THE POINT

Spring 2013 // Vol. 8 // Issue 2

THE FORGOTTEN SIDE OF MEMORY
SEE ME, NOT MY DISABILITY
TECH-SPECTATIONS
A Letter From Your Editor

When I was little, I dreamed of growing up to be a horse trainer. I had it all planned — exactly how I was going to purchase our neighbor’s property and redesign it into stables and pastures. I spent endless afternoons sketching it all out. But today, those plans sit forgotten in a box in the corner of my closet, the passage of time dimming that dream. And isn’t that how it is for most of us? As life moves forward, we define new goals and vocations as we ourselves change. We smile back on our childhood aspirations and marvel at how differently life is turning out.

It’s a little like hopscotching, jumping from square to square, always needing to move forward even if we don’t know what the next box holds.

Where we’ve come from and where we’re going in many ways define who we are in the present. Our identity is rooted in time. Time past, never to be returned, as well as the time to come that will change us as we live through it.

The concept of timeline is what this issue of The Point is all about. We ask some in our campus community what their childhood dreams were and how those may have changed. We also examine technology and how our devices are revising our concept of time and raising new expectations. We time travel through the world of cinema, seeing how motion pictures have progressed and are impacting us today.

We turn our attention to relationships, and the role memory plays in establishing and maintaining those. We take you to the bike trails surrounding our campus, and peer in on the community that is formed among those riders on two wheels. We also have the definitive bucket list of the things to do while you are a Biola student.

In other stories, we pause to take a look at some life-changing moments: the significance of wedding proposals and how those are uniquely meaningful to each couple; stepping out into the world after graduation and discerning where to go next. We also introduce you to some students among us who are experiencing a very different life journey because of physical disabilities that nonetheless do not define them. Finally, we face up to the reality that time is limited, and explore the emotions that surface when the loss of a loved one touches our daily routines.

Time is a funny thing. It passes at the same rate, whether we feel it is fast or slow. Whether we’re hopscotching with confidence or with uncertainty, our feet are still moving us ahead. The time slipping by is the story our lives are becoming. Look back and see how the person you were has changed. Look ahead and consider where that evolution may be taking you. But don’t forget to come back to the present, where your life is waiting to be lived, full of trials and triumph.

Editor-in-Chief
Patricia Diaz

Visual Director
AnnaLisa Gasporra

Photo Editor
Tomoko Taguchi

Faculty Advisor
Brett McCracken

Designers
Daniel Kirschman
Kathleen Brown
Kristi Yumen

Photographers
Alissa Sandoval
Christina Bryson
Emily Cariaga
Jaicee Almond
Jonathan Hagen

Copy Editor
Katie Nelson

Business Manager
Jordyn Pickering

Spring 2013

We are a student publication of Biola University. Contact us at patmag@biola.edu

On the web at pointmag.biola.edu
Facebook.com/biopointmag
Twitter.com/thepointmag

Columbia Scholastic Press Association: Gold Medalist 2009

Cover Photo: Tomoko Taguchi
Designer: AnnaLisa Gasporra
P eople live to make their imaginations come true, but does it always happen this way? A childhood dream can change with time. Some people decide to focus on an entirely new career than what they initially thought. Students and faculty share their vision and how it has changed or stayed the same over the years.

“MY CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB WAS PROBABLY TO BE A TRUCKER. NOW, I AM A COMPUTER SCIENTIST WHICH I GUESS MEANS THAT WAS JUST A CHILDHOOD THING. BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS CAME ALONG, I GUESS.”
- Michael Prigge // Junior // Computer Science

“I WANTED TO BE A FOREST RANGER. NOW I AM NOT EVEN CLOSE TO A FOREST RANGER. THIS IS MY JUNGLE HERE AT THE TIME I WENT TO SCHOOL, IT JUST DIDN’T WORK OUT.”
- Richard Shiosaka // Mail Clerk

“MY CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB WAS TO BE ON TV. AFTER THAT IT REALLY CHANGED BECAUSE I GOT REALLY CAMERA SHY AND I DIDN’T WANT TO SEE MYSELF ON TV OR ON CAMERA. THEN, I FELL IN LOVE WITH CHILDREN AND WANTED TO BE A TEACHER. AND NOW I WANT TO HELP IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS.”
- Jessica Guzman // Junior // Communication Disorders

“WHEN I WAS A CHILD, MY DREAM JOB WAS TO BE A FLIGHT ATTENDANT, BUT AS I GREW OLDER I STARTED WORKING HERE AT BOLLA IN FOOD SERVICES FOR 12 YEARS. MY ASPIRATIONS WOULD BE TO OWN MY OWN ACCOUNT OR OWN BUSINESS.”
- Pamela Montoya // Cafe Manager

“MY CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB WAS TO BE A FOREST RANGER; NOW I AM NOT EVEN CLOSE TO A FOREST RANGER. THIS IS MY JUNGLE HERE. AT THE TIME I WENT TO SCHOOL, IT JUST DIDN’T WORK OUT.”
- Richard Shiosaka // Mail Clerk

“When I was a child, my dream job was probably to be a trucker. Now, I am a computer scientist which I guess means that was just a childhood thing. Bigger and better things came along, I guess.”
- Michael Prigge // Junior // Computer Science

“My childhood dream job was probably to be on TV. After that it really changed because I got really camera shy and I didn’t want to see myself on TV or on camera. Then, I fell in love with children and wanted to be a teacher. And now I want to help in communication disorders.”
- Jessica Guzman // Junior // Communication Disorders

“My childhood dream job was to be a flight attendant, but as I grew older I started working here at Bolla in food services for 12 years. My aspirations would be to own my own account or own business.”
- Pamela Montoya // Cafe Manager

“MY CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB WAS TO BE A TRUCKER. NOW, I AM A COMPUTER SCIENTIST WHICH I GUESS MEANS THAT WAS JUST A CHILDHOOD THING. BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS CAME ALONG, I GUESS.”
- Michael Prigge // Junior // Computer Science

“I WANTED TO BE A FOREST RANGER. NOW I AM NOT EVEN CLOSE TO A FOREST RANGER. THIS IS MY JUNGLE HERE AT THE TIME I WENT TO SCHOOL, IT JUST DIDN’T WORK OUT.”
- Richard Shiosaka // Mail Clerk

“MY CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB WAS TO BE ON TV. AFTER THAT IT REALLY CHANGED BECAUSE I GOT REALLY CAMERA SHY AND I DIDN’T WANT TO SEE MYSELF ON TV OR ON CAMERA. THEN, I FELL IN LOVE WITH CHILDREN AND WANTED TO BE A TEACHER. AND NOW I WANT TO HELP IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS.”
- Jessica Guzman // Junior // Communication Disorders

“WHEN I WAS A CHILD, MY DREAM JOB WAS TO BE A FLIGHT ATTENDANT, BUT AS I GREW OLDER I STARTED WORKING HERE AT BOLLA IN FOOD SERVICES FOR 12 YEARS. MY ASPIRATIONS WOULD BE TO OWN MY OWN ACCOUNT OR OWN BUSINESS.”
- Pamela Montoya // Cafe Manager
The Forgotten Side of Memory
Rediscovering the Foundation of our Relationships

Pause a moment and imagine your life without memory. Perhaps it goes something like this: to begin with, you do not recognize your surroundings. Determining your location is impossible because you cannot recollect how you arrived there. Furthermore, you are unable to seek assistance from friends because you do not know who your friends are. Did you ever even have any? Desperate, you turn to the stranger next to you, hoping he might direct you. But when you open your mouth, nothing comes out. You have forgotten how to speak. Of course, directions are irrelevant anyway because you cannot remember the address of your home. Essentially you are stranded. However, suppose you wander around and miraculously find your home. Even now, you have a serious dilemma. Without your memory, it is impossible for you to identify the home in front of you as your own.

Get the picture? Without our memories, we are helpless — unable to recall anything from the smallest most insignificant piece of information, to the largest most life-defining one. When speaking on the importance of memory, Biola psychology professor Dr. Stacy Eltiti states that a person without memory cannot hope to live any semblance of a functional life. “Without it,” Eltiti says, “you are stuck in time, unable to grow, learn, or build relationships.”

Yet memory is easily taken for granted, probably because we make memories so often that we do not even realize we are doing it. But if you stop for just a moment and consider your life without memory, you quickly realize that it is invaluable. In fact, you might say that memory is the very foundation of normal life. So what is this function we call memory?

