

# GCU TODAY

## MAGAZINE

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Volume 2 – Issue 4

## COLANGELO ON CAMPUS

The origin  
of 'Lopes Up

North Gym's  
new purpose

College hopes  
of refugees



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# MAKING TIME for ONLINE

## A newbie learns a new way to learn – and likes it

– by Michael Ferraresi

GCU Today writer Michael Ferraresi at the nightly grind for his online master's degree program.  
Photo by Michael Ging



After “work,” my work begins again – often on the couch or at the dining room table, where I hunch over essays and peer-reviewed journal articles in a freakish posture that would disturb ergonomics experts.

Other nights, I am exiled to a little desk at the guest bedroom to avoid annoying my wife with the incessant tapping on my laptop.

Like nearly 45,000 other online GCU students, many of whom are fellow working professionals, the online classroom has become part of my daily routine. I work as a senior writer on GCU's communications team during the day and spend the rest of my time studying toward a master's degree in criminal justice.

At first, the online classroom struck me as too mechanical. The routine discourse in the online classroom leads up to posting researched essays each Wednesday like clockwork. I wondered if this would annoy me. But it actually helps me to focus. By the time the essay is due at the end of a weekly module, I feel I have a complete list of concepts, sources and thoughts to thoughtfully respond to the writing assignment.

Each eight-week course is a microcosm of our vast and diverse online student body. My first online class included an instructor who works in Arizona's juvenile justice system, a police officer in Dallas, and a woman who listed the Marshall Islands as her preferred time zone.

In that course, I earned my first “A” since my undergraduate journalism studies more than 10 years ago. So the 94.5 percent mark felt like a major accomplishment.

The sense of achievement immediately morphed into a mindset of stress and failure when I returned from work on Oct. 22 to find my home burglarized. Along with

irreplaceable heirlooms, my laptop (with class notes I had yet to back up) was lost. My focus on coursework also was lost.

My academic counselor phoned to check on me because of the delay in my posts to the online discussion forums. This amazed me. I'm not sure many instructors at my past universities would take the time to check in with a student missing for one week. Without her call, I would have fallen behind. Instead, we settled on dropping the course and rescheduling just one month later.

No problem. No rush. No lost time or damage to the GPA.

With that, I found myself like so many of the online students interviewed for GCU Today or those who write my team with praise for their counselors. There's a personal connection to the online classroom, in spite of the lack of face-to-face contact. Honestly, the sound of my counselor's voice soothed me.

From advisers to faculty to the students I rely on to keep discussion in the cyber-classroom, I feel more and more like I'm part of a team with a shared purpose.

Now if I could only improve my posture, that dash to the degree might be less painful.

## Are you a GCU online student with a story to share?

Contact Michael Ferraresi at 602.639.7030  
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# CAMERA READY

## GCU's 'Little Miss Everything' showing her maturity on TV

— by Joy Soto / Special to GCU Today Magazine

GCU freshman Dorybell Gonzalez found her calling as a TV host on a Spanish-language network show about the lavish nature of Latin American "quinceañera" birthday parties.

In a pink room full of tiaras, a makeup artist is hard at work perfecting a young face. Meanwhile, a star in the making is anxiously waiting for the countdown: 1, 2 and a silent 3.

At that mark, the cameras roll. GCU freshman **Dorybell Gonzalez** smiles brightly and launches into her enthusiastic "Welcome and bienvenidos!"

Gonzalez is one of four Latina teen hosts of "Quinces Princess," a bilingual reality show that airs Saturdays at noon on Spanish-language Azteca America. The role requires her to interview 15-year-old girls in Phoenix after their quinceañera, the Latin American version of a Sweet 16 party.

The quinceañera marks the transition from childhood to womanhood. Azteca America's show portrays quinceañeras as a meaningful element of Hispanic culture and highlights how the events draw communities together. Episodes focus primarily on love, honor and respect for parents, according to "Quinces Princess" producers.

However, "Quinces Princess" also details the colorful and often decadent nature of the quinceañera. In one episode, a girl enters her wedding-like ballroom locked stoically into a giant, gliding Barbie box as if she were a life-size doll. The expensive cakes, gowns and jewelry are part of what make the show so intriguing to Hispanic viewers and also to a wider audience.

Gonzalez, a dark-haired business management major known for her creative spirit and outgoing nature, said she was inspired to go into show business by watching

Latina actresses such as the singer **Selena** and **Demi Lovato** on TV. But Gonzalez is so confident in herself that she avoids emulating anyone who came before her.

"I always told myself that if I made it big I wouldn't take their examples, that I would be a good example," said Gonzalez, who was born in Mexico and raised in south Phoenix, where many neighborhoods remain proudly and predominantly Mexican-American.

"Ever since I was a little girl, I always dreamed about it, and I'm still working on getting there – getting to the top," Gonzalez said. "I love the fact that I can always be myself in front of the camera. I don't have to act like anyone else."

Gonzalez, 18, sings and plays guitar at GCU campus events such as the popular Java Jam open-mic performances. While many students are sleeping in on Sunday, she wakes early to get to the Azteca studio.

Gonzalez graduated from Cesar Chavez High School in south Phoenix. She served four years in student government while balancing roles as a cheerleader, softball and tennis player, theatre student and choir president. The constant dedication and 9 a.m.-to-10 p.m. schedules earned her the nickname "Little Miss Everything."

"Dory, she's very mature," said "Quinces Princess" director **Edgar Rojas**. "Believe me, she's the one who's easier to work with. Whenever I say, 'We're rolling,' she is one of the first ones to get ready. She's always on time. She always does what we ask her to do."

As on the Azteca TV set, Gonzalez has found a home at GCU. The Phoenix campus has become a place where she can cultivate her Christian values, grow her talents and inspire others with her confidence.

"I love learning new things, and here at GCU they have so many opportunities for me ...," she said. "I want to let people know that if you set your mind to something, you can do it."



Marco Vinicio Photography

Gonzalez (top right) and her fellow Azteca America co-hosts show off the quinceañera gowns highlighted in the "Quinces Princess" reality show.

# A CAPSTONE to COLANGELO

## Sports business school at GCU cements rich legacy as executive

– by Bob Romantic

**Jerry Colangelo** had an impromptu idea.

"Come on," he said. "Let's go for a ride."

It was the middle of October, and he and his guest did just that, leaving their breakfast at the Arizona Biltmore to take a quick drive to Grand Canyon University.

A short time later, they were walking into a classroom, unannounced, as students' eyes got bigger and jaws started dropping.

The Introduction to Sports Management class at GCU was about to get a question-and-answer session with NCAA President **Mark Emmert** – and Colangelo – just like that.

"The energy inside the classroom was palpable," said **Dr. Brian Smith**, director of the Colangelo School of Sports Business and the teacher of that aforementioned class. "Mr. Colangelo and Dr. Emmert shared stories while also inspiring the students with positive words of encouragement.

"It was an invaluable experience."

The spur-of-the-moment session was unexpected in many ways. But, in the grand scheme of things, it really wasn't.

Colangelo is not simply a name on the masthead of a

college. He is a Phoenix icon. Someone who takes pride in every venture he is involved in. Someone who is regarded as one of the most influential executives in professional sports.

And, mostly, someone who just makes things happen.

### The father of Phoenix sports

Colangelo's story is well-chronicled. The grandson of Italian immigrants rose from modest roots in Chicago's "Hungry Hill" district to build a sports empire in Phoenix.

