, a show on Oregon Public Broadcasting, recently featured two members of the Warner Pacific community in panel discussions exploring themes of culture and faith. Adjunct instructor, Stephanie Mathis shared her experiences on a show titled, “The Evangelicals You Don’t Know,” which focused on how Christians are living out values of social justice in their local communities. Dr. Daymond Glenn, Vice President for Community Life and Chief Diversity Officer offered his insight to a panel in which African-American families discussed the challenges and solutions of raising strong families in America’s cultural climate. Recordings of these shows are available online at opb.org/thinkoutloud.

President Cook Inspires CCCU to Flourish

President Andrea Cook authored a thought provoking article for the fall 2013 issue of “CCCU Advance,” the magazine for the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) which covers the news and people of Christ-centered higher education. The piece, titled “Flourish: Planting a Seed to Serve Underrepresented Communities,” focuses on the ways in which Christian colleges are poised to respond to and meet the needs of the more diverse generation of students who are now entering higher education. The article is available online at warnerpacific.edu/cccu-flourish.

WARNER PACIFIC CELEBRATES THOSE RETIRING



Dr. John Fazio, Professor of Developmental Psychology, has been at Warner Pacific for 36 years. Dr. Fazio directed and led the College's launch of degree completion programs, which have grown into what is now known as the Adult Degree Program. In addition to his work as a professor, Dr. Fazio was the Project Director for the Kellogg Human Services Program and acted as the College's Director of Institutional Research. Dr. Fazio is an active volunteer with the Portland/Vancouver Trauma Intervention Program, and has served with medical response teams for international disasters in Albania, Kosovo, and India. Dr. Fazio also served as a consultant with Mercy Corps, assisting 9/11 response teams.



Dr. Lou Foltz, Professor of Educational Psychology, has shared his gifts with Warner Pacific for 38 years. Dr. Foltz is frequently invited to present for national events, including the National Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching, Church of God Conferences, brain physiology and learning lectures at Harvard and OHSU, and internationally through a lectureship at Kyiv State Pedagogical Institute. In addition to his work as an instructor, Dr. Foltz has served as the Dean of Faculty, the Director of Teacher Education, and led the College in the creation of the Humanities Core Curriculum. Dr. Foltz is an avid traveler and gifted painter. As an author, he has released numerous publications that focus on the themes of worship and spirituality throughout various life stages.



Phyllis Michael, Associate Professor Human Development and Family Studies, has been part of the Warner Pacific faculty since 1993. During her time at the College, Professor Michael created the degree in Human Development and Family Studies, which is a certified baccalaureate degree with the National Council on Family Relations, allowing graduates to become certified family life educators. In addition to her work at Warner Pacific, Professor Michael is directing a program of marriage and family therapy training in China, and has provided training and mental health services to several under-served parts of the world including Albania, Burundi, Kenya, Israel, India, Beirut, and Lebanon.



Sue Kopp, Director of Library Services, has been at Warner Pacific since 2002. During her time at the College, Kopp was instrumental in seeing the College join the Orbis Cascade Alliance, a nonprofit consortium of colleges and universities in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho which promotes collaboration and innovation in library sciences. In addition to her role in the library, she also serves as an associate professor. A gifted artist, textiles created by Kopp and displayed in the library will serve as warm reminders of her time at Warner Pacific.

WARNER PACIFIC COLLEGE

is excited to begin 2014 by welcoming a number of new faces to our campuses throughout Portland.

