The SEMI (1991-2000)

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Fuller Theological Seminary

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A Vision of Excellence

Tall, lean and confident, Sherwood Lingenfelter, the new dean of School of World Mission, exudes leadership. Lingenfelter comes across as a leader with a clear objective and the discipline and drive to achieve it. He wants to build up SWM faculty and restore Fuller as the must-attend mission seminary. The dean, who started his post in July after serving as a provost at Biola for 11 years, recently met with the SEMI and spoke about his vision in leading the SWM into the 21st Century.

Lingenfelter Continued on page 4

SEMI: You have spent the past few months getting to know faculty, staff and others. What are some of your assessments of SWM?
SL: It's a wonderful group of people. There are people with distinctive gifts and skills. It has a potential to be a great faculty.

SEMI: Can you describe some of those gifts?
SL: You have Chuck Van Engen who is one of the premiere theologians of missions in the world. You have Dudley Woodberry who is probably one of the two or three top Islamic scholars in the evangelical community. You have Bobby Clinton who has done creative, innovative things in leadership. You have Chuck Kraft who has been in the forefront of this transformation of focus from the technological aspect of church growth to spiritual aspect of church growth. Each of these represents areas of potential for great excellence. So what you have here is a group of people whom in their personal scholarship is exceptional, but they are alone. We have the potential for excellence, but we do not have the faculty to get us there. So looking at the future what I would want to do is to try to bring along faculty support for these distinguished scholars to enable us to be the place of first choice for these areas of excellence. And for us to be the place of first choice what we have to do is bring on faculty who can be partners with these excellent people.

SEMI: What about some of the weaknesses you have seen?

LINGENFELTER Continued on page 4
Charged by New Students

By Greg Parker

There was something in the air—you could almost taste it. It was not the September smog but rather something almost electric. I talked with others who were here last year at this time and they sensed it too. We concluded that the same electricity was in the air last year when we descended upon the Fuller campus as new students. That was it! There was anticipation of something new in the air—the smell of new students.

During the week of Sept. 20-24, most of which I spent somewhere on campus, a few hundred new students from throughout the world and the United State descended upon the Fuller campus, some for the very first time. Some of the students have grown up here in Southern California and others recently arrived from their homeland. This group has never been together but a call to ministry has brought them here. They now have Fuller in common.

I had the privilege of being on the crew for the Welcome Week, sponsored by the Office of Student Services, that helped orient new students to Fuller and Southern California (a tough transition for anyone, especially us from Northern California.) Along with the Welcome Week crew duties, I am also a Barnabas partner, helping to make the transition to Fuller smoother for new students. What a week it was—full of fun, food, information and new people. I was in my element.

Of all that happened during the Welcome Week, my favorite memories come from the first day that all of the new students arrived at Fuller. On the morning of Sept. 21, I was stationed at one of the first tables, handing out binders full of information to the new students. It was an opportunity to welcome new students and be one of the first people they met. I watched as they walked down Oakland Avenue toward the school, some alone, others with family and friends. At the end of that walk was the entrance to the Lawn—the closing of one chapter and the beginning of a new one in their lives. What a place to be, watching this happen. This may not seem like a significant event to many, but the students began something new here and I personally began to make connections with them. The seeds of friendship were planted.

There were many other highlights during the week for me: giving the campus tours and tips on life at Fuller, having dinner in Old Town with the group I led down there, meeting my Barnabas group, having dessert with the theology faculty and new students, doing a little dance after the barbecue on Sept. 24, and sitting in the Catalyst on Sept. 21 with a small group of students who all had Iowa in common. (Don’t ask, I didn’t.)

It was one of those weeks that went by in a blur. I was on the go full speed most of the time. Looking back I cannot express how wonderful it was to be a part of the crew that welcomed the new students here. As we all sit in classes together let’s remember that anticipation, potential and electricity that was in the air when we first arrived at Fuller, and try to seek the Lord this year as we turn that potential into a reality.

Greg Parker takes a hands-on approach to greeting new students during orientation. Above, Greg perfects his skills on fellow worker Twyla O’Callaghan.