According to Biola psychology professor Dr. John Williams, when the average person considers memory, he is thinking of what psychologists call long-term memory. Williams describes long-term memory as those past experiences, facts and skills that we never forget. Ashish Ranpura, a writer for the website Brain Connection, reports in his article “How We Remember, Why We Forget” that our brains store long-term memories through one of three methods: repetition, conscientious effort and emotional connection. Williams emphasizes the last method: emotional connection. He states that the part of our brains that stores our memories, called the hippocampus, is located next to the part of our brains that controls our emotions, called the amygdala. “When we are experiencing a memory,” Williams explains, “the amygdala is active as well as the hippocampus.”

This suggests that these two parts of the brain work together in helping us recall memories. We not only see the memories in our mind, but we also experience the emotions that accompany those memories. In other words, memories and emotions go hand in hand.

Emotions are incredibly powerful and often affect our actions, whether we realize it or not. It may not be such a shock then to realize that our memories, with their emotions attached, impact our future actions.
“Our long-term memory is always affecting us,” Williams states. “The way we respond in a situation depends on long-term memory.” For example, suppose you made a joke that greatly offended your friend. As you anxiously approach your friend to apologize, you can be sure that you will think twice before using that joke again. Thus, one role our memories play is allowing us to learn from past mistakes.

From a biblical standpoint, we are people contaminated by sin who constantly make mistakes. Many times our actions harm others around us. To help spur us toward better relationships with others, God has gifted us with memory, which serves to prevent us from twice making those mistakes that hurt people. Memory is key to building up his body of believers.

Eltiti further expanded on Williams’ point that memories guide our actions. She explains that our past experiences influence how we perceive our circumstances and our surroundings. Basically, if your current situation causes you to recall a happy memory, you will perceive your situation in a more positive light. The same is true of those situations that cause you to remember unhappy memories. Your assessment of that situation will be negative.

It is this influence due to memories that allows us to feel empathy toward one another. For example, if you are able to recall the excruciating pain of losing a loved one, you are significantly better equipped to understand when someone else endures loss. These memories that allow us to feel empathy toward one another. For example, if you are able to recall a happy memory, you will perceive your situation in a more positive light. The same is true of those situations that cause you to remember unhappy memories. Your assessment of that situation will be negative.

Memory Deepens Relationships

It is this critical involvement in relationships, Eltiti argues, that makes memory so important. As we have seen, memory teaches us how to best interact and relate to one another. It is because of memory that we remember a family member’s birthday and celebrate with them. And it is because of memory that we understand another’s insecurities and how those affect them. Memory is at the root of why you and your friend enjoy meeting together every week to watch your favorite television show. It is things like these that develop and deepen our relationships with other people.

Certainly our relationships with others are one of the most important aspects of our lives. Our Creator designed us to be in communion with others like us. But as Eltiti is quick to point out, God created us to be in a relationship with him. And this is the most important relationship we will ever have. In light of this, it is no accident God gave us memory, with the many roles it plays in allowing us to build relationships.

“In the Bible, we are called to remember,” Eltiti says. With our memories, we can remember all that the Bible has to say about who God is and, as a result, worship his greatness. Of even greater significance, we can recall what God has done for us on the cross and derive peace from this incomparable demonstration of his love. When we take time in our lives to remember who God really is and what he has done for us, we are able to offer him authentic praise as well as reaffirm our trust in him.

It is good to remember for other reasons as well. It is good to remember your friend’s favorite kind of ice cream so that you can surprise her when she is having a bad day. And it is good to recall the pain of a past trial and offer hope to the person now enduring it. Memory is a divine gift that enables us to support one another and enjoy fellowship.

However, investing in people takes time — a lot of it. Life today is fast-paced, cluttered with deadlines, expectations and phone calls. spare time is a rarity. And if we are honest with ourselves, many of us would agree that we often feel as though we do not have the time to develop meaningful relationships with others. On some days, the very suggestions of celebrating with a friend, grieving with a loved one or spending quiet time to reflect on the Lord are enough to cause us an emotional breakdown.

But perhaps we might begin to achieve a sense of balance if we accepted our busy lives while refusing to relinquish relationships as a priority. Certainly our education and our jobs are important, but when asked to share wisdom with Biola students navigating their way through college, Eltiti suggests, “Make the most of your relationships at school.” This is advice that is applicable at any stage of our life, college and beyond. Nowadays, it is all but impossible to escape feeling busy. There will never be a “right” time to develop relationships.

Yet rather than remember our accomplishments, we more often recall our relationships. They are what bring meaning to life. Don’t forget that.

07 The Point Magazine
Luis Daniel Arias, a high school student at the American School in Honduras, queued behind a line of boys and girls holding hands. He waited patiently to be “married” by an upperclassman dressed as a minister, who distributed plastic rings and made-up wedding certificates. In line with other student couples, Arias held the hand of the girl next to him tauntly. This event was part of “Carnival” — an annual junior-senior fundraising event. This might be an unfamiliar and bizarre scene to the average American high schooler or Biolaan. Yet, during my sophomore year at Biola, girls and guys wearing wedding gowns and suits had a food fight on the beach for their hall’s GYRAD — Get Your Roommate A Date. Events such as this remind me of that childhood image of boys and girls lined up to get “married” at the carnival. The way things are progressing, GYRAD might as well upgrade to GYRAW — Get Your Roommate A Wife.

Setting all frivolousness aside, engagements are happening all around the Biola community. Events such as this semester’s Biola Relationship Retreat exist to foster preparedness and unity between those who are seriously dating, engaged or married. But what does it take to propose, especially from a generation of young men, perhaps somewhat rough and ill-prepared, but daring enough to ask? There is beauty, originality and sheer courage in not knowing what to do that allows a proposal to become one to remember.

Drew Van Herk, a junior psychology major with a minor in Christian ministries, met his now-fiancee, Valerie Peterson, during his junior year of high school. Now a junior humanities major, Peterson lived on the same street and attended all the same schools as Van Herk, without them knowing each other.

One day in high school she sat in front of Van Herk in class, and they were forced to exchange numbers to work on a group project. Van Herk says from then on they never stopped calling and texting each other.

“Our discussions have continuously grown more serious about marriage,” Van Herk says of their relationship. “All of our intentional time together has been to bring us to that. We have always dated one another with the intent of being married.”

Chase Andre, a 2012 Biola graduate with a degree in communication studies and a philosophy minor, feels that marriage has been a comfortable topic in his relationship as well.

“But in regards to the next step, he says, “I am not going to propose.”

As a young man Andre had reached the conclusion that he didn’t have to date many people to figure out whom he was supposed to marry. He trusted God would bring the right woman into his life.

“I began to reason with the Lord: ‘I don’t want to merge two lives together. I don’t want to be heading in one direction and see someone heading another direction and try to make those paths meet. Lord, I want to be walking in the direction you have for me in my life, and look over my shoulder and see she is walking in the same direction.’ Andre says of his prayer.

Through a series of events, Andre noticed someone walking in the same direction; he was taken aback. In a fumbling of words, he asked out his now-fiancee, Alicia Miller, a Biola nursing alumna (’10), and she agreed.

“Said he and I don’t feel that our wedding is something I invite her to — asking her into my life — but I feel this is a decision that we are making together mutually,” Andre says.

Instead of proposing using a conventional diamond ring, Andre and Miller agreed to have a public celebration with all their friends and family to announce their engagement. Furthermore, Andre and Miller are expecting to live in a low socioeconomic community doing ministry, and it seemed to them inappropriate to use their resources to make such a statement. He goes on to explain that while they will both wear wedding bands, Miller did not want their engagement and wedding to be about displaying an expensive diamond, especially to a community that is not able to express the same sentiment. In regards to their unconventional engagement, Andre says, “What this has allowed us to do is craft a day going forth that love could overcome all barriers of war, classes, poverty and fear.

In the same way, Andre and Miller decided to make their March 24th engagement and future wedding centered on their friends, family and people in the community they serve.

Every couple writes a unique script for their engagement. Van Herk has decided to propose with a diamond ring that has special historical significance to his family. The day Van Herk’s younger sister was born, his mother received a pair of diamond earrings from her husband. Van Herk says it was the way his father showed affection to his wife for being the mother of his child. Unexpectedly, his father passed away when Van Herk was only 13, and one of the diamonds given to his mom would later be a gift to Van Herk for his future wife.

“I was so thankful and respectful to think about the relationship I had with my dad and to think about the gift he gave to my mom,” Van Herk says. “It was a big deal for her to give it to me.”

Van Herk proposed two days after I spoke to him in his home city of Huntington Beach, and he and Peterson are set to have their wedding next year.

“If you want to really invest your time, energy and spiritual life into something that will be a huge light in this world, one of them is marriage,” Van Herk says.

One couple that has been a beacon of light over the years has been Fred and Ruth Waugh. They are proud Biola great-grandparents, both 90 years old, and have been married for 72 years.

