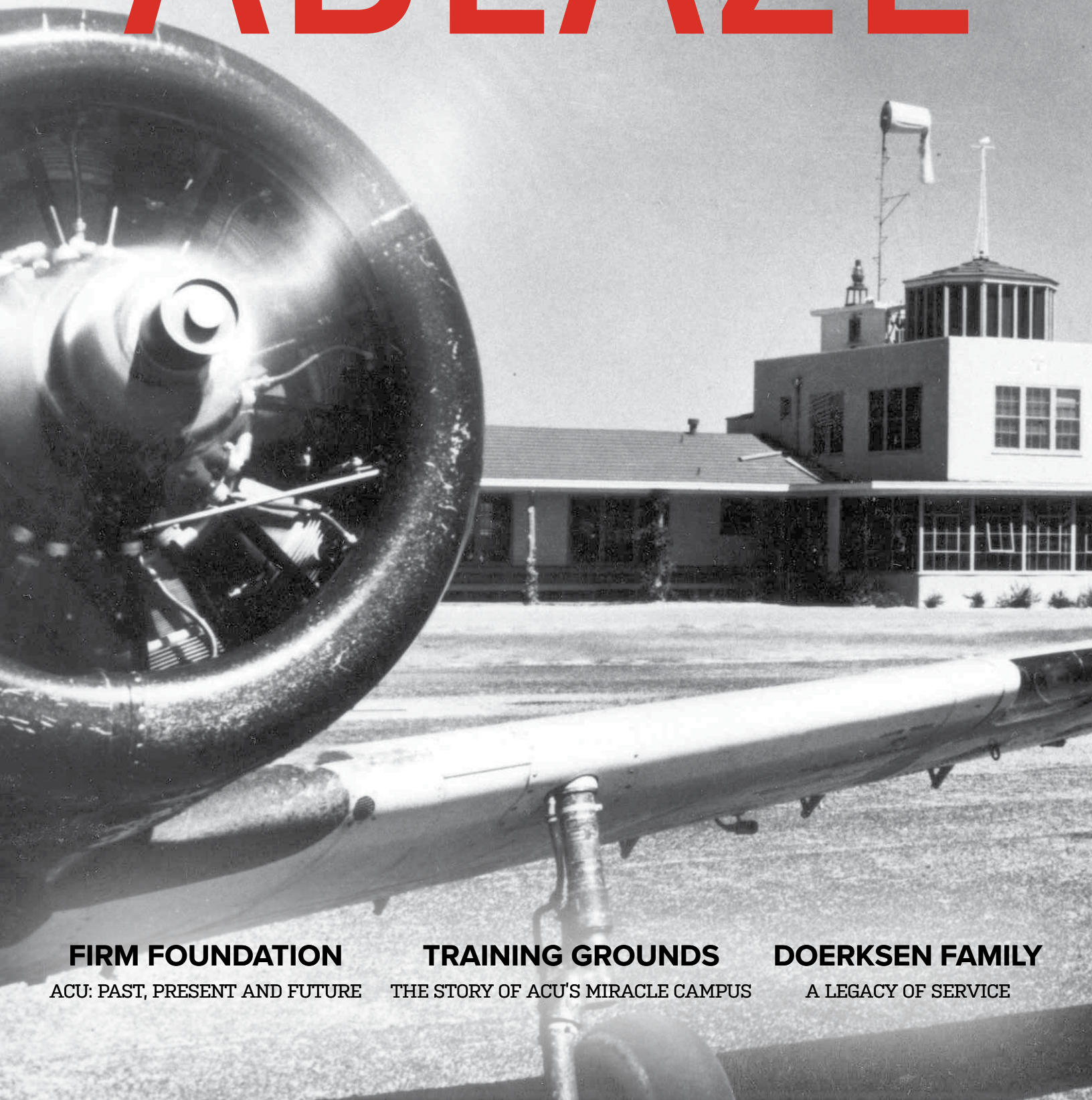


ARIZONA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE // FALL 2021 / VOL II, ISSUE I

ABLAZE



FIRM FOUNDATION

ACU: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

TRAINING GROUNDS

THE STORY OF ACU'S MIRACLE CAMPUS

DOERKSEN FAMILY

A LEGACY OF SERVICE

MIRACULOUS LEGACY

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MUNSIL



The story of Arizona Christian University is a story of miracles. Not one, not a handful, but miracle upon miracle for six decades.

These miracles have taken many forms through the years. Most significant are the miracles of transformation in the individual lives of students, faculty and staff—and the influence those transformed lives have carried into the world. Each life transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, each disciple leaving this institution demonstrating and living out the fruits of the Spirit—each one of these lives will touch and influence dozens, hundreds, thousands or even more additional lives. We will not know the true scope of the ripple effects from this University—the many ways God's Kingdom was advanced from this place—until we reach eternity.

But there have been other miracles, more directly related to the life of the institution itself. Miracles of provision—God bringing key people to the college at key moments in its history, such as Arnie Doerksen, whose career at Southwestern College and ACU is celebrated in this publication (p. 5) and with the recent naming of the Doerksen Business Office. Miracles of financial provision—the gift from the David and Barbara Green family in 2021 that enabled ACU to enhance its facilities through the acquisition of the Firestorm Recreation Center (formerly the Glendale/Peoria YMCA), discussed on p. 16.

And then a happening that several experienced college presidents have told me is the most amazing miracle they have ever seen in their decades of work in higher education—God's provision of an amazing new campus in Glendale, enabling Arizona Christian University to move and to grow in ways that would have seemed impossible to even dream about just three years ago. The story of the history of this new campus—and its historic missional alignment with ACU's vision to prepare young people to courageously engage the world and to fight evil—is also told in this publication (p. 3).

This third edition of ACU's Magazine highlights the past, present and future of Arizona Christian University. We look at elements of our history and stories from our amazing alumni, we learn about some current students and activities, and also look to the future as we consider what God might have in store for our next decade and beyond.

Also with this publication, we give our new magazine a name—Ablaze! This ties not only to our Firestorm team name, and our F-I-R-E elements of the ACU experience—Faith-Influence-Relationship-Excellence—but also to the notion that what our nation and world need more than anything else today is another Great Awakening. A return to the God who can set hearts aflame for his Glory.

So I hope you enjoy this third edition of Ablaze, as you consider the goodness of God and His faithfulness to this University—from generation to generation—and its mission of training and equipping young people with a fantastic education grounded in biblical truth, and wonderful friendships and relationships. We covet your prayers and your support, as we continue to stand for God's truth in an increasingly hostile culture, and as we pray and dream about the miracles God might do through this University and its students in decades to come!

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

Len Munsil, B.S., J.D.
President

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Arizona Christian University magazine is published by the Department of University Engagement and Marketing. Arizona Christian University's mission is to provide a biblically-integrated, liberal arts education equipping graduates to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in all aspects of life, as leaders of influence and excellence.

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*Courtesy of the Estate of John Swope and
Craig Krull Gallery*

FIRM FOUNDATION

From "small beginnings" that built a faithful foundation,
to Transforming Culture with Biblical Truth

*"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin . . .".
Zechariah 4:10 (NLT).*

As Arizona Christian University embarks on its seventh decade, we can look back with great appreciation at each season in its history—and we can do so because throughout its history from Southwestern Conservative Baptist Bible College to ACU it has always kept God and the truths of scripture at the forefront of its mission.

