

Experience

Spring 2013

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WARNER PACIFIC COLLEGE



LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Living and
Learning Together

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



As the 75th Anniversary of Warner Pacific College draws to a close, I find myself profoundly grateful for the opportunities we were given to remember and celebrate all that God has done through our community in years past. This last year has been marked by many layers of planning as we prepare for what I believe will be a historic era in the life of Warner Pacific College. We have ratified a new strategic plan along with a new mission and vision statement—all of which have empowered us to reimagine what the future holds.

Our new vision statement proclaims, “Warner Pacific College will be a Christ-centered, innovative, diverse, formational learning community known for fostering collaboration, developing a sense of vocation among students, staff and faculty, and operating within a position of fiscal responsibility.” The framework of this vision presents new challenges and opportunities; however, I find myself continually excited about the work ahead of us as we fully live into God’s call to reflect His Kingdom here on earth.

Warner Pacific is a community that practices an ethic of inclusivity and diversity while addressing issues of regional injustice and educational challenges. Our daily reality and institutional identity are inextricably linked to our urban home. Here in Southeast Portland, the fastest growing population segments—low-income, first-generation, and minority youth—are also the least likely to earn college degrees. As a Christ-centered, liberal arts college, we believe that the lack of access to affordable, high-quality education is a serious inequity that must be challenged.

The rigorous academic programs and authentic relationships found at Warner Pacific College provide all students with the confidence needed to graduate well, preparing them to seek careers that are both professionally rewarding and personally fulfilling. In addition to these fundamental practices, we are also committed to ensuring that students from diverse backgrounds have the tools and opportunities they need to achieve their goals of higher education. To that end, it is imperative that we recognize a commitment to diversity cannot stop at enrollment. To truly promote academic

success, we must work with each of our students to ensure that their needs are being met financially, academically, socially and spiritually.

To support this work, Warner Pacific is implementing a multi-faceted plan that addresses poverty and prepares our students to be servant leaders in our city and throughout the world. A few of the key components of this plan include:

- Improving persistence and achievement by developing learning communities designed to provide academic, spiritual, vocational support and mentoring so that students not only enroll, but succeed in graduating.
- Developing skills and capacity for meaningful service as students are immersed in citywide internships, community service and other urban engagement opportunities.
- Enhancing faculty member skills and awareness in addressing the learning needs of low-income, first-generation students.
- Providing teaching strategies to address the needs of students coming from generational, working class, situational and immigrant poverty.

As followers of Christ, we engage and embrace the city, with its wounds and extraordinary potential. Our urban home and rich history have uniquely positioned us, “for such a time as this.” While there is still much left to do, with God’s clear guidance and strong support from our faculty, staff, students, alumni, church and community partners, we believe that a diverse new generation of urban leaders is emerging, ready to impact Portland and beyond.

May His Kingdom Come,

Andrea P. Cook, Ph.D.
President
Warner Pacific College

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Experience

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In the First Year Learning Community, "Performing Portland," students explore art, history and literature through the performing arts.

Learning Communities

REAL WORLD EXPERIENCES
ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES.

BY MELODY BURTON

There is a slight mist in the air as the sunset bathes Portland in shades of rose and violet. The reflections of bridges flicker across the Willamette River as the glittering lights of downtown skyscrapers begin to dot the skyline.

A group of people wander through a pod of food carts, perusing menus. The rich smells of basil, cumin, lemongrass, and vinegar-laced BBQ sauce all mingle together as each person brings their chosen meal to eat at a group of benches. Stories are shared about famous family recipes as diners experience exotic new flavors. Questions about where food was pur-

chased lead into discussions about the ethics of food sourcing, the struggle of eating well in the midst of poverty, and thoughts on how what we eat in Portland affects communities around the globe.

Not far away, another group walks along the west side of the Standard Insurance Center on their way to see a play. Noticing a round, bronze sculpture lovingly called, “the onion ring,” they stop to learn more about this public art piece. Getting closer, they discover the artist, Hilda Morris, was once considered Oregon’s greatest sculptor. Ring of Time, the work’s official title, is a twisting

circle, epitomizing the love of natural forms that defined much of Morris’ work. Reportedly inspired by the Mobius strip, the sculpture sparks deep conversations that encompass ideas of art, inspiration, science, and how we understand the world around us.

While these scenarios may not recall your own memories of college classrooms, they embody the interactive environment that nourishes success for the majority of students today. Welcome to the new Learning Communities at Warner Pacific College.



Learning Communities are a cohort based learning strategy that provides a rich support system to facilitate the transition into college life.

Bending Tradition

The idea of what a college experience should look like is beginning to shift. Lecture halls filled with note-taking students, poring over thick textbooks while listening to a lone professor may work for some, but many of today's college students are seeking a more interactive learning environment. Traditionally, students spend most of their classroom time extracting knowledge from second hand sources like text books and professors. Learning happens on a set schedule, with calculus from 2:00 pm – 2:50 pm and ethics from 3:00 pm – 3:50 pm.

For students who excel in this traditional model, college is often a simple step up to the next level. The work may be a bit more complex but the learning strategy remains the same; listen, take notes, study, test your knowledge. However, as Warner Pacific seeks to welcome students from diverse backgrounds, more interactive learning strategies provide needed support for academic success.

A meaningful relationship between faculty members and students has been a hallmark of a Warner Pacific education for decades. That is why when professors expressed a desire for new methods to better meet the needs of non-traditional learners, the executive leadership of the College quickly sought ways to empower faculty to think creatively. "Finding innovative ways to teach students from diverse backgrounds is a core component of our strategic plan," said President Andrea Cook. In discussions with students, faculty, and staff surrounding the "Design for Urban Higher Education," a clear path was developed. The evolution of Learning Communities, a cohort based learning model, was designed to provide a rich support system to all students, facilitating a smooth transition into college life.

