

Who's Your Mentor?

By AWP President Mary Jo Biggers



That is the question: who *is* your mentor?

King George VI of England had a mentor! King George began his reign as a stammering ruler seeking an offbeat speech therapist who could cure his impediment. Struggling with a stutter his entire life, King George made a desperate attempt to seek help. Since you may not have seen "The King's Speech" yet, I won't reveal the story line—but I will tell you it's a classic example of mentorship hidden in an on-again-off-again relationship.

Bad situations often produce something good. And isn't the important thing *how* a person mentors? It isn't necessarily who, but it certainly can be! Mentors come and go in our lives. Children look to parents, other family members, and teachers. Many teens look at friends and the media, suppressing the opinions of those they love the most, those they later remember for their good deeds and admirable traits.

My mentors? I start with Jesus, a humble man of little earthly means, but a merciful man with a giant heart. No prejudice, hatefulness, or lofty attitude. Only loving and caring conversations with those who didn't know Him who had been severely chastised by their peers. Jesus is my example of a perfect person, showing endless grace, kindness, and faithfulness.

Many of our family members show these traits as well. Not at the same level of perfection as Jesus, of course, but loved ones encourage us to "hang in there!" They promise that "things will get better." And they regularly tell us they'll pray for us. The long list of affirmations passes through our hearts and recollections of their words help us to press on.

So, what about those people we know only for an instant who make lasting impressions? Isn't it interesting when you think about it? Someone you hardly know winds up being on your "mentor list" ...and remains there 'til the end.

As women and men who support Christian education, we hope to be mentors to the children in our church and neighborhood. Pepperdine professors and employees are perfectly positioned to mentor college students on a daily basis. To me, their roles as mentor are quite clear. But

shouldn't our roles as mentor be just as clear?

Take a moment to encourage teens—whether you know them or not—to think about going to college! You might be the only person in their world who even brings up the subject. It will surprise you when some students say, "No one has ever talked to me about that before!" But it's sadly true that many young people are not encouraged to pursue higher learning, so they need our inspiring and motivational words!

On February 20, 2011, my church is hosting a Christian Education Sunday. Our hope, as AWP members, is to have lunch with high school students and parents to give them more information about Pepperdine University and how students can pursue their dreams through higher-learning.

Many of you will also have the opportunity to hear a Pepperdine faculty or staff member speak in the pulpit during the months of January and February. Please round up your fellow AWP members and invite parents and their children to hear a message that will change their lives!

Who's the next mentor? *You!*

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

-Hebrews 13:16

Highlights from October Student Reception

It was a great day to celebrate our AWP scholarship recipients. Although it rained on our event, that did not dampen the spirits of attendees. We were happy to welcome many new students and visit with their family and friends. Our student speaker, Brendin Williamson, shared his many experiences as a student, ministry intern, and his time in Germany studying abroad. Mary Jo Biggers, AWP president, presented President Benton with a check for \$264,744 to add to the AWP Scholarship Fund.



Sally Sells Seashells by the Seashore: Fall Festival, 2010

by Laura Fehlbaum

The tongue-twister which many of us attempted as children came to life at AWP's annual Fall Festival on Friday, November 5th, hosted at Pepperdine's Malibu campus. Decorated with seashells galore, this year's event was a huge success: brimming with goods to sell, friends to catch up with, delicious food, items for bid, and dynamic speakers. As the recent recipient of an AWP scholarship, I have been to the Fall Festival a few times—but always in the role of student-worker. Although that was a fun way to show my thankfulness to the women and men of AWP, attending this year as a guest was such a wonderful experience!

Arriving in time to shop in the boutique, I enjoyed seeing all the displays, picking up some Christmas gifts, mingling with the other shoppers, and purchasing a few Christmas decorations for my new apartment. Among the things for sale were jewelry, ornamental boxes, antiques, fresh Julian apple pies, handmade crafts, and beautiful artwork. When the doors to the luncheon were opened, I entered and began perusing the special auction items like a gorgeous quilt made by our AWP president, Mary Jo Biggers, and even a Coach purse.

Soon after, we were seated at the beach-themed tables, complete with individual boxes of mint molded into seashell shapes to take home! During a lunch of gourmet salad and delectable dessert, we listened intently as Ed Biggers shared from his heart about what Pepperdine has meant to him and his late wife Joan. The stories he shared were powerful and made me think about what I could do (even as a recent graduate) to boost what I can give back to the University to help other students succeed. One of the students Mr. Biggers helped to bring to Pepperdine, Anthony Sciubba, also spoke

on how Pepperdine has changed his life and set him on the path to becoming a professor.

As lunch wrapped up, I felt truly blessed to be a participant in such a special event. Almost 75 women and men gathered that day under the banner of one cause: raising financial aid for Christian students to pursue their education at Pepperdine. A few weeks later when the books were totaled, AWP announced that the Fall Festival made \$5,281 to go directly toward scholarships to Church of Christ students. I hope that we can continue "selling seashells by the seashore" for many years to come since the Fall Festival helps so many students—and is as fun as a day at the beach to boot!