The University's first president, Dr. Wallace Woods, wrote in 1975:

"We want to be current in our thinking and up-to-date in our methods. We want to be relevant to the changing needs of people. Nevertheless, there are foundations upon which we stand as a Bible college, and we fix our anchor in the authority of the scriptures."

Through decades as a small Bible college preparing students primarily for vocational ministry—with about 1,300 graduates in its first 50 years—Southwestern College was known for its fidelity to the Bible and its emphasis on biblical training and knowledge. Some of the best Bible teachers and pastors in the Phoenix area taught at the college. Many pastors, missionaries, and Christian educators graduated from the college and went on to populate churches and schools throughout the southwest, while others ventured overseas as missionaries.

One young man to receive Bible train-



Dr. Mark Bailey leads a discussion of "The Gospels in the Modern Age" with ACU President Len Munsil in September 2021.

ing during Southwestern's early days was Mark Bailey. Midway through college, Mark felt called to ministry and transferred to Southwestern, where he attended with his wife Barbie and ultimately finished his bachelor's degree. After earning a Master's Degree, he returned to Southwestern as a Bible professor, rising to Bible Department Chair and Academic Dean. Today he is Chancellor of Dallas Theological Seminary, having just completed a successful 19-year presidency at one of the largest and most significant conservative seminaries in the world.

Small beginnings—but significant and impactful for the Kingdom, and for laying

a foundation for a university committed to biblical truth.

Subsequent decades on its Cactus Road campus brought additional growth, regional accreditation and the addition of new majors. Academic leaders like Dr. Shelly Roden and administrators like Arnie Doerksen, under the capable and faithful 15-year presidency of Dr. Brent Garrison, continued to build the school's reputation as a consistent defender of biblical truth. And Southwestern College continued to grow, adding new academic buildings, a gymnasium, and a beautiful new residence hall.

During the 2010s, the pace of change and growth accelerated. Under the leadership of President Len Munsil, ACU began to expand from a conservative Bible college to a conservative Christian liberal arts university—adding new academic programs, including biology/pre-med, political science and pre-law, and a communication program. The Board of Trustees agreed in 2011 to change the school's name to Arizona Christian University—clearly identifying its location, its status as a university, and its commitment to being a Christian school at its foundation.

“... WE WANT TO BE RELEVANT TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF PEOPLE. NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE FOUNDATIONS UPON WHICH WE STAND AS A BIBLE COLLEGE, AND WE FIX OUR ANCHOR IN THE AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES.”

ACU adopted a vision to “transform culture with truth,” promoting the idea that Christians should be “salt and light” in the culture, and enacted a set of Core Commitments that established ACU’s dependence on orthodox, biblical truth and conservative Christian values. The university established a CORE curriculum, common to all students, that integrates the study of the classics—the great ideas of history—with biblical truth and worldview, while also maintaining the university’s commitment to students receiving 18 credits and a minor in Biblical Studies. In 2017 the school was accredited to offer fully online degrees, but continued requiring a Christian faith commitment and spiritual formation even for on-line students.

The decade saw consistent enrollment growth, along with the University’s first and now annual appearances as a Best College in the U.S. News & World Report. During the decade, ACU dinner events featured the presentation of The Daniel Award for Courageous Public Faith to President George W. Bush, evangelist Franklin Graham, Grammy Award winning musician Michael W. Smith, Hobby Lobby owners David and Barbara Green, and family and marriage expert Dr. James Dobson.

However, the pace of enrollment growth began to slow due to the physical size of the Cactus Road campus, the lack of parking, and lack of space and amenities. Then, in 2018, God provided a miracle when ACU’s leadership was able to negotiate with Arizona State University for the exchange of the Cactus Road campus for the 68-acre former home of the Thunderbird School of Global Management.

Since moving to the new campus, ACU’s enrollment has exploded—up by 43 percent in three years to more than 1,000 students—almost 900 campus students plus more than 120 online—with 525 students living on campus compared to a maximum of 225 on the old Cactus campus, changing the feel and experience of student life. The new campus provides ample parking and substantial student amenities, including dozens of buildings and classrooms, a 32,000-square foot library, student lounges in each of five dorms, a huge dining hall plus a Starbucks coffee shop and grill in a large student center.

Since opening on the new campus in

the fall of 2019, ACU has been steadily making the campus its own—adding science labs, adapting a large classroom into the Don and Mary King Performing Arts Auditorium, improving technology in classrooms and upgrading Wifi, while also putting athletic fields and locker rooms in place for student-athletes. The recent addition of the former YMCA adjacent to campus, now the Firestorm Recreation Center, adds fitness facilities, locker rooms, a gymnasium and a second swimming pool for community use.

ACU’s board and leadership is thankful to God and ever mindful that ACU has been blessed with “a land on which [we] did not toil and cities [we] did not build; and [we] live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that [we] did not plant.” Joshua 24:13. Yet ACU’s leaders understand that, like Joshua, we will continue to be blessed only if we continue to be obedient to God and courageous in a hostile culture.

In its first year on the new campus, the Covid pandemic hit the world. Yet by God’s grace, ACU was able to mitigate transmission while still continuing operations, remaining open and even growing as students sought a more normal college experience—with face-to-face instruction, athletics and events and a campus that was much more open than most.

What’s ahead for ACU?

Right now, ACU leaders are working with architects on a campus master plan process that will outline ACU’s physical

campus needs and plans for the next 30 years. The campus master plan will be staged by decade. Continuing on its current growth trajectory, ACU will reach its short-term goal of 2030 students by 2030—with a vision to be the best, most academically elite, most biblically faithful and conservative Christian small college in the region.

With the arrival of Dr. George Barna and creation of the Cultural Research Center at ACU in 2019, ACU expects to be the premier biblical worldview university in the nation, if not the world. Today, ACU is the only Christian university using Barna’s expertise to test the worldview of its students at the beginning and end of each year—thus building data that will enable ACU to adapt and improve its curriculum and experience to strengthen the spiritual depth and commitment of its entire student body.

More importantly, in a culture rapidly turning away from God and His truths, ACU is committed to remaining steadfast in teaching and living according to biblical truth – and preparing graduates of influence and excellence to courageously lead through these tumultuous times.

From such “small beginnings” based in biblical truth, and with such strong foundations—through the ongoing sacrificial service of staff, faculty and Trustees, and with the generosity and prayers of financial partners, volunteers and friends—ACU is excited to continue to grow in faithful Kingdom influence for many decades to come . . . or until Christ returns!



A preliminary rendering of what ACU’s campus could look like in the coming years.



GENERATIONAL LEGACY

How one act of faith influenced the lives of three generations of the Doerksen family—and countless ACU students

How do you know God's will? This was the simple question of a child . . . 6th-grader Steve Doerksen, to his father, Arnie Doerksen in 1982.

With conviction, Arnie replied to young Steve, "You ask God . . . and always do what He wants you to do."

A few days later, Arnie and Gail's pastor asked if Arnie would consider applying for an open leadership position at Southwestern College in Phoenix, Arizona.

With a hasty "no," Arnie quickly declined.

Arnie and Gail loved their lives in the Pacific Northwest, and as an employee at Boeing, Arnie had entertained an

opportunity years earlier to work at their operation in Phoenix. "We looked at that opportunity and concluded, of all the places in the world, Phoenix would be one of the last places we would want to live," reflected Arnie.

Shortly after declining his pastor's invitation, however, Arnie remembered the counsel he offered to young Steve—"You ask God . . . and always do what He wants you to do." Arnie and Gail began to consider whether moving to Phoenix might be God's will.