Greg Parker is a second-year M.Div. student. As a Welcome Week crew member, Greg was everywhere on campus. And he says he will probably keep showing up all over the campus throughout the year. Born and bred in NoCal, 30 miles south of San Francisco, Greg is a passive 49ers fan.
Why Is ‘Community’ so Elusive?

By Deepak M. Babu

The Summer 2 issue of the SEMI was dedicated to the idea of community at Fuller. On page 5, six students responded to the question “If you live (or lived) in Fuller housing, what impact has it had on your seminary experience?” One of the responses was mine, the only one with negative implications. Let me explain.

The question posed to me concerned how Fuller housing affected my seminary experience. When I hear the phrase “seminary experience,” I think especially about academics because learning from the people at Fuller is the foremost reason I am not currently in India. So when a question such as the one above is posed to me, I think of how my experiences at Fuller housing have been integrated into my learning at Fuller. In other words, is the place where I live and the place where I learn located in such an environment where one can affect and be affected by the other?

I still have to say that the question is moot. In my opinion, Fuller’s current structure makes it concretely opposed to community formation despite the well-intentioned efforts of many people on campus, for whom I have the greatest respect. Fuller is structured as a commuter seminary. This is evident from the statistics on page 4 of the Summer 2 issue. Most of the students do not live in Fuller housing. This makes Fuller housing a non-integral part of the entire seminary experience.

This is also evident in the sidebar on page 1 of the issue. The editor concludes his article, “But if I could not commute, I probably would not be a student.” I realize that this is probably because he has a home church where he has a current ministry. And these are very good things in themselves. Yet, his words reveal the tension that Fuller faces.

On one hand, we desire freedom for our students. Is it possible to avoid uprooting people from their current ministries and still have them enroll at Fuller? The SEMI editor has managed to do this, but expresses remorse that he is unable to experience community at Fuller. SWM has recently started providing classes on the Web. So a person in India could enroll at Fuller without leaving hearth and home.

On the other hand, we want to develop community at Fuller. What do we mean when we say this? Are we longing for an arena where we can all be just congenial? Is that community? Or are we looking to form a group of people who are important to each other, who affect and direct each other’s lives? If it is the former, this article need never have been written.

However, if we long for the latter, we need to understand that we are using the word “community” in the way many people use the word “family.” I must, at this point, acknowledge my indebtedness to the Fuller environment for making me invest meaning in the word “community.” In India, we do not use “community” but we do use “family” in much the same way and with much the same expectations as I now associate with “community.” It is family that affects us and shapes us the most. Our parents, our siblings, our aunts and uncles, our nieces and nephews, our grandparents and grandchildren are the ones who shape our lives, who help define our priorities, who make mind-boggling sacrifices for our benefit. Now, I understand that this is not how many of us have experienced family. For quite a few of us family was the place of abuse and hurt. This, however, should not detract from our definition of what family ought to be. We should be bold enough to acknowledge that our families were and are fallen and distorted versions of God’s original purpose. And we should be caring enough to create a new family in which all of us can learn anew what family ought to be like.

This kind of community necessitates a smaller emphasis on the convenience of the individual. To impact each other’s lives in lasting ways, we need an environment where we tend for each other in sickness, rejoice with each other in health, lament together in times of loss and dance together at the slightest gain. Such a locus of sharing can only be had when we share kitchens, when we eat at the same table. This I believe is the intent behind the Lord’s Supper, which is originally part of a larger meal commemorating the shared life of God and His people.

When I speak of this kind of sharing in this kind of family, I cannot see it happen as long as Fuller remains a commuter seminary. And the classes on the Web, though on the technological cutting edge, are a strong indicator.
VOICES

Question for the week: What has been your most significant impression of Fuller. (This question was posed to new full time employees.)

Jay Thompson, ODR and Career Services

I have been very impressed so with the friendliness of everyone and the openness to meet and receive new people. Diversity is welcome, making me feel accepted no matter what my background. I hope that all new students have been received and welcomed as I have. Fuller is a special place—I feel that already and I look forward to the next five plus years here.

