

the MESSENGER

NORTHWEST NAZARENE UNIVERSITY / WINTER 2019

VOL. 107, NUM. 1



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NNU HERE FOR GOOD

A NIGHTHAWK REFLECTS

NEW MENTORS

JOIN THE COMMUNITY

When I began this role in late August 2017, I was told it was time to begin speaking of our strengths—especially in academics—and to stop being inappropriately humble, to be bold in describing who we are. I took that as both a challenge and a directive. And so, the journey to boldness began.

Since 1913, NNU has remained unchanged at our very core, and yet we continue to change. Continue to adjust. Continue to sharpen our focus on the ever-evolving horizon. We are not content to remain the same. We are unwilling to grow stagnant. To not be moving forward is synonymous with going backward, and backward is unacceptable. We find it somewhat nauseating to settle for business as usual; therefore, we choose to be bold in our claims of who we are.

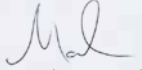
This kind of audacious thinking led us to plant our flag and make the bold proclamation that NNU is “Here for Good.” That single, simple statement not only summarizes our history, but also describes our present reality and illuminates the brightness of our future. It augments our mission and summarizes our values while giving us aspirational language that is true to our never-changing

core. It defines our position in the marketplace and describes the kinds of students best suited to thrive in our environment, the students we want to attract. As a statement, it’s both simple and nuanced, both subtle and bold.

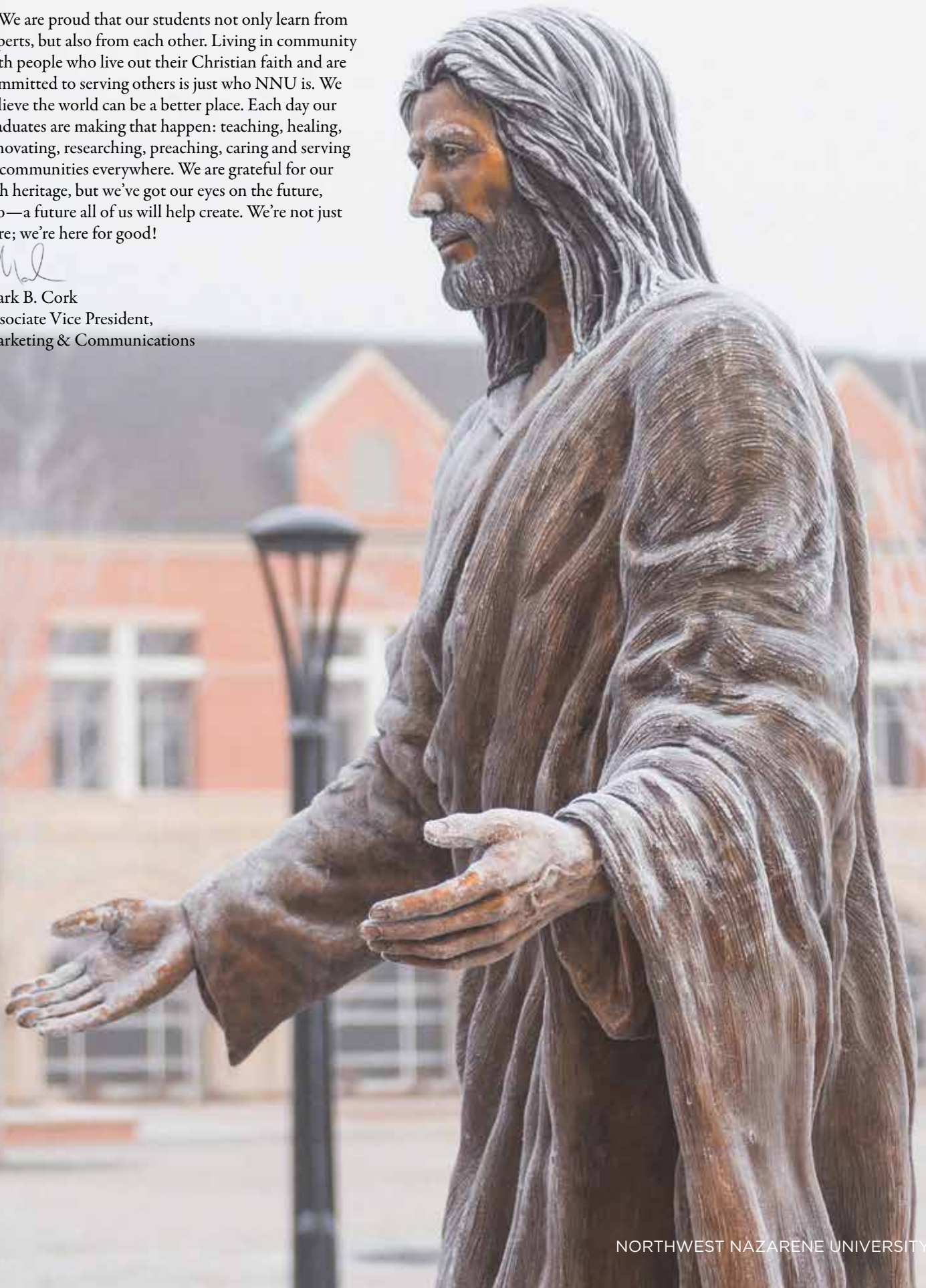
Perhaps our tendency toward humility is somehow rooted in our theology. Yet I believe our Wesleyan theology allows the appropriate space for us to be proud of who we are and what we’ve accomplished. We believe there’s a marked difference between being proud and being prideful. We want the world to know how good we truly are!