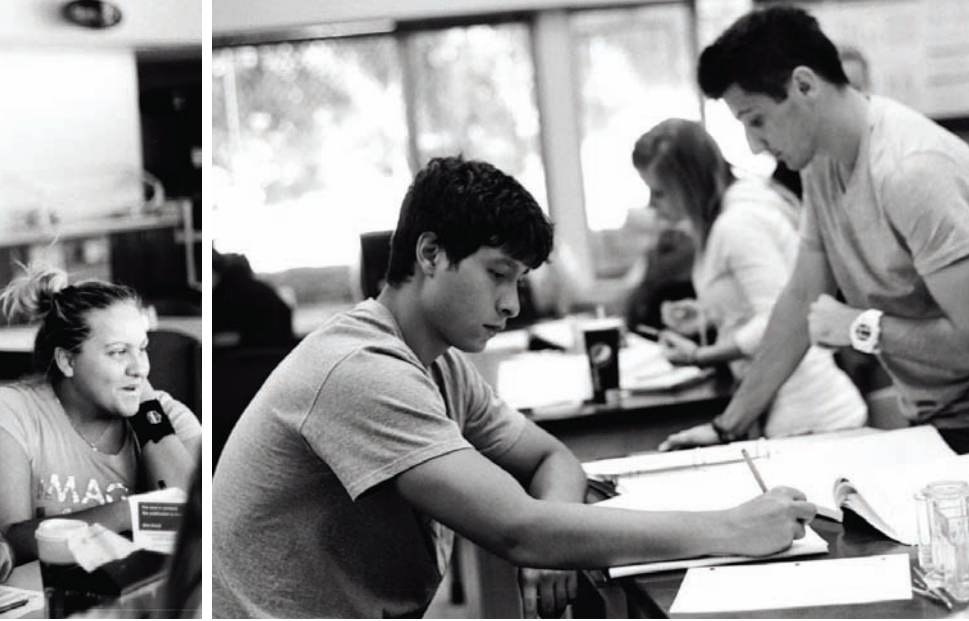
The first show of support came soon after, in April 2012, when Warner Pacific was awarded the largest grant in the recent history of the College from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. Funded with the intent of launching Learning Communities, the grant reflects a vote of confidence from the Trust and the initial funding necessary to implement this new strategy.

Drawing from the Past

"What we're doing with Learning Communities is not a new concept," says Dr. Timothy Peterson, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning at Warner Pacific. Dr. Peterson and his colleagues Ruth Knott, Director of Adult Teaching and Learning, and Jessie Thompson, Director of Learning Communities, form the core of the newly created Center for Teaching and Learning at the College. Peterson continues, "Through Learning Communities, the Center for Teaching and Learning is building on programs already occurring through the ADP [Adult Degree Program] cohort model and FYE [First Year Experiences]."

In the ADP, "cohorts," or small groups of students, meet weekly while attending class together, forging relationships that last a lifetime. These learning teams provide a supportive community for academic exploration and real-world experiences that prepare students to succeed after graduating. "Working in teams is how business is done in the world," explains Knott. "Because of our cohort model, degrees earned through the ADP have added value as students gain skills in project management, collaboration, and conflict resolution."

The philosophies of Learning Communities have been equally successful in the Traditional Degree Program as witnessed through FYE. Designed to create a peer support network for incoming



(left to right) Ruth Knott, Director of Adult Teaching and Learning; Dr. Timothy Peterson, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning & Professor of Urban Studies; Jessie Thompson, Director of Learning Communities. To find out more about Learning Communities at Warner Pacific College, visit www.warnerpacific.edu/learningcommunities.

students, FYE is divided into 12-person classes, each of which is taught by a full-time faculty member or administrator and two upper-class student mentors who are able to help new students transition successfully to the social and academic culture on campus. “In FYE, I found acceptance and community like I never thought I would,” said Danté Baca, ’12. “It opened my eyes to an amazing sense of place and purpose.”

Seeing first-hand how these models were successfully encouraging students to persist in their academic pursuits, the Center for Teaching and Learning serves as a unique venue in which the College’s ADP and Traditional Degree Program are able to come together through larger discussions on best practices, benchmarks, and ways in which faculty can work creatively to ensure that each student is getting the most out of their college experience.

Learning Communities have been shown to increase retention and improve the overall academic performance of diverse students by building meaningful community around an academic pursuit in curricular and co-curricular settings.

In the City

In addition to providing support for students and faculty, Learning Communities also help the institution better reflect its urban identity. “In order to engage the city, First Year Learning Communities are designing new courses that connect students through an issue or topic relevant to Portland,” explains Thompson. “Using the city as a classroom, curiosity is cultivated through question-based curriculum with faculty, co-curricular educators, and peers.” These learning activities extend outside the traditional curricular settings, focusing on issues of transitioning to college, social support, study skills, and community-building. Students will be in at

least one other class together in the same semester and in a class linked thematically across semesters, weaving a strong network of support. Warner Pacific’s mission statement is the framework of this model as students explore four themes: Christ-centered, urban, liberal arts, diversity.

Listening for the Future

“During Welcome Week, I heard Jess Bielman explain that ‘Christlikeness involves always inviting more to the table,’” recalls Thompson. “In our context, that means we’re called to continually be opening our classrooms to new students, new ideas, and new ways of teaching and learning.” The whole team agrees that feedback is fundamentally important as the Center for Teaching and Learning becomes more established. “Everyone wonders where the Center for Teaching and Learning is,” says Knott, smiling. “We aren’t a brick and mortar location, at least not yet. But that flexibility allows us to interact with the College in many different ways. Just like the Learning Communities themselves, the Center for Teaching and Learning is not a place you go, it’s an experience we’re having together.”

“What we’re doing here is more than just trying out new teaching methods,” reflects Peterson. “By embracing Learning Communities, Warner Pacific is seeking to redefine what it means to have the city serve as a text and context for learning, living, and service. People tend to associate negative characteristics with the term ‘urban.’ But here we are, saying that urban is a word rich with positive energy and potential; our city is a place where meaningful collaborations spark the creative thinking that can significantly impact our lives, our future, and our world.” ■



Ali Crocker

I have to admit, I was pretty bummed when I received my copy of “The Alchemist,” by Paulo Coelho, in the mail about a month before Welcome Week. What incoming freshman wants to see that they have a book to read and a paper to write all before classes even start?

Of course, what I didn’t yet know was just how deeply this book would resonate with me on a personal level. Its impact on my life has caused me to read it time and time again. As a First Year Experience (FYE) class, we studied the book together throughout the semester, while our professor, Dr. Goble, challenged us to apply it to our own personal experiences and to find the truth of it in our own lives. One passage that exemplifies what I gained from the reading says, “Life is eternal. We have stopped for a moment to encounter each other, to meet, to love, to share. This is a precious moment. It is a little parenthesis in eternity.”

