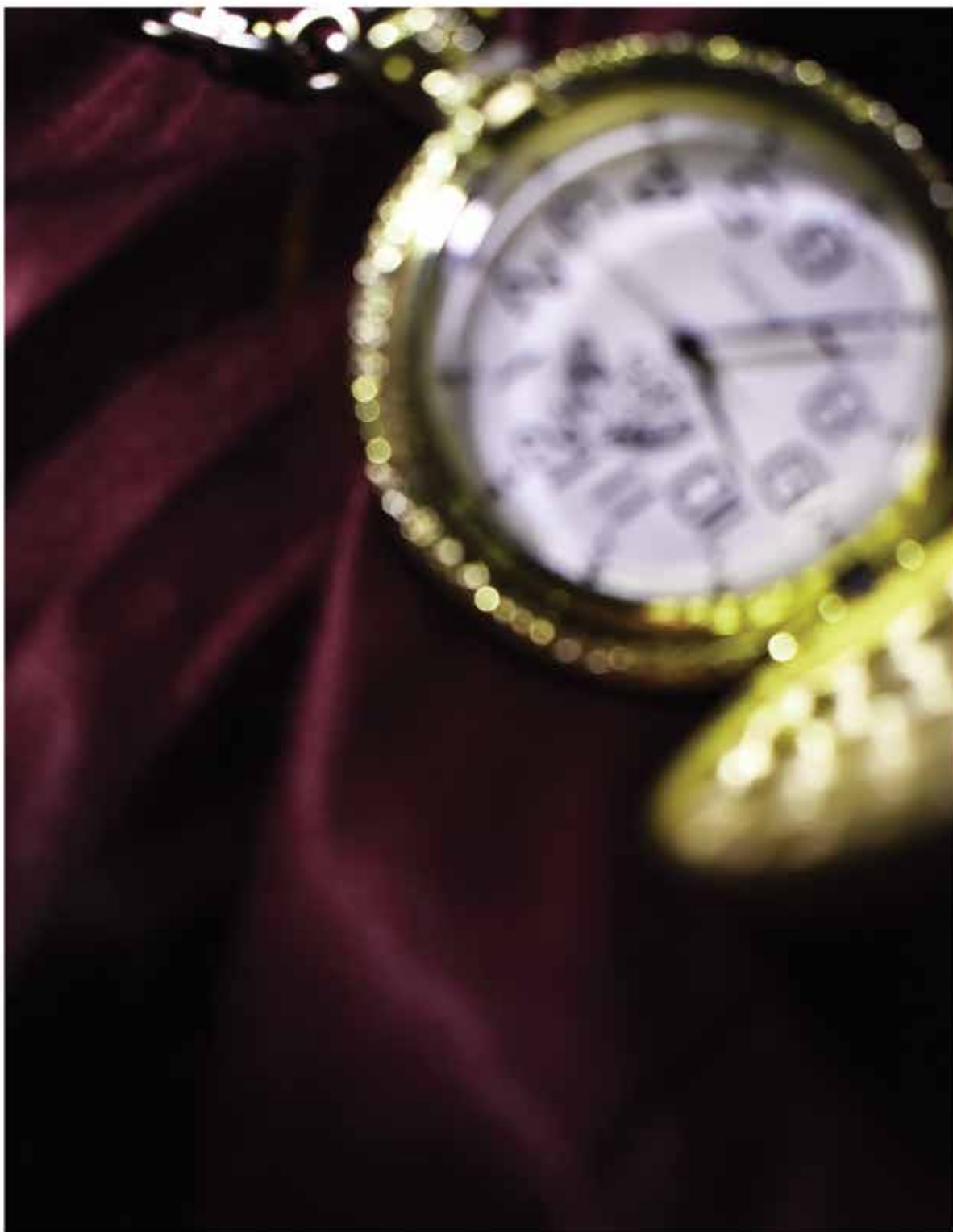


# ZU Magazine



ISSUE 3 | CONTINUUM



Hey readers!

As we met for the last magazine brainstorm session of the year, it seemed we've all been thinking lately about the concept of time — how it changes things, how it changes us. At times it feels circular to watch the year repeat its days, especially during this season. But as a decade comes to a close, it can feel surreal to look back and see how different things are.

The theme for the second issue is *Continuum*.

Continuum means something that keeps on going, changing slowly over time. With this issue, we wanted to explore the ways we interact with time — how we move through it, how it changes us, and the tension between living in the present and looking to the past and the future.

We are constantly in flux, evolving and shapeshifting, but a continuum allows us to define things by their place in time. It's rare to feel change taking place in the moment; and it's often only by looking at checkpoints in time that we can see how far we've come.

In this issue we explore the evolution of things like sports and dating, ways to efficiently manage our time, and defining moments in the past decade of our culture and of our lives. Special thanks to our staff writers for their thoughtful work on this issue. Shoutout to Ruby and Cheyenne for their consistent quality. And thanks to Abi and Liz, whose design work on this issue is STELLAR.

We hope this issue encourages you to reflect on, make note of and celebrate those moments in your life. Happy holidays!

Yours,



**Mission Statement**

ZU Magazine is a publication of ZU Media, a multi-media student voice of undergraduate Azusa Pacific University. Our stories seek to bring people together while impacting our readers. We provide narratives, inquires and dialogue in a Christian academic setting that value individuals' stories as well as community concerns. Our writers are student journalists interested in crafting articles that connect with readers and challenge them to grow as people.

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# A LOOK BACK ON THE 2010S

Mia Nishanian

**2000**

**LAUNCH OF  
TWITTER AND YOUTUBE**

**2013**

**SUPER BOWL HALFTIME  
PERFORMANCE BY BEYONCE  
2ND MOST TWEETED MOMENT**

**2018**

**PHYSICAL ALBUM SALES FELL  
TO AN ALL-TIME LOW.**

**2012**

**“GANGNAM STYLE” BY PSY  
EXCEEDED ONE BILLION VIEWS.**

**2016**

**DONALD TRUMP IS ELECTED  
PRESIDENT**

**2019**

**“OLD TOWN ROAD” BREAKS  
RECORDS FOR LONGEST REIGN  
AT NO. 1 ON CHARTS**

memorable moments have graced the 2010s. Here's a look back on how these aspects could shape decades to come.

## The Internet

Though YouTube and Twitter launched in the 2000s, the platforms have seen significant growth since then. Influencers have taken on an almost celebrity persona for their viewers and fans. YouTuber PewDiePie became the first influencer channel to surpass 100 million subscribers on YouTube, while other YouTubers like Shane Dawson are capable of gaining up to 40 million views on a single video.

Vine, though short-lived, created a massive impact on millennial culture with Vine compilations on YouTube gaining millions of views. A Twitter-defining moment came with Beyonce's 2013 Super Bowl halftime show, which became the second most tweeted moment in history, with 268,000 tweets being tweeted per minute.