We are proud that after 105 years we continue to thrive in the Boise Valley. We’re proud that we don’t just offer an excellent academic education but that our students flourish in every area of life. We’re proud that our Christian beliefs are infused into everything we do, inside and outside the classroom, and that our students strive to live out their calling to love God and love their neighbors well. We’re proud that our holistic education prepares students to think critically, solve problems creatively and influence the world for good regardless of major or course of study.

We are proud that our students not only learn from experts, but also from each other. Living in community with people who live out their Christian faith and are committed to serving others is just who NNU is. We believe the world can be a better place. Each day our graduates are making that happen: teaching, healing, innovating, researching, preaching, caring and serving in communities everywhere. We are grateful for our rich heritage, but we've got our eyes on the future, too—a future all of us will help create. We're not just here; we're here for good!



Mark B. Cork
Associate Vice President,
Marketing & Communications





BUILDING FOR GOOD

PAGE 6

Roger Schmidt is a legendary NNU coach who influenced countless students and continues to leave his mark on campus.



EMPHASIZING OUR STRENGTHS

PAGE 10

Carrie Hays considers how the Strengths Perspective she learned at NNU has influenced her as a leader.



PARALLELING PETER

PAGE 16

Alumnus Johnathan Borges found inspiration in the apostle Peter and a home at NNU.

ALUMNI NEWS PAGE 22

A pediatric rehabilitation specialist, a coach on a mission and an award winning educator—see what alumni are up to now.

FACULTY PROFILE: AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK FOR GOOD

PAGE 28

NNU welcomes alumnus David Hille back as Professor Hille after education and research from Oklahoma to Costa Rica.

ON CAMPUS PAGE 30

A challenging Fall Revival, industry insight from a Google software engineer and an old friend takes on a new role—find out what is happening on campus.

ATHLETIC NEWS: LETTERS TO MY FRESHMAN SELF PAGE 32

Track & field and basketball athlete Ellie Logan writes a letter to her freshman self reflecting on her NNU experience.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: A FOUNDATION FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

PAGE 36

Senior Jessica Charles is about to embark on her next adventure. She'll be taking lessons learned from NNU on to law school.

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A photograph of a band performing on stage. In the foreground, a woman with long brown hair is singing into a microphone. Behind her, a man with long hair and a beard is playing a guitar, and another man is partially visible in the background. The stage is lit with blue and white lights, and there are banners hanging in the background.

THE CHAPEL THEME THIS YEAR IS
“AROUND THE TABLE: DISCIPLESHIP AND
DIVERSITY.” WHEN WE ARE WILLING
TO BE SHAPED BY THE PRESENCE OF
JESUS CHRIST IN OUR LIVES, PRACTICE
HOSPITALITY AND REALLY LISTEN TO
ONE ANOTHER, THE TABLE BECOMES A
PLACE OF IMMENSE GROWTH AND LOVE.
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, CAMPUS IS
LEARNING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AROUND
CHRIST’S TABLE AND HOW TO MAKE ROOM
FOR OTHERS TO JOIN US THERE.