FYE is a class that every freshman at Warner Pacific is required to take their first semester in order to give them a solid foundation for starting their college journey. It focuses on developing good study habits, self-efficacy, and a great group of friends.

Throughout orientation we did almost everything with our respective FYE classes which eased most of the anxiety I had when first starting college. Having these “built in friends,” to explore the city of Portland and engage our new college community is something that I believe was truly invaluable.

Throughout the semester, we weren’t only getting to know other freshmen. Two peer mentors were selected to walk alongside each FYE class, mentoring them one-on-one on a regular basis. A peer mentor is a student, usually an upperclassman, that helps track and advise freshman students’ academic endeavors, sees to their well-being, and also acts as a resource to the Warner Pacific community.

My peer mentor experience as a freshman was one that I will always cherish. My mentor was named Jeanie and she was very kind, responsible, and was an incredible example of how I wanted to live out my college career. She made herself available as a resource, while also challenging me in my day-to-day life to help me become the best student and person that I could be. Her strength and her kind heart are what ultimately inspired me to become a student leader on campus.

As a junior this year, I have come full circle. I recently completed my first semester as a peer mentor! I was lucky enough to be placed with the professor that I had as a freshman, Dr. Goble. I can honestly say that mentoring was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I was blessed with thirteen students who never ceased to humble and amaze me. Their openness to new ideas and their capacity to challenge themselves challenged me. I still see and keep in touch with the class, and we are even in the stages of planning a mini reunion now that we don’t always get to see each other twice a week like we used to.

I am excited to see where the journeys of each of my fellow FYE classmates will take them in the future, and I can’t wait to watch the journeys of the students I was able to mentor this past year unfold. FYE gave, and is still giving me the opportunity to encounter, to meet, to love, and to share in eternity with some incredible people. I can only hope that they will be inspired to do the same. ■

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In Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist," protagonist Santiago must decipher a series of omens that direct him on his journey of discovering his personal destiny. Eventually, Santiago learns that the journey itself cannot be separated from his destiny, but by faithfully engaging and learning from his journey he lives his destiny along the way. In Warner Pacific's First Year Experience (FYE) program, not only have our traditional first year students engaged Coelho's text, they have also encountered one of the first "omens" they must engage in their college journey.

Instituted in 2006, FYE was designed as a way to help our first year students transition to college in multiple ways. The idea is simple: students enroll in a one-credit course that meets twice a week and is guided by a staff or faculty member, as well as two upper-division students serving as peer mentors. The course reading, discussion, and related activities strive to help students cultivate a sense of belonging, understand the purpose of a liberal arts education, and develop academic self-efficacy. Students also meet with their peer mentors one-on-one throughout the semester and use the Clifton StrengthsFinder© to identify, understand, and cultivate their strengths.

Because Warner Pacific students come from diverse educational, cultural, and family backgrounds, one of the challenges has been responding to students' diverse needs. Many students are the first in their family to go to college and come with specific ideas about what college is for. Many also lack a clear understanding of how to navigate the world of higher education with its many rules and resources. Other students have already had "college prep" experiences, academically in advanced placement (AP) or other rigorous classes, or through the cultures of their families, schools, and communities.

Regardless of the skills and habits a student brings to Warner Pacific, we have consistently seen that FYE is a soft place to land for many students. It becomes a context in and through which students interpret their journey as they are experiencing it and from which they gain some tools to fall back on as they become needed. Students consistently experience their first taste of community at college through FYE, an encounter that, for many of them, shapes the rest of their time at Warner Pacific. While FYE has undoubtedly added value to the lives of students and there is much to be preserved, it has also served as an omen of sorts for us as an institution, giving us information and guidance for the next stage of our journey.

As the College transitions to offering and implementing First Year Learning Communities (FYLCs), FYE has taught us a few important lessons. 1.) Curiosity—many students don't take seriously that which they do not choose for themselves, that which they do not perceive as "academic," or that which they do not see



Dr. Luke Goble

as relevant. Some of the important lessons of FYE get lost because it is perceived as an easy and mindless course that doesn't apply to students' majors, core requirements or to their unique experience of college. 2.) Community/Collaboration—despite (quite successful) efforts to make FYE a safe, fun, comfortable, and engaging context, students tend to compartmentalize their "classroom" experience from the rest of their lives, especially their spiritual and social journeys. 3.) City—while FYE has included an initial exploration of the city during Welcome Week, it hasn't prioritized a sustained engagement with our urban context. FYLCs intentionally engage the city in meaningful ways.

FYLCs will build on each of these areas, engaging students in interesting, highly interactive and meaningful topics, modeling community through the faculty/staff/student leadership teams, and intentionally engaging the city by exploring issues or problems in and through the city itself.

For seven years, FYE has been an integral part of helping to fulfill the mission of the College. First Year Learning Communities will build on this work, implementing creative ways to engage our changing students and world with the hope that such engagement might shape not only students' journeys but perhaps their destiny as well. ■



1 Students Partnering with the Department of Human Services to Give Hope to Kids in Transition

Last year, over 4,600 children spent at least one day in foster care in Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas counties. The Welcome Box Initiative is engaging Warner Pacific students to serve children who are experiencing this often painful transition. While waiting for placement, a social worker is able to give the child a colorful box of age appropriate items to occupy their time and provide a sense of comfort. In addition to the Welcome Box Initiative, students have also completed a beautification project at the Department of Human Services

(DHS) Hot Line location on 102nd and Burnside, where children rescued from commercial sexual exploitation await safe placement. The students created a more welcoming space, adding donated items such as a personal DVD player and games to provide kid-friendly activities to the clients and social workers. "I am not sure I have words to express my gratitude for this movement," said DHS Manager, Jamie Broadbent. "The level of commitment by the students from Warner Pacific is simply amazing. They are making a difference!"

2 Angel of Peace Finds New Home at Warner Pacific College

Angel of Peace, an abstract interpretation sculpted in cobalt stone by Zimbabwean artist Tafunga Bonjisi, is now part of the permanent art collection of Warner Pacific College and is prominently displayed on the second floor of Egtvedt Hall. David and Marilyn Nasman donated the sculpture in loving memory of David's late wife, Dorothy Ann Nasman (May 7, 1937 – February 29, 2004.) David, who previously served on the Board of Trustees of Warner Pacific, chose to give the Angel of Peace to the College as a way of connecting Dorothy's legacy to the bright future that he sees for the institution and its students.