Memberships

*AWP memberships help support Christian education.
On behalf of our students at Pepperdine,
thank you for your membership.*

NEW MEMBERS

Debbie Jo Adkins, 9
Erin Carrillo, 36
Laura Fehlbaum, 7
Marla Israel, 25
Henry McNulty, 34

LIFE MEMBERS

Ruth Miller, 23
Barbara Trandal, 31

*The number next to each name denotes the district number
they are assigned to.*

Highlights from Fall Festival



**You can view a short video of the day's events at
www.pepperdine.edu/awp.**



AWP General Meeting & Little Women

February 26, 2011



This year's event will include our General Meeting and reception followed by Pepperdine's Opera, *Little Women*

30 tickets for *Little Women*: First come, first served
Cost: \$30 for full evening events

5:00 p.m. AWP General Meeting and Reception
7:30 p.m. *Little Women* opera

AWP General Meeting & Little Women RSVP by February 16, 2011

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

- I would like to attend the full evening events, including *Little Women* (\$30)
- I would like to attend just the General Meeting, excluding *Little Women* (\$15)
- I would like to attend just the evening performance of *Little Women* (\$15)
 - Enclosed is my check payable to Associated Women for Pepperdine in the amount of \$ _____
 - Please charge my credit card for the amount of \$ _____ for _____ reservations.
Visa/MasterCard # _____ Exp. Date _____
- I cannot attend. Please accept my donation of \$ _____

Mail to: Tami Williamson, AWP, 24255 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, CA 90263-4567

AWPCalendar

Feb. 5, 2011, 5-6:30 p.m.

Bakersfield Soup Dinner
Westside Church of Christ

Feb. 26, 2011, 5 p.m.

General Meeting, Pepperdine
Little Women, 7:30 p.m.

May 3-6, 2011

Bible Lectures
Pepperdine University

May 3, 2011, 4:15 p.m.

AWP Opening Night Dinner
Guest Speaker: Emily Spivey

May 26-28, 2011

Associated Women for
Christian Education
Conference
Hosted by Pepperdine

What's COOKING?

Associated Women for Christian Education

Annual Conference

May 26-28, 2011

Hosted by Pepperdine University

For information visit www.pepperdine.edu/awp

COME MIX IT UP WITH US!

Gifts *In Memory*

We mourn the loss of our members and friends who have been faithful to help us continue our work for the students of Pepperdine University.

Eloise Drake

John Drake	Shirley Levy
Ann Hannel	Margaret Merritt
Emily Hays	Donna Murray
Carole Jones	Emily Pownall
	June Schiller

Barbara Schlosser
F. LaGard Smith
John & Claudette Wilson
Richard & Jennifer Ver Steeg

LINDA M. GAGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jean Ogsbury

AWPPeople

Serving Students at Pepperdine University

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*Mary Jo Biggers, Laura Fehlbaum, and
Tami Williamson*

Don't forget to visit the AWP web site at:

www.pepperdine.edu/AWP



In Memoriam

We are saddened to report that the following AWP members passed away. They will truly be missed

Eloise Drake
September 9, 2010

Faye English
October 16, 2010

Sararuth Grimes
November 27, 2010

Student Profile



Won by One's 2002 summer tour made quite an impression on one young woman at the Boulder Valley Church of Christ in Boulder, Colorado. **Kelly Larson** had never heard of Pepperdine University before, but she was absolutely enthralled by the welcoming members of the a capella group and the brochures that told about the University. From then on, she was determined to find a way to come study at the beach. Kelly is now a junior at Pepperdine, majoring in public relations and minoring in psychology. She spent her sophomore year in Florence, Italy and was able to visit Israel—a "life-changing experience" in her own words.

Here in Malibu, she stays busy with many co-curricular activities. In the University Church of Christ's Campus Ministry, Kelly serves as worship intern. And in addition to being the vice president of the Pi Beta Phi sorority, she will lead as a producer in her sorority's part of the annual Songfest program this spring. She has also welcomed many new faces to campus as a coordinator for New Student Orientation week. Some of the things Kelly appreciates most about being at Pepperdine are the opportunities to strengthen and grow in her faith as well as the occasions to reach out to minister to others. "I love Pepperdine so much and am so grateful for the generous financial support that allows me to attend college here, especially from AWP! Pepperdine has only surpassed my expectations of what I imagined my college experience to be."



Yes! I want to encourage Christian students at Pepperdine University.

Circle One: Mr. Mrs. Miss Dr.

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail Address _____

Type of membership requested:

- Annual Member New Renewal for District No. _____
 - AWP Member \$50 annually
 - AWP Fellow \$50 annually
 - AWP Student \$10 annually
- Life Member \$250 or to upgrade
- Patron Member \$500 or to upgrade
- *Helen or George Pepperdine Member \$1,000
- *Helen M. or M. Norvel Young Member \$5,000

*Pepperdine Associates annual contribution can be applied to AWP membership by request.

Payment may be made by check to **Pepperdine University** or credit card.

Payment Method: Check Credit Card

Charge my: VISA MasterCard American Express

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ / _____

Signature _____

Your contribution is tax deductible

Q: Where can I find out information about AWP?

A: www.pepperdine.edu/awp

**You can always contact the office for information or questions
about upcoming events, membership, or gifts:**

310.506.4567 or tami.williamson@pepperdine.edu