Arnie remembered concluding, "If God wants us to move to Phoenix, we will do

it." And they did.

After stepping onto Southwestern College's campus for the first time, Gail recalled, "it brought tears to my eyes—and I can assure you, they were not tears of joy. At that time, the campus was not impressive. But to remember what it was then . . . and to see what it is now . . . is amazing, just amazing."

"God used Southwestern College (now Arizona Christian University) to bring our family to Phoenix in 1982. It's been home ever since. That is very special to us," Arnie said.

Arnie utilized his skills and experience

“THE ONE THING THAT HAS ALWAYS REMAINED THE SAME IS THE MISSION OF THE SCHOOL—TO PROVIDE A SOUND EDUCATION THAT IS FOUNDED IN BIBLICAL TRUTH. ACU EXISTS TO TRANSFORM CULTURE WITH TRUTH. AND THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE.”

in the aerospace industry to help Southwestern survive a few tough years, and his steadfast servant leadership ultimately helped lay the foundation for what the institution would someday become. Together with Dr. Mark Bailey, Arnie was one of the architects of the university we know today. He guided Southwestern through the funding and construction of two mission-critical buildings—a first-ever student dormitory and a multi-purpose building to support on-campus athletic competitions, classes, events, and chapel.

Many believe that without Arnie Doerksen, Arizona Christian University would not exist today. His Spirit-led obedience and decision to move his young family from Washington State to Arizona was used by God to advance His purposes through ACU to bless future generations.

That generational impact was nowhere more evident than right in the Doerksen's own home, as their son Steve finished high school and ultimately made the decision to attend Southwestern College.

In 1988, Steve's first year at Southwestern, he met Tammy McCants. Tammy was also a freshman, and was only planning to attend Southwestern for one year.

She recalled, “there wasn't a whole lot of passion in my life spiritually, but I knew I wanted to go into education, and Southwestern had a good reputation for training teachers.”

But God had more in store for Tammy that year.

“I met people I grew to love, I joined the volleyball team, and attended church with Steve where we both worked with the youth group,” she recalls. She grew to love her professors and coursework. And Steve.

“As a double major in Education and Psychology, Dr. Shelly Roden was a key influence and role model. She would take us after class and go out for pizza, training

me professionally and loving me as a sister in Christ,” Tammy reflected. “And I took Tim Reed's class on Biblical Discipleship. His passion and love for ministry lit a fire in me,” she recalled.

Steve and Tammy's relationship grew and they were married in 1992.

Tammy launched her career in education, teaching in Paradise Valley, Arizona for five years. After staying home for eight years to raise their three children, education has become her mission field. She now serves as an Assistant Principal in the Buckeye (AZ) School district.

In 2005, Steve and Tammy planted Mountain Vista Community Church in Buckeye, AZ. Together with their three children, (Jacob, Caleb, and Benjamin), they serve in ministry as a family. Steve is the Senior Pastor and their oldest son Caleb serves as a worship intern.

In addition to serving as a pastor, Steve travels the country coaching younger pastors and consulting in the area of church planting.

The Doerksen legacy at ACU continued this year with the arrival of Arnie and Gail's grandson (and Steve and Tammy's son) Caleb, representing the third generation of the Doerksen clan to be a part of the SWC/ACU family.

Caleb is a President's Scholar at ACU, the most prestigious scholarship offered by the University. He is majoring in political science, and already has felt the call to attend law school after graduating from ACU. He was encouraged and inspired by a conversation he had with recent ACU alumni Jacob Richards (Harvard Law School '22) about the opportunities available to him with an ACU education.

“When I began searching for Universities, ACU was not on the top of my list,” Caleb stated. But I was invited to attend an Honors Scholarship event on campus which gave me an opportunity to talk with

students and professors. The atmosphere of close personal relationships attracted me to ACU.”

Like his father and mother and grandfather and grandmother, Caleb is committed to serving God and growing the Kingdom, and is all-in on ACU's mission of Transforming Culture with Truth.

“In the field of law and politics, there is a deep need for people with strong biblical foundations,” Caleb continued. “I am grateful for how ACU integrates Biblical Worldview into all curriculum . . . and I know attorneys can influence people toward Jesus and the Gospel.”

The Doerksen family's 40-year history with ACU spanning three generations started with a small act of obedience. When 12-year-old Steve Doerksen's ques-



Arnie Doerksen at the dedication ceremony of the Doerksen Business Office.

tion about how to know God's will reminded Arnie and Gail of their commitment to answer God's call wherever it leads, the future of this small college in Arizona and its students changed forever.

Without that act of obedience, and all of Arnie and Gail's subsequent acts of faithfulness and service, ACU might not exist today. And the lives of thousands of eventual and future ACU students would be markedly different.

“The one thing that has always remained the same is the mission of the school—to provide a sound education that is founded in Biblical truth,” reflected Arnie recently at a ceremony dedicating the Business Office at ACU in his and Gail's honor. “ACU exists to transform culture with truth. And that will never change.”



Three generations of the Doerkson family gathered to celebrate the dedication of the Doerkson Business Office at ACU.



Former ACU Campus Pastor Tim Reed and ACU leadership pray over the Doerkson family.

IN MY OWN WORDS

Kaitlyn Hudson, '24

Music Major, Emphasis in Piano Performance

I CHOSE TO BE A PART OF THE FIRESTORM FAMILY because I wanted to go to college in a Christian environment, and also because of my previous experience at ACU. In the fall of 2019, I attended a mock audition, which was basically a workshop where students could perform an audition and receive feedback in order to be prepared for the real deal. The professors were incredibly personal and engaging as they got to know us that day. In addition, my mom is an ACU alum (Class of '98). President Munsil taught her Contemporary Ethics class!

MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT ACU is that I am able to learn in a Christ-centered environment. The faculty and students are really focused on growing in their relationship with Jesus, and using their talents to serve Him. I love being able to talk openly with my friends and fellow musicians about spiritual things, knowing that they have the same passions and priorities that I do.

ACU HAS HAD A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

I realized that before coming here, my family had really been the focus of my life. Since then, I've become more outward-focused and connected with other people my age who have helped me grow. One of the first questions I was asked by a classmate was, "How is your heart?" I'd never been asked a question like that before, and it pushed me to be more open and real with myself and others.

I FEEL CALLED TO SERVE GOD THROUGH MUSIC. I started playing piano at 6 years old, and since then have also learned how to play guitar, banjo, bass, and violin. I especially love being a part of small instrument ensembles and accompanying other musicians on campus. My goal is to reach people through music and demonstrate the love and creativity of God through the talents He has given me.

ONE FUN FACT ABOUT ME is that I play in a band with my family (Hudson Harmony Band), including my four younger siblings: Jonathan (age 16), Andrea (16), Jacob (14) and Alyssa (9). My mom helps write lyrics, my dad runs the technical side, and we've recorded 5 albums in addition to just completing our first video this summer! We started playing together more than seven years ago, thanks to an amazing woman that God miraculously brought into our lives. Priscilla had been displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and when she walked through the door for our first music lesson, she had a cart full of different instruments (never mind that my mom had simply requested guitar lessons)! To make a long story short, we haven't stopped playing together since.



**WANT TO WATCH THE HUDSON HARMONY
BAND'S FIRST MUSIC VIDEO?**

OPEN YOUR MOBILE PHONE'S CAMERA APP AND
HOVER OVER THE QR CODE TO CHECK IT OUT.