3 WP Athlete Faces Paralysis with Faith and Perseverance

Forward Stephen Harris recently received national recognition as the NAIA Division II Men's Basketball Player of the Week. While his accomplishments are inspiring for any collegiate athlete, they take on even greater significance when you discover that just a few years earlier Stephen wrestled with devastating news from his doctors: he would never play basketball again.

In a January 11, 2013 profile by Portland Tribune writer, Stephen Alexander, Harris is celebrated as an example of strong character, the tenacity of the human spirit, and the unimaginable power of faith.

After facing surgery to correct a serious back injury and then a second operation due to a staph infection, Harris faced a long road to rehabilitation. At that point, thoughts of stepping back on the court were far from his mind as his first priority was to just be able to walk again and live a normal life.

Eventually, Harris was able to walk again. Slowly, he began playing recreational basketball during open gyms at Warner Pacific, which led to a God-directed meeting between Harris and then coach, Bart Valentine. Soon, with a lot of hard work and support, Harris began making history on the court.

A senior business administration major, Harris is not quite sure what he wants to do after college but he knows that his future looks bright. His experience is a testament to the importance of building meaningful relationships. Says Harris: "To be able to come back to play and meet new guys and create the friendships that I've created at this school and meet my wife and start a beautiful family, words can't describe the way that I feel about playing basketball for Warner Pacific."

To read Stephen's entire profile from the Portland Tribune, visit www.warnerpacific.edu/news/harris.

4 Launch of Annual Diversity Lecture Series Brings Prominent Authors to WP Campus

The College was thrilled to launch its 1st Annual Diversity Lecture Series, welcoming prominent authors, Dr. Adam Bradley (pictured at left with Dr. Daymond Glenn) and Thomas Chatterton Williams for a compelling, two-part event titled, "Exploring the Paradox of Hip-Hop Culture." Held on February 5 & 19, these events inaugurated what the College hopes will become an annual gathering, featuring thoughtful discussion and critical analysis on a broad range of topics. Rooted in the mission and core themes of Warner Pacific, 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.

Knights Win CCC Championship Tournament

The Warner Pacific College men's basketball team claimed the Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) Tournament Championship with a thrilling 67-63 win over the Southern Oregon (SOU) Raiders on February 26, 2013 at Bart Valentine Court.

The game was everything expected in a clash of top-ranked NAIA teams, delivering outstanding performances from the court. In the fourth quarter, the teams battled down the stretch, trading baskets until the clock showed just 1:55 remaining. At that moment the Raider's Tim Weber hit a deep shot from behind the arc to tie the game at 63-63, but SOU would not score again. Stephen Harris muscled in a basket on the next possession, and the Knights managed to make 2 of 4 free throws in the final minute to clinch the victory. "I'm really happy for the guys, they played a tough, gritty game," said coach Jared Valentine. "Southern Oregon is a very good team and we had to play a physical game to beat them. The players really had to earn it tonight."

The Knights added the post-season title to their regular season CCC Co-Championship, and advanced to their eighth consecutive trip to the NAIA National Championship Tournament held March 6-12, in Point Lookout, Mo., where their season came to an end after a first round loss to Dakota State.

CCC Players of the Year

The College continued to top the conference as the Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) Player of the Year in both the men's and women's divisions were awarded to Warner Pacific Knights, as voted on by the league's head coaches.

Chelsey Christensen, a 5'9 senior guard from West Linn, Ore., led the CCC in scoring at 19.9 points per game and as the top free throw shooter, hitting 87 percent (103-119) of her charity tosses. Her scoring average placed her seventh-best in NAIA Division II women's play. Christensen was also among the conference leaders in 3-point shooting percentage (2nd in CCC, 39.8 percent) and overall field goal percentage (5th, 50.8 percent). In addition to being awarded Player of the Year, Christensen was also named CCC Red Lion Player of the Week during the season.

Stephen Harris, a 6'5 senior forward from Hillsboro, Ore., led the CCC rebounding average (10.5 ppg), was third in steals (1.8 spg) and sixth in scoring (15.6 ppg) while averaging 33 minutes played per game. Harris was instrumental in leading the Knights to the CCC Tournament title and a share of the CCC regular-season title. In addition to being awarded Player of the Year, Harris was also named CCC Red Lion Player of the Week during the season, as well as NAIA Division II Player of the Week.

Mt. Tabor Campus to Host CCCU for National Diversity Conference

Warner Pacific is set to host the spring 2013 Changing Faces Conference: Cultural Competency, Diversity, and Reconciliation, sponsored by the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU). Following the success of the inaugural Changing Faces conference in the fall of 2011, the CCCU is pleased to offer another opportunity for Chief Diversity Officers and others supporting diversity efforts in CCCU institutions to gather and explore themes of faith and multiculturalism. Dr. Daymond Glenn, Vice President for Community Life and Chief Diversity Officer, and Dr. Caleb Rosado, Professor of Urban Studies, will be featured speakers at the conference. William Paul Young, author of "The Shack," and Warner Pacific alum will deliver the keynote address. The conference will convene April 5-7, 2013, registration information can be found at www.cccu.org.



WP Joins Native American Community in Mourning

Richard Twiss, founder and CEO of Wiconi International, a non-profit organization which seeks to unify the country's evangelical community with the Native American community, died on Saturday, February 9, after suffering a heart attack; he was 58. He is survived by his wife, Katherine, of Vancouver, Wash.; his four boys, Andrew (Diana), Phillip, Ian (Toni), and Daniel; and two grandsons, Ezra and Leo.

In February 1997, Richard and Katherine founded the ministry of Wiconi International. Through Wiconi, Richard and Katherine touched the lives of many thousands of people. Richard also co-founded NAIITS (North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies); he was chairman of the board for My People International, a member of the CCDA (Christian Community Development Association), and co-founder of Evangelicals4Justice. In 2011, Richard earned his doctorate, a D.Miss., from Asbury Theological Seminary. Richard authored a number of books, pamphlets and articles over the years. His first book, "One Church, Many Tribes," reached many people with the message of an inculturated faith in Jesus.