After helping to launch a Chicago Bulls franchise in a city where two previous teams had already failed, a 28-year-old Colangelo packed up his wife and three children and joined the expansion Phoenix Suns in 1968 as the youngest general manager in pro sports. Over the next 40 years, he served as coach, president, managing general partner, chief executive officer, part owner and chairman of the Suns – a team that reached the NBA Finals twice under his watch (1976 and 1993) and built the fourth-best all-time winning percentage in the league.

On the business end, Colangelo was at the forefront of deals such as arena naming rights and packaging things like radio and TV rights, signage, marketing and

tickets. For a time, the Suns were the highest revenue-producing team in the league despite operating in the 19<sup>th</sup>-largest market.

"I was never afraid to fail, and I was never afraid to take risks – calculated risks, not blind risks," Colangelo said. "If people told me I can't do that, my attitude was 'I can and I'll show you how.'"

In 1993, shortly after the NBA finals, Colangelo was approached by **Joe Garagiola Jr.** and **Jim Bruner** with the idea of bringing an expansion baseball team to Phoenix. At that point, there were no plans by Major League Baseball to expand and previous attempts to lure baseball to the Valley of the Sun were unsuccessful. After some initial hesitation, Colangelo looked at the impact a baseball franchise could have on downtown Phoenix and agreed to spearhead the project.

"All we had to do at that point, with the storm clouds of a strike hanging over the sport, was convince Major League Baseball that A) It was a good idea, B) We should be the city that gets the franchise, and C) Figure out a way to get a stadium built. And we did," said Garagiola Jr., who later became general manager of the Arizona Diamondbacks and is currently the senior vice president of standards and on-field operations for Major League >>



Colangelo brought Steve Nash back to Phoenix, where he was a two-time MVP.

Photo by Darryl Webb



Colangelo embraces Jay Bell after the Diamondbacks' 2001 World Series championship.

Photo by Darryl Webb



Colangelo and the U.S. team were good as gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Photo by Garrett Ellwood/NBAE/Getty Images





«Baseball. "Jerry is a visionary. He sees things. He knows when to be bold, and he always has larger rather than parochial interests at heart."

The Diamondbacks were born in 1998 and in their first five years of existence won three division titles (1999, 2001, 2002), a National League pennant (2001) and a World Series championship (2001) – the fastest an expansion team ever had won a title.

The irony of that World Series title isn't lost on Colangelo, who chased an NBA title for nearly 40 years before selling the Suns in 2004 to Robert Sarver for \$401 million (he led an ownership group that bought the team in 1987 for \$44.5 million). Later, Colangelo added two Olympic gold medals as the head of USA Basketball and an induction into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame to his list of accomplishments.

"It's been a great ride," Colangelo said. "I wish we had won an NBA championship. I guess that's God's way of saying, 'You know, I'll give you a lot, but not everything.'"

## The Olympic experience

Colangelo's involvement in USA Basketball couldn't have come at a better time – for him and the U.S. Olympic team.

Team USA was coming off an embarrassing bronze-medal finish in the 2004 Athens Olympics, where it lost three times and didn't represent the U.S. well on or off the court.

For Colangelo, 2004 was a tumultuous year from a personal standpoint.

For personal financial planning reasons, he sold the Suns; he resigned his position with the Diamondbacks when it became apparent there was an internal movement afoot to push forward without him; his friend, confidante and former Suns coach/announcer Cotton Fitzsimmons died that year; and even his wife was mugged outside a five-star hotel in Paris while on vacation (Colangelo got a face-full of pepper spray from the assailants when he grabbed one in a bear hug).

"I was at a speaking engagement talking about how it had been a year with a lot of emotion and said 'What scares

me the most is there are still two months left in the year,'" Colangelo said. "Two weeks later I was diagnosed with prostate cancer."

Determined to put all of 2004's troubles behind him, Colangelo had surgery on Dec. 31 of that year to remove his prostate so that he could start 2005 with a clean slate.

While Colangelo was recuperating, NBA Commissioner **David Stern** came calling with an offer to take over USA Basketball.

"The timing, for me, at that stage of my life with all the things that had occurred, was perfect," said Colangelo, whose only demand was that he be given full autonomy to run the program. "It was a unique opportunity to take this program that was on its behind and rebuild it, change a culture and change an attitude about how people were looking at us as Americans around the globe."

Stern said Colangelo was a natural for the position.

"Jerry is a complete professional package who understands a balance sheet as well as a score sheet," Stern said. "I think the results tell the story. He made it a matter of patriotism to be part of your country's team in the Olympics."

Rather than throwing together a group of all-stars on a one-year basis to represent the team, Colangelo demanded full commitments from players – from practices to World Championships to the Olympics – and sold them on the fact that "it's not about you, it's about USA Basketball."

Every player he approached signed on.

After an initial hiccup against Greece in the 2006 World Championships, the U.S. won gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, 2010 World Championships in Turkey and 2012 London Olympics.

"Jerry is the main reason USA Basketball has reached the heights that it has in the last seven years," said **Mike Krzyzewski**, the Duke coach whom Colangelo brought in to lead the U.S. team. "His leadership of the whole program has been magnificent."

Colangelo also worked to bring in sponsors and fully fund the program.

"As a businessman, he's one of the best," Krzyzewski said. "He basically raised four times as much money as the previous four-year period, and he raised even more in the next four years. Besides raising money, he developed relationships with businesses like Nike and Tiffany. They felt like part of the team."

"Jerry is one of a kind. And as a result of him being one of a kind, USA Basketball is one of a kind again."

## Still enjoying life

Colangelo, at age 72, has no immediate plans to slow down.

He is still involved as chairman of USA Basketball and as chairman of the Naismith Hall of Fame. He has real-estate holdings such as the 300,000-residence Douglas Ranch in Buckeye and Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park. And he still serves on several non-profit boards.

"I'm very busy and still enjoying life," said Colangelo, who works out daily. "I believe I should stay active as long as I can because there will come a time when I can't, and that's the time to stop. Too often, when people stop, there's not a good result."

That means continued involvement in the Colangelo School of Sports Business.

"I'm attempting to be involved in the entire program," said Colangelo, who added that he has a few other surprise speakers up his sleeve. "I have so many experiences to share with them, and I want to do that because I think they can learn a lot."

Colangelo's involvement, Stern said, can only mean that the curriculum "is going to be a very dynamic one that is going to reflect the changing nature of the sports business in the way that Jerry has reflected it."

"That means it will be a vibrant, dynamic and spectacular place to learn about the sports industry," Stern added. "Anyone who doesn't believe that hasn't had their arm twisted by Jerry."



Photos by Darryl Webb





GCU assistant Professor Gregg Elder (second from left) emphasizes real-world working experience in his digital film production classes. Photo by Michael Ging



## Digital film students focus on acquiring practical experience

– by Cooper Nelson

Assistant Professor **Gregg Elder's** digital film and production class sounds more like a Hollywood set than a classroom full of rookie filmmakers.

"Assistant director, block out the set so your electricians can know where to light," Elder ordered his students during an exercise at GCU's College of Fine Arts and Production building.

"Director of photography, make sure the scene looks the way your director wants. Director, get your actors in character and have them rehearse their lines."

GCU's film program is designed to function like a professional film set. Elder has edited, produced or directed 22 films and a host of commercial film work in his career, so he understands what it takes to prepare students to work on real-world projects after graduation.

Film and production students have worked on local projects that range from reality TV shoots to short films. But that may just be the beginning.

GCU's program, which emphasizes all aspects of filmmaking rather than just editing or directing, has grown to include nearly 100 students – comparable to film programs at Arizona State University and the University of Arizona. GCU's program could grow

even more as students recognize they have greater access to filmmaking equipment than they might at other popular film schools.