Long-time coach and professor Roger Schmidt leaves a legacy throughout the campus

Roger Schmidt is a builder. He's a builder of basketball teams, ballfields, students' minds and the Kingdom of Christ. Take a stroll around the Northwest Nazarene University campus with the recently retired Schmidt, and the history just pours out of his mouth.

“I feel good about that,” he said. “I didn’t do anything spectacular that no one else did, but I feel like, to me, the gifts that God has given me are to be a problem solver and to have the vision

“He’s more talented than any human being I know,” former men’s basketball coach Ed Weidenbach said. “He’s very good at getting a

7



Schmidt gives a tour of his workshop, where he has completed many NNU projects that can be seen around campus.

project done. He is just such a humble spirit and a great guy. It was never about Roger; it was about what we can do to make this better. It was about being the best you can be.”

He worked diligently at being the best, whether on the basketball court or in the classroom or in his workshop. Schmidt led the 1996-97 women’s basketball team to the only team national title in school history. He was named the NAIA National Coach of the Year in 1997 and was elected into the school’s hall of fame in 2002.

For many students and athletes, though, his impact off the court is what changed their lives.

“He took me in, knowing that I was a little rough around the edges,” former NNC star Staci Kirk Carter said. “He definitely was a game-changer for me. I was coming in to NNC kind of angry, and I needed him, and I needed the school to help create my path. And that is exactly what they did. He impacted hundreds, if not thousands, of kids. It goes beyond basketball, beyond school ... he helped me in so many ways, and I’m so fortunate to know that man.”

Here are just a few ways Schmidt impacted the campus:

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Schmidt worked at NNU in an era when it was all hands on deck when it came to construction projects. It was a much different time than now with contractors, engineers and professional construction workers building the new Student Commons.

The 1974 NNC graduate remembers nearly all of the student-athletes and coaches helping lay the sod at the new baseball field in the early 1990s. Then assistant baseball coach Tim Onofrei marked where the field would go, and Schmidt hopped on a tractor to haul the sod pallets to the area. Students and coaches would then lay the grass. The field was completely planted in one afternoon.

Laying sod was a common theme in Schmidt’s recollections. He remembers the men’s and women’s basketball teams beautifying the area along Dewey Street near the old entrance to the gym. He also

remembers faculty work days laying grass around the outside edge of campus after the interior roads were removed.

“We’ve kind of gone from us doing it—the community of NNU—to hiring it out,” Schmidt said, “which is good, but sometimes I think we’ve lost some of our camaraderie and our identity.”

GET IT DONE

There was seemingly no project that Schmidt couldn’t tackle, whether it was for the school, for co-workers, for the church he attended or for the campgrounds he worked at.

He worked before practice and after practice, before class and after class—a seemingly tireless worker.

“Just get it done. That is the phrase that comes to me when I think of Roger,” former

president Richard Hagood said. “It was true with his basketball, which was terribly successful, but also what he did in the classroom and then the projects that needed to be done.”

Getting it done meant tunneling under a hallway in the gymnasium to connect plumbing to a room that would serve as the hospitality suite during the NAIA Division II National Tournament that the school hosted from 1993 to 1999.

It meant climbing an 80-foot tower and rappelling off in 95-degree heat after building the high rope course and getting certified in running it.

It meant working after hours to remodel the Registrar’s Office, building funky angled walls, installing sliding glass doors and more to create offices and give staff privacy.

It meant doing projects even if there wasn’t explicit permission.

Schmidt, along with Assistant Athletic Director Craig Stensgaard, constructed the press box that sits above the student section in the gym for the national tournament. When the school got new bleachers, they had to figure out how to make the press box freestanding because being supported by the bleachers would void its warranty.

“We had to build some fairly stout wall mounts and we got it done before the people across campus could say we couldn’t do that,” he said.

PAINT IT RED (OR RUSSET ORANGE)

One of Schmidt’s favorite stories is about when the basketball programs helped the school change its primary color from orange to red.

While I couldn’t verify exactly who decided that the old pumpkin orange was going to go away, legend has it that Schmidt, Weidenbach and Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach Rich Sanders helped begin the push.