Esports has also grown significantly in the 2010s, with Fortnite gaining a cult-like following in a short amount of time. Influencer MarketingHub reported, "Between 2016 and 2017, there was a 19.3 percent increase year over year. In 2017, there were 192 million casual viewers and 143 million enthusiasts, making the total audience 335 million."

The internet in the 2010s has expanded the social awareness and platforms of numerous industries. In 2020, the world might see an even bigger expansion.

## Politics

When Barack Obama was leaving office in the late 2010s, people were wondering who would take his place. The election of 2016 was a defining moment in U.S. history. The year leading up to the election had many people on edge and it resulted in a divided nation. Trump challenged people to reconsider the qualifications needed

to run a country. Trump also redefined the way presidents use social media platforms, as the president is very vocal, through Twitter especially.

The future of politics will be in the hands of the next generation, and only time will tell how the government will evolve.

## Music Industry

The streaming industry developed new ways to distribute music. In 2018, physical album sales fell to an all-time low. Billboard executives attributed the decline to streaming services.

Music transcended cultural boundaries in 2012 with "Gangnam Style" by Psy. The music video became the first time a song exceeded one billion views. This cross-culture of K-pop would be the beginning of a later phenomenon started by popular boy group BTS, who became the first K-pop group to have multiple albums debut at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart.

The American Music Awards named Taylor Swift as Artist of the Decade after having three successful No. 1 albums within the decade. She also had the highest-grossing U.S. tour, which gained over \$266 million in sold-out stadiums for her "Reputation" tour. As the decade comes to a close, it makes you wonder what music and who will redefine the 2020s.

## Entertainment World

Netflix and Hulu became prominent front runners in the entertainment industry with original series like "Stranger Things," "Ozark," and "The Handmaid's Tale."

Before we enter a new decade, numerous new streaming platforms have made its way into the industry like Disney+, Comcast, Amazon Prime Video, HBO Max, Apple TV and YouTube Red. The entertainment industry is being reinvented by streaming, and competition is growing. 2020 will see an influx of original movies and television shows from streaming sites.

**Another decade** is about to end, and with it, a decade of memories. The internet has further cemented its influence upon the world, creating many new job opportunities for individuals. Influencers make up a large portion of social media and have gained significant ground throughout the 2010s.

Music has switched its platform to streaming as opposed to physical albums. Genres of music have also been drastically redefined as new cultures influence the way music is made. The entertainment industry has been redefined by streaming services like Netflix and Hulu who have entered the award season game. Many

# TIME IS MONEY

Cora O'Sullivan

*In a world* focused on speed and an emphasis on rushing to the next thing, time has become more and more valuable as it becomes more and more sparse.

Especially in college, it seems the amount of time we have for everything is reduced each year. Between classes, extracurriculars and socializing, it's hard to find time for things you really want to do, whether it be watching Netflix, going out with friends, or seeing the latest movie. The danger is when we set aside priorities like school and work for those activities, as we often do.

Here are five ways you can spend your college time more wisely and save time in the long run. This could mean creating more space for a big assignment, which would create more space the night before when students usually end up cramming it all in.

## Wake up earlier

I debated putting this tip first because I know how cliché and detested it is. Yet I feel that it is one of the most important changes to make. For those that already wake up early, disregard this section, or read it as a reminder of how helpful it is.

In college, sleeping is one of the most precious hours a student can have. However, this ends up being abused in the form of sleeping in. There's the typical cycle: staying up late working on homework and sleeping in as much as you possibly can until class starts.

Yet, waking up just a little earlier can start your day off on the right foot. If you have a class at 2:35 p.m. and wait until noon to wake up, a good portion of the day has already passed.

Even if you make the change to wake up 15 or 20 minutes earlier, you can use that time to get ready earlier and have extra time to plan your day. That, in itself, is saving time.

## Do a productive social activity

Socializing is also highly important while in college. You can't be expected to spend every waking minute in class or doing homework. So, taking time, even just once a week, to participate in a productive social activity is using your time wisely.

Using that time to get coffee with a peer from class that you would like to know better or meeting with a professor to discuss an assignment are two simple ways to productively socialize.

This, besides waking up early, is arguably the hardest one to achieve. With school projects, reading and homework being completed online, there are far too many distractions propelling procrastination. YouTube, Netflix, online shopping and even BuzzFeed quizzes badger our screens until we take the bait and abandon our homework.

Avoiding these constant distractions takes discipline on your own part. However, you, your roommate or friend can commit to keeping each other accountable for a couple of hours while you both work on homework.

## Be involved, but don't overwork yourself

Everyone says to get involved in college - to throw yourself into extracurriculars and attend events in order to get the real college experience. But taking this too literally and

joining the dance team, singing in choir, being on a chapel band, running for a student body position, joining an intramural, forming a club, and ... you get the point.

All of these areas are productive and beneficial ways to spend your time. It is still very important to be involved in different areas on campus that don't have to do with homework and classes, but joining so many that you begin to lose sleep, time for yourself and compromise classwork is a steep slope.

It can be easy to think that you can handle all of those activities, but participating in too much will end up being worse in the long run. Know how much time you're putting forth in extracurriculars before over committing.

## Set aside time for the fun stuff ... just not all the time

Fear of missing out (FOMO) is at an all-time high in college. Being surrounded by so many people who are eager to participate in most anything that is not schoolwork is fun, but there needs to be a time when you just say no.

Going to the movies, a restaurant or a concert not only take up time, but money as well. After a while of saying yes, your homework and your bank account may be crying for help.

This is when you need to decide what activities are truly important for you to say yes to. A roommate's birthday dinner? Absolutely. An invite to an expensive concert for a band you don't love? Probably not.

It's all about understanding the type of balance that works for you.



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF LIZ GAETA



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM GREENWOOD / GETTY IMAGES

**Technology** has changed society in too many ways to count. It has certainly changed sports in a drastic way and will continue to do so. And there is no denying that time is directly correlated with the advances in sports technology.

Every professional and collegiate sport has come to the point where each detail is displayed through technology. In some cases, this has driven the love of sports to the sidelines. This is because it's easy to get caught up in one controversial call or rule that can make or break the outcome of a game. We have even come to the point where every call needs to be reviewed; rule changes have also become normal. Let's be honest, the ability to review every little detail has changed our outlook on the game itself.

The world has changed, and professional sports have kept up with the times in this last decade. There have certainly been some positives that have resulted from technology's presence in sports. It has created platforms for athletes to promote change and it helps to improve the integrity of the game. For example, LeBron James has been able to use social media to his advantage to help promote change in many forms. Whether it is speaking out on social issues or helping to raise money for different charities and organizations that help those in need. Athletes have become influencers for good causes, like mentioned above, which has made an impact on our society.