"Students are encouraged right away to use the cameras on outside projects to help them build their reel and portfolio," said Elder, who taught at DePaul University's film production program in Chicago and worked on films in Los Angeles before joining GCU in 2006.

"I'd rather have students using the cameras and getting experience than them sitting around collecting dust," Elder said. "I think that is what creates the culture of our program that brings students in."

Many students have taken Elder's advice and sought professional projects outside of class. They include filming workout videos for an iPhone app, shooting a promo video for an Arizona horror book publisher, shadowing the Phoenix Suns film crew, and assisting with a short film titled "Cognac," produced by **Stephen Baldwin**.

Film students also assisted a Travel Channel crew on a four-day shoot of a new series, "Baggage Battles." Assistant Professor **Todd Schoenberger** worked as assistant camera operator and four students served as production assistants.

"It's a big (TV) channel, and that allowed me to meet directors from New York and Los Angeles," said **Chris Riley**, a senior student production assistant who also had the opportunity to work as assistant camera operator. "Those connections are awesome and something you need in this industry."

GCU's program also allows the University to assign students work on commercials and clips of campus events. Film students are responsible for shooting Chapel services, basketball games and promo videos for prospective students.

"We have (film majors) that are working almost everything on campus possible," said **Claude Pensis**, dean of GCU's College of Fine Arts and Production. "I see us utilizing them on every aspect of the University that needs film."

The film program will continue to grow in January, with the introduction of online courses for screenwriting and pre-production for motion picture and photography.

"We are noticed around town, and that's great because the program is not very old, but the big push now is to be recognized nationally," Pensis said.



## GCU-sponsored Lecrae tour challenges perceptions about hip-hop, introducing a new breed of ...

– by Doug Carroll



If the words “Christian rap” aren’t an oxymoron, like “controlled chaos” or “jumbo shrimp,” then they’re at least an oddity when paired together.

Even casual observers are familiar with the extreme glorification of the material world by much of hip-hop culture, where oversize crosses are worn as fashion and the sexual trumps the spiritual. Traditionally, there hasn’t been much room for heaven in that ‘hood, and rapper **KB** thinks he understands why.

“Christian rap has been seen as subpar,” KB says, adding that a common perspective of music fans and artists has been “Christian plus rap equals crap.”

However, those perceptions appear to be changing as rap ages – it’s nearly 40 years old as a genre – and significant evidence has turned up in the form of this year’s Unashamed Tour, sponsored by GCU.

The tour, featuring **Lecrae** and a half-dozen other rappers, including KB, has been playing to large crowds across the country. All of the performers are devoutly Christian, and their message can be uncomfortable for believers (too raw?) and nonbelievers (too religious?) alike. They’re not afraid to challenge the preconceptions of either side in the war for souls.

Squarely in the tour’s spotlight sits Lecrae, 33, whose career has hit new heights with the release of his most recent album, “Gravity,” in September. The recording went straight to No. 1 on the Christian and rap charts.

The tour came to GCU on Nov. 2 and drew a packed house at the Arena.

Like many in the rap world, Lecrae’s resumé includes a rap sheet. Born as Lecrae Moore to a single mother in Houston, he made stops in San Diego, Denver and Dallas while growing up, never meeting his drug-addicted father. As a teenager, he was in trouble for drugs, fighting and stealing – and going nowhere until he was invited to a Bible study and went along, figuring that he had nothing to lose.

He accepted Christ at the age of 19 and – influenced by the seminal Christian hip-hop group **The Cross Movement** out of Philadelphia – self-released his first album, “Real Talk,” in 2004. A prolific lyricist, he has put out five albums since then, and his mixtape last spring, “Church Clothes,” represented a mainstream breakthrough.

### Music equal to message

Lecrae, whose followers now include a number of high-profile athletes and entertainers, prefers that you think of him as a hip-hop artist who’s Christian rather than as a Christian hip-hop artist. He has become somewhat frustrated by the media’s focus on his faith at the expense of his music.

Married and the father of three children, he is anything but boring. He is well-spoken (he attended the University of North Texas) and he writes

compelling songs. His show is a full-on firecracker of a production.

“Everyone needs an angle,” Lecrae says, “and (the media) don’t quite know how they can spin this. There’s no controversy. There are no drugs or guns on the bus, and the shows are sold out. It’s music people love, it sounds good, but dang, everything is too positive. They need an angle.

“It’s almost like, ‘Would you guys kill somebody, please?’”

Lecrae, KB and **Andy Mineo**, all part of the Reach Records hip-hop label founded by Lecrae, freely acknowledge that their music is influenced by today’s popular rappers even if their message isn’t.

“Hip-hop is a universal language,” says Mineo, 24, of New York City. “Every hip-hop artist in the Top 40 has influenced us artistically.”

You know the phrase Christians frequently cite about “being in the world but not of it,” based on 1 John 2:15-17? Lecrae and his crew believe it and try to live it. That’s the only difference, they say, although they admit it’s a huge one.

“Artistically, we have their respect,” Lecrae says of the rest of the hip-hop world. “The stigma is our faith. The art, they love it, and I’ve heard that come from their mouths.”



## Knowing the territory

Lecrae doesn't have a problem calling them out for the lives they lead; after all, he used to be like them, worshipping the same worldly fame.

There's this refrain from "Fakin'," a song on his new album:

*I heard him say he bought the block*

*(Fakin'!)*

*In his song he say he gangsta but he not*

*(Fakin'!)*

*Say he makin' money, cashin' big checks*

*(Fakin'!)*

*While his chain leavin' green on his neck*

*(Fakin'!)*

*I'm not impressed*

And this self-indictment from "Chase That (Ambition)," a song from his "Rehab: The Overdose" album (2011):

*All I wanted was doom*

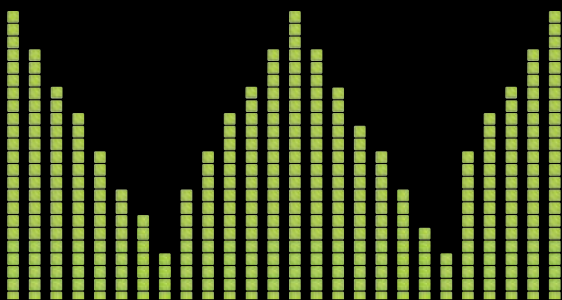
*The same kind Alexander the Great felt, when the Earth ran out of room*

*He conquered all he could, but yet he's feeling consumed*

*By this never ending quest for glory he couldn't fuel*

*Like a typical fool, I would go hard*

*Shooting for the moon*



With redemption as the context, an interview with Lecrae and Co. can go places you'd never expect.

For example, KB, 24, of St. Petersburg, Fla., is a fan of the writings of 19<sup>th</sup>-century British preacher **Charles Spurgeon** ("I want to model my life after his") and says he feels called to be a beacon of hope to those who are lost, sick and hurting. That includes the hip-hop community, and he says he's ready if a fellow rapper seeks him out for counsel.

"I wish other rappers could see us as a voice of reason," he says. "I'll be there if one of them is drunk one night and texts me to say, 'Hey, KB, you got time to talk?'"

"We are Christians, and we're responsible to live lives that reflect Jesus.... Our music is exposed the most, but that doesn't make up the whole of who we are."

Clean language, clean living and high artistic standards. Are these guys for real? Among their fans, there is no doubt.

"What makes Lecrae, KB, Andy and the other Reach Records artists so different is that their audience was built on the raw authenticity of their message," says **Scott Fehrenbacher**, GCU's senior vice president for faith-based marketing. "Their fans seem to feel an individual relationship with them, built on social media and word of mouth – and outside of the traditional formula of success in Christian music."

"Lecrae has broken all the rules of traditional success in this industry."