Twiss was a good friend of the College, sharing his wisdom and vision as an occasional adjunct faculty member and a well-loved Chapel speaker. Twiss, a member of the Lakota tribe whose original name, Taoyate Obnajin, means "stand with the people," converted to Christianity in 1974 and worked tirelessly to unite Native American Christians with the larger evangelical community.



Couple Remembered for their Abiding Faith and Thoughtful Generosity

Dorothy McGuire Williamson, whose parents were the namesake of McGuire Auditorium, passed away at her son's house on September 12, 2012 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Famous for teaming up with sisters Christine and Phyllis for a string of hits in the 50s and 60s as the popular McGuire Sisters singing group, they earned six gold records for hits including 1954's "Sincerely" and 1957's "Sugartime." The group made numerous appearances on television and toured into the late 1960s, including a performance together on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1968. The group performed for five presidents and Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain. They were inducted into the National Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 1994 and the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2001.

Lowell James Williamson, Dorothy's husband and former member of the Board of Regents at Warner Pacific College, passed away on February 25, 2013. As a young member of a B-17 Flying Fortress crew shot down over Nazi Germany, his days as a prisoner of war made an indelible impression on Williamson, transforming him into a man of peace. Williamson's years as a successful oil explorer and real estate entrepreneur were built on the lessons learned through these early trials. Throughout all of his experiences, two values permeated Williamson's life—his love of God and his devotion to family.

Both Dorothy and Lowell were long-time friends of the College, who will be greatly missed.



WPC Mourns the Loss of Alumna, Marilyn Balser Gilliam

Marilyn Balser Gilliam, beloved wife of former Warner Pacific College President, E. Joe Gilliam, passed away on October 6, 2012. A Warner Pacific alumna from the class of '49, Marilyn was born on December 3, 1928 to parents John and Janette Balser in Lafayette, Ind. She married E. Joe Gilliam Sr. on July 29, 1948 and is survived by her husband; two daughters, Felicia Capps of Exeter, Calif., and Marilyn Sue Carpenter of Batavia, Ill.; three sons, Victor Gilliam of Silverton, Ore., E. Joe Gilliam, Jr. of Lake Oswego, Ore., and Steven Gilliam of Joshua Tree, Calif.; a younger brother, Ron Balser, of Tucson, Ariz., nine grand-children, and three great-grandchildren. Her parents, two brothers and an infant daughter preceded her in death.

Although she enjoyed a successful career as an educator, Marilyn also faithfully served as coordinator for visiting scholars and social events during her husband's tenure as President of Warner Pacific College. After their retirement from Warner Pacific College, E. Joe and Marilyn co-founded The Christian Leadership Institute where she coordinated the publishing of a quarterly journal, The Faculty Dialogue, with over 1200 subscriptions in circulation. A loyal Knight, Marilyn and her sons Joe and Vic were often seen at Warner Pacific basketball games until her illness prevented her from attending.

[ALUMNI PROFILES]

The Artist

Danielle Purdy '08
Actor

Acting is not a career you can choose on a whim. This is a lifestyle choice that requires a great amount of passion and love to overcome the inevitable long hours, little sleep, constant auditions and subsequent rejections.

So much of acting is studying, understanding and interpreting human interactions in a way that is sensitive, honest, and without judgment; it requires a great deal of interdisciplinary study. Reading a new play sends my little scholar's heart singing as I learn more about the world. The discoveries are exhilarating. Every rehearsal and performance is alive with characters encountering each other for the first time all over again. Each night we create something real and electric and breathing. It's magic.



A photograph of a man, Marshall Haskins, smiling and leaning on a wooden podium in a school hallway. He is wearing a dark pinstriped suit jacket over a white shirt and blue jeans. In the background, several students are walking, some with backpacks, and a staircase is visible.

[ALUMNI PROFILES]

The Educator

Marshall Haskins '85
Vice Principal, Franklin High School

Everyday I'm working to create systems and build relationships that foster accountability between kids, their parents, and the school staff, while also finding ways to inspire hope in the opportunities that lay ahead for these young people. This work can change the entire life trajectory for the students and their families, and I take that very seriously.

After completing my accounting degree and having an additional year of athletic eligibility, I followed some friends into the field of education. Early on I recognized that what I would learn through the education program would help me fulfill my long-term goal of giving back to my community. My time at Warner Pacific prepared me as a man of principle and taught me the value of hard work and dedication.

A man with a beard, wearing a green V-neck sweater and blue jeans, stands in an office holding a black box filled with snacks, including a bag of Cheez-It. He is smiling at the camera. The office background includes cubicles, a red heart-shaped balloon, and a wooden chair.

[ALUMNI PROFILES]

The Advocate

Dan Minne '00
Child Welfare Supervisor
Certification and Adoption Unit,
Department of Human Services

At the unit that I supervise, we assess families who desire to foster or adopt children, helping prepare them for the addition of a child to their home. Whenever possible, our goal is to find safe relatives of the child to serve as foster parents but when that's not possible, we rely on well-trained foster families.

When I began the human development major at Warner Pacific, I intended to become a teacher but an internship at the Oregon City Child Welfare office showed me that God had other plans. Today, I love that I'm still connected to Warner Pacific and their partners at the Portland Leadership Foundation, who have spearheaded a regional effort to develop relationships between local churches and Child Welfare offices to complete projects like Welcome Boxes, beautification of visitation centers and offices, foster parent nights out, and a campaign to increase the number of regularly certified foster families in the Portland Metro Area to 884.

[ALUMNI PROFILES]

The Executive

Jennifer Davis '94
Vice President of Marketing
at Planar Systems

As an executive, my role includes strategic planning, resource allocation and leadership across the organization. That being said, I think the most important work I do involves personal interactions with my marketing team. I love seeing a well-executed strategy deliver results. It excites me to see team members taking initiative, growing into new roles, and being successful.

As a history and business administration double major, I originally planned on a career spent researching and writing business histories. Plans began to change, however, when a friend and mentor suggested that instead of just writing about business history, I should first go out and make some! That led to an internship at a software company during my senior year, which became my first job out of school, which paved the way to subsequent positions with greater responsibility and scope.





Edward O. Blews, Jr., President of the CCCU bestows the Andringa Award to President Andrea Cook. Photo courtesy of CCCU, taken by Victoria Ruan.