TRAINING GROUNDS

THE UNTOLD STORY OF ACU'S GLENDALE CAMPUS



Photo courtesy of Thunderbird Archives, Arizona State University Library

High above the Arizona desert, the open-cockpit training aircraft intentionally flipped upside down. The 18-year-old aviation cadet in the passenger seat braced himself and hung on tight. His seatbelt was not fastened. The flight instructor had inverted the plane on purpose to see how the cadet responded under pressure. One burst of anger or fear, and the cadet would be washed out of flight school.

Seventy-five years later, the former cadet chuckled as he remembered the experience, remarking that keeping his composure had been difficult, even though he had been wearing his parachute. As he reflected on his early pilot education, it was clear that Thunderbird Field had been a place of great personal significance, one that had made an indelible imprint on his life.

God, who created us each in His image, knew that the idea of “place” would resonate deeply with humankind. For example, following the Israelites’ miraculous crossing of the Jordan River into the land that He had called them, God instructed Joshua to have each of the 12 tribes take a stone from the place where they had stood in the middle of Jordan and stack them on the shore. These “stones of remembrance” would remind future generations of the significance of

that place, and of God’s provision and sovereignty in bringing his people to their Promised Land.

The abiding significance of “place” is also embedded in the rich history and tradition of Arizona Christian University’s new campus. ACU has become part of the legacy of education, service, and mission that has endured on this land located at the intersection of 59th Avenue and Greenway Road in Glendale, Arizona for more than 80 years.

As classes first began in the early 1940s at what was then Thunderbird Field, the world was embroiled in a time of global conflict and uncertainty. Students from across the United States and around the world came to this land with a sense of mission, just as our ACU students do today. But at that time, March of 1941, the focus of those first classes was on training young men to become pilots, poised to defend the cause of freedom and liberty in an emerging global war against the tyranny of facism. Some of those cadets may have come for adventure, but most were compelled by the call to serve, believing that the US would soon be pulled into the wars in Europe and Asia, which happened nine months later following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The origins of Thunderbird Field are seemingly right out of a Hollywood screenplay. When the United States first entered WWII in December of 1941, the number of pilots required by the Army Air Corps to fight the Axis powers numbered 30,000—and then quickly rose to 75,000 by 1943. Because funding from Congress was limited, Chief of the Army Air Corps General Henry “Hap” Arnold was forced to look for an innovative way to train thousands of skilled military pilots. So he turned to private investors. Although initially viewed with skepticism, his plan for contracting with the best civilian pilot training schools, overseen by military officers, became highly successful. Eventually there were many such schools around the US, but one of the most notable was Thunderbird Field, built in Glendale, Arizona.

Southwest Airways (not associated with the current Southwest Airlines), was created by Hollywood producer and airline specialist Leland Hayward and test pilot Jack Connelly. They were contracted by the Army Air Corps to build a primary training facility in what was then the middle of the Arizona Desert.

Even though Southwest Airways had won the contract for Thunderbird Field, they needed capital to build it. Ever the entrepreneur, Hayward did what he did best: round



ing up folks who shared his passion for flying, understood the urgent need to train more pilots--and had money to invest. Soon thereafter he raised \$15,000, and Southwest shareholders included names that someday would line the Hollywood Walk of Fame: Jimmy Stewart, Henry Fonda, Cary Grant, Robert Taylor and Janet Gaynor amongst others. One of the most renowned musicians of the first half of the 20th century, Hoagy Carmichael, was another investor. He was not only a financial partner, but was also known to visit the soon-to-be built Thunderbird Field and play the piano in the lounge for the cadets and staff, including his most famous composition, "Stardust."

This barren plot of land, leased in the empty desert and conceived in the shadow of world war, eventually sprang to life as a bustling airfield. Eventually, together with its auxiliary landing strips, Thunderbird Field would grow to include more than 1,000 acres. Leland Hayward hired renowned artist and architect Millard Sheets to design the airfield. Using desert pastel colors and plant life, the base would eventually become known as the "country club" of the pilot training fields. Sheets designed a complex of buildings, including a control tower, airplane hangars and landscaping, which when observed from the sky took the shape of a mythical Thunderbird. The building contractor for the airfield was a young man named Del Webb, who later would earn fame for building other major developments and communities in Arizona. Webb's efficient management style helped transform empty desert into a thriving training facility in just three months, and classes began on March 22, 1941.

By 1945, more than 8,000 cadet pilots would be equipped to answer the call of freedom at Thunderbird Field on the very land that today is home to Arizona Christian University. Aviation Cadets at Thunderbird Field received primary pilot training using PT-17 Stearman aircraft (an open cockpit bi-plane). Those that successfully graduated went on to other US Army Air Forces training fields to continue their military flight training as fighter, bomber, or transport pilots.

There are still three original buildings on the property that date back to the days of Thunderbird Field and WWII. The Control Tower was the centerpiece of Thunderbird Field, and was lovingly restored in 2011 by a group of alumni from Thunderbird Graduate School of Global Management. Today, the Tower is the hub of ACU's robust student community, serving as the Student Union, and houses our Tower Grill, Phoenix Shop, student lounges, and Prayer Room.



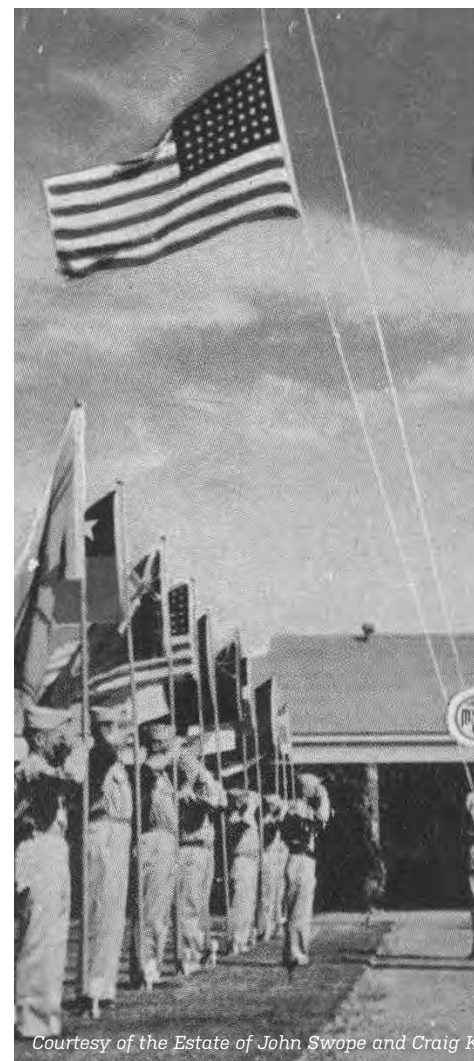
Photo courtesy of Thunderbird Archives, Arizona State University Library



Courtesy of Paul Markow



Photo courtesy of Thunderbird Archives, Arizona State University Library



Courtesy of the Estate of John Swope and Craig R



Courtesy of Paul Markow



The building now known as Founder's Fieldhouse once served as the original Thunderbird Field Administration Offices. It housed Army Air Corps administrators, as well as the medical facilities for the airfield. The name Founder's Hall was used when the American Institute of Trade was formed after the war and the building housed the office of the school's founder, Lieutenant General Barton Kyle Yount. Today the building includes team rooms and locker rooms for several of ACU's athletic programs. Founder's Fieldhouse also hosts ACU's Veterans Center, which serves current and former students who are veterans, along with the broader local veteran community.