Almost six years ago, the Waughs celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary with a road trip to the end of Route 66 at Santa Monica Pier. It was there at the end of the road where Fred decided to propose to Ruth, more than a half-century ago.

The Waughs met at a church in Inglewood, Calif., when they were 10.

“She was one of those girls out in the front lawn standing on her head, which attracted me,” Fred remembers of the first time he saw Ruth.

The couple continued to see each other despite more than 1000 miles that separated them. Fred’s father worked for the railroad company, and during the Great Depression, Fred was given train tickets to travel down to California from Montana. He says his mom packed a suitcase full of bread, peanut butter and jam for the three-day journey. On these regular trips to California, Fred established a relationship with Ruth and her family. When he was 18, he took the train back to California and proposed to Ruth at the end of Route 66.

The Waughs have lived a life full of twists and turns. The moments and things that felt out of place, bland and not worthwhile, they now see were those where God intervened the most.

Many have looked to manufacture a special moment in engagement proposals. However, one must realize that memorable moments cannot be forced, but rather must simply be lived. Cherish the fullness of the time spent with your loved one; be eager to get to know them and love them as yourself. In doing so, any instant will hold a special place in your relationship.

When asked what advice could be given to this generation of men about to propose, Andre says, “I think it is valuable for people to know that the script is open!”
loyd Peckham stared at the sweetgum tree in front of Thompson Hall and an idea began to form in his mind. The intercultural studies professor had just made it through three flats on his daily, 20-mile bike commute from Santa Ana, arriving onto Biola’s campus just in time. His class now over, Peckham had a Felt carbon-fiber 20-speed touring bike that was dead on the pavement, but somehow needed to get him to the nearest bike shop. The tree had his solution. Gathering leaves and small burrs, Peckham stuffed the space between the rim and his bike tire with the organic material. This alternative to air provided just enough cushion to allow him to arrive safely at a bike shop to buy much-needed new rims and tires. This type of out-of-the-box thinking comes from a lifetime of bike riding. From his teenage years of riding everywhere on his bike, to riding through the jungles of the Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore during his 32-year missionary career; Peckham has found himself on a bike wherever he is.

“Most people have the bike, and have the desire, but they don’t know how to change their tires, or fix their bikes,” says Peckham. He warns lightheartedly, “If there is a bike that is broken at a bike rack on campus, there is a good chance you will see me trying to fix it.”

Los Angeles County does not show up on a list of the top 10
The Coyote Creek Bike Trail

The air smells fresh, as rains flood the concrete Coyote Creek drainage canal, resurrecting grasses along the sides of the elevated bike trail. Lemon and orange trees are producing, flowers are blooming; all trumpeting the return of spring. The Coyote Creek Bike Trail is a snake of pavement that has camouflaged itself among us. It is a narrow, two-lane, eight-mile strip of varying concrete and asphalt surfaces, running alongside the Coyote Creek drainage canal. After nine miles, Coyote Creek merges with the San Gabriel River Trail for the final four miles to Seal Beach and the Pacific Ocean.

There are two main entrances to the trail in the La Mirada vicinity: one heading west on Rosecrans Avenue right after the train tracks, halfway between Biola Avenue and the Interstate 5 freeway; the other is off Foster Avenue slightly farther north. An orange sign with authoritative black letters announces that the Coyote Creek Bike Trail is definitively closed from April 2012-June 2014 at the Rosecrans entrance. It lies.

To people who use the trail often, the sign is essentially meaningless. While the trail is indeed fenced off for a few hundred yards with metal beams lying beside churned earth, riders can simply walk their bikes down into Coyote Creek’s concrete riverbed, ride for less than a minute, and then walk their bikes back up onto the trail.

Peckham takes students on rides down the trail and loves to see them “rough it” by having to hop down off for a few hundred yards with metal beams lying beside churned earth, riders can simply walk their bikes down into Coyote Creek’s concrete riverbed, ride for less than a minute, and then walk their bikes back up onto the trail.

Peckham takes students on rides down the trail and loves to see them “rough it” by having to hop down into the riverbed.

“It’s great to watch people get a more radical radius to their lives,” says Peckham. “Before I came to Biola I saw bikers as kind of annoying, but during the past few years I have grown to admire them,” says De Vesta.

He now uses his 2007 Specialized, Hardrock mountain bike to commute to school and records 35-40 miles traveling from Norwalk to Biola each week.

Development of the Bike Highways

Established back in the 1970s, the initiative for the bike trails was started by the Army Corps of Engineers who installed concrete flood channels around the then-existing Coyote River, after floods from the ‘40s.

Abu Yusuf, working for the L.A. County Department of Public Works under the Progress and Development Division, oversees the Coyote and San Gabriel trails. The funding for the trails comes from Norwalk, back from the ICS retreat; the second was from Norwalk to Crystal Cove and back — a 97-mile round trip.

“Before I came to Biola I saw bikers as kind of annoying, but during the past few years I have grown to admire them,” says De Vesta.

He now uses his 2007 Specialized, Hardrock mountain bike to commute to school and records 35-40 miles traveling from Norwalk to Biola each week.

Development of the Bike Highways

Established back in the 1970s, the initiative for the bike trails was started by the Army Corps of Engineers who installed concrete flood channels around the then-existing Coyote River, after floods from the ‘40s.

Abu Yusuf, working for the L.A. County Department of Public Works under the Progress and Development Division, oversees the Coyote and San Gabriel trails. The funding for the trails comes from Norwalk, back from the ICS retreat; the second was from Norwalk to Crystal Cove and back — a 97-mile round trip.

“Before I came to Biola I saw bikers as kind of annoying, but during the past few years I have grown to admire them,” says De Vesta.

He now uses his 2007 Specialized, Hardrock mountain bike to commute to school and records 35-40 miles traveling from Norwalk to Biola each week.

Development of the Bike Highways

Established back in the 1970s, the initiative for the bike trails was started by the Army Corps of Engineers who installed concrete flood channels around the then-existing Coyote River, after floods from the ‘40s.

Abu Yusuf, working for the L.A. County Department of Public Works under the Progress and Development Division, oversees the Coyote and San Gabriel trails. The funding for the trails comes from Norwalk, back from the ICS retreat; the second was from Norwalk to Crystal Cove and back — a 97-mile round trip.

“Before I came to Biola I saw bikers as kind of annoying, but during the past few years I have grown to admire them,” says De Vesta.

He now uses his 2007 Specialized, Hardrock mountain bike to commute to school and records 35-40 miles traveling from Norwalk to Biola each week.

Development of the Bike Highways

Established back in the 1970s, the initiative for the bike trails was started by the Army Corps of Engineers who installed concrete flood channels around the then-existing Coyote River, after floods from the ‘40s.

Abu Yusuf, working for the L.A. County Department of Public Works under the Progress and Development Division, oversees the Coyote and San Gabriel trails. The funding for the trails comes from Norwalk, back from the ICS retreat; the second was from Norwalk to Crystal Cove and back — a 97-mile round trip.

“Before I came to Biola I saw bikers as kind of annoying, but during the past few years I have grown to admire them,” says De Vesta.

He now uses his 2007 Specialized, Hardrock mountain bike to commute to school and records 35-40 miles traveling from Norwalk to Biola each week.

Development of the Bike Highways

Established back in the 1970s, the initiative for the bike trails was started by the Army Corps of Engineers who installed concrete flood channels around the then-existing Coyote River, after floods from the ‘40s.

Abu Yusuf, working for the L.A. County Department of Public Works under the Progress and Development Division, oversees the Coyote and San Gabriel trails. The funding for the trails comes from Norwalk, back from the ICS retreat; the second was from Norwalk to Crystal Cove and back — a 97-mile round trip.

“Before I came to Biola I saw bikers as kind of annoying, but during the past few years I have grown to admire them,” says De Vesta.

He now uses his 2007 Specialized, Hardrock mountain bike to commute to school and records 35-40 miles traveling from Norwalk to Biola each week.

Development of the Bike Highways

Established back in the 1970s, the initiative for the bike trails was started by the Army Corps of Engineers who installed concrete flood channels around the then-existing Coyote River, after floods from the ‘40s.

Abu Yusuf, working for the L.A. County Department of Public Works under the Progress and Development Division, oversees the Coyote and San Gabriel trails. The funding for the trails comes from Norwalk, back from the ICS retreat; the second was from Norwalk to Crystal Cove and back — a 97-mile round trip.

“Before I came to Biola I saw bikers as kind of annoying, but during the past few years I have grown to admire them,” says De Vesta.