Wendy Walker, Director of Operations - SWM

My first impression of Fuller is that everyone is very warm and welcoming—there seems to be a spirit of caring among staff and students.

Rich Beaton, Asst. Prof. of N.T., SOT

Although there have been numerous experiences thus far, I think my overriding impression from faculty, staff and students is of an academic community with a profound spirituality. This was particularly evident at the faculty/staff breakfast gathering and during the faculty retreat. This blend of academic and spirituality has only confirmed my excitement at being here.

LINGENFELTER: New Deane

Continued from page 3

SL: The weakness is that we are just spread way too thin. We are trying to do too many things with too few people. So even though you have exceptional people, they are not super humans. They are being asked to do too much. The temptation is to try to do everything and if you try to do everything you won’t be excellent in anything.

SEMI: Others say that you have a very good leadership style. Can you tell me about your philosophy of leadership?

SL: I suppose that one thing I have learned in working in leadership in the last decade is that the power that you have is the people whom you have empowered to do the work... The leader is to bring together the right people to empower them to do the task and provide support so they can accomplish what they have been gifted to do. So it’s not going to be me who is exceptional. They increase, and I have to be behind the scene. They are going to be the stars. If I can accomplish my job, Fuller will not be known because of its dean. Fuller will be known because of its exceptional faculty members who have been empowered to do the things they have been gifted to do.

SEMI: How has your philosophy been developed?

SL: Through a lot of frustrations. Through trying to do things that never worked. I have learned that the way to really get significant things to happen is to identify people who have a burning desire to do these significant things. Then come alongside them, empower them and help them to do that. You provide a context in which they flourish. So truly it comes out of frustration and failure in not being able to get things done.

SEMI: How do you go about identifying a person's gift or passion? Is there a checklist or a method you have developed?

SL: No checklist. Probably the most important thing is wise counsel. The most critical factor in any process is the character of the people. I have seen gifted people who have great potential but character flaws who don’t make it. They don’t live up to their potential because of the character issues. If I have learned one lesson about the selection of people it is to wait until you have people you are confident are right in mind and character for the work that God is calling you to do. I had a dean at Biola who was extremely gifted in this. He refused to fill a faculty position until he had a person he was confident was right in gifting and character. Sometimes his faculty was frustrated and said, “Hey we don’t have the support we need.” But he knew that to bring along someone who wasn’t right just created more problems for the school in the long haul.

SEMI: Sounds like you need a lot of patience to wait for that right person.

SL: That’s right. You do. To me you need to be flexible and open-ended so you do not lock yourself in and say, “I have to have this kind of person this year.” If I cannot find that person this year, I do not fill that position this year. I’ll keep on looking until the Lord gives me that right person.

SEMI: Building up faculty will take budget concerns. What are you doing to help ensure that SWM will be in position to hire another faculty member?

SL: There are three significant things I need to do. The first one is to evaluate strategically how we are using our resources. How can we change the way we do business to put more money into faculty? I already have my staff thinking about that, talking about that, looking at what we can do to put more money into faculty.

The second thing we need to do is develop and implement a strategic plan to communicate and recruit the people who God is calling to come to SWM. When
Weeks to Take SWM to the Top

SWM started in 1965, there was very little competition. Today, many of our graduates are our competitors. They are starting master’s programs all over the country. We no longer can rely on the fact that we are the only country. We no longer can rely on the fact that we are the first. I don’t think we are that right now. People don’t see Fuller as the place of first choice. Strategic marketing is first of all to produce a product here that is exceptional. Then to communicate to our potential constituency here we are and here is what we have to offer, and you should come.

The third thing we need to do is make sure that we deliver because our best advertisement is our graduates. If we improve the effectiveness of our education so that our graduates go away saying wow this was an incredible experience at Fuller, then our revenue will continue. Like you said, you have to have money to do the job. People have to eat. The faculty has to have a salary. So my goal is to have what we do here be of sufficiently high quality that people say, “Yes I got what I paid for.” I would like them to say, “I got more than what I paid for.”

We are going to continue working on fund raising. But you cannot honestly expect that Fuller will be able to accomplish its mission through donated fund.