Finally, the historic Hangar building is one of four original aircraft hangers that once stood along the airfield. Today the lone remaining hangar is one of the iconic locations on campus, housing the Firestorm football team locker room, the athletic strength and speed training center, and ACU's mail room and campus maintenance facilities.

This "place" ACU now calls home, this piece of desert land in Glendale, Arizona, has a storied legacy of training young people for service and mission. Eighty years ago, it attracted brave young men who were trained to fight against tyranny and for liberty and freedom across the globe. These young people played a decisive role in the WWII Allied victories in Europe and the Pacific.

Today, this same place that equipped cadets to fight for liberty 80 years ago is being used to equip a new generation of young leaders to "Transform Culture with Truth." At ACU, this is not simply a vision statement, but a critical challenge and defining purpose in our current era. Arizona Christian University students are prepared for excellence in their chosen field of academic study, and their entire experience on campus--from the classroom to the athletic fields to the residence halls and student events--is grounded in the foundation of a biblical worldview. At the same time, their relationships with other students, staff and faculty help students grow their faith and give them the courage to step out and discover the plans that God has for their future of service and influence.

This historic place, this Promised Land for Arizona Christian University, began in 1941 as an airfield where young people were equipped for lives of service and mission. We are honored to continue this legacy as we steward this land to equip a new generation to Transform Culture with Truth.

For more information about the history of Thunderbird Field or ACU, contact **SUSAN WEAVER JOHNSON**, ACU's Associate Professor of History and University Historian at historian@arizonachristian.edu.



Courtesy of the Estate of John Swope and Craig Krull Gallery

- 1) Cadet Walter "Wally" Besecker originally came to Thunderbird as a cadet, part of class 42-K. He completed Primary Training in July 1942.
- 2) An aerial view clearly shows how Architect Millard Sheets laid out Thunderbird Field to look like a Thunderbird from the air.
- 3) Royal Air Force Cadets pose in front of a Stearman plane while preparing for flight training.
- 4) Flags line the road to the administration building of Thunderbird Field I while cadets stand at attention. The flags symbolize the 26 countries from which cadets came to Thunderbird Field I to train.
- 5) One of the World War II hangars of Thunderbird Field and its Stearman aircraft are reflected in the water from local rains.
- 6) The Tower, which once served as the air control tower for the Thunderbird Field Airbase during WWII, has become a School landmark.

ANSWERING THE CALL

First Generation Graduate with a Passion for Justice

Lesly Perez ('21) was the first member of her family to graduate from both high school and college. After experiencing personal tragedy and then hearing a call from God during her time at ACU, today she is on the path to making a generational impact on her community.

Lesly's father Francisco was raised in a single-parent household in Mexico alongside his 11 brothers and sisters. Like many in his community, he was forced to abandon his formal education in middle school in order to help support his mom and siblings. Likewise, Lesly's mother Karina was only educated through the 6th grade, devoting her teen years to serving her family as well.

As Francisco and Karina met, married, and started their own family, they worked tirelessly to provide for Lesly and her younger brother. They wanted to give their children the opportunity to accomplish great things, things that they themselves had not been able to do. They believed that education was important to their children's future and sacrificed to ensure Lesly had opportunities to excel in soccer and in the classroom.

When Lesly was 4 years old, Francisco gave his life to Jesus Christ and subsequently led his family to faith. The Perezes began serving in a local church, and spent time evangelizing to estranged members of their extended family, sharing the help and hope of the Gospel.

In high school, Lesly played soccer at an elite level and was recruited by several schools to play in college. Her mother counseled her to pray and seek God's guidance about her decision regarding where to go to school. As Lesly did, she prayed that God would lead her to a col-

lege where she could be open about her relationship with Jesus and grow closer in her walk with Him.

A friend of hers committed to play soccer at Arizona Christian University, and even though Lesly had never heard of it, she felt led to email the coach and ask for more information. After learning about the mission and Christ-centered culture at ACU, she knew God had answered her prayer. She soon decided to accept the coach's offer of a scholarship and joined the Firestorm family.

She quickly felt at home among her classmates and teammates, and contin-

ued to grow academically and spiritually in her first year on campus. Then, her world turned upside down.

During her sophomore year at ACU, Lesly received a phone call informing her that her closest aunt, uncle, and infant cousin had all been killed in a tragic hit and run accident in their native Mexico. Because local authorities would not investigate the crime, Lesly and her U.S.-based family would forever be left with unanswered questions—and no sense of justice.

Tough days followed. Lesly's faith was tested.





"My coach was praying for me day and night. Pastor Tim Reed was praying for me. My teammates were praying for me. I knew they were praying because I could sense God's peace in the midst of that crisis," she recalled.

"This tragedy drew me closer to God. It was such a hard time, and I needed God to survive," Lesly continued. "My family's loss, without answers or justice, opened a door for God's call on my life—to fight for justice for people in need."

God's call led Lesly to graduate *summa cum laude* from ACU with a degree in Political Science and go on to pursue a

"MY FAMILY'S LOSS . . . OPENED A DOOR FOR GOD'S CALL ON MY LIFE—TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE IN NEED."

Master's degree in Criminal Justice. She intends to use her education to become a homicide detective, helping to provide members of her community with the justice that was denied to her family in Mexico.

As Lesly reflects on her parents' sacrifice, love, and provision, she

becomes emotional. "I could not have accomplished what I have without their support," she said. "They have been my pillars."

Lesly's journey and experiences have all led her to where she is today—following God's call to serve and care for those whose hearts cry out for justice.



TRANSFORMATIONAL GENEROSITY

The largest single donation in ACU's history made it possible for the University to purchase the former Glendale/Peoria YMCA adjacent to campus

Just two years after Arizona Christian University more than tripled its physical campus by moving to its new 68-acre location in Glendale, ACU grew again last summer by acquiring the former Glendale/Peoria YMCA facility adjacent to campus.

Located less than 500 feet south of the main campus entrance on 59th Avenue and Country Gables, the more than 27,000-square foot facility sits on 5.1 acres and includes 160 parking spaces.

Renamed the Firestorm Recreation Center (FRC), the facility comes with a gymnasium, fitness center, locker rooms, group workout area, lap pool and multiple team rooms and offices.

"This is yet another miracle for ACU for which we are thankful to God," said

ACU President Len Munsil. "It began with building a great relationship with the YMCA and its CEO Bryan Madden, through a facilities' use partnership over our first couple of years in Glendale.

"Unfortunately, COVID hit the Valley of the Sun YMCA's hard—and as a result, the Y decided to make this property available and immediately contacted us to see if we would be interested. Of course we were, and we were grateful for the opportunity—but honestly we had no idea how we could pay for it," Munsil said.

Then came the second part of the miracle—the largest cash gift in University history, which came in response to this unique opportunity for ACU.