He now uses his 2007 Specialized, Hardrock mountain bike to commute to school and records 35-40 miles traveling from Norwalk to Biola each week.
the government, he says, but each city that the trail runs through is responsible for maintaining their own section. If the trail were a cake, each city would be a hand; some willing to take large pieces for themselves, and others reluctant to put on the extra weight. There are segments to this trail; some more well-kept, others with cracked and parched asphalt, years overdue for a makeover or at least a touch-up.

While Santa Fe Springs and Cerritos have kept the asphalt trail smooth and well-paved, the same cannot be said for the next two cities the trail passes through. After leaving Cerritos, the trail runs in between Hawaiian Gardens and Cypress, where it reaches its worst condition. Cracks snake their way through the sun-faded gray asphalt, where grass and weeds grow up through the pavement. The trail’s improvement is stark when it reaches Los Alamitos and Seal Beach. Here, serious bikers with thousand-dollar-bikes ride in groups and the lanes become somewhat crowded.

The scenery dramatically improves as well, with herons and other birds flying alongside the river banks below the trail, flanked with palms and other brush. Finally, the canal fills with more and more water until the beach and sea come into view.

“It’s not highly scenic, looking at the concrete, but there is nothing like getting three miles down from the beach, and the concern goes away,” says Mark Saucy, professor of theology at Talbot.

Saucy, 54, started biking 20 years ago and rides around 100 miles a week, mainly on the Coyote Creek and San Gabriel trails.

“It’s the time for me and my thoughts; it’s my soul time,” says Saucy. “My wife understands that this is where I solve my world’s problems, in a three hour bike ride.”

For Steve Herrera, owner of The Cyclery bike shop on the corner of Imperial Avenue and La Mirada Boulevard, the bike trails were something entirely different. He remembers waking up with his head resting on a curb and seeing what looked like jelly flowing down the pavement.

“I heard this gash, from all the people who had collected to look at the dead guy,” says Herrera. “I started moving like in ‘Men In Black’ when the guy crawls out of the hole,” describes Herrera of his physical state.

His shoulder out of place, ear nearly torn off and blood everywhere, it took Herrera a long time to physically and mentally heal.

Taking to the Coyote Creek and San Gabriel river trails, he tried to forget the feel and sound of his wheel and bike frame snapping. He tried to forget how he had heard a short screech of the car that had hit him going around 60 mph.

“It affects you for a while; you become skittish at the sound of rubber on asphalt. It tightens up your belly,” says Herrera. For a while, every time he heard a car coming by, his arms automatically turned his bike towards the curb, his body in autopilot forcing him to stop.

Today, at 54, he races two to three times a month in competitive mountain bike races. Except for the year 2010 when he was injured, he has qualified for the Mountain Bike Cross-Country National Championship race every year since it began in 2004.

“If I qualify, I go. That’s my rule,” says Herrera, who races in the category 1 mountain bike racing division, one step below the professional level.

Safety is always a concern on surface streets, especially the roads without bike lanes. The U.S. Center for Disease Control estimates that, on average, there are 700 bicycle deaths a year, as well as many more non-fatal incidents. While Herrera suggests that more bike lanes would make things safer, there is a different culture in the U.S. than other more bike-friendly countries or cities. Cities like Copenhagen and Amsterdam are built around the bike. When roads are constructed, the bike lane is always in mind. This is not the case in the United States.

Cycling as a Community

Today’s pavement-centered America, car-dominated roadways and spacious grids of ever-moving traffic can seem to conspire to make cycling an afterthought. Yet, despite the danger that seems to be involved, cycling to work, school, or as a hobby on America’s roadways is a reality more easily attained than people think. The bikes-only trails like Coyote Creek and San Gabriel are testaments to this biking community.

“It would be cool to have a Biola cycling club, with an epic name like, ‘The Wheelman of Biola,’” Saucy says.

He envisions professors and students joining together for communal rides and students taking up the initiative themselves. Peckham already goes on rides whenever he can, mostly with ICS students, but also with anyone else who wishes to join.

“The hope is to see if there is a community, reach out, tap it and pull people into it,” Herrera remarks when asked if he believes there is a bike community in the area. “I think there is the desire to be.”

As part of his intention to foster the bike community that might be present, Herrera’s shop is taking the initiative of sending out mass emails to its clients with information on the shop’s riding schedule. Every other Saturday, there will be three rides, starting with a beginner bike ride that starts at The Cyclery at 8 a.m. and completes a 10-mile loop via Beach Boulevard. On the same day Saturday, two other rides: a serious road bike route up in the hills north of La Mirada, and a mountain bike route via the Fullerton Loop Bike Trail or Turnbull Canyon Road will also start.

For Saucy, community with “a couple of buddies” was rekindled after he moved away from the mission field of Ukraine. Now, he completes three to four events a year with his friends, with the most recent event being the Palm Springs Century — century referring to the 100 miles that were traversed. The ride was the most memorable trip for Saucy because of its 25 mph headwinds that were blowing riders off the road and sending them flying at 45 mph when the wind was at their backs. These type of moments with friends, and the camaraderie that is developed, make Saucy appreciate biking to its fullest.

“I like the speed, I like precision. To me it’s the perfect way to see something, to see an environment, an area. Walking is too slow, a car is too fast; a bike is perfect,” says Saucy.

The glory of biking is that you can always go farther. There is no light on your bike that turns on to tell you your tank is empty. As long as your legs can keep pedaling, you will keep moving.

Peckham is mounting his bike at 5 a.m. in Santa Ana, ready for his 20-mile commute to work. At 10 a.m. Herrera is opening his bike shop, a job he traded for his past corporate business life. Throughout the day, bikes will get students to and from classes, from their dorms to the supermarket, and for some their bikes will take them miles away.

As the sun stays longer in the sky, specialized bikes, Cannondales, fixies, road bikes, BMXs, beach cruisers and an odd assortment of other bikes are rejuvenated. Spring has awoken long-dormant local river bike trails, which, like many creatures, are cold-blooded; the warmer weather provides the motivation for many to get back out and ride. As 12 million cars travel their 300 million daily miles through Los Angeles County, Spring encourages many to once again join a community of two wheels, rather than four.
“Name me one thing, one, that we’ve gained from technology.” Greg Kinnear’s character incredulously asks Meg Ryan in the 1998 romantic comedy “You’ve Got Mail.” In the film, Ryan’s character enters the exciting new world of email and eventually develops more of a relationship with her online pen pal and the “you’ve got mail” screen on her laptop than with her real-life boyfriend. Thankfully for her, Tom Hanks is the one on the other side of the screen and they eventually meet up in perfect Hollywood fashion. However, before his untimely exit, Kinnear points to his then-girlfriend’s computer in frustration and says, “You think this machine is your friend, but it’s not.”

In a society where there are more cellphones than cars, according to a 2011 study published on the technology website AnsonAlex.com, a close relationship with an electronic device is not out of the ordinary. People are virtually never alone; they are always accompanied by a laptop or smartphone, always digitally connected. By 2014, the magazine SiliconIndia predicts the number of cellphone accounts will exceed the world population with 7.3 billion accounts in total. Increased access to technology used to signify easier achievement of a task, but now technology embodies a world of emails, texts, tweets and alerts; an inescapable connectedness. Instead of functioning as a tool to make life easier, technology has become the expectation.

In his class “Engaging Worldviews,” communications professor Dr. Tim Muehlhoff incorporates an often passed-over spiritual discipline into his class through a challenging three-day assignment. On the first day students are allowed to use one hour of technology. The second day they are allowed half an hour. The third day they are restricted from using any technology and are encouraged to spend at least an hour in prayer and meditation. Of the 30 students in the class, only five completed the assignment.

Charissa Standage, senior communications major, was one of the five students. Surprisingly, she remembers the first two days of the assignment as being harder than the third, because of the “flood-gate effect” of technology. If you use a little bit of it, it is hard not to use a lot. Recalling how surprised she was to discover her dependence on technology, Standage describes how getting stuck in traffic became all the more annoying because she could not listen to music as she waited. Through the experience, Standage recognized little things like the beauty of the hills bordering the 55 freeway, and also cherished the time and space this technological Sabbath provided her with to think through things and realize God’s blessings in her life.

“At the end of the day there was a small hint of lament about going back to technology,” Standage remembers. “Because the unfortunate thing is, no matter how awesome that day was, we live in a world where technology is so crucial you can’t just get away from it. So it was kind of sad watching the sun set that night and realizing it was symbolic. This is the sun setting on a day where I was freed from all responsibilities and restraints I have.”

The act of being unplugged is a foreign concept to many people. It can be restful for a while but can
also lead to a life in limbo, where being disconnected means feeling cut-off from the real world.