SEMI: You are an anthropologist by trade, but you will lead missionaries. How will your background help your job?
SL: Every place has its own culture. If you don’t learn how to work within that culture, then you will be working against it. Being an anthropologist, one of the things that I hope I have learned is how to decipher the culture and understand how it works, and then work effectively in it. I don’t always even like every culture that I have to work with. Some of them create more pain for me than others. There’s always a question, how much of this culture is really a match for who you are and can you work effectively in it.

Because of my cultural experience, I have found that I can adapt to many different cultural systems. I think that my flexibility is increased because of my intellectual experience. My ability to learn, study and understand a culture is influenced by my anthropological background and experience. My ability to create out of the culture systems there comes out of that anthropological background and experience. What I try to do is to create from that culture instead of imposing a new one on it. Things really take off only when they are rooted in the cultural experience of the people whom you are working with.

SEMI: You will teach missionaries. But you are the first dean who has not been a missionary. How will you add to SWM as someone who has not been a missionary?
SL: Well, it all depends on your definition of a missionary. If you define a missionary as somebody who has gone out with a mission agency and spent one term at a particular field as a missionary, then no, I am not a missionary. But if you define a missionary as someone who is called of God to bring the Gospel to the people who are across cultures, I feel called to do that. I have been in more cultures that most missionaries. I have done more substantive learning in more cultures than most missionaries. My calling is to missions. My calling is to serve the Lord as an anthropologist, equipping people and going with people in cross-culture ministries. I do not apologize for the experiences that God has given me. If some people do not find them to be credible, that’s their problem, not mine. I am who God made me. I am here to serve Him with whatever I can.

SEMI: So would it be fair to say that you consider yourself a missionary?
SL: Yes. Otherwise, I would not have come here.
COMMUNITY: Why Is It so Elusive?

Continued from page 3

cation that Fuller is really not committed to the development of the kind of community in which we feel deeply the loss of every member who leaves, and the gain of every member who arrives. After all, how can one be personally affected and transformed by another person who is never seen, whose laugh is never heard, whose tears lack their saline moistness because all the interaction is in this nebulous universe known as cyberspace?

I know that for many commuter students it would be impossible given their current situations to come to Fuller were it a residential school. I do not intend to devalue in any way their contribution to God's mission to humans. I do not wish to cast aspersions on their faithfulness and commitment. I just want us to be aware that there are many who have uprooted their moorings to come to Fuller. They have left familiar territories to be here. They have distanced themselves physically from their loved ones.

In our talk of community, have we accounted for this? In drawing them to Fuller, does Fuller have a responsibility to provide them with a new family?

If not, we should be forthright about it and dispense with lofty speech about community for then there would be no institutional commitment to the development of the kind of community these students have left to be at Fuller. It is like offering a soda to one yearning for water. The soda is sweet for sure and quite cool. But, in the long run, it does not refresh. If, however, Fuller does have a responsibility to these students, Fuller will have to become a residential seminary. The classes on the Web will have to end, for anyone who has left home to be here will know that no amount of technological advancement can fill the void of an unseen smile on the face of one you love.

Fuller has reached a crucial crossroads. We can either move purposefully toward developing a community of the kind I have envisioned above. It will involve changes. It will mean making sacrifices. It might mean paring down the entire seminary population from the administrators to the staff, from the professors to the students. It will mean rejecting the sometimes seductive call of technology. Just because something is possible, does not mean it must become part of our vision. On the other hand, we can continue to move in the direction we are. We can embrace technology and all the conveniences it can provide us. But if we choose this latter option, let us not fool ourselves and the future prospective students! We would then be embracing a seminary defined by congeniality, not community.

Deepak Babu is an international student from India who has lived in the United States since 1992. His dream is to see a united church that explores the spirituality and thought forms of the cultures of the world so as to make Jesus understandable in and crucial to these cultures. He and his wife, Alice, plan to return to India to continue their service of God.

Letters to the Editor

The SEMI welcomes expressions of all views. Please be brief. All submissions are subject to editing for length, grammar, and clarity. They must include valid mailing address and telephone number, used only for verification. No anonymous submissions allowed in the Letters section. Submit your letters to the SEMI office on the second floor of the Catalyst or email them to semi-editor@dept.fuller.edu.