"We have long admired David and

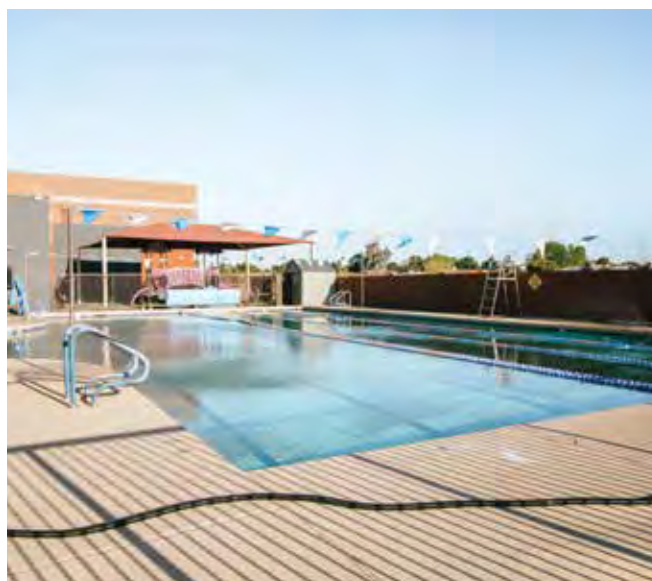
Barbara Green and the Green family for their incredible courage to stand for Christ and for biblical truth in the business world," said President Munsil.

ACU first interacted with the Greens in 2015, when the University presented them with the Daniel Award for Courageous Public Faith, based on their willingness to put their business on the line to defend the sanctity of human life all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Their victory in that case preserved the right of all business owners to not participate in health insurance plans that mandated use of abortifacients.

"The Greens are personal heroes of mine for their courageous commitment to standing for biblical truth, for running their business based on biblical princi-



Barbara and David Green receive the 2015 Daniel Award.



ples, and for their amazing generosity to the body of Christ,” said President Munsil. “What they have done for so many ministries, and their leadership in making Museum of the Bible happen—is truly extraordinary.

“Over the years I’ve had an opportunity to update them on ACU’s growth and progress, and when I met with Mr. Green this spring and shared this opportunity God had put before us, it was only a few days before he called to let us know the family had voted to make a \$3.5 million gift to ACU! The Green family’s generosity to Kingdom work for the body of Christ is just breathtaking in its size and scope, and we are thrilled for the difference they have already made at ACU.”

That gift completed the most success-

ful fundraising year in University history—with more than \$8 million raised during the 2020–21 fiscal year.

“God’s hand of blessing on ACU is quite evident in this season, and we are so grateful for the incredible support we are receiving from donors who are excited about what God is doing at Arizona Christian University,” said Munsil.

With this acquisition, ACU’s footprint will grow to more than 73 acres.

The gymnasium will allow ACU to host men’s and women’s volleyball practices and games, men’s and women’s basketball practices, wrestling matches, intramural sports and much more. In addition, students, staff and faculty will have access to the on-site lap pool and well-equipped fitness center, which

includes strength and cardio athletic training equipment.

“We are excited about the opportunities this will create for all of our students,” said President Munsil. “In conjunction with our brand-new football, softball, and multipurpose fields and forthcoming soccer, baseball, and sand volleyball facilities, we are beginning a new era of on-campus community and student life unlike anything in the history of the University.”

While there is a newly constructed 59th Avenue turn-in for vehicles and a sizable parking lot, there will also be a significantly widened and improved sidewalk and walkway for ACU students for the 2-minute walk from the edge of campus to the FRC entrance.

CLASS NOTES

2020s

2021

RACHEL ANKLAM is a legal assistant working in the Arizona Attorney General's Office.



EMILY HOBROCK is the Assistant to the Director at Ravenscroft, where she serves with Music Serving the Word.

SHREYA MUTHU graduated with her Bachelors degree from ACU at 18 years old and will begin medical school in May 2022 at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

ELIJAH OLANDER AND GABRIELA GUTIERREZ '20 married in May 2021 and relocated to Prescott in order for Elijah to pursue his master's through an internship program at Canton Bible Church, which is affiliated with Phoenix Seminary.

2020

SARAH BURNS is pursuing her Master of Theology at Dallas Theological Seminary with an emphasis in Historical Theology. She is engaged to Elliott Alexander, a current ACU student.

ALAN FREEMAN is pursuing his passion for coaching and serving others. He currently coaches wide receivers and defensive backs at Canyon Springs High School in Las Vegas. He also created his own business, Free World Fitness, with the goal of helping clients improve their skills and become aware of the blessings of Jesus.

MONIQUE KLINE is a 2nd Grade teacher in the Deer Valley Unified School District.

GRACE KOURY is a veterinary nurse and began pursuing her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Midwestern University this fall.

SARAH (CRANK) MANCUSO is a Senior Legal Assistant with the Arizona Attorney General. She married fellow Firestorm alumnus Nicolas Mancuso ('20) in March of 2021.

OLIVIA MCDERMITT is living her dream of working with animals on a daily basis as a Veterinary Assistant and Animal Care Specialist at AZ PetVet and HALO Animal Rescue.

QUIXMIA WASHINGTON is thankful to be an Online Recruiter at ACU, where she connects potential students all over the world to ACU. She is able to give them personal insight about ACU's amazing professors and how they pour into their students.

2010s

2019

JENNA CASTILLEJA is a 4th Grade teacher in the Deer Valley Unified School District and recently earned her master's degree.

CRYSTAL DASHNEY is serving as a missionary in Germany.

BAYLOR GIANNINI is an Assistant Baseball Coach for Ottawa University - Arizona.



Since graduating, **KADEIDRA HAMILTON** has deepened her walk with the Lord, which has opened many doors and opportunities for her, including working with children and families. She is looking forward to more Kingdom work!

CARLOS TREJO MORALES received his Master of Global Management degree from the Thunderbird School of Global Management at ASU.

ALEXIA (WEAVER) PRIOLO married the love of her life, Carter, in December 2020. The couple just bought their first home together and both work in ministry at New Life Community Church, where Alexis is the Children's Director and Carter is the Facility Manager.

SONORA ROMAN is pursuing her master's in marriage and family therapy at Fuller Theological Seminary. She also got married in March 2021.

KAITLYN STRELTZOFF is working toward a master's degree in Leadership. She currently works at GCU helping students take online classes.

MELODY TOSO works at ACU as the Education Placement/Compliance Coordinator. She

enjoys serving in the education department and working on projects with her former "phenomenal" advisors, Dr. Lyding and Dr. Pela.



JADA WILLINGHAM gained a passion for traveling the world and meeting new people through her experience at ACU and the women's basketball program. That passion turned into a career as a flight attendant. She has already seen more of the world since she graduated from ACU than she could have imagined. Jada reports that there are so many lessons and experiences that one learns when traveling, and she cannot wait to see what else God has in store for her.

2018

BAHIJ AND EMILY (SORUM) '18 AJLUNI recently bought a house in the Valley and have an 8-month-old daughter, Eva-Rose. Bahij is the Vice President at Premier South Planning Group and he and Emily both serve at Northwest Community Church.

MELISHA BRYANT is an Early Childhood Specialist for the Arizona Department of Health Services and is also a foster parent.

NIKI (FOSTER) MAYNARD is living in Redlands and working as the Family Camp Director at Forest Home Camps.

KINSEY PEASE is a teacher and volleyball coach at North Canyon High School in the Paradise Valley Unified School District.

DEBORAH (WHITE) PETERSON is a teacher in the Paradise Valley Unified School District.

SPENCER SABLAN is an Associate Frontend Developer for Multitracks.com. His wife, **HANNAH (DOAN) '17**, is a 2nd Grade Lead Teacher for Archway Classical Academy in Scottsdale, one of the Great Hearts Academies.

AKISHA SEIDEMANN is the Student Development Coordinator for Phoenix Seminary.

2017

DREW CLINE celebrated one year of working for First Baptist Church, Scottsdale as their Director of Worship and Creative Arts. His wife, **AMBER (RAYLS) '17** will receive her Master's in Counseling in May from Phoenix Seminary.