Vicki Abbate

Early Learning Center Director

Michael DeBenedetti

Coordinator of Partnerships and Placements;
Licensure Officer

Daniel Ballard

Assistant Track and Cross Country Coach

Austra Bloms

Assistant Women's Soccer Coach

Rodney Cavazo

Academic Advisor, ADP

Jared Clark

Financial Aid Counselor

Ben Cogdill

Assistant Track and Cross Country Coach

Tony Collopy

Assistant Women's Basketball Coach

Michael Flores

Student Financial Services Representative

Pamela Harrington

Assistant Professor of Social Work

Ryan Hubbard

Assistant Professor of Health and Human Kinetics

Sarah Hudson

Assistant Women's Basketball Coach

Frank Johnson

Head Wrestling Coach

Dave Kilian

Head Track and Field Coach

Tess Krebs

Assistant Women's Soccer Coach

Nick Poindexter

Assistant Director of Admissions

Holly Popenuk

Head Women's Soccer Coach

Shannon Schrecengost

Admissions Counselor

Edward Sims

Assistant Golf Coach



WP Welcomes New Act Six Cadre

Ten high school seniors have been awarded full need scholarships to Warner Pacific through the Act Six Leadership & Scholarship Initiative. These diverse student leaders were selected following a rigorous three-month competition among more than 900 applicants. Cadre 5 scholars were chosen for their distinctive leadership, academic potential, and commitment to making a difference in their communities. The students selected for Cadre 5 are: Sameya Amme, Jefferson High School; Eldy Davila, Tigard Senior High School; Alicia Grovom, Gresham Union High School; Lloyd Jones, Madison High School; Hana Kent, Roosevelt High School; Francisco Moreno-Campos, De La Salle North Catholic High School; Raymond Ontiveros, Tigard Senior High School; Aaleyah Patterson, Tigard Senior High School; Daisy Ulloa, Tigard Senior High School; and Sofia Velasquez, Woodburn Arts & Community Academy. Learn more at warnerpacific.edu/act-six.

Warner Pacific Recognized for Interfaith Service

The President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge is a national initiative that was launched by President Barack Obama, with the hope of uniting Americans of all faiths, along with those who practice no faith, to come together with common purpose through service. The federal government provided a framework, along with resources through gatherings and webinars. However, each institution was tasked with uncovering and responding to real needs within their community. Warner Pacific was one of only four colleges in Oregon to be recognized for the achievement of completing the challenge to involve students, faculty, staff, and the greater community in interfaith service. Through partnerships with Catholic Charities and the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland, and with the leadership of Dr. Cassie Trentaz, students were able to provide nearly 700 hours of direct service to the refugee resettlement program helping recent immigrants from Iran and Somalia. Students have also planned ongoing projects for continued engagement within this community, in hopes of helping to meet the direct needs of refugees in the Portland area.



Jim Lyon Receives Honorary Doctorate

At the Convocation of the 77th academic year, Warner Pacific was privileged to bestow upon Jim Lyon, the Honorary Doctor of Divinity. Lyon is a former student of the College and serves as the general director of Church of God Ministries. As a pastor and as the host of "Viewpoint," a radio ministry of Church of God Ministries, Jim Lyon distinguished himself as a visionary, a gifted communicator, and a leader in the Church of God in North America and around the world. The honorary degree awarded at Warner Pacific recognizes merit and excellence. It is given to persons of exemplary character, whose contributions to their field of endeavor, to society at large, to the work of the church, and to the College deserve public attention.

Knights Get Five Stars for Character

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) has chosen Warner Pacific as a Champions of Character Five-Star Institution. The Athletics Department was recognized for creating an environment in which every NAIA student-athlete, coach, official, and spectator is committed to the true spirit of competition through five tenets: integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship, and servant leadership.

Foundations Show Act Six Support

The Act Six Leadership and Scholarship Initiative at Warner Pacific College has received support from two local foundations. The William H. & Mary L. Bauman Foundation has granted the program \$20,000, and the Juan Young Trust has granted the program \$10,000. The Bauman Foundation was established in 1992 following the death of Bill Bauman, owner of Bauman Sawmill, which later became part of Willamette Industries and then Weyerhaeuser Corp. The foundation's primary purpose is to support children and youth, and evangelical churches and organizations. The Juan Young Trust was established under the will of Juan Young, a long-time employee, officer, and stockholder of Kienow's Food Stores. The mission of the Trust is to provide grants to 501(c)(3) organizations that promote the health, education, and welfare of children under 21 years old, in the state of Oregon. The Act Six program at Warner Pacific recruits diverse, multi-cultural cadres of Portland's most promising emerging leaders.