Financial Aid

- For your convenience, the Office of Financial Aid will be open until 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday of the first two weeks of the quarter. After the first two weeks, we will return to our regular office hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Loan disbursements will be automatically deposited into your student account, and then after your tuition and fees are paid, any remaining funds will be mailed to your home address.
- Drowning in debt? Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Los Angeles will be conducting an informative seminar “Wisely Using and Reducing Debt” October 14 from 1:30-2:30. Location TBA. Don’t miss it!
Installation Address
Oct. 13 from 10 to 10:50 a.m.
Joel H. Hunt, Ph.D., will deliver his installation address at the First Congregational Church.
Reservations are not necessary. For more information, call the Office of the Dean, SOT, at 584-5300.

Army Chaplain Candidate Program
Oct. 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Want an excellent summer ministry, great compensation and opportunity to “Be all that you can be?” Be a part of the Army Reserve Chaplain Candidate program. Chaplain Steve Szasa, chaplain recruiter for the western states, will be in the Garth to give details.

Crop Walk
Oct. 17 @ 1 p.m.
You are invited to participate in the Crop Walk. This fund-raiser involves a 10-mile walk in solidarity with the world’s poor who go the distance every day for food and water. For more information call Sandra Chapman at sasa@fuller.edu

Human Rights Violations in Israel
Oct. 19 @ noon
Israel is establishing control over its ancestral home at the expense of Palestinians who are being forced into homelessness and poverty. Prof. Fred Bush will discuss the situation, and the Christian response. Come and find out what’s going on. Location TBA.

Installation Address
Oct. 20 from 10-10:50 a.m.
Charles H. Kraft is being installed into the Sun Hee Kwak Chair of Global Mission at the First Congregational Church. All are welcome.

CAMPUS EVENTS

CAMPUS EVENTS

Last Harvest Festival of the Millennium
Oct. 29 on the Lawn
The last Harvest Festival of the Millennium is coming soon!!! It’s the LARGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR! There’s food for adults, games for kids, and entertainment for all to enjoy! Keep the evening of Oct. 29 available for THE event of the MILLENNIUM (or at least for 1999)

Come Pray With Us
Every Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m.
We form a pipeline of God’s blessing to the nations through prayer. Join us as we intercede for God’s work around the world every Thursday in the Geneva Room. All are welcome.

ON THE LAWN

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hospital Internship
Chaplain Carmen Blair, M.Div., is offering a hospital internship at Queen of Angels Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center during the Fall Quarter. (This is a 2-unit F546 Field Education course.) The internship emphasizes spiritual care training and includes work in intensive care, emergency, oncology and general medicine. If interested, call Chaplain Blair at (323) 913-4863 or Gary Purtee at 584-5377.

Childcare Needed
Fuller Student SUPPORT Class needs preschool and nursery workers for supervised activities on Wednesdays only from 8:45 to 11:45 a.m. Pay is $20 week. Call Simone Baroldy at 744-0371.

Call for Students: Information and contact for various denominations, meetings and chapels, faith/ belief statements, ordination requirements and denominational liaisons. The ODR also provides reference materials, including denominational magazines, regional and national church directory, denominational handbooks, Yearbook of American and Canadian churches and a listing of local churches. The ODR is on the first floor of the Madison House, 584-5387.

Community Life Center
Are you a parent with a junior high (7th-8th grade) or high school (9th-12th grade) student looking for a place to belong? Fuller’s Residential Community has started youth clubs for these age groups. We meet every Friday from 4-6 p.m. at the Madison House (289 N. Madison). Call Douglas Kenoti Meme at 405-0154 for more information.

Typists needed
The Office of Student Development has immediate openings for assistance with typing for students with disabilities. Applications are available in the OSD. Fast and accurate typing skills are necessary, as well as the ability to work with others. For more information, call Colin Adams at 584-5439.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LIBRARY
COME and get acquainted with Fuller’s McAlister Library and its Staff. The following sessions are opportunities for you to learn of the many resources and services available on site as well as through the Library’s Web pages to you as a Fuller student. General Orientation Sessions: Open to New and Returning Students:

Mon. 10/11: 8:30-9 p.m.
Wed. 10/13: 5:5-5:30 p.m.
Fri. 10/15: 1:11:30p.m. and 2:2-30 p.m.
Meet at the Reference Desk 5 minutes before the session is scheduled to begin.