“When you have these moments of solitude you almost get this antsy feeling of, ‘I could be doing stuff or looking at stuff,’” Muehlhoff says. “And I think that is really what you’re losing the ability to do one thing at a time; we’re losing the ability to be in solitude.”

Muehlhoff often quotes Plato to his classes, saying you cannot open your soul to anything and not be affected. “As we use technology, it is using us.” Our culture and people individually are being molded by it. Muehlhoff calls technology a “double-edged sword.” On one hand, it does make life easier, but now the standard has also increased about what people are expected to accomplish. It is an expectation that blurs the lines of limitation and dissolves moments of privacy and escape.

“There’s a total lack of boundary,” Standage agrees. “And because of that, there’s this sense that you can always be doing something and you should always be doing something. And if you’re not forcing it on yourself, someone else is forcing it on you. It’s kind of like a hamster wheel — you’re just constantly running on and responding and correlating.”

Scientific research reinforces this worry. According to a 2012 study by University of Gothenburg doctoral student Sara Thomée, heavy use of cellphones and computers increase the risk of sleep disorders, stress and depression in young adults. Though the reason behind this connection is yet to be determined, theories suggest artificial light disrupts the melatonin production necessary for sleep. Stress can even be triggered by the appropriately named “inbox fatigue,” which a person experiences just by looking at a crowded inbox full of newsletters, spam, social media updates and other messages.

Beyond these medical effects, Muehlhoff argues that technology has also changed the way we interact. The ability to be mindful, or fully present in the moment, has diminished while attention spans have shortened and the need for instant gratification has risen. In other words, the more connected we become digitally, the less connected we are to each other.

Sometimes, the easy living technology promises through high-speed Internet, 4G service and slick touch-screens remains the proverbial dangling carrot enticing us ever forward, while never actually getting us any closer to reaching it. Often, it is hard to separate the negative effects of technology from its obvious perks. For students, the ease it affords can regularly outweigh the addictive pull or social facade that is so easily bought into. Technology has revolutionized the academic world into a place where PowerPoint accompanies most lectures, laptops are required to keep up with note taking and unexpected questions on study guides are quickly answered, courtesy of Google.

“If we didn’t have technology, I think I would be more stressed,” says junior computer science major Kyle Yount. “The Internet is the biggest thing to ever come to academics. I was in a science lab when I forgot how to do an algebra problem, and I was able to go on a website that does algebra for you. In a way, technology is advancing knowledge more than it ever has.”

Imagine how much longer the lines at Target would be if cash registers and card readers were replaced by abacuses and ledger books. How would a hospital function without MRI machines? iPhones have become extensions of hands as keypads are pummeled by fingers at an average rate of 109.5 texts per person per day, according to a 2011 Pew Institute survey. As Yount expresses, technology has become so fused with our society, it is now necessary.

“There are so many aspects of life now that are dependent on technology,” Yount says, “that if someone were to pull the plug on all this, we don’t even know what would happen. What would happen if everything we know right now just vanished? We’d have withdrawals, we’d have to improve, businesses would go completely haywire.”

As technologically infused as this generation is, Yount believes people his age can still sense the contrast to an earlier, less advanced time. Because of this, he feels his generation is less inclined to confuse real life with virtual profiles and is ultimately more appreciative of the advancements they enjoy.

“We’re able to adapt to it in a more natural way,” says Yount. “We’re able to see the contrast between real life and technology and we’re able to separate those. I feel like we’re the last generation that will be able to do that.”

College-aged adults today grew up right along with the Internet, from dial-up to DSL to Wi-Fi, but children being born today will not be able to conceive of pre-Internet life. They will grow up learning their alphabets on touch-screens with the virtual world at their fingertips. True, it might seem a small contrast. Yet, AT&T plays with its significance in their commercial for U-verse High Speed Internet in which the 14-year-old brother reflects on the old days explaining, “Sometimes it took a minute to download a song. That’s 60 seconds for crying out loud!”

Whether or not today’s generation actually differentiates offline reality from its online counterpart, it is clear that technology and the use of social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter have actually changed the way people think about their lives and existence. Looking for reactions, Facebook users post about how awful their days have been when they want sympathy, or write statuses about getting a job when they want people to be happy for them.

Without meaning to, we frame our day in statuses,” Standage says. “A lot of times I think, ‘this is going to make such a good status’ when all I did was go to the store and pay with all dimes. But the world needs to know. It’s all these pointless things that we attribute meaning or significance to, and in return we expect others to give us that affirmation. We have become a really attention-hungry society because of that.”

Previous generations are comfortable interacting face-to-face simply because that is what they have always done. Technology can seemingly widen the gap between the two age groups, creating a space where the older rejects it and the younger embraces it. The biggest difference is that technology results in a completely new language and basis for interaction. As a waitress at Black Angus, Standage regularly interacts with this older generation, easily noticing the difference in communication.

“(They) just sit and chat, and it’s really uncomfortable for me,” Standage explains. “For them, they don’t know anything different because they’re used to cultivating that interpersonal interaction
that our generation is completely skipping over.”

Just as Facebook has introduced its users to an easier-to-read timeline profile, technology has established a new language through which the present generation communicates, relates and engages. A language where abbreviations such as “LOL” and “OMG” are outnumbered only by emoticons; many relationships are mostly composed of online interactions and texts; and conversations that usually excel in small talk are attempting to go deeper and more personal in the digital environment.

All of this is not necessarily a bad thing. As Muehlhoff explains, one vitally important type of communication is phatic communication. This deals with the everyday small talk, the friendly surface speak that, though not necessarily deep, remains essential to how people relate to each other.

“As far as establishing the phatic, tweets, texts and Facebook comments are great ways to do that,” Muehlhoff says. “If that’s all I did, then I would say that’s not good, but conversely if all I did was the dramatic, intense conversations, I would say you need to back up and work on your everyday communication. Technology is a nice way of protecting the phatic communication.”

Even now, texting, Facebook and emails are supporting conversations on an increasingly deeper level. A number of people are beginning to use technology to live more advantageously. High school reunions happen every day instead of every ten years because of Facebook; new drivers rely on GPS devices to travel anywhere they want to go; and shoppers are able to purchase new wardrobes without ever leaving their homes. People are clearly beginning, as Yount suggests, to “embrace what technology is.”

As technology continues to advance with every passing second, our attempts to keep up with the ever-changing world it creates can seem even more futile. Will our future involve a society of “users” rather than “people,” tech-talking toddlers and a method of conversing that resembles binary code more than any present-day language? Or will our society rebel from its present course and begin to swing the other way, allowing the infusion of technology to dissipate and become less integral? Whatever the future may hold, in the present, Muehlhoff advocates for the importance of remaining in touch with the world outside of our monitors and touch-screens. Sometimes, a small break is necessary to focus us back on reality.

“God wisely understood the human makeup when he said every week you are to have a Sabbath,” Muehlhoff says. “I’m not saying that is a [specific] day of the week, I’m saying it should be a day that is qualitatively different from what you did the other six days. I would say technologically, it would be good to get unplugged that day. We need to find these small little pockets where we can meditate, think and pray.”
For just over 100 years, the art of capturing thousands of pictures and projecting them onto silver screens has spark ed an industry, inspired generations of visionaries and etched itself into the legacy of human storytelling. We are, after all, a visual species: God gave us eyes to see, ears to hear and imaginations that equip us to dream. What are movies at their foundations but elaborate dreams refined and shaped for the enjoyment of many? They indeed can become nightmares, or so fantastical that they bend the world we know into something grander and far more unpredictable. Some films depart from reality; still others use the limitations of it to tell stories we can see in everyday life. Whichever the fashion, movies have the ability to teach us things, and these lessons have for better or worse influenced us with love, hope, anger, tragedy, humor, excitement, adventure and an ever-growing sense of wonder.

A film, no matter how long or how short, is essentially photogra phy in motion. Thousands of frames are flying at tremendous speed, creating moving images that first astonished unsuspecting audiences in the late 19th century. At a screening of "Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat" in 1896, the audience was said to have run sprawling from their seats when they thought the train would come crashing through the screen.

Movies back then were shown without any kind of sound until filmmakers realized how much music could further their stories. They incorporated what is called a "score," an instrumental treatment composed specifically for what happens on-screen. Silent films were the craze, with voiceless charac ters whose dialogue was written out in white text on black frames, the original form of subtitles. The revolution of "talkies" came next in the late 1920s, where actors' voices were recorded live on set. People were captivated by this shift, and when color came to prominence, all were captivated by this shift, and were recorded live on set. People were captivated by this shift.