Education students get recognized.

Warner Pacific Named a Great School at a Great Price

Warner Pacific was ranked in the Top 10 Regional Colleges-West and named as a “Great School at a Great Price” by the “U.S. News & World Report” Best Colleges 2014 edition. Colleges were ranked using a robust methodology which includes graduation and retention rates, assessment by peers, faculty resources, financial resources, and graduation rate performance.

President Cook Honored for Service and Excellence

President Andrea Cook received recognition for service to the Portland community as well as excellence in education. The Adventist Health Foundation’s “Heroes of the Heart,” is a distinction awarded to local community members who are making a difference in Portland through their service to others. Dr. Cook was selected from an array of volunteers, youth, public servants, business leaders, and foundation and corporation leaders, by a committee that cited her commitment to providing equitable access to higher education within our community. In addition, Dr. Cook was honored by her alma mater, Northwest Nazarene University, with the 2013 L.E. Wesche Outstanding Educator of the Year award. The award is given each year to an alumnus who has provided distinguished service in the field of education.

Education Department Receives High Marks from TSPC

In 2013, Warner Pacific hosted a Focus Visit by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC), a regulatory body that provides oversight to education programs for colleges and universities. The preliminary statement from the Focus Visit indicates that the team’s recommendation to the TSPC and its Executive Director is that Warner Pacific College has met all of the required standards. In addition to the very positive preliminary report, Warner Pacific also received several compliments from the team:

1. It was clear that remarkable, rapid change had taken place in the Teacher Education Department.
2. Electronic exhibits provided in advance of the visit were thorough and well organized.
3. The team was welcomed with great hospitality and was well served during the visit.
4. They found the teacher candidates at Warner Pacific to be very sharp and great students.
5. The team was very complementary of our faculty.
6. They were impressed by the very friendly, relational feel of the campus, noting that all students warmly greeted the team when they encountered them around the campus.

2013 Heroes of the Heart Honorees



STAY UP TO DATE on all of the latest news from Warner Pacific with “In the City,” our monthly email newsletter! Email inthecity@warnerpacific.edu to subscribe.

ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS NOTES

Since retiring 17 years ago, **Jesse P. Mark '58** has been an active volunteer at Christ Church Cathedral in Lexington, Ky., leading an art gallery program called Art-at-the-Cathedral, which engages over 200 local artists. Jesse and his wife, Ruth, who also volunteers extensively in the homeless community, have lived in Lexington since 1977.

Marshall Haskins '85 is the new athletic director of Portland Public Schools. During his time at Warner Pacific, Marshall was a basketball player and was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Honor in 2013.

Al Zimmerman '90 and his wife, Virginia, relocated to Coos Bay, Ore. to enjoy life on the beautiful Southern Oregon Coast. Al may do some consulting in fund development and planned giving.

Nicole (Yerden) Wells '98 has been awarded the grand prize from the West Coast Songwriters at the live competition finals for the best song of 2013. Nicole competed with her peers from three West Coast states and with her song, "I Know it's You," she became the first Portland district winner to win the grand finals.

Teresa (Wilson) Hellstrom '00 was named the director of ministries for pregnant or teen parents at Central Valley Youth for Christ in August 2013.

Kerri (Cissna) Heath '01 is the Senior Advancement Officer for the Graduate School of Education and Psychology at Pepperdine University.

Michael Alben '02 was ordained July 25, 2013 at the Evangelical Churches of North America's Pacific Conference annual meeting and was assigned as the new senior pastor at Burien Evangelical Church in Burien, Wash.