The game's integrity has also improved because calls aren't decided by one referee's perspective. For instance, controversial calls don't have to be judged by just one person's vantage point. Instead, officials have the ability to look at multiple different replays from all different angles to make sure the correct call should be made. This has helped ensure

that most of the time, calls are correct. The question now becomes, "Will this technological enhancement in sports ever end?"

We've made sports into more than just a game. Don't get me wrong, it is more than just a game for a lot of people. For some people, it is their very livelihood as they live and die with every play. Whether it is due to tradition, family or just a love and passion for the game, sports can be made into more than just a game. But, what is the cost of technology within sports? If we continue to look at professional and collegiate athletics under such a large lens, we could lose sight of the joy that playing a game can bring people — not only those who play, but those who get the opportunity to watch and escape from the real world for a few hours.

Time has a funny way of changing the things we love. There will always be positives and negatives about the prevalence of technology within sports, but it's up to us to focus on what matters the most. The message that each call is more crucial than the last and that every camera angle known to man is used can create controversy at any given moment. This then overshadows the game.

An example is last season's NFC Divisional Round game that saw the New Orleans Saints

and the Los Angeles Rams come down to the wire. A controversial non-call ended up being the highlight of the game. The call was bad — possibly the worst I've ever seen. But those who haven't played sports don't understand that one specific play doesn't decide a game. Yes, the non-call that should have been deemed pass interference was an impactful play, but it did not decide the game's outcome.

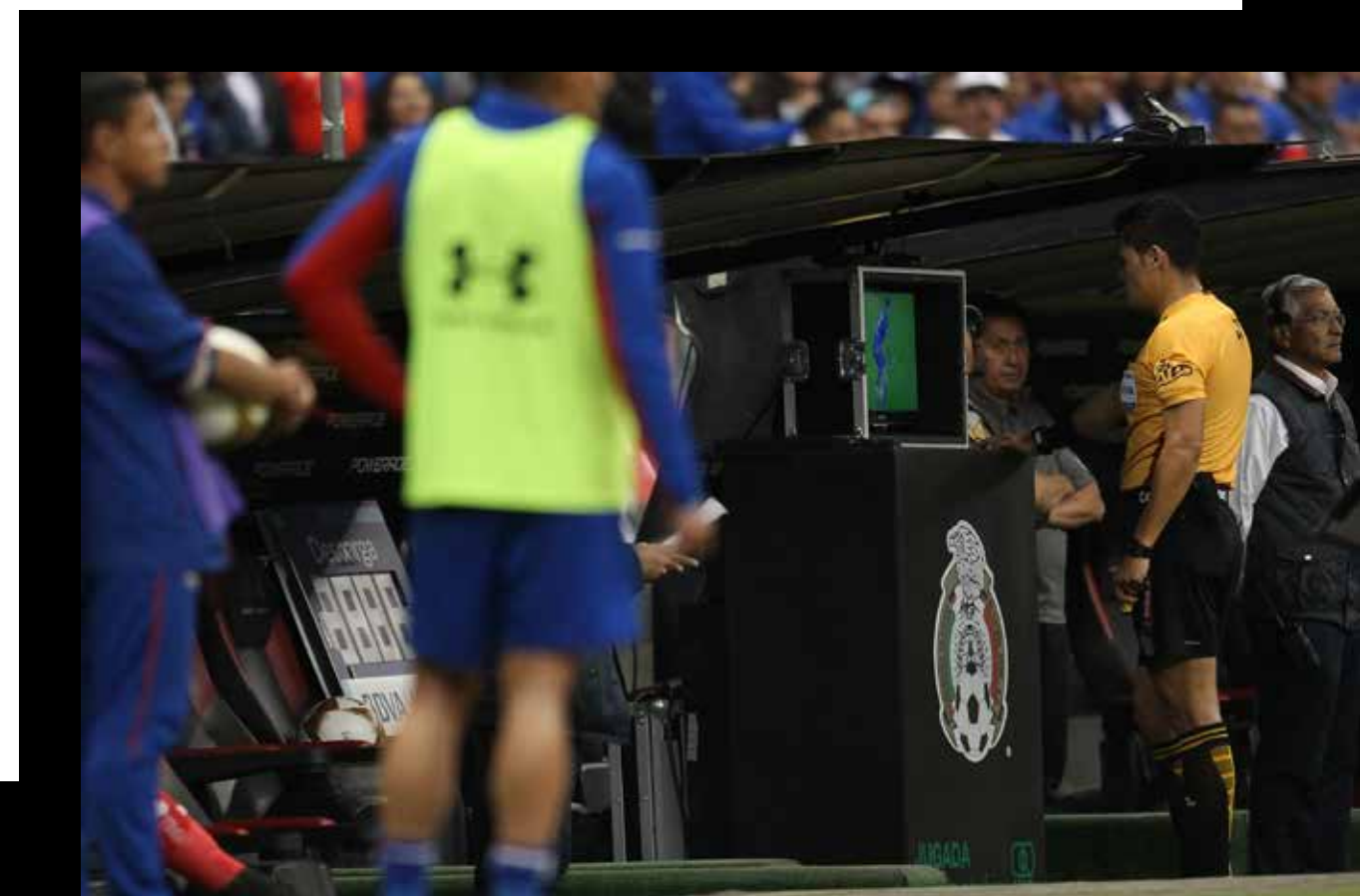
This is something the technological world will never understand. History will always remember that game for the non-call because technology showed the world that a foul should have been called on the play in a crucial situation.

Technology has changed so much of our entertainment over time — sports is just one thing on the list. Innovation in technology isn't stopping any time soon, and sports will continue to change with it. My hope is that we don't lose sight of the joy that comes with sports, and that technology doesn't take away from the fun. The feeling of playing sports or watching sports is one that is unlike many others; it makes me feel like a kid again. That won't ever change for me, but it can change for others, and for this, I am concerned.

# HOW TIME AND TECHNOLOGY HAVE CHANGED SPORTS

Reid Conant

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIO CASTILLO / GETTY IMAGES



# THE EVOLUTION OF DATING

Sienna Hicks

*Three generations, three couples, three dating apps.*

Disclaimer: Some of the interviewees names have been changed for their security.

**Communication** has evolved over time through technology, and with new technology comes new ways to meet people, and more radically, a new way to date.

Instead of writing love letters, we write pick-up lines to make someone laugh. Instead of taking it slow, we say “I love you” after the third date. We feed off of constant love and attention and can easily get it from the touch of a screen.

Although online dating might not be our first choice, it isn’t necessarily a bad one. And while it may be frowned upon by older generations because they think meeting people on the internet is unsafe, in the end, we’re all just looking for someone to give us affection.

Here are three success stories of online dating to give you hope and inspiration.