2013 Act Six scholarship recipients

College Recognized Locally and Nationally for Commitment to Diversity

At Warner Pacific, diversity is not just a goal, it's an essential part of our identity; a vital component of fulfilling our mission and vision. As such, we are continuing to make significant strides in creating a more welcoming and equitable campus culture for our students, faculty, and staff. The College was honored with the 2013 Award for Education by the Albina Ministerial Alliance, a historic group of African-American clergy who promote the intellectual, economic, and spiritual vitality of children, youth, and families throughout Portland. In addition, Warner Pacific has been nationally recognized for our commitment to serving students from diverse backgrounds as the winner of the 2013 Robert and Susan Andringa Award for Advancing Racial Harmony from the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU). This award celebrates the achievements of CCCU campuses in making progress in the areas of diversity, racial harmony, and reconciliation.

WP Makes List of Top Military-Friendly Schools

Warner Pacific College has been named to the 2013 Military Friendly Schools® list. This list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus. "Warner Pacific College is proud to be included in the list of military friendly schools," said Dale Seipp, Vice President of Marketing and Enrollment. "Our mix of traditional degree offerings and adult degree programs allows Warner Pacific to meet the needs of students from all walks of life."

Bauman Foundation Grants Brighter Future to Act Six Scholars

The William H. & Mary L. Bauman Foundation has granted \$15,000 to the College in support of the Act Six Leadership & Scholarship Initiative, Urban Service Track. The Urban Service Track model at Warner Pacific innovates beyond the traditional Act Six model, with a program tailored to help under-prepared but talented and highly motivated scholar-leaders succeed in achieving their higher education goals.

Warner Pacific Honors 75 Years of History by Celebrating Over 39 Million Moments

Our Mt. Tabor campus was buzzing February 14 - 16, as the College celebrated its 75th Anniversary Homecoming Weekend. Alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the College all joined together for a nostalgic review of the last 75 years and shared an inspiring vision for the future. You can learn more about this historic event in our special Commemorative Homecoming Review, found on the back inside cover of this issue of Experience.

Warner Pacific Launches Social Entrepreneurship Major

The Miller Charitable Trust has awarded Warner Pacific College a \$100,000 grant, to be distributed over three years, as seed money to evaluate, design and launch a new Social Entrepreneurship (SE) Major. The goal of SE degree programs is to equip students with the proficiencies required of today's business leaders, while developing the skills required to support and expand ventures that effect sustainable social change. This degree program is especially suited to the mission of Warner Pacific as it leverages the College's interdisciplinary academics and departmental collaboration to provide an excellent education. It provides an academic framework for the College's distinctive practice of service learning and engaging with the community outside our doors.



The Marimba That Started it All

Sunday, November 4, 2012, Dr. Dennis Plies and Ruth Ann Yerden, the Tabor Duo, presented a special concert in McGuire Auditorium. While Plies and Yerden are each accomplished musicians, it may be the instrument itself that was the true star of this performance. It was 25 years ago when Dr. Plies asked Ron Samuels to build him a marimba. Although it was his first experience constructing one, Samuels quickly discovered a passion for this unique instrument and quit his woodworking job to build marimbas full time. His company, Marimba One® is now the world's premiere maker of concert marimbas. The performance included a wide variety of musical styles arranged for solo marimba and marimba with piano, featuring works by Palestrina, Bach, Brahms, Gershwin and more.

Two New Books Released by Faculty Members

Adjunct professor, **Tony Kriz**, who famously appeared in Donald Miller's books under the name "Tony the Beat Poet," has discovered the abiding presence of Jesus in the lives and words of people from diverse and often radically 'unchristian' sources. In his new book, "Neighbors and Wise Men," Kriz introduces captivating dialogues and unexpected moments with God that go beyond the confines of a conventional religious system and offer the chance for powerful life transformation.

Assistant Professor of Theology, Ethics and Church History, **Dr. Cassie Trentaz** has released a new book; "Theology in the Age of AIDS & HIV: Complicity and Possibility." Part of the "Content and Context in Theological Ethics Series" from Palgrave Macmillan Publishers, "Theology in the Age of AIDS & HIV" is a courageous look at how dominant theologies have participated in the creation of 'risk environments' for susceptibility to this virus and a call to action, that we would learn how to truly care for one another in this age of global AIDS and HIV.



Warner Pacific College is excited to begin 2013 by welcoming a number of new faces to our campuses throughout Portland.

Adina Christiansen

Administrative Assistant to Financial Aid, ADP, Centre 205 Campus

Terry Cline

Staff Accountant, Department of Finance, Mt. Tabor Campus

David Crump

Enrollment Advisor, Centre 205 Campus

Scott Cook

Campus Liaison, Centre 205 Campus

Ly Doan

Enrollment Counselor, Mt. Tabor Campus

Nicole Greer

Enrollment Office Coordinator, Mt. Tabor Campus

Jennifer Lichtenberg

Conference Services Coordinator and Faculty Administrative Assistant, Mt. Tabor Campus

Don Lowman

Enrollment Advisor, Centre 205 Campus

Shannon Madsen

Donor Development Coordinator, Mt. Tabor Campus

Alex Paterno

IT Support Specialist, Office of Information Services, Mt. Tabor Campus

Alicia Rodriguez

Student Financial Services Representative, Mt. Tabor Campus

We are pleased these new employees have chosen to share their professional talents here at Warner Pacific. We look forward to their contributions to the College.



75th Anniversary Grand Celebration

ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS NOTES

James Simpson '53 was kind enough to loan his yearbook to the College when the staff ran out of copies for the library in the 1950s. Now, more than 60 years later, the yearbook has finally been returned to its rightful owner. Simpson, the yearbook editor for that edition, sent the College a thank you note saying, "I love reading it again and remembering the great times we had in making it possible. Thanks."

Quinten '63 and **Evelyn (Dietz) Parsons '62** celebrated their 50th anniversary of marriage on November 24, 2012. They first met on a blind date while attending Warner Pacific. They raised a son and two daughters and now enjoy their six grandchildren. Quinten retired from his long-haul freight driving in 2005. He had also enjoyed a career in ministry and farming in their hometown in Cloverland, Wash. Evelyn still keeps busy with "Grandma's Attic," her 22-year sewing, alterations, and notions business. Quinten and Evelyn now reside in Clarkston, Wash.

Ruth Ann (Helbling) Yerden '66 has been granted a license as a minister in the Church of God by the Credentials and Advisory Board.