Chad Lozier '03 is the Assistant Director of the Office of Strengths and Vocation, at Point Loma Nazarene University. This is a newly created position to coach and mentor on-campus students who seek career advising guidance and vocational exploration.

Kellen Pierce '04 was hired at Alpha Broadcasting, located in Portland.

Eric Alston '08 graduated with honors from Oregon Health & Science University, School of Dentistry in June 2013, as a Doctor of Dental Medicine. Eric was accepted to the General Practice Residency program at the Portland VA Medical Center in July 2013.

Conner Peckham '09 is enrolled in a master's program at the University of Portland and is working as an Administrative Assistant at M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, located in Vancouver, Wash.

Jenny Marble '10 is the Associate Pastor at Friendly Street Church of God in Eugene, Ore.

Nicolle Gainer '11 married Sam Cox on March 9, 2013. Parents of the bride are Michael and **Kris (Couch) Gainer '81**.

Samantha Laws '12 married Marty Sullivan on August 9, 2013 in Pacific Grove, Calif.

Jessica Prouty '12 is a Specialist in the Army National Guard. She will be training to be an Air Traffic Operator.

Kayla Winkle '12 received the prestigious National Health Service Corps Scholarship which will pay full tuition for all four years of medical school in exchange for four years of service.

Ben Test '12 is the Director of Equipment Accounting at Greenbrier Management Services, LLC.

Robin Bowman '13 married **Katie Dye '12** on August 24, 2013.

Jered Brown '13 has accepted a position as a litigation paralegal with the legal defense team at Hitt, Hiller, Monfils, Williams, LLP.

Alec Capps '13 and **Marina Apa '13** wed on August 3, 2013 at Clackamas River Farm in Eagle Creek, Ore.

Jenna (Kircheva) '13 and **Mikhail Savich** were married April 27, 2013, in a beautiful ceremony at their church, surrounded by family and friends.

Kate McGregor '13 lives in Boulder Creek, Calif., and has a new position as Marketing and Promotions Coordinator at Beck's Shoes.

Adam Ristick '13 was hired as Assistant Act Six Director with the Portland Leadership Foundation.

BIRTHS

Kathy (Eason) '98 and **Garth Hamilton '98** welcomed their son, Levi James, on January 15, 2014, at 12:26 a.m. Levi was 9 lbs 6 oz., and 19.5 inches long.

Erika (Robertson) '00 and **Chris Trautman '01** welcomed their son, Lincoln James, on August 19, 2013. Lincoln weighed 8 lbs 5 oz., and was 21 inches long.

Traci (Grenz) Vogt '01 and her husband, Eric, welcomed their daughter, June Gerda Vogt, on October 5, 2013.

Melanie and **Michael Alben '02** welcomed Caleb Alben on June 25, 2013. Caleb weighed 7 lbs 10 oz., and was 21 inches long.

Rinda (Klein) '03 and **Joel Scott '02** welcomed their son, Caleb Joel Scott, on July 9, 2013.

Share your news with the
Warner Pacific community!
Visit warnerpacific.edu/alumni-update
to submit your story.

Nikki Hawthorne '03 and Evgeni V. Pavlov welcomed their daughter, Rosa Pavlov Hawthorne on September 7, 2013.

Amber (Chapin) '04 and **Gabriel Carter '04** welcomed their son, Crosby Isaiah Carter, on August 22, 2013. Crosby was 8 lbs 7 oz., and 21 inches long.

Cassie (Johnson) '06 and **Brent Muller '05** welcomed their baby girl, Adeline Grace, on November 5, 2013. Adeline was named after Cassie's grandmother and joins big brothers Isaiah and Ezra. The Muellers have moved to Spokane, Wash., where Cassie is an RN and Brent is a physical therapist.

Katie and **Aaron Walton '06** welcomed their second child, baby Emma.