Over a Christmas break one year, the coaches went down to the paint store and asked for a color that was red but had orange in its name. Russet Orange is what was decided on, and the teams went to work before and after practice repainting the bleachers in the gym with brushes and rollers. All without permission.

“We had them painting the backside of all the bleachers and all the benches too,” Sanders said. “It was good to get the kids involved in it.”

Roger believed in having athletes do work that would please the fans, to make a contribution to the school through ownership of the facilities.

“Instead of hiring out and paying thousands of dollars, Roger figured he can do anything,” Weidenbach said. “He fixed kids’ cars so they could get home, built houses, updated locker rooms and was really, really talented. Roger would just say, ‘I can do that’—and he would.”

WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES

Schmidt spent most of his years on campus in the Johnson Sports Center.

From coaching to teaching kinesiology to athletic training, the gym was his domain.

When Sanders took over as sports information director, he was tasked with coming up with ways to raise money, so he and Schmidt decided to add advertising to the gym.

Schmidt built all of the hanging light boxes with local companies’ logos adorning them. He built the scorer’s table, which also has advertising in it.

“Roger clearly loves NNU and has an undeniable passion for the care and maintenance of the athletics facilities,” Athletic Director Kelli Lindley said, “Over the years, many of us have witnessed Roger find hundreds of big and little ways he can improve the Johnson Sports Center or one of our outdoor facilities.

“Whether it was repainting chipped paint, putting in a better light bulb, resetting a clock or building new lockers—Roger has always served NNU Athletics behind the scenes.”

Schmidt even has a connection with the American flag located on the north wall of the gymnasium.

“That was my dad’s flag,” he said. “They were looking for a flag, so I asked if I could put it up there. He died of Alzheimer’s and never saw me coach; he was never of sound mind when I was coaching. Maybe this is a way of saying, ‘he is watching.’”

RETIREMENT

Schmidt finally said goodbye to Northwest Nazarene University in the summer of 2018. Despite no longer being contractually employed by the school, he still is doing work for it.

“Even in his retirement, we are still asking Roger to construct a new scorer’s table,” Lindley said. “Not only is Roger an incredibly gifted builder, but we love having

him around. Roger’s legacy of exceptional success and service as a coach, professor and friend is one that we all look up to.”

This school year alone, Schmidt built the new scorer’s table, added additional lockers to the men’s basketball locker room and is working on a trophy cabinet for the new part of the gym.

His legacy on the NNU campus lives on even without his working here anymore.

“We are proud that he got to contribute to something that he valued greatly,” said Patti Schmidt, Roger’s wife, a 1978 graduate. “He believes in the mission and of giving of those other talents beyond the teaching and the coaching. It was important for him to share that.”

Important for Roger, his many students and athletes, and the campus itself. 🍁



Schmidt enjoys spending more time in “Roger’s Garage,” but still works on many NNU projects there.

(STUDENT GOVERNMENT)

((leadership))




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HAYS (PICTURED AT LEFT FROM THE 2004 OASIS) WITH FELLOW SOCIAL WORK MAJORS, CANDICE (GUNSTREAM) BLENKER AND KATIE (FREEBY) GROSS, AND FAVORITE PROFESSOR LEANN STENSGAARD.

Alumna Carrie Hays reflects on the Strengths Perspective as a foundation for helping others achieve their potential

This fall, I began my tenth year working in higher education. When I graduated from NNU, I had no idea that I would find a passion in higher education, but here I am, and I love what I do! My first three years were at one of our sister Nazarene schools, Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee. I had the unique opportunity to relive my college glory days from the perspective of a resident director.



WHEN PEOPLE ARE

WHEN PEOPLE ARE OPERATING IN THEIR STRENGTHS, THEY NATURALLY PULL OTHERS ALONGSIDE THEM AND HELP THEM FIND THEIR STRENGTHS AS WELL, SO THE RIPPLE EFFECT TO IMPACT GENERATIONS TO COME HAS LIMITLESS POTENTIAL.