BIANKA CURVEY completed her Master of Arts in Media Studies at Texas Tech University and opened her own marketing company, Prosper Now, to help international and domestic businesses grow their brand loyalty and recognition.

CHELSEA (FREWIN) DUBOVOY got married in Fall of 2019 and started her own business @ dubovoy.designs. In 2020, she and her husband moved to Camp Verde.

LAUREN JOHNSON is a third-year law student at University of Virginia School of Law. She serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Virginia Law & Business Review.

KARL KLEPPE AND DESIREE (WILSON) '18 married in 2019 and are parents to Isla, who is six months old. Karl is a counselor at Red Mountain Behavior Services and is pursuing his master's in counseling at Phoenix Seminary. Desiree is a stay at home mom and is self-employed as a vocal instructor.

TREVOR MCCLELLAN is using his business degree to build new production aircraft for the military at Northrop Grumman in Florida.

LAUREN ROSENDALL is working at a charter school in the inner city of Grand Rapids as a paraprofessional.



MARISSA STEVENS graduated from Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University in Baton Rouge, LA, with her Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies. She is now working at an orthopedic clinic in Scottsdale.

ZACH VOGEL was recently promoted to a senior manager at CyberMark. He and **MICHELE (FRIGAARD) '19** have been married a little over a year. Michele finished her Master of Science

in Marriage and Family Therapy from Fuller Seminary and is in full-time practice with her mother at Freedom Family Counseling.

RAFAELLA ZAK ZAK is a Registered Client Associate for Morgan Stanley. She is engaged to **BRANDON SEIFERT '20** and they will be married later this year.

2016

BECKY CAPPS took a great big leap of faith when she moved to Marion, Illinois two years ago. She works at the Veterans Administration Medical Center where she did her chaplaincy residency. In June, she began serving in the Community Living Center of the VA. In 2010, she began a small Facebook page called "Trust in the Lord" where she posts a daily verse and spiritual encouragement each day. It currently has over 2.6 million readers. Becky has three adult children and seven grandchildren. She also received her Master of Divinity from Liberty University's Rawlings School of Divinity.

DANIEL CORNELIUS is a PE teacher at Legacy Traditional School. His wife, Rebekah (Dean) is the Director of Admissions and Guidance at Paradise Valley Christian Preparatory. The Corneliuses have two sons.

DAVID HOSKINSON was promoted to Enrollment Management Specialist Manager at ACU.

MIKE NAVAR is a Sales Specialist with Keyence Corporation, a factory automation company. He and his wife, Lauren, are expecting their first son, Charlie, in March.

AUBREY (WIMMER) RAYL recently moved back to Salt Lake City and is teaching second grade at an Elementary French immersion school. She plans on continuing to work in Salt Lake City until the Lord opens up a new path for her and her husband.

KYLE SHIPP is the Digital Marketing Manager for RPM Living. In October 2020, he married his wife, Marissa.

2015

KAITLYN (STEWART) COMSTOCK recently graduated with a Master of Reading in Elementary Education, with the goal of providing stronger support for her bilingual and ELL students.

CHELLE ORR has worked in the Deer Valley school district as a teacher for four years, head softball coach for six years, and Athletic Director for three years. She finished a second master's degree from ASU in Special Education and just completed her middle school math endorsement.

BERNIE RIVERA is a Pastor and Family Ministries Director at Campbell Community

Church. His wife, **JESSICA (STATEZNY) '15**, serves alongside him.

NANCY STOCKING is the Director of Human Resources at Phoenix Seminary.

ALEX (DUGAN) THOMPSON is teaching at an online-based elementary school and leads a fitness group for moms while raising her three kids. With her oldest son recently diagnosed with epilepsy, she is feeling God's tug to continue her education with special needs children in mind.

2014

ANDRE AND SARAH EDWARDS '16 have a son, Zion Levi-Alexander, who is a year and a half old.

COLLEEN LACY is a Juvenile Deputy Probation Officer in Gila County.

2013

LANDON AND LINDSAY (MANCUSO) '11 FLOWERS will celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary this year and have a two-year-old son, Lincoln. Landon is a school psychologist with the Florence Unified School District and is teaching his first course at ACU as an adjunct professor. He is also becoming certified in the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics.

2012

MATT DENNIS is the College and Family Pastor at Turning Leaf Church of the Nazarene.

2000s

2009

JESUS PRADO is an RN at Connections.



STEVEN VALDEZ was recently named the Director of Student Engagement at his alma mater, Arizona Christian University. He and his wife Krisann just celebrated 11 years of marriage and have two children; Ezra, age 8 and Vera, age 3.

2008

SHAWNEE (HAGEMAN) BACA joined Legacy Traditional Schools' administrative team in 2020 as the Assistant Principal of the Glendale campus. She also has the privilege of opening the new LTSI - Deer Valley campus in the Fall of 2021. She will forever be thankful for the opportunity to earn her degree at a Bible college that taught her how to bring the love of the Lord into schools by serving students, families, and colleagues daily.

JASON HENSLIN and his family moved back to his home state of Minnesota. He is the new K-12 school counselor at Kasson-Mantorville Schools and will be helping out with the football team.

RODGER LOAR is the Senior Pastor at Campbell Community Church.

2005



MATT BARREIRO was named Head Women's Basketball Coach at Central Christ College in Kansas.

KYLE DIROBERTS is the Department Chair and Associate Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at ACU. This summer he published his first book, "The Secret to Prayer," through B&H Books (Lifeway).

2001

DR. MAX SIGANDER is the Executive Director of Technology at Warner Pacific University in Portland, OR. His wife, **DR. JESSI (HANSEN) '03** Sigander, is CEO at The Brain Breakthrough.

2000

JUSTIN MARTZ is the Ministry Assistant to the Lead Pastor at Sun Valley Community Church.

LUIS MEDRANO served our country in the Marine Corps and has pastored for the last decade as the Head Teaching Pastor at New Life Community Church in Scottsdale.

JEREMY PETERS is self-employed. His wife **AMBER (BROWN) '98** is a Sales Enablement Director for Sinch. The Peters have been married 22 years this year and have two sons, ages 14 and 5.

1990s

1998

SOLOMON WORDEN is the Spanish Pastor at Mesa Baptist Church.

1997

TRAVIS DALE earned his Master of Arts in Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy and opened his Counseling Practice in 2016, where he provides individual, marriage, and family therapy. He and his wife, Amy, have 3 boys and reside in Ahwatukee.

1980s

1983

DAVE SHAEFFER is in his 34th year of teaching and currently teaches 6th grade in the Paradise Valley School District. He has also been a volunteer and part time worship leader, first for Shiloh Community Church, then at Shiloh's church plant, Cave Creek Church. He and Debbie (Clibbon, '85) just celebrated 37 years together last July. After raising 4 children, Debbie returned to teaching music in the Scottsdale School District and is now in her 16th year of teaching.

STEVE STANLEY passed away on August 11, 2021. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Carrie, who shared that Steve "lived his life with integrity, honoring God every day. Steve was passionate about everything he did—loving his wife, his kids and their spouses, his grandson, his long time friend and sister, his mother who was his biggest fan and his church family at Scholls Community Church. He loved God's creation, and his favorite place was a good fly fishing river with two fishing holes (for himself and our son) next to a good seat for our daughter, me and our books."