"A film projects a world, either familiar or alien," says Biola art professor Jonathan Anderson. "A movie is simply a highly structured film." While movies used to be events and spectacles for mass audiences, they have become increasingly more individualistic and stylized. We live in an era where to stand out is key, and while the Hollywood formula still exists, there are many who seek to break the cinematic mold every day. That is the foundation of "indie" films, independently-produced shorts, features and documentaries fashioned outside of big-budget conventions.

"Movies are a way of imprint ing time — capturing and preserving events in re-produ ceable ways," says Joshua Sikora, a former Biola student and cinema arts professor who is now head of the media arts department at Houston Baptist Uni versity and founder of production company New Renaissance Pictures. "It's about defining moments interesting enough to share with people, then capturing and sculpting them into a final product that works. Sikora touches on the fact that cameras are made with the intent to capture and immortalize moments we deem important of remem brance, be it a backyard birthday party or a multi-million-dollar train wreck on a Warner Bros. backlot.

Glenn Cook, an undergrad phil osophy major, offers a more roman tic sentiment on the medium. "Movies are really the fulfillment of man's desire for nostalgia," Cook says. "They're an extension of his storytelling tendencies that have existed since the dawn of language." Movies are too often diminished to pure spectacle, unrecognized as major influences on the world around us. But films like "Citizen Kane" and "To Kill A Mockingbird" sparked important dialogue in the times they were released, and movies today continue to represent ideas, both political and social, that make us think.

"Movies have come to serve as common cultural texts," says Ander son. "Look at how often movies are quoted on a daily basis by all types of people. They've become 'thought experiments' in that they teach and influence ways of thinking." Movies, both fiction and reality-based, can serve as modern parables. The cinematic realm of good versus evil offers us lessons of virtue and morality that we carry with us. The things we watch latch onto our minds because that is how we are built to process — and mov ies are built to latch.

In the scope of film's evolution, an even more incredible concept than how far movies have come is where they might be heading. With so many advance ments in camera technology, as well as what can be done to footage in the editing room, it isn't a stretch to suppose that in the next 50 years, the way movies are shot and experienced will morph into something drastically different than how they are now. I am a child of the '90s, and because of that I can attest to how much the movies have changed even since the likes of "Juno" and "Toy Story" wowed me as kid. With the rise of the digital age and the fall of celluloid, films are becoming more crisp and clear, with picture qual ity that allows you to look into the world of the movie as if through an empty window frame.

"The biggest shift we've seen is that what was once so expensive and difficult to do is now much easier, and that is to make movies," Sikora clarifies. "Over the last 25 years, there has been a radical transformation in technology that makes it possible for anyone to make a film."

It's true, the playing field is much larger than it ever has been, and it is up to the players where we go from here. Anderson explains that the industry has been on a road to decentralization ever since the home-video camera became available to the kid down the street.

The equipment you need is on the shelves," says Anderson. "There are hundreds of production companies instead of just four or five, and literally everybody has access to the medium." Filmmaking has indeed become a very noisy area to inhabit, and its designs will fluctuate and develop as the masses dictate. Whether movies continue to look more and more real or evolve into some kind of audience-participation format, it will always be the sum of thousands of hands working to make the next best thing.

"I think the future will largely depend on if the artist is content to appease the masses or pull them along through their world of ideas," Cook explains. "But the diversity of thought and genres as well as the differences in their progressions make it hard to predict."

I was still in a strap-in car seat when I knew that making movies was my inevitable calling, not because I could sense any kind of inherent talent for it, but because I was so unequivocally drawn to dreams and the idea of sharing them with the world.

Filmmaking is an age of using technology to tell stories. While movies may at times be reduced to flippant thrills at the box office, they will ever remain the stuff of wonder and possibility. No matter how much changes in the way we watch and make them, here's to hoping that movies will always and forever maintain the cele bration of story and the classic ele ments that make one great. Here's to the classics past and the classics to come. Long live the movies! ©
Students often take full use of their bodies for granted. Instead of complaining about having only fifteen minutes to stop at the food truck for lunch between classes, Victoria Nuñez, a freshman biology major who suffers from cerebral palsy, has to plan how she’ll get to class on time carrying a backpack full of textbooks and using her walker.

Cerebral palsy, a group of motor conditions that causes physical disabilities in development, particularly in body movement, has been a constant struggle for Nuñez. But instead of complaining, she has begun to look toward God.

She says she was able to seek God so he could help her overcome tough circumstances, such as “when you’re in bed for two months after 12 surgeries, staring out the window at the sky.”

“Some days, you just don’t want to be here,” Nuñez says about school. “Not because you don’t like school, but because it’s just another day of pain.”

While many students worry about their hair or clothes getting wet when it’s cold and rainy, Nuñez dreads the pain in her bones and the slow journey between classes that seem close, but with her walker and heavy backpack, often feel miles apart.

Another member of the Biola community who can speak to the difficulty of physical struggles is adjunct professor of journalism Anna Sinclair. Sinclair does not feel
less fortunate than her co-workers or students, although she realizes that there is a difference. She was born a congenital amputee, which means one of her arms is missing a forearm and hand. Although there was no medical explanation for it at the time, doctors have since discovered that in the womb, amniotic bands cut off her arm just after her hand formed. She admits that she primarily wore it because she felt aware of others. Wanting to make everyone else feel more comfortable, she wore the prosthetic because it made her feel professional and took attention away from her arm. She always knew that her arm drew stares, but quickly realized that how the situation was handled was up to her. "I didn't want it to define me," Nuñez explains. This is what she encourages others to do as well. Instead of ignoring the person and simply seeing a wheelchair or walker, she advises people to "capture who they are in personality." Instead of being defined by cerebral palsy or by her walker, Nuñez wants people to get to know her as a person, and to realize that although it may seem a little tougher, she is capable of doing anything that her peers can.

Katelyn MacIntyre is a senior vocal performance major who is just as competent as her peers. She is actively involved in Biola’s music department, singing in the chorale and acting as a member of chorale council, playing a role in the spring opera, and preparing for her senior recital. She also had an unforgettable experience studying abroad in Heidelberg, Germany, where she got to learn a new language, perform in beautiful and historic theaters and study under internationally acclaimed vocal performers and musicians. MacIntyre has enjoyed a full and productive four years at Biola, and never let the fact that she has a visual impairment hold her back. In a Christian community, MacIntyre says she can tell that students and faculty alike want to help, but sometimes they just don't know how. As a result, she says they either ignore her fully or overcompensate, which leads to an awkward tension. "They want to serve Christ and they see helping me as a way to do it," MacIntyre says. "I’ve been places where [non-Christians] are helpful, but it’s not from the same heart.” She says that while the expectation is that non-Christians are less willing to help, they often reach out. But they tend to help out of pity or obligation instead of from a compassionate heart. With Biola’s missions mindset and focus on equipping students to be witnesses throughout the world and in the workplace, students often fail to notice the struggles happening right on our own campus. Christians often look abroad to impact God’s kingdom: child poverty in Asia, HIV/AIDS in Africa, human trafficking in India. These are important injustices that God calls us to fight for, but we should also remember those who live next door to us. Those with disabilities are often overlooked or ignored. People tend to turn the other way or stare at those who are different. Jesus has a particular empathy for those who are poor, suffering and disabled. Christians are called to follow this model, reaching out even when it takes us out of our comfort zones. “[Jesus] doesn’t care about these stigmas that we have,” says Matt Rouse, communication disorders chair and professor.

In fact, Rouse refers to Jesus as the ultimate “stigma buster” in his interactions with those suffering from leprosy, blindness, paralysis and even demon possession. Rouse has a ten-year-old nephew who suffers from Cornelia de Lange syndrome, a genetic condition that severely delays his physical and health development, and caused him to be born with only two fingers on one hand and no speech. “Communication is one of those things that I take for granted,” Rouse explains. “It’s actually really a special gift.”

Just because someone is disabled does not mean that they should be ignored or cast aside. Rouse points us back to the Fall of man in Genesis 3, reminding us that sin has disabled all of us, and just because someone has a physical disability or impairment doesn’t make them any different or worse off.

“We all have issues, problems and brokenness,” Rouse says.

Like most new students, freshman Max Soh is facing a fresh wave of challenges in the transition to college life. Born and raised in Singapore, he’s not only adjusting to dorm life, new professors, and food from the Caf, but he’s also adapting to an entirely new culture.

The change is tough, but it is nothing compared to his dealing with retinitis pigmentosa, or RP, an inherited disease of the retina that severely delays his physical and health development, and caused him to be born with only two fingers on one hand and no speech. “It hasn’t been easy, of course, but it’s allowed me to rely on God more,” Soh says.

When compared to the horrors of his secondary school in Singapore, Soh acknowledges that the accommodations and experiences he has had at Biola are generally
positive. Professors are willing to meet with him if he missed something in class, and students help him both in class and around campus.