Bryce Bartruff '76 recently published a book titled, "God, Your Money and You." It's an informative "hands on" approach to personal finance and

staying out of debt. Bryce has taught personal finance classes for over 20 years and travels around the country, conducting a seminar called Fiscal Fitness.

Bethany (Bakken) Larson '91 is currently the Area and Marketing Director and Summer Camps Manager for Journey Theater Arts Group (Formally known as CYT). This year the organization celebrated their 10th anniversary, growing from one area with 68 students to 4 areas (Beaverton, Portland, Vancouver, and East Vancouver) with an average of 400 students.

Ryan Weems '00 recently accepted a position with PacifiCorp as director, planning, and financial analysis in the corporate finance department. With over 11 years of experience with PacifiCorp, Ryan will now oversee the business planning process, performance reporting, finance support for corporate departments, and capital project reviews and approvals.

Traci (Grenz) Vogt '01 recently left Warner Pacific after five years of service. Her primary focus is to now raise her son, Arthur.

Andria Nicole (Cotton) Skornik '05 was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on October 18, 2012. Prior to this, Andria began working as a Curate, or Assistant Priest at a church in the Chicago suburbs.

Cheri (Jaeger) Davis '06 recently was appointed as Union County's Children's Mental Health Advisory Council representative. Cheri's work as the county representative includes working with schools, doctors, CHD (Center for Human Development), DHS and Grande Ronde Child Center to help them provide mental health services to children and families.

Kraig Etzel '07 and **Kristina Larson '09** were married on October 6, 2012, at Mt. Scott Church of God.

Kara Busick '08 has started a new job working for the Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter on their Development Team as Walk Coordinator. In her role, she oversees marketing of the event, obtaining media sponsors, distribution of collateral materials, and all of the event items. The event is a 3,000 person walk, with the goal of being a half a million dollar fundraiser. This event is set for Sept. 8, 2013.

Jamil Kassab '08 has started a business called Jamil Kassab Guitar Studio. His business is dedicated to the development and cultivation of the passion to play guitar, understand music and the art of creativity.

Mandy Bozart '09 earned a small part in the play, "A Doll's House" – performed in Seoul (Itaewon) in late November/early December, 2012.

Chris Blaser '10 recently got promoted to Vice President of M & T Bank. He also began his MBA Program at Marylhurst University.

Cascade Collegiate Conference interviewed **Jared Mace '10** for a part of their series titled "Where are they Now." In this series, CCC provides updates on former student athletes from around the league who are making significant impacts in their professional careers and personal lives. Jared talks about what he has been doing since graduation, which includes starting up Hope 4 Hoopers (now called Playing for Kickz), working as an assistant CEO of a real estate company, completing his Masters in Business Management, working for Health Services selling medical equipment, and traveling to the Phillippines with Playing for Kickz.

Cameron Aamodt '11 and **Kendall Byars '12** were married June 16, 2012.

Max Scholten '11 and **Jeana Dominguez '13** were married October 19, 2012. Dr. John Johnson performed the ceremony in a small church in Wilamina, Oregon. Jeana will graduate with a B.S. in Elementary Education and Max graduated with a B.A. in Christian Ministries.

Nicole Oakes '12 has been promoted to Director of Operations for the Bank of Oswego. She received her Bachelor of Accounting from the Adult Degree Program at Warner Pacific. She is currently working to complete the requirements of the Oregon Banker's Association Northwest Bank Operations School.

BIRTHS

Melanie (Holmes) Huff '87 and her husband, Bob welcomed their newly adopted foster child, Brooklyn, age 3 1/2. Melanie and Bob have been foster parents for 9 years. Brooklyn joins three other siblings in the Huff family.

Sam and **Ali (Adams) Shipley '01** welcomed Cassidy AnnMarie on November 26, 2012. She joins brother Ash and sister Kylie.

Paul '02 and **Michelle (Hamilton) Eaton '04** welcomed the newest addition to their family, Emery Grace on November 16, 2012.

Peter and **Kari (Knutzen) Hamilton '08** welcomed their son, Isaac Russell Hamilton on December 30, 2012.

Jason and **Heidi (Jones) Hiller '09** welcomed Jacob Dale Hiller on July 31, 2012.

Aaron '09 and **Lindsey (Daniels) Simons '10** welcomed their son, Connor Daniel Simons on January 1, 2013 at 12:36 am. He was the first baby of the year born in Roseburg.

IN MEMORIAM

Jessie "Merle" (Brannan) Koehler '49 died December 26, 2012. She was born March 25, 1923 and is preceded in death by her husband, **Milton H. Koehler '49**. She is survived by her sons, Aaron and Loren.

Paul G. Nice '50 died April 14, 2012 at age 91. He was in ministry in the Church of God for 62 years. His wife, **Louise (Prather) '50** preceded him in death in 2010.

Rev. Joseph Spires '51 passed away September 26, 2012. He was born, oldest of 12, in August of 1927. After graduating he began pastoring in Louisiana.

Wayne Bender '52 passed away October 30, 2012. Wayne pastored churches in Medford, Lebanon, and Sellwood Park before he retired. Married to Athie Edgar in 1940 they had 2 sons, **Calvin Bender '64** and **Valdin Bender '70**.

Paul Hutchins '53 died January 12, 2013. He was born May 22, 1930 and was the youngest of five. He earned his B.Th., an M.A. in Theology, and an M.A. in Intercultural Studies. He spent 16 years in pastoral ministry, while also spending a total of 18 years in mission work in East Pakistan and later in East Africa. He was married to his wife, **Nova (Petersen) Hutchins '53**, for 61 years. Along with his wife, Paul is survived by two daughters, a son, four grandsons, his sister, and several nieces and nephews.

Carson Reynolds '55 died July 20, 2011 at age 90. Carson was in ministry with the Church of God for 56 years.

Savas Joanides '57 passed away January 7, 2013. He was born on July 12, 1926 in Alexandria, Egypt. After receiving his B.A. from Warner Pacific, he went on to receive a B.S. and M.S. from two different colleges. He married **Olive M. (Fiscus) Joannides '56** on August 17, 1958. Savas was a teacher and counselor with Anderson Community Schools for 26 1/2 years before he retired in June of 1992.

