



LABI Library October 2024 Newsletter

Past, Present, and Future

Interview with Jonathan Peña

One of the strengths of LABI College is hiring alumni as staff and in some cases faculty. Last year, I interviewed several alumni such as Victoria Perez Rivera and our own PK. This month, I asked Jonathan Peña, LABI Director of Enrollment, about his own experiences as a student here as well as his decision to pursue a master's degree.



The first question was whether he had any fond memories of the library. Jonathan replied: *“I have some really good memories of the library! When I started at LABI, I was commuting, so I’d spend a lot of time there between classes. In the fall, I loved studying in the Joel Torres Writing Center because it felt super cozy. Once spring came and it started getting warmer, I’d head to the front of the library for the A/C—it was always nice and cool. My favorite moments were studying for midterms with friends and having some great conversations about what we were learning or just life in general.”*

LABI College is offering more four year degree programs such as Psychology and Business Administration. Sometimes second and third year students might think that the end is too far away; or that a BA is all that they need. I asked Jonathan about his decision to pursue a higher degree. His response:

When I started at LABI, I honestly thought a bachelor’s degree would be all I needed and wanted. I loved everything I studied and felt pretty content with that. But then, when I realized

that a master's degree was actually an option and within my reach, I started to consider it more seriously. It wasn't something I initially planned for, but the more I thought about how it could deepen my knowledge and open new doors, the more it felt like the right next step. It's all about weighing where you're at and what your goals are!

Jonathan is not alone identifying that in certain fields of study, one requires advanced degrees to deepen knowledge and open doors. Those in Psychology often continue to a master's or even doctoral degree. Just ask our own Dr. Marty Harris about his own academic credentials.

Thirdly, I asked how Jonathan got his job here at LABI College.

Honestly, I saw a job opening on the LABI website and thought, "Why not? I'll take a shot." I wasn't sure I'd even be considered, but then I got a call for an interview! I was a mix of nervous and excited at first, but now, almost three years later, I can say it's one of the best decisions I've made. Working at LABI has empowered, motivated, and inspired me in ways I didn't expect. The college has truly changed my life—not just academically, but also in my relationships and ministry. I've seen doors open as I've learned to be guided by my mentors, coworkers, and the Holy Spirit. It's been an amazing journey.

We thank Jonathan for sharing his story. For some students, your journey will mirror Jonathan and Professor Victoria by graduating from LABI and then continuing to a graduate or even doctoral program. You might even work for a while at LABI or a similar school if God opens those doors. The decision to continue more degrees is never easy but could be the right one to have a lifelong passion for learning.

by **Justin Choi**

THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES

The Library in the Fall

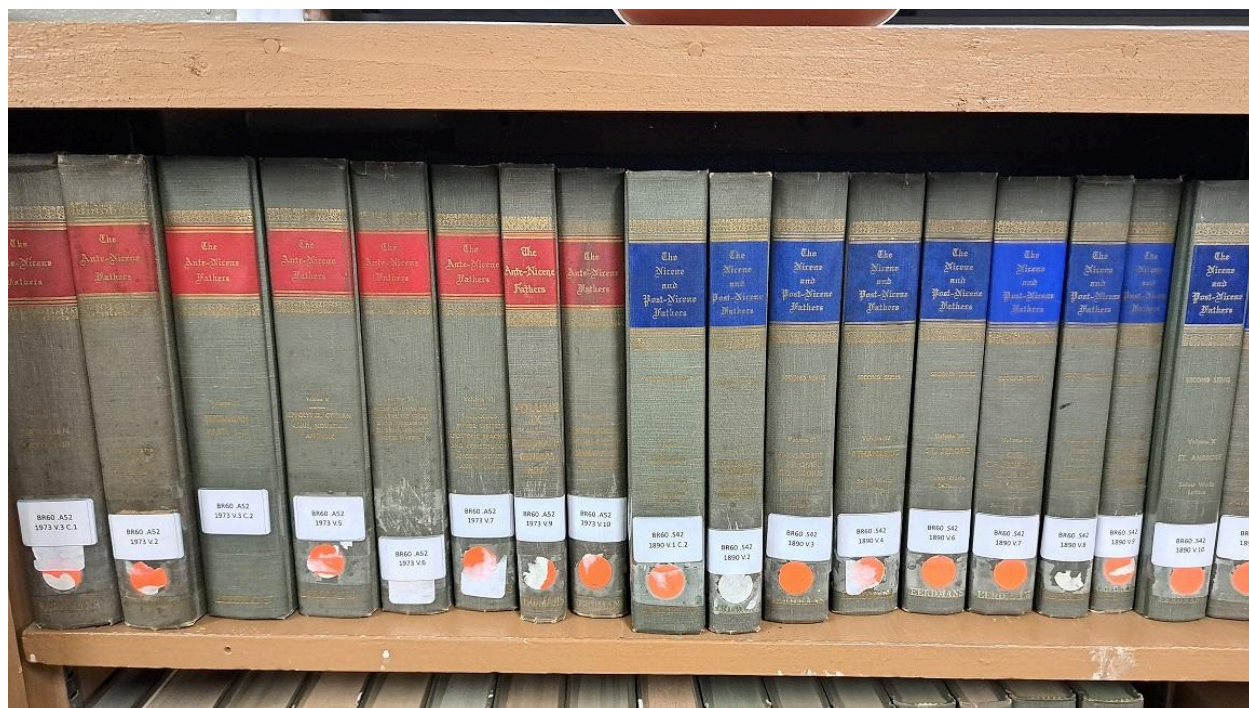
This Fall, the Library has several main initiatives. First, we have two seminars coming up in October and mid November to discuss writing like how to make an outline and learning how to cite your sources. These seminars will be more hands-on.

Secondly, we are preparing for the all important ABHE accreditation site visit. The Association of Biblical Higher Education is LABI's accrediting body and the Library is one of the institutions to help us stay accredited. Read the September 2024 newsletter edition to see the new blinds and deep cleaning.

Third, we are now able to offer InterLibrary Loan service through the Association of Christian Librarians! If you found a scholarly article on Google Scholar but cannot access it, send an email to library@labi.edu. The library will reach out to other libraries to see if that article is available. More on that later.

Featured Resource

This month I would like to highlight two related multi-volume sets: the Ante-Nicene Fathers and the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers. These volumes contain the original primary texts of the church fathers such as Irenaeus, Polycarp, and Eusebius.



Anyone studying early church history should check out these volumes for research.

Ask Me Anything

This month, I'm listing all the questions people **should have asked me**.

When I tell people I'm a librarian, invariably one person will say: "I guess you like to read a lot." I have never been asked: "What influenced you to be a librarian?"

A student asked me: "Have you read all the books in this library?" Given that LABI has 22,000 volumes and the fact a librarian has other things to do than read, the answer is obviously "no." He followed up with: "Is there a book that caught your attention?" Yes, more than one. He should have asked me to recommend one to him.

No one at LABI has ever asked me: “What book, other than the Bible, influenced you the most?” Or what book(s) to avoid? Even though this can be subjective, some books are horribly written and others are just horrible.

Upcoming Events

Come join us on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 for third Writing Center seminary on



Labi College
14209 E. Lomas Ave, La Puente, CA 91746
Email: library@labi.edu