Cokesbury Christian Bookstore
Is Here For You!!!
Offering leading Christian titles and a variety of ministry aids, Cokesbury offers you everything you need to enhance your church ministry as well as your personal spiritual growth.

Save 20% on most items in the store with your Fuller Student I.D.

Cokesbury Bookstore
117 North Lake Avenue
(626)796-5773
This section of the SEMI is for the announcement of events or services not directly offered by a Fuller office or organization. For information about rates, contact the SEMI at (626)584-5430. Note: Each person is responsible for checking on the quality and type of service before contracting or using it. The SEMI and Office of Student Services do not personally recommend or guarantee any of the services listed.

SERVICES

Lake Avenue Church Creative Arts Academy is pleased to announce to the Fuller community the beginning of its fall semester of Kindermusik classes for children from infancy to 5 years old. Kindermusik is a wholistic approach to early childhood music education that contributes significantly to your child's musical, physical, social, emotional and cognitive development, while aiding language development and nurturing listening skills. Call Christine for more information: 356-2113 or ccm@fuller.edu.

Foothill Smog & Auto Repair: Smog inspection & repairs, air condition service, computer system, diagnosis, electrical repairs, guaranteed repairs, certified technician, tel. 577-6646, fax 577-5836.

Lawyers at Fuller??? Yes. The local chapter of the Christian Legal Society, which includes lawyers attending Fuller as well as those in active practice in the Pasadena area, meets monthly across the street from the seminary at the University Club. For more information, call Rita Rowland at 584-5484.

Need a typist, transcriber or editor? Simply bring me your papers, reports, etc. I'll give you the personal touch. LOW rates. 15 years of experience. Call Robbie at (626) 791-1855.

Announcing three therapy groups facilitated by Sam Alibrando, Ph.D. 1. Mixed-gender Interpersonal growth group; 2. Mental Health Professionals therapy group; and 3. Sex Addiction recovery group. Dr. Alibrando has led numerous groups and specialized in work with all three populations. 577-8303.

Christians need cars too! SIDCO Auto Brokers serves Christian Colleges, Missions, Staff/Students/Alumni. This is our 12th year serving only the Christian community. Fuller hotline (909) 949-2778 or 1-800-429-KARS. “A good name is chosen rather than riches.” Proverbs 22:1

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION
Students requesting accommodation for eligible disabilities should call Colin Adams in the Office of Student Development. For more information, call 584-5439.

NEED A DJ/MC FOR YOUR WEDDING RECEPTION, PARTY, OR SPECIAL EVENT?
SOUND ON THE ROCK specializing in Disc Jockey services
• 15% Discount to Fuller Community
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• Call for Appt., Rates, Dates Available

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M.Div. student
(949) 874-4767 (cellular)
(949) 733-3363 (voice)

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Work hard for a great cause!
October 21–24, 1999

Join up as a volunteer (44–hours) or crew member (3–4–days) for Avon’s Breast Cancer 3-day walkathon from Santa Barbara to Malibu. Our own Laura Simmons is walking in the 3-day, and she’d love to see familiar faces along the way!

E-mail Laura at LSimm87803@aol.com or call (626)584-5282 for more information. Laura spent four days after graduation “crewing” Avon’s Chicago walk and highly recommends the experience!

Or call the walkathon office directly at (310)450-5015 and ask for Kelly (volunteer director) or Marianne (crew director). Thanks for your involvement!!

Worship Leader/Director Opening

Calvary Community Church, Pasadena
Duties: lead practice, Sunday morning preparation and worship
Strong vocal and keyboard/guitar skills necessary
Hours and compensation are negotiable.

Several other internships available.

Please contact Pastor Mike Chalberg
(626) 796-3146 or
Suzanne Behrmann at seedlings@compuserve.com