## Anne & Jim

Azusa Pacific’s very own journalism professor, Jim Willis, met his wife, Anne Willis, online on New Years Eve in 1999.

Jim Willis decided to start dating online in order to meet people beyond his daily routine.

“When you have a close circle of friends, it’s hard to meet new people because you get busy and most of your friends are married,” said Jim Willis.

When Jim Willis was searching online for a good match, he valued honesty with the people he corresponded with. There was no Google, so it was hard to cross reference and investigate the people he was talking to.

In fact, one woman he knew hired a private investigator to scope out her online interest because she couldn’t simply look up the person on Facebook.

After meeting on Match.com, Jim and Anne Willis tied the knot in 2000, and continue to be happily married after nearly 20 years.

Jim and Anne Willis started their relationship with an email and intrigue; and yes, Anne Willis

PHOTO COURTESY OF DERICK ANIES / UNSPLASH



messed Jim Willis first. With the promise of delicious chocolate chip cookies, they hit it off.

They currently live apart because Jim Willis is working at APU, but they get to see each other every six weeks, and continue to be madly in love.

The couple pitches online dating to their friends and family who are in search of a serious relationship and can thank Match.com for their marriage.

## Rachel & Joshua

Rachel and Joshua met on Jdate, an online Jewish dating service aimed at Jewish singles, and are now happily married and expecting their first child.

They decided to resort to online dating after having difficulty finding a Jewish partner at a bar. They both agree it is less creepy learning about someone online than in real life.

“All these people are looking for a relationship, whether they want to get married or want a relationship or just want to screw around, you can figure that out online without having to meet in person,” said Joshua.

Rachel had been online dating for about two years before she met Joshua. They would recommend online dating to their friends and family because it’s a useful tool in meeting a serious partner.

## Isabella & Chris

Isabella and Chris are a couple who both attend APU. They met on Bumble and have been dating for six months. Isabella is a junior English major and Chris is a senior economics major.

The couple sat next to each other in class, but ultimately started communicating on the app; it was the start of their relationship. Once Isabella saw Chris on Bumble, she messaged him and they started talking in class.

Isabella started online dating out of boredom and the lack of male student interactions she had at the university. Even though she is living on campus, she felt she had limited options — it was hard for her to meet people and make new friends.

“I think there’s a lot of pressure with face-to-face interaction. And so Bumble makes things easier to connect with people and be able to see their interests without having to meet in person,” said Isabella.

A lot of college students they know also use online dating apps to make friends or spark relationships.

Although we are on a college campus, we are in the digital age of communication. With it comes comfortability in our phones and isolation from our peers. It can make traditional dating difficult because we rely so much on our online personas, but with online dating, we can communicate in a new way, on platforms that everyone is comfortable with.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEV COSTELLO / UNSPLASH



# A DISTORTED REFLECTION

Kelsey Arvidson

**One** of Earth's materials  
Constantly being stared at  
By curious eyes.

What will they see?  
Some glance at their reflection  
In a mirror, and see themselves  
As they truly are.

They are fueled by a confidence  
Only God can give.  
He sees us as a mirror shows,  
clear and unobscured.

Others look into a lake's surface for answers  
They peer in, only to find a distorted image  
The water ripples with waves that  
Destroy any ounce of sureness left.

Which reflection do we choose?  
The lake often calls our name  
Pulling us further from the truth.

Over time, we feel a tug towards  
Only the mirror.  
A higher guidance that has been  
There all along.

A life shift that reveals a  
Newfound understanding of  
Our time.

He calls us and we follow,  
Distorted reflection left behind.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX LOPEZ / UNSPLASH  
ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF LIZ GAETA

# BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

Hannah Labnow

**When people** hear that I'm half Hispanic, they either don't believe me or are surprised. I definitely don't look like I am. With light skin, green eyes and fair brown hair, I appear much more like my German-Polish ancestors on my father's side. My mom's grandparents were immigrants from Mexico and both of her parents grew up in Hispanic families that were both fully immersed in their culture. As far as I'm aware, they grew up within the culture, speaking Spanish and with a rather large family.

However, my mom was raised during a time when it was looked down upon to be a part of a different culture besides Caucasian. Society encouraged conformity; to become like everyone else in their traditions and ways of life. My mother and aunt were not taught Spanish in their home and my grandparents tried to Americanize them as much as possible. They felt estranged from their cousins and other extended family who all spoke Spanish and grew up in the culture. It created a lasting divide between my mother and her extended family because they had a distant relationship and had trouble connecting and relating to each other.

This continued on through my generation. I was raised alienated from my Hispanic roots. However, I feel that the current climate now encourages people to be proud and open about one's ethnicity and roots. I am now torn between identifying with my heritage, while still feeling disconnected from it, and wondering if I even belong. I hear other Hispanics talk about their big family gatherings, traditions, holidays and everyday life that is immersed in the functioning of most Hispanic households. I become an imposter, pretending to fit in with both cultures but not fitting in with either. I feel caught between two worlds; not completely in one or another.

With the political tension surrounding immigration, I feel pressure from my heritage to defend immigrants, which brings about more conflict in my life. On one hand, I sympathize with immigrants who seek a better life for themselves and their families in the United States. It's what my great-grandparents did. On the other hand, I see the issue with opening up borders, such as drugs and sex trafficking — and it leads me to stand for more enforcement at the border. This complicated issue becomes more difficult when I take my background into account; I suspect many people like me feel the same way.

According to Pew Research Center, among those who are third generation Hispanics, only 77 percent self identify as Hispanic. This statistic speaks into my life experiences and the experiences of those who also struggle with this withdraw from their heritage. I find myself wanting to return to my roots, but something in me says it's too late for that.

This is a common feeling that most of us feel at one point or another: wishing there was more time to do things that we hoped to do. Time weaves itself into our lives in multiple ways, and reconnecting with your ethnicity takes up time that most of us feel we don't have extra of. But I still hope to identify more with my heritage and ethnicity in the future, not letting stigmas or stereotypes stop me from learning more about myself.

I would like to speak words of encouragement to those who also struggle with feeling estranged from their ethnicity, or multiple ethnicities — that it's okay to feel that way. It's never too late to get connected with that part of yourself.