The 2012 Unashamed Tour brought together Christian rappers (from left) Lecrae, KB and Andy Mineo, all Reach Records artists. *Photo by Michael Ging*



Lecrae's high-energy show at GCU Arena on Nov. 2 played to a near-capacity crowd. *Concert photos by Darryl Webb (above) and (top left main photo)*



KB (left) says he has a duty to live a life that honors Christ, while Lecrae says it's important for the music to be as good as the message. *Photos by Michael Ging*

# HALLS of FAME

## Recent North Gym renovation pays tribute to rich basketball tradition

– by Bob Romantic



The old North Gym, which was home to GCU basketball for more than 30 years, was transformed into four tiered lecture halls that seat 100 students each.



Bayard Forrest, the leading scorer and rebounder in GCU history, poses in front of a framed cutout of the center-court logo and floor of North Gym. *Photo by Darryl Webb*

**L**exi Clark sat on the carpet just outside the new lecture halls in the old North Gym, awaiting her next class as many students do.

Situated nearly at the midpoint of the long hallway that dissects the four classrooms, the freshman from Tempe was seated in roughly the same space that people such as **Bayard Forrest**, **Nate Stokes** and **Rodney Johns** once occupied.

Only then, that space was center court of the basketball floor in a building that holds an incredible amount of history at GCU.

"Nope, I didn't know that," Clark said.

That confluence of young and old – and progress and tradition – never has been more apparent than at North Gym. The new lecture halls, built last summer, accommodate 100 students apiece and include tiered seating, soundproof walls and a layered ceiling that offers glimpses of the original architecture. They are just part of a \$313 million renovation and expansion project that has transformed GCU into one of the fastest-growing universities in the country.

Amid that development, however, several links to the past have been preserved.

### In the beginning

North Gym was built in the late 1950s and served as the home for GCU's men's basketball team until 1994, when the South Gym (now known as Antelope Gym) was added on to the facility. That, in turn, yielded to the state-of-the-art GCU Arena, which was built in 2011.

The original North Gym took several years to build and was constructed largely by volunteers from the community.

"Churches would come over and help. Faculty and staff and students would come over and help," said **Keith Baker**, GCU's director of athletics, whose family has a long history at the University. "I've heard stories about professors who would teach class, throw on a pair of overalls, come over and put in some work, then go back and teach more classes in the afternoon."



"I remember my uncle telling me he took his turn going up on the roof, laying a two-by-four in place, nailing it in and moving on to the next one."

The lumber, Baker said, was donated and used to create a unique ceiling structure that consists of two-by-fours laid on edge and nailed together to create one huge laminate beam.

"That ceiling really sets it apart," said **Rich Oesterle**, GCU's assistant director of campus development. "To have volunteers come and build it and do it rock solid is a testament to their willingness to put together a great building."

## Home-court advantage

That sense of community and belonging carried over from the construction of North Gym to actual attendance at basketball games in the facility.

The gym was small, seating less than 500 people. It was dark. The locker rooms were cold and antiquated, and players tell of not being able to get hot water all the time in the showers. A stage was so close to the court that players could run into it if they overshot the baseline. And the court wasn't even regulation size for the NCAA (about six feet short), so postseason home games had to be moved off-campus to a more suitable site.

But none of that mattered. North Gym ushered in the heyday of the men's basketball program at GCU, a period in which the Antelopes won three NAIA national titles, had a perfect season (20-0) in 1958-59 under Coach **Dave Brazell**, won 61 successive home games from 1974-78 and featured All-Americans such as Forrest, Stokes, Johns and **Chad Briscoe**.

And that made GCU basketball one of the hottest tickets in town.

"You had to get there a minimum of an hour and a half before the game started in order to get a seat. It was packed," said **Ray Arvizu**, who played at GCU from 1977-79 and is now the president/CEO of Arvizu Advertising & Promotions. "Back in the day, we used to get as much media coverage as ASU because of our national rankings and the way we played."

"The crowd was great. The cheers were deafening. ... I have been to the new facilities, which are awesome, but North Gym is etched in my memory."



Jim Rice goes up for a tipoff during a game during the late 1960s at North Gym. Photo courtesy of GCU archives.

**Dr. Jim Rice**, who played at GCU from 1967-71 and still ranks third on the school's career rebounding list, remembers the crowd being "so close to the floor that it didn't take a whole lot to land in the first two or three rows of the bleachers back then."

"It was really an intimate setting," said Rice, who later became superintendent of the Alhambra School District. "People loved their basketball here, and that's the time we started to get national recognition."

Forrest, a three-time first-team All-American and a member of the 1974-75 national championship squad, knew the intricacies of North Gym well because his father, **Nelson**, also played at GCU. So when major universities such as

UCLA recruited him out of high school, and smaller schools with beautiful facilities such as Point Loma Nazarene also came calling, he knew what GCU was up against.

"I had a chance to go to all those schools and then I come here with our dinky little gym," said Forrest, whose daughter **Amanda** later went to GCU and practiced in the North Gym as a member of the volleyball team. "Grand Canyon University was where God wanted me."

Someone else who really wanted Forrest at GCU was Coach **Ben Lindsey**.

"I made him a promise, because I knew how good he was, that we would win a national championship if he came here," Lindsey said.



Ben Lindsey is the all-time winningest coach at GCU, with a 317-137 record from 1965-81 and national titles in 1975 and '78. Photo by Darryl Webb

Forrest became GCU's career record-holder – by far – in points (2,195) and rebounds (1,544) and later played in the NBA as a member of the Phoenix Suns.

Lindsey became the Antelopes' winningest coach, with a 317-137 record from 1965-81 and national titles in 1975 and '78. He also played at GCU from 1959-62 and still holds the record for most field goals in a game (18).

"Coach Lindsey knew how to get the most out of every player he had," Forrest said. "He took a dinky school like this with a terrible gym and convinced guys that if you come here, we'll win it all. And we did."

The Antelopes' third NAIA national title came in 1988, when a team coached by **Paul Westphal** went 37-6.

In those days, winning an NAIA title was nothing to sneeze at, with 550 schools across the country. Former GCU player **Rob Babcock** (1970-74), now the director of basketball operations for the Minnesota Timberwolves, said the level of play was equal to what Division II or lower Division I is now.

"It may sound like I'm boasting, but to beat that many schools and win an NAIA national title, to me, is the biggest sports story in Arizona history – bigger than winning the World Series," Lindsey said. "And we did it twice (during my tenure)."

## Preserving history

North Gym also hosted school dances, Chapel services, pep rallies, theatre productions and banquets.

"It was the hub of campus activity," Baker said.

NBA teams even used the gym as a practice court when coming to town to play the Suns.

With all that history, the University took care to make sure some of it was preserved during the renovation.

Wood laminate accents are used on the walls of the lecture halls, providing a subtle tribute to the basketball court that once stood there. The original two-by-four ceiling is visible in some areas. And, in the biggest nod to its roots, the center court logo of the original basketball flooring was placed in a frame and mounted on the south wall of the hallway.

"Some of the alums from the '50s and '60s that I have walked through there have been very appreciative," Baker said. "They like the idea that progress comes, but the fact that some of those things were kept in an attractive manner is pretty well-received in that respect."





# The guy who started 'LOPES

GCU tradition was slow to grow,  
but Jim D'Apice stuck with it

— by Michael Ferraresi and Cooper Nelson

**J**im D'Apice felt assaulted by the barrage of "Hook 'em Horns." He needed a defense mechanism.

A proud and loud Texan who lived with D'Apice in GCU's dorms reminded him constantly about the Longhorns as if they both attended the University of Texas. The antagonist flashed the hand gesture, pointer and pinky arrogantly spiked upward, as if he were making a political statement.