MacIntyre shares similar praise for the willingness of Biola professors and students to work with her and accommodate her learning needs. “Faculty are willing to invest in the students anyway,” she adds about Biola faculty, explaining why they are so disposed to help any student with a disability. She and Soh agree that students have also proven to be open and helpful. MacIntyre adds that they frequently offer to take notes for her or even take the time to read chapters with her for homework or preparing for exams.

“It’s been a challenging process,” MacIntyre says, “but it’s neat to see how the other students have accommodated me.” Having attended schools for normally sighted people all his life, Soh understands that it can be difficult for others to accommodate him, especially when they are not used to it.

“I understand that my needs are the minority here,” he says, adding, “I think it is a bit selfish to want or expect everyone else to revolve around me and my needs.”

Even so, it is important to lend a hand as we would to any other person. Hold the door open when they’re walking by, offer to take notes for them in class, or just simply say “hi.” Don’t be surprised to discover that they’re completely human. MacIntyre encourages others to open their hearts to people with disabilities and be willing to ask questions or help when necessary. Dealing with the initial awkward tension is often the hardest part, but just remember that there is no need to treat someone who has a disability any differently. Sinclair also notes that the person with the disability can reduce much of the tension.

“It’s about how you present yourself,” she says.

“Depending on how you present yourself, people will notice less the imperfections and more you.” Sinclair says by being open to conversation and questions, those with a disability have the power to ease unnecessary apprehension; and by asking questions, those without a disability show the humanity of someone who may look or sound different.

“I don’t mind them detecting the difference,” Rouse says of onlookers who stare at his physically and developmentally handicapped nephew. However, instead of just staring, he would rather them approach and ask questions.

“You learn from a person when you just ask a question,” Sinclair suggests. “Let it be a platform for further conversation.”

DEFINING THE TERMS

IMPAIRMENT/DISORDER: a body part doesn’t work.

DISABILITY: when the impairment affects your daily life.

HANDICAP: when the impairment affects your participation in society.

*For example: technically, deaf students have an impairment, because their hearing doesn’t function correctly; but they don’t have a disability, because with sign language and other means, they’re able to perform everyday tasks; and they don’t have a handicap because they can fully participate in society, especially deaf communities.
Brenda Velasco had known since age seven that she wanted to be a corporate attorney. She had a plan to achieve her dream job by 25, get married at 27 and have kids at 32. Instead, Velasco graduated from Biola in 1999 and went on to work in communications and marketing at a real estate agency in Whittier, and after some twists and turns, she ended up in the position of assistant director with Biola's University Communications and Marketing. This is not at all what she had planned.

Some students embark on a different career path because of the decisions they make, while others have no choice in the matter. Erin Arendse is a 2010 Biola graduate who obtained her degree in English. She had plans to go to grad school in Michigan or Ohio and eventually teach English at the university level. However, she did not get into grad school. Right now, she is working as the administrative assistant for Biola's philosophy, English and humanities department — not exactly the avenue she envisioned. Velasco and Arendse were not the first people to wrestle with their career paths in the days looming before graduation, and they will certainly not be the last. Most Biola students approach graduation with expectations, whether that is finding the perfect career, making a large salary or being able to qualify for their dream job. However, according to a survey conducted in November 2012 by the professional networking site LinkedIn, only 30.3 percent of people fulfill their childhood dreams. The other 69.9 percent have the pleasure of their ideas, dreams and plans being flipped upside down and completely jumbled so that they must reassure everything they thought they knew about what they wanted for their lives. Whether by choice or circumstance, the majority of people change their career paths to something they had not anticipated.

During her senior year, Velasco questioned whether her “dream job” actually matched how she imagined her life. She liked the idea of being a corporate lawyer, but realized that the future is not just about a job — it is about what type of person you want to be and the type of life you want for yourself. “I had to figure out if it was truly God’s calling on my life or my own calling on my life because I had wanted it so badly,” says Velasco. “Through that process God showed me that it wasn’t necessarily what he had planned for me, and that if I truly wanted certain things in life like a family and a career that wasn’t so stringent and so bound by politics, then corporate law was not for me.”

God guides us to an understanding of his plans for us in different ways; to some he changes their desires, but others he takes on a long learning journey. Cambria Aviles was a history and English double major who graduated in May 2011. Currently she is working two different part-time jobs within Biola’s administration. Aviles loves working at Biola, but knows it is just a stepping stone of experience on her journey to the perfect job. Having graduated so recently, Aviles both saw and experienced the shock that she and her friends had to deal with when they realized their expectations were not the reality. Aviles shared the general assumption she and her peers held — that they would go to school, get a degree and obtain an entry level career job right after graduation.

“[Instead] I was juggling part-time jobs and it wasn’t what I envisioned,” says Aviles. “That was the case with probably 80 percent of my friends. Through those experiences, though, they have discovered different strengths and skills and different passions they weren’t aware of when they were thinking of what they wanted to do after they graduated.” Such was the case with Don Bernstein, manager of Biola’s Alumni Relations. He always wanted to be an architect, but realized as he got older that it was not architecture he loved: it was the skills involved in practicing architecture. “My experience tells me that God loves us so much and puts desires in our hearts,” Bernstein said. “I honestly think he puts desires in our hearts in elementary school through high school that actually give us a lot of clues about what we
Three percent of college students have to work while they are still in school since most internships are only offered for college credit. Internships are vital for job experience and connections.

Utilize Career Development

They can help you figure out what kind of career is right for you, perfect your résumé and actually help you find jobs. Volunteer

This looks good on a résumé, allows you to meet people, and may even help you figure out what your passions are.

StrengthsFinder

Take some type of strengths assessment test that will allow you to see what skills you possess so you can figure out what type of position would best fit you. Also remember to play up those strengths in job interviews.

As Bernstein points out, it is important to first realize the different talents you possess and how you can utilize them to figure out a job that matches that, instead of the other way around. Biola’s Center for Career Development helps students identify their gifts and desires so they may gain insight on choosing a career path. Director Jeanie Jang helps students compare their dreams with their skills, and then assists them in figuring out how to prepare for that dream.

“Your personality may not match what you want to do,” Jang says. “You don’t know necessarily up front if [your job] sounds good because of the reality of what it takes to do that … but you won’t know until you try it. Unless you start getting exposed to what your work is like, then you’re just guessing.”

Jang says college is a good time to explore what you like and gain an understanding of what your dream job actually takes. She stresses the importance of getting internships while you have the chance, since most internships are only available for college credit.

In addition to exploration, internships play a vital role in boosting a résumé and helping college students obtain a job after graduation. In 2010, Biola’s Career Development conducted a survey of Biola’s graduating seniors and found that only 30 percent had jobs, 65 percent had completed an internship during their college career. The problem for the 70 percent who were not able to track down work is the current job market. Jang says students have to meet a high hiring standard that is practically impossible to reach with a fresh diploma and little to no career experience.

“When I hire my student workers, they all have … a certain exposure to work and writing,” Jang says. “I’m not willing to hire someone with no exposure to work outside of Biola, the bar is even higher.”

Nowadays students naturally expect to get low-paying, entry-level jobs because that is all they are qualified for without years of hands-on experience. They need to put in their time doing the grunt work, the not-so-fun jobs, so they can work up to what they really want to do. Sometimes even entry-level positions are hard to find, however. Seniors must recognize that to stay afloat they might even have to do something completely unrelated to their career field for a while before they can get their foot in the door.

“I used to think that it was really important to find the right job and make a ton of money,” says senior communications major Julia Bates. “But I’ve been realizing that you have to start somewhere, so I’ve been looking at receptionist jobs or jobs that may not necessarily be awesome. I may be working at Starbucks, who knows.”

Soon after saying this, Bates accepted a position as a team leader at the Target store in Norwalk. Bates, who was referred to the position by a friend, says having connections was the key to securing a job right after graduation.

Students have to work hard and utilize their available resources to succeed. Entering the real world is not all sunshine and rainbows when you have little experience, few connections and a hefty amount of debt following you around. Senior film major Paul Maertens understands that everyone has to start somewhere and he is willing to do anything when he graduates, so long as he can support himself.

“My expectations are really low,” Maertens says. “What I need to do is afford myself and my family … I don’t need a lot so if I can find something fairly stable, I don’t care how hard I’m working.”

Arendse is no stranger to these circumstances. Upon her graduation from Biola in 2010, she started looking furiously for a job — any job. She says it seemed like there were no positions anywhere. She resorted to using a temporary agency that placed her in a job working for a company that conducted gas station repairs and fire code testing. It was not ideal for Arendse, but she knew it was preparation for the next step in God’s plan.