1981



PASTOR HENRY AND BRENDA DODGE '81 have been serving the Lord in various places since graduating from SWC in 1981. They both retired from the Arizona Public School System in 2008 and started a church in Apache Junction. They have two children, 12 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.

1970s

1976



DR. JOE LOMUSIO is a Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Haven University's Graduate School of Theology. This comes after he was the senior pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Fullerton, CA for 35 years. His fourth book "God At Center" will be released this fall. He and his wife Linda celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year.

REV. VICENTE (VINCE) TRUJILLO passed away on July 25, 2021. He is survived by his wife, **GAIL '79**. Together they served in ministry capacities in Arizona, the Philippines, Mexico, and California. Their primary ministry involved establishing training programs in local churches throughout Baja California, and included developing curriculum, writing books, and teaching in schools.

1975

DAVID BLASCO, a 1975 graduate from SWC with a Bachelor of Arts in Bible passed away on September 2, 2021. David found his passion for Christ as a young adult and spent his life serving the Lord by supporting and creating ministries. He was a faithful monthly supporter to his alma mater. David loved making and teaching music. He used his guitar, violin, and singing skills to further his ministry work and often performed in churches. He is survived by his wife, Valeria, twelve children, and 21 grandchildren.

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FIRESTORM FAMILY



1) SARENN (SELZER) RODRIGUEZ '19 married Daniel Rodriguez in a small ceremony in February 2021.

2) TYLER KARL '14 is a portfolio manager for Juncture Asset Management and recently completed his Chartered Financial Analyst, which is a very competitive program with a low completion percentage. His wife, **ALEX (TUTEN) '15** is the Assistant Worship Director for Harvest Bible Church. They welcomed their first child in 2020 and she keeps them busy and fills their life with joy.

3) ADAM '13 AND CAITLIN (ALLGOOD) '15 STEARNS welcomed their second son, Callan Bailey on July 31, 2021. Callan joins big brother Graham, who is thrilled and adjusting to his new role!

4) BRENNAN BOWEN '16 is having a year to remember in 2021! In March, he and his wife of eight years Kristen welcomed their first child, Charlotte Grace. In May, Brennan was sworn in as a member of the Arizona Bar and officially became an attorney. This fall, he will finish his term at the Arizona Supreme Court, where he currently serves as a judicial law clerk, and will begin a judicial clerkship at the United States District Court for the District of Arizona.

5) TIM SHAFFER '16 began a new role as a child and adolescent therapist during the onset of the pandemic. He continued to work in private counseling practice as well. He and his wife, Valerie, are very excited to welcome a baby boy to their family at the end of this year!

RISING STARS



BENJAMIN JOHNSON

Benjamin Johnson, M.D. (Class of 2013) is an Internal Medicine Resident in Phoenix, Arizona. After graduating from ACU, Benjamin took two years off to teach while applying for medical school. He graduated with his M.D. from American University of the Caribbean Medical School in 2019. He spent his first two years of med school on the Island of Saint Martin, then came back to the states to train for a year in Detroit and Phoenix.

Benjamin plans to finish his residency in 2022, and then will serve as a Hospitalist working with patients in the hospital system in a variety of areas. His experience as a front-line physician during the COVID-19 pandemic over the last year and a half has taught Benjamin a lot. He described the challenges associated with working long hours, enduring staffing shortages, and seeing otherwise healthy individuals of all ages severely impacted by the virus.

Outside of work, Benjamin and his wife Breana and son Benjah spend most of their time in and around the Valley camping, hiking, and exploring. A former Cross Country athlete at ACU, Benjamin still runs 5k's regularly, and he and Breana are working their way through the *60 Hikes Within 60 Miles* book for the Phoenix area.

Ultimately Benjamin's goal is to pay off his medical school loans and then serve as a medical missionary in Kenya and Tanzania, ministering to those in need.

ALANNA OSTBY

Alanna Ostby (Class of 2018) recently graduated from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University *Summa Cum Laude* where she served as Note & Comment Editor for the ASU Law Journal. She also was a Rule 39 Certified Limited Practice Student Attorney.

Today, Alanna is a first-year associate in the corporate division of Kirkland and Ellis in New York City where she specializes in mergers and acquisitions, debt, and finance. She has already been selected for a prestigious clerkship in the Northern District of Texas next year, and remains open to God's leading regarding her future in the law.

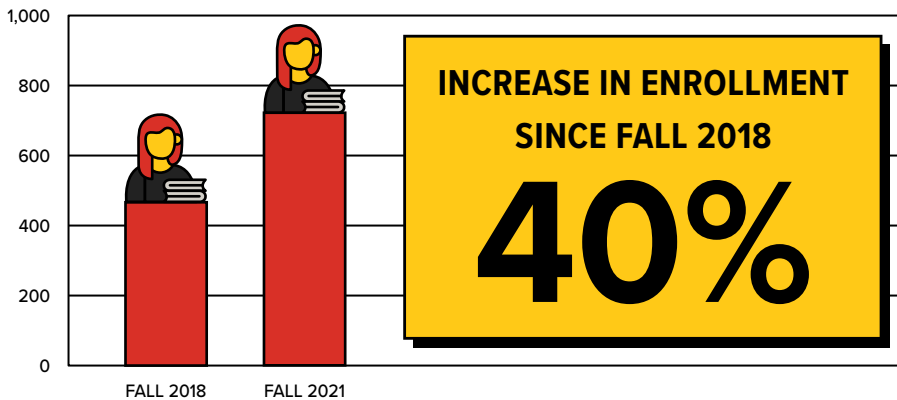
Alanna is adapting well to life in New York City, and enjoys the freedom that comes with not having a car and being able to walk everywhere! She enjoys sightseeing and exploring the history of the city, all while staying active. She remains a passionate Phoenix Suns fan, and has vowed to maintain her allegiance to her hometown team even while on the east coast.

Her advice to current and future ACU students: *"Don't be afraid of the unknown. Trust in God and His process. Be patient. With each year at ACU I grew. I became more confident as I went on because God led me."*



ACU BY THE NUMBERS

TRAINING CHRISTIAN LEADERS SINCE 1960



YEARS IN A ROW NAMED
AS A **BEST COLLEGE** BY
U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

5

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
RANKED

#9

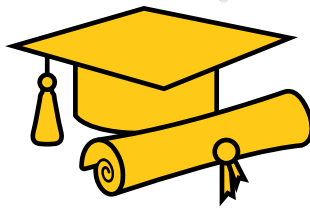
BEST VALUE
IN THE WEST REGION

STUDENTS COME FROM



EQUIPPED TO SERVE

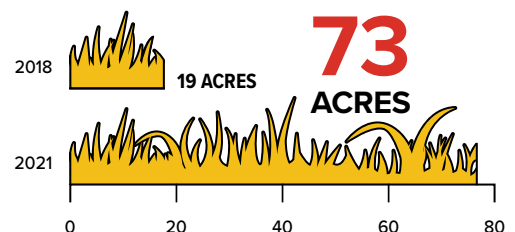
41 AREAS OF STUDY



STUDENTS EMPLOYED FULL-TIME
WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF GRADUATION

94%

CAMPUS SIZE



STRONG ATHLETIC CULTURE

22
VARSITY ATHLETIC
PROGRAMS



INVEST IN CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION BY PARTNERING WITH ACU!

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Honoring those who give \$1,000 or more annually to Arizona Christian University.

THE TOWER SOCIETY

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U.S. News & World Report Best College 5 Years in a Row