It drove D'Apice and his pals crazy. They were in Phoenix. Not Austin. They were Antelopes. They ought to show some 'Lopes pride, he thought.

As the sports arguments escalated, D'Apice scrunched his fingers together and contorted his hand in a way that gave him his own horned animal to fight back with. His thumb, middle and index fingers met together in a tight point to resemble a snout. He kept his pointer and pinky fingers angled low across the top of his hand, forming the "little bitty horns" of an antelope.

That was 1996. The 'Lopes Up symbol was born on campus in a way few students or staff can say they remember. And it was slow to catch on.

"It was a lot of eye rolling and people shaking their head at me, and then people would do it almost ironically, like a joke," said D'Apice, who graduated from GCU in 2000 and earned his doctorate in physical therapy from A.T. Still University.

'Lopes Up has since evolved into a GCU community phenomenon. Students flash it

not only at basketball games at GCU Arena or at other campus sporting events, but also as a general matter of school pride similar to Arizona State University's three-fingered pitchfork.

New employees learn the symbol at orientation. A pair of GCU film students created 'Lopes Up hip-hop videos. But other than the color purple, if anything says GCU at basketball games, it's the sight of cheerleaders and a raucous student section encouraging fans to get their 'Lopes up during free throws.

Fans also can buy 'Lopes Up foam fingers and T-shirts. But the sense of team spirit and community pride resonates in the simple hand gesture.

"I think the traditions that are started by students and grow from there are the best ones and the ones that last," said **Dan Ballenger**, GCU's athletic spirit coordinator, who initiated the University's student sections at sporting events as an undergrad in 2009.

D'Apice, 34, said he and his friend **Brad Hodges**, who was instrumental in the grass-roots efforts to develop the 'Lopes Up hand symbol, were stunned to see the symbol so prevalent on a campus they barely recognize from their days of watching poorly attended 'Lopes basketball games at Antelope Gym.

"I truthfully didn't think anyone did it until about five years ago when we were back on campus," D'Apice said about the annual game he catches with Hodges.

"It's insane," D'Apice said. "Honestly, I don't know what made it come back in popularity."



GCU graduate Jim D'Apice (center of attention) created the 'Lopes Up hand gesture when he was a freshman in 1996. Photo by Darryl Webb



# UP



Photo by Darryl Webb

Hodges, who graduated in 2001, helped spread the word around athletes and coaches – but to mixed reviews. He wondered if 'Lopes Up would just fizzle out.

"We tried to get (Athletic Director) **Keith (Baker)** and the sports information guy on board with it, but they wanted nothing to do with it," Hodges joked. "We also tried to rename the gym the Meadow, but that didn't work out, either. We tried to get a couple of guys who we knew on the team to do it during games, and I think they got yelled at by the coaches."

While Hodges envisioned GCU's student section aspiring to be like the one in Duke University's Cameron Indoor Stadium, those days of 'Lopes hoops were "brutal" with such low attendance, Hodges said.

The vibe at GCU Arena, currently hosting its second basketball season, is far more intense these days. By 2009 students, especially those in the Canyon Crazies section, had made 'Lopes Up part of every basketball game at the old Antelope Gym thanks to cheerleaders and some superfans.

**Taylor Griffin**, a GCU freshman at the time, said he initially approached a cheerleader at a game with the idea of starting a chant to boost players' confidence during free throws.

Cheerleading coach **Emily Stephens** and her team worked with some of the more involved student basketball supporters to innovate the "1-2-3 ... 'LOPES UP" chant, where the crowd does the sign while GCU players are preparing to shoot from the foul line, saving distracting pompon shakes for the opposing team. The chant has become a regular practice at the new Arena.

"I remember when I first saw the cheerleaders hold it up and do the '1-2-3' chant," said Griffin, who heads GCU's Monsoon student section for basketball games. "I was like, 'I helped with this. I totally helped start this.'"

Griffin also said drawings of the 'Lopes Up hand symbol, emblazoned on T-shirts and flags across campus, have helped the cause.

"It hit me hardest when I walked into (Antelope Gym) for a (basketball) game and there were those black shirts with the 'Lopes Up drawing on them," Griffin said. "That's when I knew it was big."

Oh, it's big. It's as big as an Antelope with little bitty horns. And at GCU, that's a beast.

## Get your 'Lopes up, but do it correctly

The hand gesture that symbolizes GCU's beloved Antelope mascot seems to have some students confused, according to 'Lopes Up creator **Jim D'Apice**. He said he still sees students missing a key step with the "itty bitty horns" created by the pinky and pointer fingers.

GCU needs to "bring back the purity," D'Apice joked. After all, we can't have our 'Lopes Up sign looking anything like the Texas Longhorns, or the heavy-metal rock-out sign. This is not Austin, Texas. And this is not an **Ozzy Osbourne** concert.

This is Antelope territory. So consider this your refresher course:

### STEP 1



Curl your hand together as if you're shaping an "O" with your pointer and thumb together.

### STEP 2



Scrunch your middle fingers together and bring them to a point with your thumb. These three digits together create the lil' 'Lopes snout.

### STEP 3



Now here's the key part. Use your pointer and pinky for the 'Lopes horns, but don't let them get too wide or they'll resemble the spread-horned, wide face of a Longhorn. Rather, you have the distinguished little head of the mighty Antelope.

### STEP 4



Your 'Lopes are up! Display them with pride!



GCU President and CEO Brian Mueller flashes his 'Lopes Up during the spring 2012 commencement ceremony at GCU Arena.



Two generations of missionaries are represented at GCU in Chip Lamca (center) and sons Bryan (left) and Matthew. Chip teaches in the College of Theology, Bryan is a supervisor in the Student Qualifying Center and Matthew is a senior pre-med major.

Photo by Darryl Webb

# PICTURES of PERU

## GCU instructor's family has made long-term impact as missionaries

– by Doug Carroll

The memory of Sept. 11, 2001, brings tears to the eyes of GCU instructor **Chip Lamca** – and for reasons you wouldn't suspect.

To many, the world never seemed more fractured than it did on that fateful day, when terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., struck lasting blows to the American psyche.

To Lamca, the tragedy revealed the very best of the human spirit in a land where he had lived for only a year: Peru. He had moved to the South American country with his wife, **Julie**, and their four children, then ages 12, 10, 5 and 4, selling everything they

owned to become missionaries.

Lamca, a pastor in Pennsylvania and then Florida, arrived in Peru knowing the Spanish words for “yes,” “no” and “French fries.” Asked about the birthplace of Jesus by a 5-year-old, he translated “Bethlehem” as “House of Bread” – the Hebrew meaning – because he couldn't come up with anything better. (That's how certain Peruvian children grew up thinking the Christ child entered the world in a bakery.)

Those awkward beginnings mattered little to the native people, however, when 9/11 hit and a gringo was in their midst, needing support.

### 'Peruvians don't forget'

“Even six months later, people extended their hand and said they were with me and they understood,” says Lamca, 48, still deeply touched by the empathy of strangers. “It happened three or four times a week. That's still huge with me. They knew the sting of terrorism.

“Peruvians don't forget. They are an amazing people.... There's a realness about them. They tell you what they think, but they're very gracious.”

Although the Lamcas returned to the United States to live in 2008, they go back to Peru – and to the north coast city of Trujillo – each summer, hosting GCU students during their stay. Last summer, a group of 10 helped put on a “life fair” in Trujillo's Miguel Grau neighborhood, providing wellness checks, health and beauty tips, haircuts and family portraits for residents.

The community consists of working-class people of modest means, many of them employed by the shoemaking industry.