# FALLING PETALS

Emma Waterman

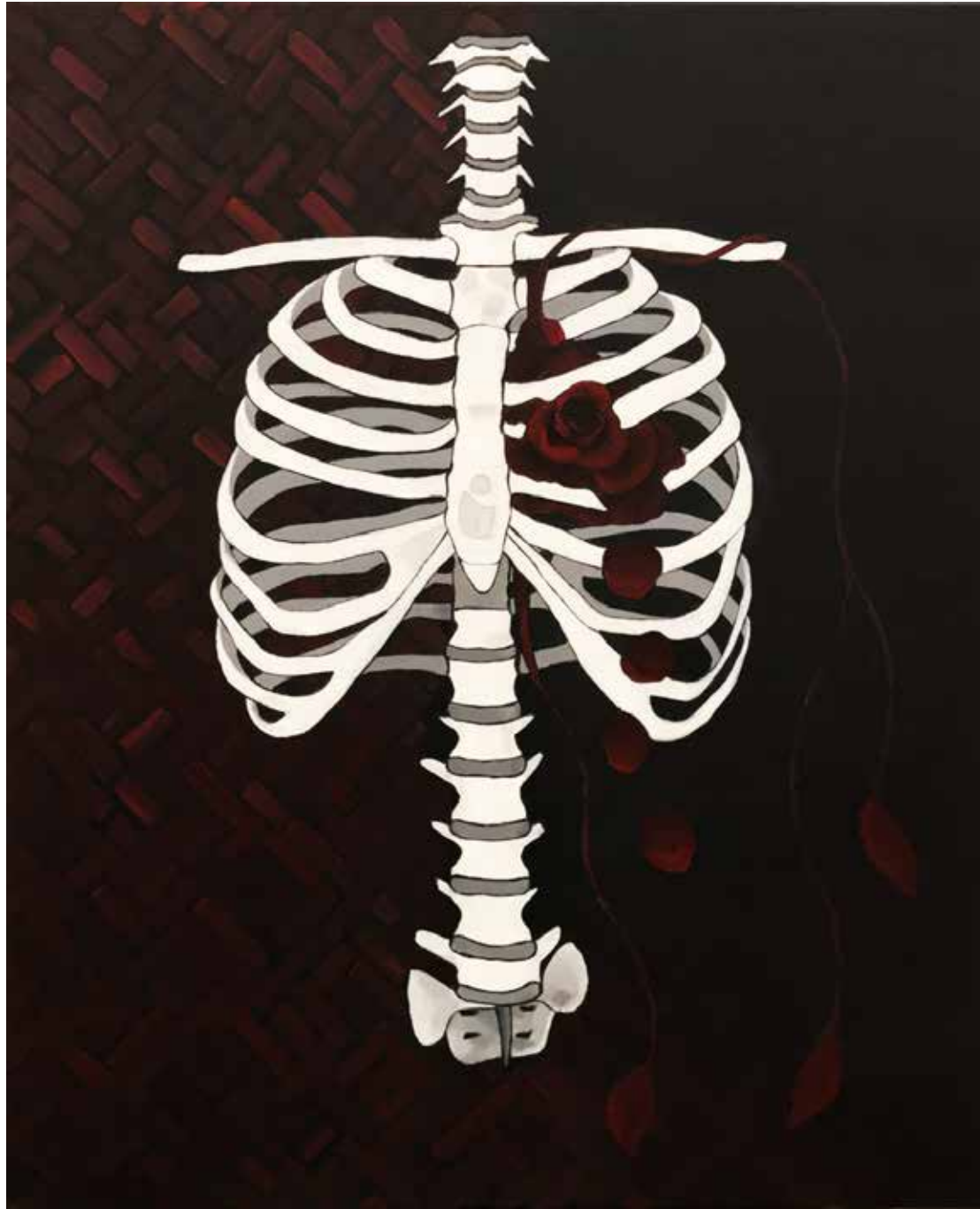


PHOTO COURTESY OF EMMA WATERMAN

**“I CREATED FALLING PETALS DURING A TURBULENT SEASON OF MY LIFE. I STUMBLED ACROSS A POEM OF THE SAME TITLE AND FOUND THAT IT CAPTURED HOW I WAS FEELING AT THE TIME. FALLING PETALS IS A REMINDER OF THE RHYTHMS OF LIFE – THE DEATH OF OLD THINGS AND THE GROWTH OF NEW ONES, BOTH ASPECTS PAINFUL AND BEAUTIFUL SIMULTANEOUSLY.”**

*Emma Waterman*



# WALK IN HER SHOES

Brenda Covarrubias

**The importance of women** in society cannot be understated. We are mothers with healing hands and daughters with enamored eyes. We are increasingly devoted to our work, families and religion. Now, more than ever before, modern women are shaping every aspect of life by taking leadership positions and demanding equal rights in all fields. While society is now much more progressive, we are still greatly uninformed when it comes to the women who came before us and paved the way for our successes and freedoms.

Too often we turn a pitiful gaze to the past, recognizing the struggles our sisters faced and the laws that oppressed them. Many of us believe that these women were silent, submissive, powerless individuals who never stood up for themselves. But this is a lie.

Throughout history, women have played pivotal roles in constructing society, education, religion and the military, laying the foundations for

current generations; but for all their hard work, the public education system still favors male-dominated narratives.

We are not taught about Deborah Sampson who disguised as a man and fought in the Revolutionary War for America's liberty. Our schools do not tell us how she was the only woman in our history to earn a full military pension for her service; nor how she led raids and scouted territories against the British; nor how she dug a bullet out of her own thigh to avoid being discovered. This was a strong, patriotic woman who went from being an indentured slave to an American hero — and for all her work, she is still a name left out of the public school lexicon.

Women of color are attending college at higher rates than ever before, even when compared to their male counterparts, yet their history is often overshadowed by slavery and other hardships, not the great female heroines of their past.

We are not taught of Cathy Williams who, about 100 years after Sampson's service, also joined the U.S. military disguised as a man for three years. Despite being born a slave, Williams fought for her right to freedom in the Civil War alongside over 400 women, according to the National Park Service. She is regarded as the only African American woman to have enlisted during that time.

It isn't just the wars that make these women inspiring women of history. It's also their devotion to freedom and their unwillingness to submit themselves to oppressive regimes that have landed them a place in history. Despite all their great deeds, however, these remain names we have to research ourselves.

Along with education, women have surpassed men in their identity as religious people. Across the world, women are more religiously affiliated and attend more worship services than men, according to the Pew Research Center. This is especially true for Christians.

Although some churches are progressive and recognize how impactful women have been in the Bible, when people think of biblical stories, the narratives that come to mind are still mostly masculine. We think of the 12 disciples, who were men, and not of the women who accompanied them like Joanna, Susanna and Mary (Luke 8:1-3). We focus on the questions the men asked and the miracles they performed, as if Mary didn't also call Jesus "teacher" — as if she was not the first of His disciples who spoke to Him after the resurrection (John 20 NRSV).

When we think of people in the church's history, we think of St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas

and Ambros. We do not often recognize many female bishops in the early days of the church, although we know they existed. We neglect the women whose help in the Protestant Reformation was invaluable. We do not give much thought to the nuns and preachers who performed miracles, nor to the female prophets of the Old Testament, like Deborah, who lead God's people to victory.