In my second year working in higher ed, I had a déjà vu moment. I was being introduced to a personality inventory by Gallup called CliftonStrengths to use for student leaders. My mind wandered back to my last days at NNU when I was developing my final

According to the Encyclopedia of Social Work in the Oxford Research Encyclopedias, “Instead of focusing on clients’ problems and deficits, the Strengths Perspective centers on clients’ abilities, talents, and resources.” As I look back at the various jobs I’ve had both in higher education and working with at-risk youth, I



Hays with her Trevecca resident assistants, including Andrea (with Hays in the lower photo), during her time as resident director.



can see how I was able to use this perspective to approach my work. Even now, being reminded of the foundations of this perspective excites me. When I followed this viewpoint, it became less about what I could do to help my clients and more about what strengths they already had that would allow them to reach their greatest potential. All I had to do was ask if I could help develop and grow those strengths.

I loved this perspective then and continue to love it now because it empowers people to see the strengths that they have, gives them hope and to helps them choose careers and opportunities they will

be passionate about. When people are operating in their strengths, they naturally pull others alongside them and help them find their strengths as well, so the ripple effect to impact generations to come has limitless potential.

I specifically love utilizing the Gallup CliftonStrengths inventory with students in high school and college because that is the time when they are cementing what their passions are and looking for direction for their careers. Many are still in self-discovery mode and benefit greatly from a tool that can help draw out their strengths and give direction to express those strengths in a career.

One of the students that I saw the most growth in during my time at Trevecca was one of my resident assistants, Andrea. When I met her, Andrea was soft spoken and a little unsure of her potential. Her top 5 Strengths are Empathy, Includer, Belief, Restorative and Developer. I saw Andrea blossom during her time at Trevecca and while serving as an RA for three years. I do not give full credit to StrengthsQuest for this transformation as I know God used many mentors, experiences and friends to shape Andrea, but I believe that knowing her strengths helped her develop into a confident and compassionate young woman. It helped guide her passions to find a career that used each of her strengths on a daily basis.

I saw a passion grow inside of her for underserved students in our community. Andrea became a teacher in an economically disadvantaged school district right in the Trevecca neighborhood and has taught and loved her students for almost ten years. She has received numerous recognitions and awards for her work. Her strengths are used each day as she invests in children's lives and helps them to find their full potential in an environment that can be very unstable at times. It is obvious Andrea is exactly where God has gifted her to be. The relationships that she develops with both

her students and their families is inspiring. I'm so thankful I had a tool like StrengthsQuest that influenced a soft spoken and unsure student to find her voice, her passion and the confidence to do what God called her to do.

Looking back at my time at NNU, I can recall a long list of names of people who invested in me and gave me an opportunity to develop my strengths like I have been able to do for students I work with.

Professor LeAnn Stensgaard was one of my main social work professors. She invested in me both educationally and personally, and she introduced the idea of Strengths Perspective to me. She helped draw out my desire to help people and gave me practical skills that I would need to invest in others. She deeply cared for her students, which allowed us to learn and thrive in a safe environment.

Dr. Jerry Hull, another one of my social work professors, instilled confidence in me and helped develop my passion for assisting others. His encouragement of me to step out of my comfort zone influenced me greatly in future decisions.

Dr. Mike Kipp and Dr. Gary Waller were professors that I loved so much; I would take just about any class they were teaching because I loved to be under their influence. They both demonstrated the importance of loving people where they are and in creative ways. They also instilled in me the importance of pursuing a personal relationship with God and equipped me with practical ways to do this.

Tim Milburn, director of campus life, was my student government advisor. Tim helped me realize my potential for leadership. He never micromanaged us in student government but allowed us both to succeed and sometimes fail but always learn and grow. I do not believe I would have known I was capable of many of the things that I was able to do in student government had I not had a mentor like Tim.

Clearly the Strengths Perspective and CliftonStrengths test can be applied well in the university setting. This approach can also be used effectively in the workplace. When I managed a college readiness program, my staff each took the CliftonStrengths test, and we processed the results both individually and as a team. While managing this staff, I intentionally aimed to use people's strengths in various projects and tasks. Working from this perspective created a positive environment that allowed me to see the potential in staff rather than to focus on the deficits that may exist.