“Peru doesn't have nearly the physical need it had 11 or 12 years ago,” Lamca says, noting a booming economy in gas, copper and gold. “There's a middle class for almost the first time. But the spiritual need is probably bigger (than before). There comes an understanding that (material) things don't fill up the empty space in a person. There's still something missing.”

Most Peruvians identify at least culturally as Roman Catholic. But the evangelical Christian population is growing and now consists of about 10 percent in Trujillo, an arid city of 1.5 million people that receives little more than a half-inch of rain annually.

“Phoenix is like a jungle by comparison,” says Lamca, whose ministry to the region began with drilling water wells up and down Peru's north coast.

Lamca says he had his sights set on missions work even as a child. He was 8 years old when his hero, Pittsburgh Pirates baseball star **Roberto Clemente**, was killed in a plane crash while delivering supplies to victims of an earthquake in Nicaragua. He was 12 when he read a comic-book version of “Through the Gates of Splendor,” which told the story of five missionaries to an Ecuadorean tribe.

He remains stunned that 94 percent of the world's theological leaders live in the United States, serving only 6 percent of the world's population. That wasn't going to be him, he vowed, and it hasn't been.

“I'm sure I sounded like Tarzan with a Bible,” he says of his early days of preaching in Spanish. “We went





*Photos of Trujillo residents courtesy of Chip Lamca*

directly to the field without knowing the language, but it was a perfect way for me to learn.

"When I have an international student struggling to speak in English, I have no trouble being patient. I was them."

## Going back to Trujillo

The Lamcas' oldest child, **Bryan**, now 24 and a supervisor in GCU's Student Qualifying Center, says the cultural immersion worked and he feels "blessed to have spent my formative years seeing what it was like for the majority of the world to live."

He considers Trujillo his hometown, and he's planning to move there with his wife as missionaries in three or four years.

"Each face is friendly and each heart is open," he says of the city. "If you walk down a street early enough in the morning, you are likely to see people you know opening up their stores for the day. You're just as likely for someone to say hello and ask how you're doing. They don't just ask – they wait for you to answer and want to talk with you for a bit."

"I may not have been born there, but it's the place that my heart considers home."

Chip Lamca, who teaches in GCU's College of Theology, says he will retire to Peru someday. For now, though, he's fine with being a spiritual commuter.

"We really see God moving in our lives," he says of his family. "We're able to stand between two worlds and hopefully bring light to both of them. I can see God's hand and purpose in this."

"I'm helping to train the next generation of missionaries, both here and there, and that's such a privilege.... We're not (in Peru) because we're awesome but because God is awesome."

## Trujillo, Peru



- **Founded:** 1534.
- **History:** Considered the cultural capital of Peru, though much smaller than the capital city, Lima (10 million).
- **Population:** 1.5 million.
- **Climate:** Mild and warm, with a year-round temperature range of lows in the upper 50s to highs in the upper 70s.
- **For more on the Lamcas' work:** [www.crossthefrontier.com](http://www.crossthefrontier.com).





# DOWN THE STREET but WORLDS AWAY

## Refugee students from nearby apartments carry hopes of generations

— by Michael Ferraresi

Rather than jumping directly into homework after class, **Michael Thang** returns to his Camelback Hall dorm room to replay lectures from his digital recorder.

The 22-year-old freshman listens to his lessons a second time, at least. But even then, he may still struggle to understand concepts and cultural nuances unheard of in his native mountainside village in Burma.

Thang – whose Burmese name, Ceu Lian, translates to “shining light” – gently scolds himself under his breath that his English should be sharper, but those close to him might disagree. It’s been only two years since his family moved to the Serrano Village apartment complex just a couple of blocks east of Grand Canyon University, joining other families relocated through international refugee resettlement programs from Iraq, Bhutan and other war-ravaged nations.

For the past three years, GCU students and staff have forged a stronger relationship with Serrano Village residents by tutoring them in English, providing toys for children during the holidays and hosting residents during campus events. One group of students known as the Good Neighbor Club has befriended Serrano youths like Thang through mini-golf, bowling and other pursuits to take their minds off the anxiety of living like a foreigner. Those relationships already have proved to be lasting.

Thang is one of three Serrano students now studying at GCU. He is considering an accounting degree, although his undergraduate work might prepare him to study political science and eventually return to Burma to assist his own people. For him and the other Serrano students, the nearby Christian campus could mark the beginning of a new journey that could help ease the impact of years of suffering unfamiliar to most Americans.

“All my life, and this happening, is how God had planned it for me,” Thang said. “I want to complete my education at least through college. I feel like God has led me here.”

Thang lives on campus and appears like any other college student, often sporting a flat-brimmed baseball cap turned backward, skinny jeans or DC sneakers.

Yet the story of a refugee student is far from ordinary.

### Michael: ‘How God had planned it’

Before coming to the United States, the Thangs – who were raised Christian – lived in exile for six years after the military dictatorship in their native Burma drove many of their ethnic Chin brethren from the home villages. Soldiers burned their churches, replaced their crosses with Buddhist icons and terrorized residents in an ongoing conflict that dates to World War II.

His family’s flight from religious and political persecution forced Thang to miss high school as they grappled with life as refugees in Malaysia. When he arrived in Phoenix, he was 20 years old and needed to start as a high school freshman. He was told he was too old and had missed too much time.

But Thang earned his diploma in less than two years through the Blueprint Online Education program provided through his Phoenix Chin Christian Fellowship church and was offered a scholarship to attend GCU.

“We face a new culture, new food, a new social living standard,” Thang said about assimilation to the U.S. “It’s very hard for us.”

Rather than giving in, though, Thang has emerged as a leader among Chin youth and remains involved with as much as he can at GCU, including playing his brand-new Les Paul guitar at faith services.

**Jonathan Sharpe**, a College of Theology instructor at GCU, organized the Good Neighbor Club and has helped with efforts among students, staff and Serrano residents.

Sharpe said the low-income apartment complex, whose owners work with international refugee groups to help residents get acclimated to American life, should be the beginning of a new way of life for residents – rather than a symbol of where they’ve been pigeonholed to live permanently.

Americans tend to send money overseas to help with refugee resettlement efforts, Sharpe said, while few recognize the same opportunity located right down the road at a place where more than 580 people from 15 countries are trying to regain stability in their lives.

“There’s a huge piece there that most American kids don’t understand about what it means to break through in this country,” said Sharpe, who was inspired to help with refugees after learning about the Lost Boys of Sudan.

“They’ve experienced what it’s like on the other side of the American dream,” Sharpe said. “They desperately need people to show them how to save money, how not to get into credit debt, how to write a resume.... I just have so much respect and admiration for students like Michael who are changing the future for their families and often are carrying an entire community on their backs.”



Edith Kamara (left), 19, and Bawi Tial, 21, attend the same freshman-level psychology class at GCU.

## «Bawi: Changing a family's future

The headlines about ethnic protests and military force bring back bad memories. So **Bawi Tial** tends to ignore the news from back home.

She focuses on her job washing dishes at the Sheraton in downtown Phoenix, attending church, helping her family and doing her schoolwork. But she lives with an uncle who recites the reports, following the details about the ethnic Chin minority in Burma – also known as Myanmar – as if he's providing a play-by-play of human rights abuses.

"We don't ask him," said Tial, who manages a beaming smile even with noticeable pain in her voice. "He just tells us. But I never watch the news by myself."

At an age when most American girls are dealing with the stresses of entering high school, Tial was separated from her parents when they fled Burma. Her mother faced arrest for her work in anti-government politics. So her parents left for the refugee shelters of Malaysia until Tial could take the same journey with a grandmother one year later.