Jodi and **Tyler Rohr '07** welcomed baby Ryder Loren Rohr on March 26, 2013. Grandparents are **Jan (Boberg) '73** and **Gary Rohr '78**.

Destinee (Kohl) '08 and **David Christian '06** welcomed their healthy baby boy, Lucas David Christian on September 18, 2013. His name means "beloved bringer of God's light."

Jamie (Fensterer) '08 and husband, **Robbie York**, welcomed their daughter, Hannah Joy York, on June 25, 2013. She weighed 6 lbs 13 oz., and was 20 inches long. Hannah joins big brother, Josiah. The Yorks moved back to Portland in 2012 and started "Freedom," a house church.

Lindsay (Adams) '09 and **Lance Chamberlain '07** welcomed their son, Everitt Russell Chamberlain, on August 22, 2013. Everitt weighed in at 8 lbs 14 oz., and was 20 inches long.

Jessica (Hieronimus) '09 and Eric James Taylor welcomed their daughter, Eliana Grace Taylor, on August 23, 2013. Eliana weighed 7.7 lbs and measured 19 inches.

Kelsey (Walton) '09 and husband Scott **Birkhofer**, welcomed their son, Andrew Birkhofer, on June 16, 2013. Andrew weighed in at 8 lbs 1 oz., and was 20 inches long, he joins big sister Madison.

Marxis (Valderrama) '10 and **JW Salazar, Jr.** welcomed their first child, Elie Haziel Salazar on October 31, 2013. Elie means "God is great, God is my help," and Haziel means "God's vision or sight."

Dean '13 and Tracy **Ober** welcomed daughter Natalie Mae Ober on December 17, 2013. She weighed in at 6 lbs 6 oz., and was 18 inches long.

Cara (Savelli) '09 and **Jared Mace '09** welcomed son, Isaiah Benjamin to their family on December 21, 2013 at 8:42 a.m. He weighed 7 lbs 13 oz.

Rebekka '13 and Dominic **Ramirez** welcomed their daughter Kaitlyn Irene Ramirez, on November 21, 2013. She was 7 lbs 9 oz., and 20 inches long. Kaitlyn joins big sister, Alexis.

Jenna (Kircheva) '13 and Mikhail **Savich** welcomed baby Isabella to their family.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Hal A. Hooker '43 passed away on February 15, 2013, followed by his wife of 69 years, **LaVerne (Donaldson) Hooker '43** who passed away on November 11, 2013. Hal and LaVerne served in ministry together for 67 years and are survived by their children: Jacque (Ron) Mauer, **Rich Hooker '71**, and Robert (Jennifer) Hooker.

Harold Rogers '45 passed away on November 9, 2013 at the age of 99. He served on the College's Board of Trustees from 1979-84, and is survived by his wife, Audrey Rogers.

Herbert Dietz '48 passed away on August 23, 2013. Herb grew up near Scappoose, Ore., and attended Scappoose High School. Herb and **Shirley (Nixon) Dietz '48** both attended Pacific Bible College and were married at Holladay Park Church of God in 1948. They have lived in both California and New Mexico, but have family and have maintained many friendships in the Portland area throughout the years, and have chosen Portland for their final resting place. Herb's service was held at Lynchwood Church of God in Portland.

Marian Esther (Jacobs) Lander '49 passed away on November 9, 2013. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, **Richard Lander '50**; her three children **Phil '72 (Karen '72) Lander**, Denise (Jerry) Clark, and **Tom '76 (Robyn) Lander**, as well as 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Rev. Roland Behnke '51 passed away on February 3, 2013, after 61 years in ministry. He is survived by his wife, Ruby and three children; James (**Helen Hyatt '65**) Behnke; Sandra (Dennis) Hipolite; and Susan (Robert) Yates.

Rev. Norman Middleton '54 died on December 5, 2012. Norman preached his first sermon at age, 15, and earned a Masters of Divinity at Anderson University. He served in ministry for 54 years before retiring in 2001. Norman is survived by his wife, **Dorothy (Hunter) Middleton '54**.