History isn't a battle to be won. The issue here is not whether women are better than men — and I am not suggesting that men are in any way less important than women. The crux of the issue lies in which stories we choose to tell each other and ourselves.

We cannot progress forward if we do not know our past. By excluding important female heroes from our history lessons, we are ignoring an entire group's troubles and successes. By remaining silent on the issue, we are pushing forth a narrative that only the women of today are strong, independent and hardworking, when the fact is, we have always been this way. The difference now is that we have the agency to tell our stories loud and proud. While life hasn't been easy for everyone, there have always been women ready to fight for their rights and to speak for themselves.



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF LIZ GAETA

# TIMELINES AND 20-SOMETHING-YEAR OLDS

Ruby McAuliffe

*Three individuals in their 20s talk about their timelines for life and their diverging journeys.*

**Timeline:** a graphic representation of the passage of time as a line.

At least that's how Google categorizes And that's often how we plan our lives out. But, life isn't always linear; it's full of ups and downs and zig zags.

I interviewed three individuals who are all at different stages in their 20s. Each one crafted their own path at one point or another, and each one has discovered the beauty of the unpredictability life throws at you.

## **Shiany Agüero, 28. Los Angeles, CA**

*When you were in high school, what did your future self look like?*

S: I graduated in 2009. Back then, [I envisioned] my future self married at 20 and had kids by 22! I didn't have a boyfriend at the time, and I wanted kids five years from that moment. Hilarious. Oh, and no, I had no idea what my future self's occupation was, but I still definitely wanted to go to college. How I thought that was going to work? Ya got me!

*How did that plan shift?*

S: Graduation day I found out I messed up on my college applications. So, although I got accepted to the schools I applied to, my mistake made my applications incomplete so they couldn't accept me. My plan was trash now.

*What was your initial timeline for college?*

S: My timeline was the typical four year bachelors ... I wanted to be in the medical field, but because I was now in community college, I didn't know how to navigate my way through. I went to a counselor and it turned out I was taking all the wrong classes. My projectory date to leave community college with what I needed was six years. Six years to leave community college! So that wasn't going to pan out as planned. I had to shift my timeline again. I talked to my mom and she told me to look into nursing schools. Turns out momma really does know best.

*Was becoming a nurse your dream career?*

S: I'm actually still searching for my dream career. I love being a nurse, but it's a huge umbrella, and I haven't figured out what my niche is under that umbrella just yet. There's lots more exploring to do. I'm just taking it a day at a time.

*How did relationships play into the concept of a timeline?*

S: After high school, marriage was out of the picture. I didn't have any serious relationships. It wasn't until year two with my now husband that I was sure I wanted marriage. I was ready by 25-ish. I had a big girl job, and I was moved out of my parents house. But of course, that didn't go as planned either. The guy made me wait another two years! But it's ok, it was worth it.

*Did sticking to a timeline ever make things more difficult?*

S: Looking back, sticking to a timeline for someone like me brought a lot of pressure. I

didn't even necessarily want to go to college right after high school ... This timeline also made things difficult because it created expectations from literally everyone. Even now, everyone wants to know what I'm doing with my life. I'm just living it, ya know?

*What is some advice on how to live your life motivated without constricting yourself to set plans?*

S: Don't get me wrong, I'm not a super free spirit. I like some sense of life organization, but I don't like the idea of constricting my future ... the way I see it, as long as I'm not going backwards, I'm doing great! There is nothing wrong with just living your life the way it is without knowing your next step.

## **Noah Wisniewski, 20. Dearborn, Michigan**

*When you were in high school, what did future Noah look like?*

N: Future Noah was honestly ... a mess. Everyone around me was thinking about college and scholarships, but I waited until the very last minute to apply and do research because thinking about the future scarred me, since I didn't know what I wanted.

*How did that work out?*

N: There comes a point ... when you have to make a decision about your future. Whether it be to throw yourself into college, work or take a gap year to figure things out. I considered all my options until I finally decided to go to college.

*How has sticking to that specific plan made you stronger?*

N: I feel like I have grown so much. I am so much more confident with myself and everything seemed to just fall into place. If I wouldn't have stuck to this timeline, I probably would still be at home pursuing acting, and I just don't think that would have benefited me.

*What is your take on timelines as a whole?*

N: If something is meant to be, it'll be! You just need to work your hardest and put a lot of effort

into things, because then, the timeline will fall into place even if there are some bumps in the road.

## **Tierney Franklin, 27. Detroit, Michigan**

*When you were in high school, what did your future self look like?*

T: In high school, I think I wanted to do anime, so I thought I would have my own anime series by 25, married by 27 and have a bunch of kids between 27 and 30.

*Did that plan change?*

T: Vastly. My love for anime drawing transformed into fashion drawing and now fashion design is my current passion amongst other interests. I don't have my own anime series nor am I married, which honestly I couldn't imagine being married with kids right now.

*What was your timeline for college?*

T: I thought I would graduate by the time I was 22, but my curious mind had many phases. [After anime], I thought I wanted to do film, then acting — pretty much every expressive art form I thought I wanted to do, but fashion design stuck the most ... So exploring what I really truly liked, I guess was a setback in a sense because I didn't end up graduating until I was 25.

*Did things stay according to plan, or not?*

T: Things definitely didn't go according to plan for me at all. I was in college way longer than I thought I would be, and [I'm] considering going back full time to get a second degree in architecture. But, I'm learning that all of that is okay, and all of our journeys are different.

*How has drifting from the timeline of life made you stronger?*

T: If I stuck to my timeline, I wouldn't have discovered all these things I really like and enjoy. I'm now taking some courses to eventually study architecture, and my whole life I thought I hated math ... [But] now, I'm killing physics. I'm in calculus and I love it.

# LIVING WITH A VISIBLE DISABILITY

Candy Plascencia



PHOTO COURTESY OF CANDY PLASCENCIA

*It's been about three years* since my mother walked into the room to tell me the news.

I was in the bathroom, showering while singing “Don’t Go Breaking My Heart” by Elton John when my mother came in to tell me the test results came in ... and they weren’t good. I was diagnosed with hyperthyroidism, a condition that forces my thyroid gland to create too many hormones. Some of the symptoms include weakness, tiredness, increased appetite, nervousness, increased heart rate, high blood pressure and occasional vomiting. My condition also causes me to occasionally wake up with extreme pain in the areas surrounding my eyes, and on those days, the sound of a pencil hitting the floor is enough to cause me pain.

Living with these pains is difficult in itself, but the most challenging part — and the part that affects me the most — is what people can see. My condition causes my eyes to puff up, and the ways society has labeled me, and the way I have labeled myself, has damaged my confidence, friendships and my relationship with the Lord.

