

2003 Alumnus of Point Loma Awards


By Dean Nelson

POINT LOMA'S ALUMNI OF POINT LOMA AWARD RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS, AN ACTIVE CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY AND AN IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

Robert Capp

It may be impossible to talk with Bob Capp without him laughing about something. He graduated from PLNU in 1977, which is amusing in itself, he said.

"I didn't set any academic records."



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—Robert Capp

He became a teacher, and then an elementary school principal in the Rocklin Unified School District, near Sacramento, Calif. "Now that's funny," he said.

"Anyone who remembers me from PLNU has to be shocked that I've been in education this long."

But the real knee slapper is that the state of California declared him Elementary School Principal of 2003. For the entire state. Out of 6,000 schools.

"I see that banner at our school when I drive in every day, and I laugh out loud," he said. "I say to myself, 'How did that happen?'"

It's not that much of a mystery, though. He has been an educational innovator for years. He earned a master's degree in administration and has taught at the college level. He recently proposed a strategy for a new school, with a curriculum dedicated to help children of all levels do well. After the district adopted his idea and put him in charge of it, that school became the only one in California to have been recognized twice nationally for elementary students' outstanding performance.

Capp says his enthusiasm for his vocation came, in large part, from professors Dwayne Little, Paul Gresham, Ron Kirkemo and Phil Fitch.

"I witnessed innovation, inspiration, passion and

commitment," he said. "They clearly shaped me. I thought to myself then, 'If I could even get half of their passion, I'd be okay.'"

Many of his family members were teachers, and as a child he felt he wanted to teach. Still he thought he didn't leave a great impression on his professors at PLNU.

"The people still there must be shocked at the news that Bob Capp made good!" he said. Laughing, of course.

Krista Hughes

Krista Hughes had it pretty well figured out when she came to PLNU as a student. She loved literature, so she was headed for a lifetime of teaching English and literature to high school students.

Until she went to chapel and heard Christian activist and sociologist Tony Campolo speak.

"That chapel service changed my heart," she said.

Campolo spoke about giving up a summer to work with the poor in urban America, which is what Krista did.

Hughes became the director of an urban outreach program while still a student, and organized service-focused efforts in San Diego, Los Angeles and New York City. After graduating from PLNU in 1992 with a degree in sociology, she moved to Los Angeles. She worked with a number of social programs and earned a master's degree in theology at Fuller Theological Seminary.

In 1998 Hughes was selected to participate in a mediation and conflict resolution program in South Africa. More recently, while working on another master's degree at City University of New York, she has worked with both geriatric

services and with a program helping incarcerated mothers re-unite with their families.

Michael Mata, a professor of urban ministry at the Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, Calif., was impressed by Krista's commitment even as a student.

"Krista has not waned in her



commitment to the city and its people,” he said. “She instills in many the hope that we can make a significant difference in the lives of others.”

Now, Hughes is a social worker for juvenile offenders and their families in an alternative to incarceration program.

“I want to encourage the strengths and promise of kids who are in difficult circumstances” she said. “I want to see their hope and dignity restored.”



Dan Copp

In 1973, Dan Copp decided to leave PLNU and head home, convinced he had made a mistake and that the school was no place for him.

“I had just thrown the communion elements in the trash because I didn’t know anyone to share them with,”

Copp said of that day. “Then I headed across the soccer field, on my way to the dorm to pack up and leave.”

A resident director, Tim Peters, caught up with him and asked, “Where are you headed?”

“It was the most important question anyone had ever asked me,” Copp said.

Copp stayed in school, became student body president, graduated in 1977, went to Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, pastored the Oakland First Church of the Nazarene, and returned to San Diego to pastor at Mission Valley Church of the Nazarene. While there, he completed a doctor of ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary, was involved in multiple community leadership activities, and served the general Church of the Nazarene on several boards and committees.

Today Copp is PLNU’s chairman of the board of trustees and district superintendent for the Church of the Nazarene in Arizona/Southern Nevada.

“Early on in my association with him I discovered a person of great abilities and profound integrity,” said Tom Goble, former chairman of PLNU’s board. “[He] is a model of the kind of Christian servant that we seek to represent our university in the world.”

Copp sees God’s activity in ways he had not seen before.

“As a pastor I saw the way God worked through people, and set a standard in my mind for how God works,” he said. “As a district superintendent, I’ve been able to see the incredible variety and diversity in ministry styles and settings God uses, and see God use faithful people, wherever they are, in profound ways—ways I had not expected.”

Including people who ask simple questions, such as “Where are you headed?”

Kirk Milhoan

For Kirk Milhoan, it’s always been about the heart. This past summer, he was the pediatric cardiologist for twins born in Texas and joined at the heart. He has traveled to Mongolia, Kosovo, Kenya, Uzbekistan, Mexico, and Tibet to treat children with heart defects and bring some back to the U.S. for surgery.

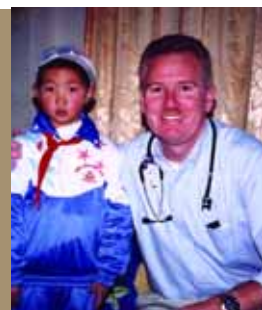
After he graduated from PLNU in 1986 as a double major in biology and chemistry, Kirk earned a Ph.D. in cardiovascular physiology and pharmacology from the University of California San Diego. He went on to gain an M.D. from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and join the U.S. Air Force. He and his family now live in San Antonio, where he works as a pediatric cardiologist at Lackland Air Force Base.

With all of the attention he gives to others’ hearts, Milhoan says it was his own heart that needed healing before anything else was possible. He accepted Christ as a teenager, but it was a personal tragedy that showed him he lacked compassion.

“I would not have the heart for others that I have today had it not been for the suffering of major losses in my life,” he said.

During his pediatric cardiology fellowship back in California, Milhoan and his wife were the physicians for an orphanage for disabled children in Mexico. He was also invited to help screen children for heart problems for Samaritan’s Purse, the international mission organization headed by Franklin Graham. Because of his increasing medical missions service, Milhoan and his friend, Tim Rogers, another 1986 graduate, formed a nonprofit medical mission organization.

“KIRK HAS DONE MORE IN HIS FEWER THAN 40 YEARS THAN MOST PROFESSIONALS WOULD ACCOMPLISH IN A LIFETIME. HE IS ALWAYS READY TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO THE HOPE THAT LIES WITHIN HIM.” –Ron Fay



Kirk on a medical missions trip.

The nonprofit operation, called For Hearts and Souls, has expanded. It recently opened For Hearts and Souls Children’s Village, an orphanage for children in Zambia whose parents have died from AIDS.

Ron Fay, PLNU’s director of church relations, was Milhoan’s pastor when Kirk first started attending church as a teenager.

“Kirk has done more in his fewer than 40 years than most professionals would accomplish in a lifetime,” Fay said. “He is always ready to give an answer to the hope that lies within him.”