Nina Mae (Allen) Wood '62 died August 25, 2012. She was born October 6, 1940 in Seward County, Kan. Nina met her husband **Don Wood '62** at Warner Pacific College and they married on

August 25, 1962. Two years later, Nina received her nursing degree from Seventh Day Adventist Nursing school. She had a passion for serving people at church, in the community, and work place.

Lorraine Roseanne (Williamson) Drougas '66 passed away in her home in Portland, on September 4, 2012. She was born February 15, 1936 in Clinton, Iowa. After obtaining a bachelor's from Warner Pacific, she went on to get her Master of Arts degree from Portland State, majoring in Education. She had four daughters with husband, Robert Meadows and later married George Drougas. During her teaching career, Lorraine devised a teaching tool (a beach ball sized inflatable globe) that earned her a major photo-story in The Oregonian and a National Elementary School Recognition Program Award for 1989-90.

Walter Pritchett, Sr. '67 died June 11, 2011. He served in the Church of God for 49 years.

Dawn (Amundson) Adkisson '68 died December 5, 2012. Dawn was born on April 22, 1948 in Morton, Wash. She is survived by her husband of 36 years, Don.

Monique (McClinton) McKinley '82 passed away on December 13, 2012 from a four year battle with stage four breast cancer. She is survived by her husband, **Jess '76** and her son and daughter, ages 19 and 16.

Pauline Darling '10 died of cancer August 24, 2012. After an earlier surgery she wrote about how the real treatment she received came not from her chemo treatments, but from "the healing message I receive every moment I spend with my family at Warner Pacific."

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



True Community

BY DR. DENNIS PLIES

Since beginning as an adjunct in 1979 and then becoming an assistant professor in 1981, I have been teaching and learning in the environment of Warner Pacific College for three marvelous decades. My time here has revealed wonderful traits such as a desire for true community, a friendly ethos, and genuine creativity. I am consistently amazed by the ways graduates are making a meaningful dent for the Kingdom of God, and I have had the opportunity to perceive God's Mysterious Provisions, in the many ways that He is sustaining this institution.

Students have always appreciated caring teaching. I am privileged to teach the course, Humanities Colloquy: Faith, Living and Learning. As part of the curriculum, I require approximately twenty students to go public, by sharing personal presentations with the rest of the class early in the semester and then again at the end. During these moments, I revel in seeing students who can speak and present themselves and their ideas with confidence. I recall when I was their age, with a hindered sense of intellectual and emotional strength; I generally bumbled my way through self-presentations. At Warner Pacific, I sense that there is a concerted campus infrastructure of conscientious people who are consistently encouraging the students to truly be who they are as created by God, allowing students to find their unique voices. From admissions counselors to student development staff, from executive administration to staff members, from faculty to student, as well as from student to student, there is a theme on campus -- seamless learning, a curricular/co-curricular outlook.

This outlook requires that students are not simply developing skills, accumulating knowledge, preparing for graduate record exams, gaining career awareness, paying attention to social development, practicing critical thinking, learning through service, understanding the urban context, and developing self-awareness. Yes, these attributes to a liberal arts education are important, however, at Warner Pacific, students receive individual attention to discover their calling and explore why they exist. They are given tools that enable them to further the vision that God has inspired within.

Warner Pacific College is a community interested in each student as a uniquely gifted, created being. We want the students to become who they are, accompanying them through the full spectrum of both failure and success. In reality, we are looking for those who are overcoming obstacles, rather than those merely gliding through life.

In welcoming students who otherwise might not have the opportunity to attend college, we are claiming our urban location as a core component of our identity, demonstrating a servant stance. Modeling a lifestyle of service to others has become a clear mark of the College's purpose, established to promote Kingdom values and representing Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves.

The graduates of Warner Pacific College are a tribute to a mission that makes a difference in the lives of students. I am proud, not only to be affiliated with the College, but to feel like I am on a team that cares about, cares for, and holistically nurtures the lives of students for the Glory of God. ■



2013
Warner Pacific
College Celebrates
75th Anniversary



1937
Pacific Bible College founded in
Spokane, Wash.
Founding President: Dr. Albert F. Gray

1957
Dr. Milo Chapman
succeeds Dr. Albert
F. Gray as the
College's second
President

1961
Warner Pacific College
accredited by the
NW Commission on
Colleges and
Universities

1966
Dr. E. Joe Gilliam named fourth
President of Warner Pacific College

1981
Dr. Marshall Christensen named fifth
President of Warner Pacific College

1996
Dr. Jay Barber appointed as
Warner Pacific College's sixth
President

2007
College retires
institutional debt

2009
Dr. Andrea P. Cook named seventh President of
Warner Pacific College and first female president
of the college
College launches Act Six Scholarship Initiative

1940
Pacific Bible College moves
to Mt. Tabor Campus

1959
Pacific Bible College
renamed Warner Pacific
College

1962
Dr. Louis Gough becomes Warner
Pacific College's third President

1976
Warner Pacific College introduces new
general studies Humanities Core that
focuses on the big questions

1989
Warner Pacific College introduces
degree completion program

2004
Warner Pacific College
expands Adult Degree
Program

2008
College restructures
tuition and financial aid

2012
Warner Pacific College receives
largest grant in College's recent
history from the M.J. Murdock
Charitable Trust to establish
Learning Communities



Dr. Andrea Cook



Dr. E. Joe Gilliam

75 WARNER PACIFIC COLLEGE
CELEBRATING OVER 39 MILLION MOMENTS

wip
WARNER PACIFIC COLLEGE

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Upcoming Events

- April 11 8:45 am**
Transfer Student Day; Mt. Tabor Campus
- April 12 11:00 am**
Self Enhancement, Inc Job Fair; SEI Offices
- April 13 11:30 am**
President's Tea & Scholarship Auction; Mt. Tabor Campus
- April 24 7:30 pm**
Jazz Concert; McGuire Auditorium
- April 26 6:00 pm**
Rocinante Release Party; Egtvedt 203
- April 26 7:00 pm**
Bridgetown Concert; McGuire Auditorium
- April 28 3:00 pm**
Choral Concert; McGuire Auditorium
- May 3 7:30 pm**
Wind Ensemble Concert; McGuire Auditorium
- May 10 7:00 pm**
Friends & Family Graduation Celebration; McGuire Auditorium
- May 11 10:00am**
Spring Commencement; New Hope Community Church



Anthony Sims, grandson of Dr. Jay Barber (who was unable to attend)



Dr. Marshall Christensen