Regardless of our career or position, God brings people into our lives whom we can influence, see the best in, and whose strengths we can nurture. We may not formally follow the guidance of a test like CliftonStrengths or a theory like Strengths Perspective, but, as I was shown at NNU, we can make a practice of approaching our interactions with people by looking for their God-given potential and by using their innate strengths to empower them to live their best lives. 🌹



Carrie Hays served as Student Government Association president the 2003-04 school year at NNU as a capstone to her roles as SGA social vice president and a representative on class councils. She currently works at Lone Star Community College in Houston, Texas, as an academic advisor. Her Top 5 CliftonStrengths are Maximizer, Strategic, Developer, Relator and Responsibility.

NNU DONORS

—put money to work—

FOR GOOD

FISCAL YEAR 2017-18 GIVING



2,107

TOTAL DONORS



981

NEW DONORS



1,291

ALUMNI DONORS



498

ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS



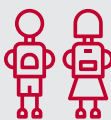
78

CURRENT YEAR
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS



543

UNDERGRADUATES
RECEIVING
SCHOLARSHIPS



99.28%

FRESHMEN RECEIVING
SCHOLARSHIPS



\$1,537,165

GIFTS FOR ALL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECTS



\$1,483,311

STUDENT COMMONS
GIFTS



\$53,854


GIFTS FOR OTHER
CAPITAL PROJECTS



\$2,398,962

UNIVERSITY FUND GIFTS

YOUR GIFTS KEEP NNU HERE FOR GOOD! GIVE TODAY AT NNU.EDU/GIVE.

A Black Hawk helicopter is seen in flight, its long rotor blades blurred, against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a group of ROTC soldiers in camouflage uniforms and garrison caps stand with their backs to the camera, hands clasped behind them. They are on a grassy area. In the background, a red brick building and some trees are visible.

VETERAN'S DAY COINCIDED WITH HOMECOMING THIS YEAR, AND OUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WITNESSING MULTIPLE STUDENTS JOIN THE ROTC PROGRAM—COMMITTING TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY AFTER GRADUATION. THE UNITED STATES ARMY EVEN LANDED A BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER OUTSIDE THE LEARNING COMMONS IN HONOR OF THIS SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF ALLEGIANCE.





Alumnus Jonathan Borges shares his journey through rough waters to a faith in Christ and a home at NNU

It may not have been the first time Jonathan Borges Pamela had heard the story of Peter walking on water with Jesus, but it was the first time he really understood it.

Matthew 14 describes a storm-tossed ship on a dark night. In it were 12 grown men cowering in fear—fear of the weather and fear of a ghost they saw coming through the wind. When they realized the ghost was actually their master miraculously walking out to them on the water, one among them made a courageous choice.

Jesus simply replied, "Come!" And Peter came, stepping out of the boat and walking out onto the water.

For Borges, hearing the story of the brave but sometimes distracted disciple suddenly opened his eyes to his own story and the desperate need he had to grasp the offered hand of Jesus in the waves of life.

Out of a few choices the recruiter offered, Borges and his family selected Coffeyville Community College as the school he would

Peter climbed out of the boat.

That's when the plan—the brave plan—fell apart. No one at Coffeyville knew the name Jonathan Borges Pamela when he stepped onto campus that day. Borges and his family had been scammed. He had no place on the soccer team, no place to go.

He called his parents in despair. He just wanted to get on a plane and go home.

"My mom encouraged me to make it work. 'Be brave. Fight for yourself,' she said. 'Community College is only two years. Get your associate degree and then decide

what to do next.” So that’s what he did. He spent the semester at Coffeyville struggling through classes, making poor choices, following bad friends and pursuing the college experience as he thought it was supposed to be. All the while, he was resentful about not following his dream to advance his soccer career.

But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid.

At Christmastime, his mom called him on his attitude. His parents noticed his depression and encouraged him to make the most of the situation instead of giving up. Again, Borges rallied and became determined to earn the place on the soccer team he had thought he already had.

It wasn't until a few weeks before fall classes started at Coffeyville that Borges finally heard the news he'd spent the summer waiting for: he was on the team. Back on campus with a new roommate and a new perspective, things were starting to looking up.

\\



Borges prepares to throw the ball into play during a match his senior year

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.