Richard 'Dick' Shorb '56 passed away on September 26, 2013, from cancer. He is survived by his wife **Sharon (Dygart) Shorb '53**, and his children Douglas, Steven, and Karen (Yeager).

Rev. Milton Atkisson '57 passed away on February 23, 2013, after 34 years in ministry. Milton is survived by his wife, **Barbara (Moore) Atkisson '47**.

Rev. Earl Bissett '60 passed away June 26, 2013. He was honored last July at the Church of God Camp Meeting for 50 years of ordained ministry. He and his wife, **Ruth (Jones) '60 Bissett**, served in Springfield, Oakridge, Bandon, Camp White Branch, and Salem, Ore.

John "Jack" Robert Beau Lac '60 passed away on March 21, 2013 after a four-year fight with multi-myeloma cancer at age 78. Jack was ordained in 1961 and throughout his life, served in more than 20 churches of different denominations. Along with his ministry, Jack also worked in social services for 30 years. Jack is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, **Loretta Kaye (Stephens) Beau Lac '60**, his four children and their families, five siblings, and numerous foster children.

Jerry Steele '61 passed away on September 26, 2013, at the age of 75. Jerry taught elementary school in California and then in Beaverton, Ore., until retiring and moving to Clinton, N.Y. He is survived by his wife, **Mary (Culp) Steele '61**, daughters Andrea and Lara, and their families.

Ted A Schroeder '90 passed away on May 26, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Cindy Kollofski.

Nathan Pruitt '05 was killed in an accident when he touched a live, 270-volt line, while working on a remodeling project at the Standard Insurance Plaza, he was 27. Nathan was an IBEW local 48 apprentice, and is survived by his wife, Lacey, and their unborn child. The community is raising funds to support the Pruitt family during this time of need, visit youcaring.com to learn more.

Jess Riley Johnson '13 passed away on December 22, 2013, after fighting an illness. Jess earned his degree in Sociology and Human Development at Warner Pacific. He touched many lives through his career in real estate, at the time of his passing, he worked for Keller-Williams in Tualatin.

Ka-tasha Willette Jenkins '13 passed away July 30, 2013, at her home in Gresham, Ore., at the age of 35. Ka-Tasha graduated from Estacada High School and was enrolled at Warner Pacific, majoring in Criminology. At the time of her death, Ka-Tasha was three credits shy of graduation.

Michael Muange '16 died suddenly due to an undiagnosed heart condition while at his home. A decade ago, Michael, his mother, and his seven

**REV. DR. C. RICHARD
"DICK" CRAGHEAD '56**
passed away on November
26, 2013 at 81 years of age.

A writer, retired minister, and professor, Richard is survived by his wife of 56 years, Ardys Craghead; his two children, Laurie and Mitchell; and their spouses.

As a student at Warner Pacific, Richard served as student body president, edited the campus newspaper, served on the year-book staff, and shared his rich baritone while traveling with a male quartet. In addition to degrees in religion ('56) and theology ('57) earned at Warner Pacific, Richard also received a M.Div. from Anderson School of Theology and was granted a Doctor of Ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary.

In 1974, Richard joined the faculty of Warner Pacific as an associate professor in Christian education, religion, and journalism, serving until his retirement. During his time at Warner Pacific, Richard was awarded multiple honors for his teaching, and served as chair of the religion department, and as academic dean. Upon his retirement in 1994, Richard was named emeritus professor from Warner Pacific. His service was held at McGuire Auditorium on January 4, 2014.

brothers and sisters joined his father in the United States, escaping the lawless violence they were experiencing in Central Africa. Known for his kindness, Michael's presence is greatly missed on the Mt. Tabor campus of the College. Memorial gifts can be made to the Orphans Heritage Foundation through US Bank.

parting words

The Liberal ARTS

BY COLE DAWSON, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
AND DEAN OF THE FACULTY



One of the Core Themes derived from the mission of Warner Pacific College suggests that we will be engaged in “Fostering a Liberal Arts Education.” This claim of intention places the College not only in company with dozens of other institutions of higher education throughout the country, but also within the progressive imaginations of the founding president, A.F. Gray and early Dean of the Faculty, Otto F. Linn. Clearly, however, there are many definitions and illustrations of what it means to be a “liberal arts college.”