Although her parents only made it to the sixth grade, Tial is taking classes on psychology, physiology and nutrition with the hope of earning a degree in nursing. Her dream is to be a surgeon, though she was inspired to work in nursing after spending so much time aiding the same grandmother who helped rescue her from Burma before she passed away.

"They're proud of me," said Tial, 21, a sophomore who left her parents' apartment at Serrano recently to make space for her two brothers and two sisters.

"They support me going to school," she said. "They just say, 'Keep studying.'"

## Edith: Defying the path

Bodies were stacked in the streets. Children were being conscribed as soldiers.

The violence grew so bad so fast that **Edith Kamara's** great-grandmother helped her "escape" from their native Sierra Leone when she was 3 years old.

They fled to neighboring Liberia. Both countries have undergone brutal civil wars, but the escalating fighting in their homeland fragmented Kamara's family so quickly that she ended up estranged from her mother for nearly six years. She remembers meeting her mother when she was 9.

Kamara, a 19-year-old freshman nursing student, moved to Illinois with her family as Sierra Leone coped with the aftermath of a decades-long conflict that left tens of thousands dead. She landed in an American grade school where she felt mocked and ridiculed by her classmates because she was an African refugee.

The family moved to Phoenix and landed at Serrano, where she lives with her mother, four brothers and a younger sister. The morning battles for bathroom time, she said, can be epic. So her walk down Camelback Road to her classes can be refreshing.

"It allows me to walk, rather than be lazy," said Kamara, who speaks English confidently but with a distinct African accent.

After excelling in soccer and track at Alhambra High School, she decided to study nursing after seeing the starvation and amputees from the war in her homeland.

In Sierra Leone, less than 25 percent of women are considered literate, according to the CIA World Fact Book. Kamara said her relatives remind her how she's beating the odds at GCU.

Her mother and great-grandmother never had an opportunity to attend college. As she grew up in the United States, her great-grandmother reminded her that she could be whatever she wanted, more than a housewife or laborer.

"She really changed my life," Kamara said. "She told me to defy that path and change the rules."

## How you can help



Members of the Bista family from Nepal are among more than 580 residents of Serrano Village Apartments.

For more information about GCU's efforts to help residents of Serrano Village Apartments in Phoenix, or about how to help yourself, contact the complex at 602.242.5910. Students interested in assisting refugees should contact GCU refugee outreach ministry leader **Faith Albright** at 602.903.9311.





## TAILGATE WITH GCU ALUMNI BEFORE MEN'S BASKETBALL GAMES!



DATE	COLLEGE	OPPONENT	GAME TIME
DEC 3	Nursing (Health Science)	Hawai'i Hilo	6:30 p.m.
DEC 14	GCU employees	Montana St.-Billings	6:30 p.m.
DEC 29	Business & Doctoral Studies	Northern New Mexico	6:00 p.m.
JAN 19	Theology (Christian Studies)	Point Loma Nazarene	3:15 p.m.
JAN 26	Education	California Baptist	6:30 p.m.
FEB 2	Arts & Sciences (Liberal Arts)	Dixie State	6:30 p.m.

**Contact: Nick Knudson, Alumni Events & Promotions Manager,  
602.639.6802**

## GCU Alumni Mall Commemorative Bricks for Sale



Commemorative bricks are now on sale to be placed in the beautiful new Alumni Mall walkway. Bricks are available for only \$50 (an additional \$6 will be charged to add clip art or a business logo), and proceeds go to the Spiritual Life Foundation to provide benevolent support and help defray the cost of mission trips for students.

To order your brick visit [www.polarengraving.com/GrandCanyonUniversityAlumniRelations](http://www.polarengraving.com/GrandCanyonUniversityAlumniRelations)

## 2012 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY



## NOW ACCEPTING 2013 HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS!

The alumni office is accepting nominations for the 2013 GCU Academic Hall of Fame. Eligible are those who: (1) graduated from GCU at least five years ago, 2) have lived a life reflecting the GCU spirit and Christian ideals, 3) have distinguished themselves in their chosen field, 4) reflect honor on the college in their personal and professional activities, and 5) have contributed to the college or to humanity in a significant manner.

Nominations will be accepted until Dec. 31; email Director of Alumni Relations Don Fraser at [Donald.fraser@gcu.edu](mailto:Donald.fraser@gcu.edu).

## Help us Celebrate HOMECOMING on FEB. 23!



Spend time with classmates and faculty while sharing in the day's festivities: Hall of Fame awards presentation, tailgate on the lawn before the men's basketball game, tours of campus and a 50<sup>th</sup> reunion for the Class of 1963!

**Contact Don Fraser at 602.639.6418  
or [Donald.fraser@gcu.edu](mailto:Donald.fraser@gcu.edu).**



Michael Borum, who has a master's degree in special education from GCU, wants each day to be special at 1 Darn Cool School inside Phoenix Children's Hospital.

## 1 DARN COOL SCHOOL

Michael Borum brings love, hope to children in hospital setting

— by Doug Carroll

**T**he smiling face and sunny disposition of **Michael Borum** have become features of Phoenix Children's Hospital over the past couple of years, as bright as the florescent color scheme of the facility itself.

For some children in the hospital's care, they can't count on much else.

Borum, who has a master's degree in special education from GCU, is one of six full-time staffers working at 1 Darn Cool School, which enables children to continue their schooling while hospitalized. Another GCU alum, **Jennifer Bradley**, also is part of the staff, helping children and their families with re-entry to their regular schools after discharge.

1 Darn Cool School, a one-room school in the heart of the PCH complex on East Thomas Road, began more than 20 years ago as an all-volunteer project at what is now Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix. Children between the ages of 5 and 19 are eligible to attend, and the school will visit them at bedside if necessary.

It's work that seems ideally suited to Borum, a gregarious type with extensive special-ed experience and a heart for sick kids. If he's having a bad day, they're never going to see it.

"There's no way you can come into this setting and not give of yourself in love," says Borum, 29, a deeply spiritual man who previously worked in the Phoenix public schools. "It's honestly a calling. I don't separate who I am when I'm here.

"You have to look into their eyes with hope and without fear."

While acknowledging the serious challenges faced by some of the children, Borum says he tries to keep the mood light in 1 Darn Cool School. He plays the drums, he paints and he even gives haircuts. Recently he created a fun, do-it-yourself book based on the popular "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series.

He's a big reason children fall in love with the place.





"Kids respond to him," says **Lisa Aaroe**, Borum's former instructor in GCU's master's program for special ed. "He's very compassionate and a very humble person."

The toughest thing, Borum says, is coming alongside a family when a child isn't going to make it. His observation of how a teacher worked tenderly with his niece in Indiana, who had cerebral palsy before she died at age 11, showed him how.

"Comforting the families, those are the hardships," he says. "We cry with the families and as a staff, too. But you get up the next day and keep going. Death and dying are part of life. You may go home sad, but you come back full of life."

Bradley, 52, who was hired for the school on the same day as Borum and has a

master's in education administration, says the two of them have prayed together in a nearby chapel inside the hospital.

"I wear my lanyard as a badge of honor in serving these kids and families," she says. "I can meet their needs in a way that comes simple to me."

Borum says he's in awe of the children and families he comes to know through the school.

"The parents have to go through so much," he says. "The opportunity to be with them is something you have to take seriously. It's an opportunity to love on their kids for the time that you have them."



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Rob Babcock, director of player personnel for the Minnesota Timberwolves, speaks with students before a preseason game in Winnipeg on Oct. 24. *Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Timberwolves*

## FAMILY MATTERS

**For the Babcocks,  
life in the NBA brings  
them closer together**

– by *Bob Romantic*

Family get-togethers can be a little different in the Babcock household.