Borges' roommate, Matheus Ribeiro, was also an international student and a soccer player, but, unlike Borges, he possessed a solid Christian faith. Borges couldn't help but wonder about this guy who prayed on his knees every morning in his dorm room. Ribiero invited Borges to join him at a local family's home each Sunday. The Mitchells were a Nazarene couple who hosted international students from the community college in their home for lunch each Sunday, taking them to church and leading Bible studies for those that were interested.

"They loved on me so much that it was almost off-putting," Borges said of the Mitchells. Their love was infectious, so he began attending Independence Church of the Nazarene with them and Ribiero, eating lunch with them after church and even going to a Wednesday night Bible study led by the Mitchell's son, Joshua.

One Wednesday night, they were discussing Matthew 14. Borges saw himself in Peter's story.

"He had the courage to get out of his comfort zone, to step out of the boat. I was brave enough to get out of my country, to step out of my boat," Borges said. "As soon as he gets off the boat, he gets scared. I did the same. It was a major turning point when I connected with Peter in that story."

Borges saw how Jesus was extending his hand to him through the people placed in his life.

"That was the day I decided to commit to Jesus fully. It felt like falling in love. Soccer was going well, too. I was named second team All American, and we went to Nationals for the first time in school history. It was a dream season," Borges said.

Riding high on their successful season and spiritual commitments, both Borges and his roommate began hunting for the four-year school they would attend next together. Out of hundreds of schools, NNU was one of the first to respond, so they both booked a visit. Borges was offered a place on the team, but Ribiero ended up with an offer to another school. Borges' spiritual

safety net felt ripped away.

Still, he decided to be baptized surrounded by new family in Christ only one week before heading to NNU. He was more than excited about the next chapter at a Christian school playing the sport he loved.

Then things fell apart again, and Borges began to sink.

"You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Shortly after Borges arrived at NNU, he and the coach discovered that a problem with the transferability of three of his credits made him ineligible to play. Devastated and having flashbacks to his first semester at Coffeyville, Borges attempted to transfer. Nothing worked out because the semester and soccer season were already in progress.

This time, however, when he felt himself sinking into depression, Borges knew how to take the offered hand of Jesus. He came out of his dorm room and immersed himself in the campus spiritual life, going to Timeout, Bible studies and retreats. He began attending College Church, where Dr. Diane Leclerc was his Sunday school teacher.

From the friendships he made at NNU, he learned what it meant to have meaningful relationships.

"Once again Jesus was saving me from out of the waters and putting me on solid ground with great people," he describes. "It's about spiritual formation here. People are investing every single day into your spiritual life. Everyone on campus—from faculty to staff people to the janitors—is an example of that. Everybody has this idea of the college experience and how it is going to be. I had my ideas, but NNU was better."

And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

By his senior year, Borges was established in the community, playing soccer again and working with Fellowship of Christian Athletes. His roommate was a fellow player in whom he saw his former self; the student was only interested in having his idea of the college experience and doing all the things Borges had tried when he was a freshman at Coffeyville. But Borges' joy in Jesus was infectious, so, after a time, the student was reading the Bible and interested in going to church. Borges' story had come full circle from reluctant disciple to discipling another.

NNU had become for Borges like the boat on the waters, full of other disciples, worshiping together regardless of the waves of life.

"NNU is not just a place, it's a tradition, it's a feeling," he said.

Like NNU, Borges is now here for good, taking his infectious faith and the community spirit of NNU wherever life leads next. 🔥



Jonathan Borges Pamelá married NNU alumna Colette (Coco) Gall ('18) at College Church of the Nazarene, where they had met in Sunday School, on December 21, 2018. Dr. Diane Leclerc performed the ceremony. He currently works at the YMCA and plans to return to NNU to pursue a Master of Marriage and Family Counseling.

DON'T MISS THESE GREAT **ON-CAMPUS EVENTS!**



**JANUARY 31-
FEBRUARY 2**

Wesley Conference:
Multi-Ethnic Ministry in a
Day of Cultural Tension



APRIL 28

University Choir &
Orchestra Presents:
Great Hymns
of Our Faith



MARCH 2

Parent Night



MAY 10-11

Golden Grad Weekend




MARCH 7-10

Spring Musical:
Into the Woods




MAY 11

Commencement



DR. JIM WILLIS ('64) CONDUCTS A GROUP OF ALUMNI INSTRUMENTALISTS AT THE HOMECOMING CONCERT. DOC WILLIS WAS HONORED DURING HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND WITH A SPECIAL REUNION OF THE MANY STUDENTS HE TAUGHT DURING HIS 40-YEAR TENURE AS A PROFESSOR OF MUSIC.

