

the BRIDGE

*Bridging Cultures
for Christ*



The Networking Classroom: "Networking Cultures for Christ"

The church has always been about networking. Evangelism, discipleship, love—its all about people connecting with people and sharing the truth. Although today, with 42.9 million cell phones, 4.6 million Internet users, all firing endless gigabytes of information to and from the tiny archipelago that 96.1 million Filipinos call home*... networking has become emphasized like never before.

This semester, APNTS has seen the beginnings of new opportunities for networking around the world with the recent opening of "The Networking Classroom." This high-tech classroom provides twelve desktop computers connected to the Internet for dynamic classroom activities, wireless Internet access for laptops, video conferencing with other colleges and universities in the region and beyond, classroom collaboration as well as a multi-media teaching station.

APNTS Professor Rovina Hatcher, with help from the Asia-Pacific Resource Center (APRC), has been leading the "Networking Classroom" project on the third floor of the Nielson Center; Hatcher emphasizes that "Networking is what the internationalism of the church is all about—the dynamic interflow of ideas from one place to another within the whole body of Christ" She notes the great importance for seminary students



Photo: Jarrett Davis



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APNTS Professor Rovina Hatcher assists a student in the newly opened Networking Classroom.

in the Asia-Pacific region to have access to the same resources as their colleagues in the other parts of the world and to be able to share their ideas in an equivalent manner. Hatcher notes that she sees a great deal of potential for the networking that starts here at APNTS, to be continued by the graduates in their future ministries. 🌐

*[Statistical data taken from: "The World Factbook" found at www.CIA.gov.]

Engaging the NOW: Cyber Mission

With an audience of 500 million active users checking out spiritual and religious sites, the Internet represents a vast new frontier for missions. APNTS professor Robert Donahue notes that these numbers are only the beginning as usage is expected to double in the next five years. "This is a seismic change that is now taking place in the computer world."

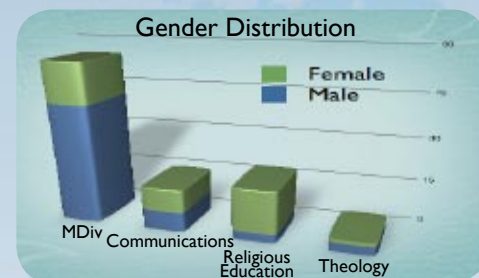
With these "seismic changes" must come equally powerful changes in the way the church goes about missions. "Cyber Missions" has become the working definition for a new frontier in missions that intends to take advantage of the valuable resources provided by the Internet. Cyber-communities such as Facebook and Friendster, as well as blog-rings, and even face-to-face video chatting are only widening the horizons for missions in the 21st century. Cyber Missions means the opening of doors that have long been closed to the gospel. Donahue notes, "Currently, there are more than 40 nations in the world where Cyber Missions could become the main way of doing missions due to the restriction of traditional means." With the Internet's rapid growth and seemingly unlimited potential, Cyber Mission provides a new evolution for an age old commission to "go and make disciples."

APNTS Fast Facts

Even before the historic "merger" 100 years ago in Pilot Point, the Church of the Nazarene encouraged both men and women to pursue God's calling into ministry. Phineas Bresee, the Church's Founder, is often quoted saying, "Some of our best 'men' are women!" This passion has crossed history and cultures, continuing to be lived out in the ranks of those studying at APNTS.

Of the ten Nazarene members of the teaching faculty, four are women--all of whom are fully ordained in the Church of the Nazarene.

Here is a look at a gender break-down of the students currently seeking degrees at APNTS.



What Does Your Computer Do For You?

How do you use your computer? To write e-mails? Shop online? Or maybe to keep up-to-date with family and friends? How about to save lives—or to preserve the innocence of a child? If you are like most people... this is probably not on the daily computing agenda. However, this is exactly the aim of recent endeavors at APNTS.

For many in the world, learning computer skills means jobs, security, and hope for a better life. To combat the growing problem of trafficking of teen-age girls and young women, APNTS is partnering with Philippine Children's Ministry Network, other non-government organizations, and Microsoft's Community Technology Skills Program in step-UP (Stop Trafficking and Exploitation of People with [Microsoft's] Unlimited Potential—Community Technology Skills Program). The goal of step-UP is to offer technology and life-skills training to help integrate disadvantaged youth into the work force, and avoid the tragedy of trafficking.

Human trafficking is a major concern in the Philippines. Children and young women are trafficked from the rural areas to the cities and areas abroad for sexual exploitation and often forced into domestic labor and work in factories. Sometimes they come out of their own volition with promises of "big" money but later are exploited. The government and NGOs estimate that upwards of 400,000 women and 100,000 children are trafficked abroad from the Philippines [Source: humantrafficking.org].

Through partnership in this program, APNTS hopes to assist in bringing holistic restoration as well as divine redemption to abused or potentially traf-



Photo: Jarrett Davis

ficked youth. Microsoft is providing the curriculum and software licenses for Community Technology Centers in local organizations committed to providing training for youth. In addition, graduates will receive a certificate from Microsoft indicating their proficiency in the courses attended.

"We want to reach our community as a part of our outreach program, being relevant to [their] needs..." says Calm Mijares, a member of the ad hoc committee for this partnership. "Computer literacy certificate sponsorship is a way of helping and providing for those children in need, giving them opportunity to find work in spite of their difficulties."

The first level of the Microsoft curriculum involving computing fundamentals, word processing, presentation skills, and spreadsheet fundamentals was held on September 19 in the newly opened Networking Classroom. A follow-up two-day workshop for trainers is scheduled on November 13-14 at APNTS and will include digital media fundamentals, Internet, web design, and database fundamentals.

APNTS 25th Anniversary Celebration

This November, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary is celebrating its 25th Anniversary!

This four-day event will include visits from our former presidents, alumni and more!

Events Include:

NOVEMBER 17

Fairbanks International School of Communication Re-Christening Ceremony

NOVEMBER 18

Foundation Day Celebration

NOVEMBER 18-20

Anniversary Celebration

NOVEMBER 20

Inauguration of the 5th President of APNTS, Floyd T. Cunningham, Ph.D.



campus NEWS FEED

Leaders "Converge" at APNTS

On September 22nd, APNTS saw a historic first "convergence" of leaders from around the Asia-Pacific region. Student leaders from Visayan Nazarene Bible College, Luzon Nazarene Bible College, Korea Nazarene University, and APNTS came together for dialogue and the enhancement of their leadership skills. Resource persons from APNTS faculty and the Nazarene Philippine Field Office shared various useful topics aimed at honing leadership skills and abilities. The diverse gathering saw representation from Korea, Japan, USA, and locales from all over the Philippine Islands. Many students gave their



Photo: Jarrett Davis

testimonies of coming to Christ and shared their stories of experiences in student leadership, providing a wealth of information and a great perspective on leadership.

Metro-Manila District Celebrates the Centennial at APNTS

October 5th marked a historic event for the Church of the Nazarene. Around the world in hundreds of languages, the Church celebrated its 100th Birthday. Joining in the celebration, nearly 3,000 people from the Metro Manila District gathered on the grounds of APNTS for a Centen-



Photo: Jarrett Davis



Photo: Beverly Gruver

nial celebration lasting late into the evening. Churches from around the district performed with cultural song and dance. The evening included a Centennial message from Dr. Geneva Silvernail, reflecting on the past 100 years, and offering a commission for the next 100. The celebration concluded with a prayer of support and rededication of local youth and church leaders, and Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" Chorus sung by a 100-voice choir.

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