Let’s get the most annoying symptom out of the way: puffy, red eyes. When people look at my eyes and see the way they swell up, they assume I’m high. Back in high school, and a couple of months into college, I was labeled as a stoner. Here’s the thing ... I’m not. Not that there is anything wrong with smoking; I just don’t see the point in it. It sucked being associated with something I wasn’t interested in doing.

Talking about my condition wasn’t any easier. Sometimes, to avoid the stoner stereotype, I would flat out tell people that I have a condition. After doing so, I would regret it ... People would feel bad for me; however, they didn’t feel bad because they cared for me, they felt bad out of pity. My church friends prayed for me, but they were never prayers of healing — they’d pray out of pity. I’m not sure you can even call that prayer. They’d pray words over me so they could make themselves feel better. They never followed up on my condition, never brought it up, so they prayed to take away that sadness they were feeling. It felt as if they were taking my weakness to make themselves feel stronger. They gained, and I kept losing. I couldn’t accept prayer from anyone for a long time. Truth is, I still can’t. I struggle with accepting or believing it comes from a good place.

The medication takes a toll on my mental health as well. It doesn’t sound like medication would be something that brings me down during the process; it was something that was supposed to help me. Truth is, if you haven’t been prescribed medication in the past, you’ll have a hard time understanding, but I encourage you to read this next part with an open mind.

To others, and myself, taking medication was a sign of weakness. For a long time, when I took my medication, it was a reminder that there was something wrong with me — that I needed help and anything, whether good or bad, could happen. These thoughts caused me to bounce between taking them religiously to not taking them for weeks. In the grand scheme of things, I was only hurting myself, but I couldn’t shake the habit. It took one person to help me realize that staying on my meds was worth it, and her name is Lovenia. Lovenia, my niece, inspires me daily and has made me a better person, and she’s only five years old.

My condition has also affected my spiritual health and relationship with Christ. It’s hard to understand why we experience difficult situations when we serve an all-powerful God. When I was going through all of this, I was convinced I had been forsaken. Why am I dealing with this? Why would a good God place this on me? Here is a little public service announcement for everyone: When someone is going through rough times, the worst thing you can say to them is “Don’t worry, God has a plan.” While it’s true that God has crafted a plan for all of us, this advice makes it sound as if God wants them to experience suffering. People said this to me, and I struggled with believing that God wanted me to go through this pain.

To this day, it is still hard for me to understand my condition. It has taken me a while to return to my faith. My take on it is that God wanted to see if I would turn to him, trust him and put my faith in him. Since then, it’s been easier taking my medication, talking about it and learning that this condition does not define me. When I look at my situation, I believe it was God’s way of bringing me closer to him. My life has been a lot better after learning to walk with him instead of walking with a blindfold over my eyes.

# STOP THIS TRAIN: WE ALL WANT TO GROW UP ... UNTIL WE DON'T ANYMORE

Taylor Meckley

**For about as long as I can remember,** I've been dying to grow up — ironic phrasing, I know. In elementary school, I couldn't wait to get to middle school, where I would finally have a locker and multiple teachers. The idea of class periods sounded like the coolest thing I had ever heard of. I was so excited for high school, where I had assumed, for some reason, that life got easier and would play out as if I were Gabriella Montez in "High School Musical" — minus all the singing. Around my junior year, when I realized this was absolutely not the case, I anxiously awaited the day when I would graduate with all of my best friends and move on to the out of state adventure that is college.

High school graduation day is momentous, promising new adventures and an "onto the next" mentality. Although the summer before moving to California was difficult and felt like the end of a massive chapter, the new beginnings on the other side felt promising and concrete.

This excitement for the future typically morphs into fear around halfway through college, or at least that's what happened to me. Where am I going to live? Where am I going to work? Did I pick the right major? Should I be wanting to get married, or am I still too young? Am I going to graduate on time?

We live our entire adolescence in fast forward, so excited to get to the next new beginning. That is, until the next new beginning is simply the rest of our lives. It is unexpectedly daunting at such a young age and feels like we are stepping into completely uncharted territory.

School is over; it's time to enter the workforce. No more dining plans, set housing or easy places to make friends and meet people. Sounds magical, right?

In times like these, I always think of John Mayer's song, "Stop This Train," which beautifully articulates this sentiment through a winding narrative of his realization that life moves at a ridiculously fast pace and, sometimes, it feels like it would just be easier to stop the train, get off and run home — which, as we all know, is impossible.

The panic at the idea of starting my life stems from an age-old problem that we all share: growing up is scary and the unknown feels so, well, unknown. For as long as we have been living our lives have been structured around family, school and a concrete set of rules we had to follow. After college, this disappears and we are sent off to create our own paths.

"Stop This Train" reminds me that although I may crave a pit stop on the journey of life, and may wish to return to simpler days when my biggest worry was about who was going to ask me to prom and what my summer job would be, I can't stop the train. Life moves at a fast pace, and with graduation swiftly approaching for many seniors, we have to realize the beauty of new seasons, even the ones that seem particularly scary and uncertain. So, although it might take a leap of faith to stay on the train, full speed ahead, we can embrace the uncertainty and jump into the next season of life knowing that God's grace and provision will follow us wherever our lives may lead.

*"Singing, stop this train/  
I want to get off and go home again/  
I can't take the speed it's moving in/  
I know, I can't/  
'Cause now I see I'll never stop this train."*



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMPBELL BOULANGER / UNSPLASH

# SIGN OF THE TIMES

Cheyenne Jimenez

*A reflection on senior year*

**One more semester.** One more semester until I graduate and move into a world of unknowns. As I prepare myself for life after Azusa Pacific, I find myself looking inward, reflecting on who I have become during my four years here.

What follows is a series of my personal “signs of the times,” a reflection on signs that are representative of my life right now. I hope that you are able to relate to some of these, and, if not, perhaps it can serve as a reminder to take time to reflect on yourself and analyze who you are and who you want to become after college.

## Responsibility

As the end of first semester approaches, I am still at a loss as to why I put so much on my plate this senior year. It seems counter intuitive to me. This should be the time to take things easy and focus on what is most beneficial for my future. Yet, I did the opposite, and now, I’m a bit overwhelmed.

My most time-consuming tasks are undoubtedly my job as ZU Magazine copy editor, ZU News staff writer and as president of Lambda Pi Eta (LPE). LPE is APU’s Communications Honor Society. In addition to hosting two LPE induction ceremonies, I am also taking charge of this year’s IMPACT Conference. It was a responsibility I was not ready for; however, I am determined to challenge myself and push myself more than ever before. I wasn’t very involved during my previous three years at APU, but I committed to making up for lost time and missed opportunities right now.