That happens when three of the family members also happen to be making personnel decisions for three different NBA franchises.

**Rob Babcock**, older brother **Pete** and younger brother **Dave** have a combined 70 years of NBA management experience. Rob is currently director of basketball operations for the Minnesota Timberwolves; Pete has served as president, general manager or director of player personnel for the Denver Nuggets, Atlanta Hawks and Toronto Raptors; and Dave has been the scouting director and director of player personnel with the Milwaukee Bucks since 1998.

So work has a way of creeping into social functions.

"One summer, at my niece's wedding, all three of us were trying to sign the same free agent," recalled Rob, a 1974 graduate of GCU. "We were at pre-wedding functions and we were all leaving the room to take calls. One time all three of us were outside wandering around and later found out we were all having conversations about the same free agent.

"Our wives were ready to strangle us."

As it turns out, none of the Babcocks signed that particular free agent. But it made life in the "family business" interesting nonetheless.

"We all live in different parts of the country, but because we are all in the NBA we see each other numerous times every year and talk to each other almost daily," said Rob, who also spent two years as general manager of the Raptors. "We have always been close, but working in the same league has made us even closer."

The odds of three brothers reaching upper-level management jobs in the NBA, of course, are astronomical.

GCU now has an entire college – the Jerry Colangelo School of Sports Business – devoted to helping students find the kind of job opportunities the Babcocks have made their livelihood.

Rob's path began as a basketball player at GCU, where he was a member of the 1973-74 team that went 28-2 and was ranked No. 2 in the country in the NAIA before losing

in the second round of the national tournament. That team was a pre-cursor to the 1974-75 squad that won it all.

"We were a talented team and pretty successful," Babcock said. "Of course, it helped having a 6-foot-9 future NBA center (**Bayard Forrest**) ... but we had a lot of smart players and good unselfish guys. It was a lot of fun."

After leaving GCU, Babcock had two things going for him in his pursuit of that dream NBA job.

First, he wasn't afraid to start small and work his way up. His first job was as a teacher and freshman basketball coach at Paradise Valley High School. He later coached at Greenway and Maryvale high schools before becoming the coach at Phoenix College for five years.

During that time, Babcock also worked as a part-time scout for Bertka Views, a collegiate scouting agency run by Los Angeles Lakers assistant coach **Bill Bertka**. And when his brother Pete got a job as an assistant coach with the Clippers, that helped open the door to Babcock's first full-time job as a scout in the NBA.

The second skill that helped Babcock was his knowledge and love of the game. That, more than anything, is a trait those hoping to follow in his footsteps should try to emulate.

"My main advice for sports management students is that they often times go in thinking their degree will give them a job in the basketball department in the sports portion of it," Babcock said. "It just doesn't work that way. Sports management can help prepare them for a job in the business side, but what they usually lack (for sports positions) is basketball experience."

For those who do not play collegiately, as Babcock did, he suggests getting involved in coaching youth teams, volunteering at a high school or becoming a manager or statistician – anything that promotes being around the game.

"Basketball management is mainly ex-NBA players and coaches. There might be a business guy or two, but they usually have a basketball background, too," Babcock said. "If you know that early on, you can be getting those types of experiences."





# THE IMPROBABLE PASTOR

## Baseball player Brian Anderson found new path at GCU

– by Cooper Nelson

**Not** everyone has a story of how God has changed their life in a radical way, but GCU alumnus **Brian Anderson** does.

Anderson came to the University more than 30 years ago as a nonbeliever and became a follower of Christ during his time as an Antelope athlete.

Anderson is the senior pastor at Vineyard Church in North Phoenix, a megachurch that attracts nearly 4,000 in worship attendance every weekend. However, when he transferred to GCU on a full-ride baseball scholarship in 1978, after two years at Washington State University, he admits his focus was more on partying and playing than his faith.

He didn't fit the Christian lifestyle.

"I was going 100 miles per hour down the road the wrong way," said Anderson, 55. "My whole life was geared toward being a professional baseball player, but once God touched me, that all changed."

At the University's Chapel services, he heard the Gospel for the first time. As he spent time on campus, he became transformed and was saved on Nov. 4, 1979, in what he called a "Damascus Road" experience.

At that time, GCU was a perennial baseball powerhouse among NAIA schools. The Antelopes dominated the 1979 season and were favored to win the NAIA College World Series. But an incident that became known as the "champagne debacle," when players popped champagne corks in the locker room to celebrate a victory, forced GCU to withhold its team from participating in the postseason.

Angered by the University's decision, Anderson moved back to his native Washington after the season to search for another school. With only a year of eligibility remaining, no prospects panned out and he elected to return to GCU for his senior year.

With his help, the 'Lopes went on to win the NAIA championship in 1980 in **Dave Brazell's** final season as coach. That team went 56-14-2.

**Keith Baker**, GCU's director of athletics, pitched for the team in 1980-82 and credits Anderson as one of the keys to the team's success.

"Brian came in as a guy who was supposed to deliver and play well, and he did," Baker said. "He is one of the big reasons we won the NAIA championship that year."

After graduation, Anderson served as a GCU assistant coach for three years under the legendary **Gil Stafford**. He received a degree in mathematics from GCU and taught at Deer Valley High School for 10 years while also serving as the school's baseball coach.

Although he loved coaching, he felt God calling him into the ministry.



Brian Anderson, who played on the Antelopes' NAIA championship baseball team in 1980, met his wife – and God – at GCU. Photo by Darryl Webb

In 1985, Anderson and his wife, **Thora**, whom he met at GCU, began holding Bible studies in the living room of their home. The gatherings started with only 10 people but moved in less than two years into a retail strip center. Then, after another move, Vineyard relocated in 2002 to the 35-acre property where the church currently sits.

Anderson is now a treasured alumnus of the University for what he did on and off the field – and a testimony to the way God works in people's lives.

"One of the things I have learned through the years at GCU is that I have a perception of people and God doesn't always follow that perception," Baker said.

"Brian was a good example of that. His story and the effects of his ministry (at Vineyard) are a cool deal, depicting how God uses people we don't always expect."

## Brian Anderson at GCU

- 1979: .323 batting average
- 1980: .307 batting average, 16 doubles, 5 triples, 8 home runs, 61 RBI
- Won the Charles Berry Hustle Award in 1980
- Third baseman

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## GCU ARENA UPCOMING EVENTS

### WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL

GCU vs. Hawai'i Hilo  
Monday, Dec. 3, 2012 at 4:30 & 6:30 p.m.

### WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL

GCU vs. Chaminade  
Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012 at 4:30 & 6:30 p.m.

### HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Friday, Dec. 7, 2012 at 7 p.m.

### KLOVE PRESENTS THE ACOUSTIC CHRISTMAS TOUR

Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012 at 7 p.m.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

GCU vs. Montana State-Billings  
Friday, Dec. 14, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

GCU vs. Fresno Pacific  
Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012 at 2 p.m.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

GCU vs. Fresno Pacific  
Monday, Dec. 17, 2012 at 6 p.m.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

GCU vs. Northern New Mexico  
Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012 at 6 p.m.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

GCU vs. Northern New Mexico  
Sunday, Dec. 30, 2012 at 2 p.m.

### WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL

GCU vs. Point Loma  
Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013 at 1 & 3:15 p.m.

### WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL

GCU vs. Azusa Pacific  
Monday, Jan. 21, 2013 at 1 & 3:15 p.m.

### WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL

GCU vs. California Baptist  
Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013 at 4:30 & 6:30 p.m.

### SOUTHWEST GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013 to Saturday, March 2, 2013



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