“In the job I had that was not satisfying, some of it was an attitude check,” she says. “You have to pay your dues and get experience in this world and to work the next day because you have to pay to rent. There was this really strong conviction from God saying, ‘Hey, you have a job I have blessed you with. I have given you here for a reason.’ Even though I hated it, I was saying, ‘Okay, God, thank you for this job, make me thankful, but I am so ready for what you have next.’”

Bernstein confirms that Arendse’s journey is similar to that of many students, it may take a long while to get to the point of achieving your dream job. “Nobody’s life is a straight line from point A to point B — that is a given,” he says. “However, we know and we trust that God is involved in every aspect of our lives. If we are on a trajectory from A to B, and God takes us through C, D, and on the way to B, and because we trust in his sovereignty and he provides in ways that we don’t even expect, we can be satisfied and content with that if we have the big vision in mind.”

Success is not always going to be achieved in expected ways. Bates describes the idea of success by the world’s standards as having a 9-5 desk job that makes a six-figure salary. However, Biola students and alumni define success differently than this. Aviles views success as being able to utilize the gifts the Lord has given her, no matter where she is at. It is about thriving in your position and taking advantage of the opportunities it presents, whether or not the job is ideal.

Success does not only involve contentment and utilization of where you are, though. Samantha Paya, a 2009 graduate who recently received Biola’s Young Alumni Award, believes that success is not just an end goal, but a process. Payne studied psychology during her time at Biola, but is now a program director for Teach for America. By the world’s standards, Payne has arrived at the point of success. Even though Payne loves her job, she still wishes to grow more and become a marriage and family therapist. There is not a point that once you reach it you have at

Success for me is really doing something that you absolutely believe in,” says Payne. “Something that you’re passionate about and something you can do every day … I don’t think there should be an end goal to success. If you’re succeeding then you’re constantly becoming better, and being reflective.”

Growth is the key to having a successful and satisfying career. Even now, there is room for personal growth that allows us to draw closer to realizing our passions. Coming from the perspective of someone who altered her passions, Velasco says to have an open mind about which path God is going to lead you on. If you are focused on only one idea, you may limit what God has for you.

“My advice would be not to con- fine yourself to a specific career goal because you may be missing out on a much better profession that you never imagined,” says Velasco. “I would just encourage [students] to explore, take as many opportunities as you can. Network, because that is going to make a difference. Interact with professionals and learn from them and don’t be afraid to take a risk in your professional career, because all of those are learning opportunities.”

“NOBODY’S LIFE IS A STRAIGHT LINE FROM POINT A TO POINT B— THAT IS A GIVEN”

— Don Bernstein

33 The Point Magazine 34
The Color of Absence

Life After Loss
Five years ago, Joe Gonzalez was busy focusing on his sophomore year of high school and enjoying the life of a teenage boy. Though his aunt had been sick with cancer for quite a few months, he had great hope that she would make a full recovery; not knowing that only months later, she would go home to the Lord.

“My aunt was more of a mother to me than an aunt. She went to every baseball game and every kind of celebration. As she began to get sick, I sat by her bedside every single day, reminiscing on good times and exploring the future. Then one day, she was just gone. I still don’t understand why God couldn’t spare her. He could have at least prepared me for her death,” Joe says.

A year ago, Grace Leathers did not have the slightest inclination that her longtime friend would take his own life and leave his family and friends in a state of pure disbelief. Her junior year of college shifted from the stress of academics to the stress of dealing with a whirlwind of different emotions.

“There has not been a single day where I haven’t thought about Andrew. I think the hardest part is not having any kind of explanation. I don’t know that I’ll ever understand why he did what he did; why he felt he had no other option than to take his own life. He had a group of friends that loved him and a family that cherished him deeply.” Grace reflects.

Neither of these people thought that their loved ones would be taken from them so abruptly, causing such confusion, trauma and hardship.

Wouldn’t it be nice if there were a book to tell you how to get over death? A book that told you how to feel and when to feel it? Dealing with death is different for everyone. Grieving is a process that is based solely on the individual experiencing it. It stretches beyond a science and moves down to the core of who a person is and how they handle trauma.

People often think that their pain will eventually fade away. While the pain does fade and gradually begin to lessen, it will never be completely gone. As Grace and Joe described, the pain of losing a loved one to death is something that never necessarily disappears; it is a pain that will always be present, but a pain that nevertheless can be dealt with in a healthy way. One of the greatest challenges in life is learning how to deal with the grief that follows a person’s death, whether it is an acquaintance, friend or relative.

The good news? In time, you will heal.

Before a loss, it seems like you will do anything if only your loved one would be spared. “Please God,” you might find yourself bargaining. After a loss, bargaining may take the form of a temporary promise. “What if I devote the rest of my life to helping others? Then can I wake up and realize this has all been a bad dream?”

We all have our individual experiences when faced with death, but while that is true, there is something comforting about knowing that everyone goes through similar emotions — emotions that may look different from person to person, and emotions that may shift at their own pace — but emotions all the same. These are the emotions that color the time of absence immediately following a loss. The most important thing to remember is that these emotions you are feeling are normal; they are a part of your individual healing process and will move along at your own pace.

Denial helps us take the time to pace our feelings of grief. It is a way of letting in only as much emotion as we can handle at that point in time. Thoughts of denial are what allow us to start asking questions, unknowingly beginning our process of healing. Though denial is helpful in this way, the feelings we once denied will begin to come to the surface over time.

Anger is a vital emotion during our phase of healing. We have to be willing to feel anger, even though it sometimes seems as if there is no end in sight. The more we are able to feel it, the faster it will fade. The anger that we feel is only at the surface: what lies beneath it is our pain. After losing a loved one, it is completely natural to feel abandoned in some way. We live in a society that looks at anger as weakness, but anger is strength and can give structure to the nothingness of loss. Our anger becomes a bridge to our loved one and gives us something to hold onto as we continue to heal.

Acceptance is often confused with the notion of being “all right” or “OK” with what has happened. Truth is, most people don’t ever feel OK or all right about the loss of a loved one. We can never replace who has been lost; but we can make new connections and establish new meaningful relationships.
Instead of denying our feelings, we can listen to our needs: We move, we change, we grow, we evolve.

We can start to reach out to others and become involved in their lives. We can invest in our friendships and in our relationship with ourselves. We can begin to live again, but we cannot do so until we allow grief to take its cycle.

Losing the ones we love most is an inescapable fact of life. What can be learned from this is that we must cherish them; cherish them deeply and without reservation. Their loss will leave a great pit in our hearts. But like a flower opening after a storm, we can slowly begin to remember the ones we have lost in a different way.

“There came a point when I realized that my aunt didn’t have to suffer anymore,” Joe remembers. “It didn’t make it OK that she had passed, but it helped bring me peace.”

It has been nearly five years now since Joe lost his aunt to cancer. Since her death, Joe says he has sought to do everything to make his aunt proud. He has held onto core values that she taught him throughout his life and says he is now able to experience deeper connections with people. Joe remembers sitting in his aunt’s room on weekends and watching the Dodgers play. Some of his fondest memories of her revolve around their shared passion for baseball, a passion that he still holds today.

Grace says living life in the present is simple: trust in Christ. That is not to say that the healing process has been anything but difficult for her, but rather that despite her pain, she knows that while she may not be OK now, in due time she will find her peace.

“After Andrew died, I spent a lot of time thinking and being upset with God because I could not understand,” Grace says. “But then I realized that I’m not always going to have the answers, so I decided that I had to let God bring me to peace on his own terms.”

We will still cry over the loss of loved ones. We will always cry. But we can do so with loving reflection more than hopeless longing. And that is how we survive. It is how our loved one would want it to be. Grief is neither an illness nor a mental condition, but rather a personal and understandable response to life-changing events, a natural process that can lead to healing and personal growth. The transition through this difficult time is the courageous journey; the journey from shades of black to a spectrum of color as we begin to again find hope for our futures.

"There came a point when I realized that my aunt didn’t have to suffer anymore,” Joe remembers. “It didn’t make it OK that she had passed, but it helped bring me peace.”

"There came a point when I realized that my aunt didn’t have to suffer anymore,” Joe remembers. “It didn’t make it OK that she had passed, but it helped bring me peace.”
The world needs more teachers who teach like Christ did: compassionately, creatively, & effectively. Biola’s School of Education offers state-certified teacher preparation in a supportive, all-Christian environment—a community that cares for the flourishing of every one of its students, and for the world they will impact.

For more information on Biola University’s School of Education, or to apply for one of our graduate programs, visit education.biola.edu/grad

Pictured above is the classroom of alumnus Michael Long, 2008 California Teacher of the Year.