## Worry

As much as I am thriving with grades and extracurriculars, I can’t say my success has translated into post-grad confidence. My future is as uncertain as it has ever been. I have not found a job or internship in my field, not including my current position as ZU Magazine copy editor. The worry really sets in when I realize I need to find an internship in less than

a month in order to graduate; internships are required as a journalism major. Not to mention the stress that comes along with the infamous student loans. Let’s just say I met with my financial aid counselor not too long ago and the numbers weren’t pretty. However, despite all of this, I remain hopeful that things will work out. I am surrounded by capable and supportive friends and family members who will help me through the hard times and motivate me to do better — to be better.

## Self-discovery

In a way, everything I have described is some form of self-discovery. I have uncovered aspects about myself that I did not know or did not have my freshman year of college. And, in spite of my unknown future, I can confidently say I chose the right major. That in itself is a big accomplishment. I have come into my own as a writer and have developed a particular niche I excel in. I had doubted my major choice several times along the way and changed my concentration, too. Yet, now I am able to see the growth and advancement I have made in my field. This is why I remain optimistic about what the future holds. No matter what life throws my way, I know I will be able to handle it.

## Relationships

Here it is folks. It’s time for the old APU cliché: “I’m in love and I’m going to get married after I graduate.” At least, that’s how my boyfriend and I picture our relationship progressing. We have been dating for a little over two years now and have discussed getting engaged towards the three year mark, after we both graduate and, hopefully, find jobs near one another. I never thought I would be in the position I am now: in love, discussing marriage and a life beyond APU together. I guess the APU love bug is real.

I’m sure my signs of the times will continue to change and develop as time goes on — but, I have learned to embrace where I am in life right now and appreciate transformation. Growth is a beautiful thing!



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHEYENNE JIMENEZ

**“A MAN MOVES THROUGH TIME. IT MEANS NOTHING EXCEPT THAT, LIKE A HARPOON, ONCE THROWN HE WILL ARRIVE.”**

*Anne Carson*

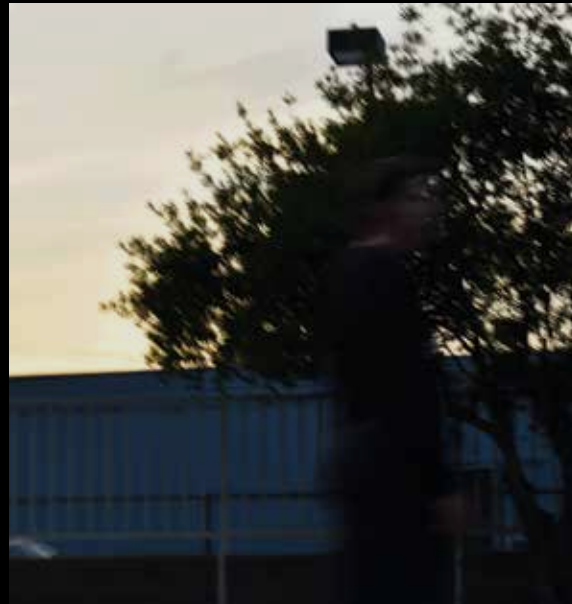


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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MICAELA RICA FORTE MANAGING EDITOR RUBY MCAULIFFE COPY EDITOR CHEYENNE JIMENEZ  
 ART DIRECTOR ABI AYALEW ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR LIZ GAETA CONTRIBUTING WRITERS BRENDA COVARRUBIAS,  
 CANDY PLASCENCIA, CORA O'SULLIVAN, HANNAH LABNOW, KELSEY ARVIDSON, MIA NISHANIAN, REID CONANT,  
 SIENNA HICKS, TAYLOR MECKLEY, EMMA WATERMAN

**TO LISTEN:**

**SONG: “CHARLIE” BY MALLRAT**

THIS ONE'S FOR MY FELLOW SADGIRL INDIE/ BEDROOM-POP ENTHUSIASTS. THINK LORDE'S “MELODRAMA” MEETS CLAIRO'S “IMMUNITY.”

**ALBUM: MICHAEL BUBLE CHRISTMAS ALBUM**

THIS ALBUM NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION.

**PODCAST: “APU ORIGINALS”**

HOSTED BY APU SENIOR JESSE FRIEDMAN, THIS PODCAST FEATURES FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS AT APU WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY EVERY DAY.

**TO EAT & DRINK:**

**RESTAURANT: SANYO SUSHI**

LOCATED JUST ONE MILE FROM APU, SANYO SUSHIOFFERS HAPPY HOUR DEALS EVERYDAY FROM 3-6 P.M.

**DRINKS: REQUIEM: COFFEE, TEA &**

**FANTASY IN ANAHEIM**

THIS FANTASY-THEMED COFFEE SHOP WILL TRANSPORT YOU TO ANOTHER WORLD. WITH ITS ETHEREAL AMBIANCE, D&D GAMING TABLES AND CREATIVE MENU (TRY THE “MANA” POTION, WHICH IS A LUSH LAVENDER LEMONADE), IT'S GUARANTEED TO BRING OUT YOUR INNER SCI-FI/FANTASY NERD.

**SWEETS: PORTO'S IN WEST COVINA**

PORTO'S IS A SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STAPLE, AND NOW, YOU CAN TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU. PORTO'S NEW “BAKE AT HOME” OPTION SHIPS NATIONWIDE SO YOU CAN HAVE THEM ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.

**TO SEE:**

**MOVIE: “QUEEN & SLIM”**

A MODERN TAKE ON BONNIE & CLYDE, THIS MOVIE IS MELANIE MATSOUKAS' DIRECTORIAL DEBUT, WRITTEN BY LEINA WAITHE, AND COMPOSED BY BLOOD ORANGE. NEED I SAY MORE?

**SHOW: “DOLLFACE” ON HULU**

KAT DENNINGS, BRENDA SONG AND SHAY MITCHELL BRING THE STAR POWER TO THIS SHOW ABOUT CELEBRATING FEMALE FRIENDSHIPS. IT'S QUIRKY, IT'S CHARMING AND THE CAST HAS A GOOD AMOUNT OF CHEMISTRY — IT'S NOT QUITE “SEX AND THE CITY,” BUT IT'LL DO.

**PLAY: “CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS”**

APU'S CHOIRS COME TOGETHER IN THIS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.

**TO DO:**

**EXPERIENCE: L.A ZOO LIGHTS**

JUST THINK: CHRISTMAS LIGHTS THREW UP ON A ZOO. AN IMMERSIVE HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE, IF YOU NEED TO GET CHRISTMASSY, THIS IS THE PLACE TO DO IT.

**SHOP: VALLEY THRIFT STORE**

A HUGE THRIFT STORE ON W. FOOTHILL BLVD. WITH A WIDE SELECTION OF CLOTHING, SHOES AND JEWELRY.

**NIGHTLIFE: BOWLERO**

**WEST COVINA**

CONTINUE HAVING FUN INTO THE A.M. WITH BOWLING AND ARCADE GAMES.