Some suggest that such a college’s curriculum must be strictly based on the classics and must eschew specific preparation for professional careers. At the other end of the spectrum are colleges that rely upon a few courses in a general education program to support the claim of a “well-rounded” graduate. Even within the faculty and staff of Warner Pacific, slight variants of these preferences may be found. Since, at least for this issue of “The Experience,” I have been tasked to provide some inspirational “parting words,” here is my contribution to this ancient discussion.

To me, a liberal arts education not only hones the native critical and creative capacities of the individual but also exposes the learner to completely different experiences within a context of other explorers who are processing their understandings from other distinct perspectives. Regardless of the course or setting, whether in one’s major, in a general education course, in study groups, in the dining hall, on the playing field, or in quiet private contemplation, a good liberal arts education rewards curiosity, discourages simplistic answers, embraces tradition while reveling in innovation,

and challenges assumptions. A good liberal arts education does all of this from a strong base of skills, knowledge, and convictions. To benefit fully from this process, one must be able to communicate well, reason well, work well, and to draw deeply from learned discourse in the framing of ideas from divergent streams.

The outcomes of such an education unfold not at the moment of completing requirements for a diploma, but over a lifetime. Fittingly, graduation ceremonies are often called “commencement” in recognition of the journey on which the graduate is embarking. A good liberal arts education prepares the traveler to connect the dots, see beyond the obvious, imagine, blend perspectives, reject false dichotomies, embrace paradox, live passionately, contribute generously, and do good. In the words of the prophet Micah, “to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.”

I benefitted from such an environment in my own undergraduate education. While I thought I had soaked up every ounce of what was available in those four years, only later did I realize that coursework and conversations, friendships and frustrations, required courses and electives, continued to teach me long after I thought I had left college. The value of those experiences, comprehended in reflection, constitute the constantly unwrapped present that marks a good liberal arts education. In truth, though I may have physically left the college, the college has never left me. The investments of the faculty and staff at that moment in time continue to pay dividends in my life and inspire me daily to strive to replicate their commitment to a good liberal arts education. ■

TEA & AUCTION

SATURDAY
APRIL 12, 2014
11:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Raise your bid card in support of the Act Six program at Warner Pacific College!

Purchase your tickets at warnerpacific.edu/tea



BRONSON ENOS '15 ENGLISH AND EDUCATION
“Just starting college was a challenge because my mom was ill after having a stroke, and she wanted me to take care of her instead of going to school. It was hard because I care about my family but I knew that college would give me the skills I need to build a brighter future for me and my family.”



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Upcoming Events

March 6-15

Spring Drama: Changes of Heart
McGuire Theatre

March 7

High School Choral Festival
Mt. Tabor Campus

March 14

High School Band Festival
Mt. Tabor Campus

March 24-28

Spring Break No classes

April 12

President's Tea & Scholarship Auction
McGuire Auditorium

April 14-15

Spring Preview Days
Mt. Tabor Campus

April 18

Good Friday Chapel
McGuire Auditorium

April 23

Jazz Concert
McGuire Auditorium

April 27

Choral Concert
McGuire Auditorium

May 1

Honors & Awards Chapel
McGuire Auditorium

May 2

Wind Ensemble Concert
McGuire Auditorium

May 10

Spring Commencement
New Hope Community Church

You've got a bright future ahead of you!
Worrying about student loan debt shouldn't be a part of it.

warnerpacific.edu/freedomtoflourish