 SEE MORE PHOTOS AT [NNU.EDU/HOMECOMING](https://nnu.edu/homecoming).





ALUMNI NEWS

Catch up on classmate updates and recent additions

1950s

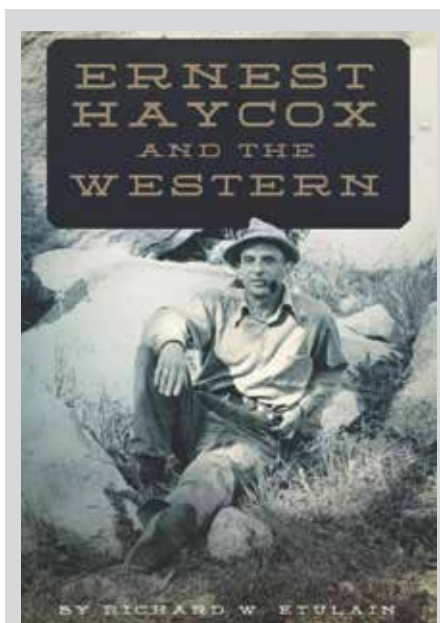
Myron Finkbeiner -54- recently completed “Buildings That Inspired Memories,” a history of two iconic buildings razed on NNU campus that will now have their important and fascinating stories published. The book is now available to NNU alumni and friends. To you who attended the grammar school or who performed in or witnessed games in the old college gym, the book is a must read! For more information or to purchase a book, email Myron at mfinkbeiner@cableone.net.

1960s

Allen Johnson -68- recently released a new novel, “Spike, Benny, and Boone,” which explores the beauty of lifelong friendships and the quest for grace. Johnson is a doctor of psychology and the author of “The Awakening,” “The Power Within,” and “Pardon My French.”

1970s

David Christofferson -78- recently retired from AXA Life Insurance in New York City, and moved full time to Cairo, New York at the base of the Catskill mountains. He’s working on a new drone photography business and continuing video editing projects for the real estate and construction markets. He’s also writing some comedy



Richard Etulain’s -59- recent book “Ernest Haycox and the Western” has just been named book of the year (2017-18) by the Western Literature Association. Etulain is the author and/or editor of more than 50 books, with two volumes on Billy the Kid forthcoming and another book on Abraham Lincoln and Mount Rushmore in the works.

and just started his first screenplay. After 32 years at AXA, he enjoys golf and driving his truck and tractor on 17 acres on Catskill Creek.



Eric Ely -82- recently helped coach and translate for the USA’s Athletes in Action team at the first annual FISU Pan-American University Games in São Paulo, Brazil. The team won the gold medal in the championship against host Brazil. Ely, the Oregon State University assistant athletic director for women’s basketball, also joined up with the charity Samaritan’s Feet to wash 400 underprivileged kids’ feet and then give them shoes. His entire team had the opportunity to participate. Ely’s wife Regina, of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, also participated in the trip. They have two children, C.J. and Rachel.

1980s

Kim (Corbett) Andersen -82- was presented Boise School District’s Red Apple Award in April 2018 for outstanding service to education. Kim currently teaches third grade and recently completed her

36th year of teaching. During her career, she has taught kindergarten through third grade. In addition to her B.A., Kim holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction.

S. Michael Nishimura -82- completed 20 years of active duty service as an Army chaplain this year. He is currently serving at Ft. Bliss, Texas, as the senior community chaplain, where he holds responsibility for 27 weekly worship services, religious education and auxiliary groups' activities. This Installation Chaplain's Office serves over 178,000 service members, Department of Defense Civilians, their family members, and retirees.

2000s

Matthew Chitwood -04- began a two-year fellowship with the Institute of Current World Affairs in December 2017. He lives in a remote village (350 people!) in the tea mountains of Yunnan, China and is writing about the transformation of Yunnan Province.

Jedediah Kuhn -05- completed his Ph.D. in American Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington in June 2018. He joined the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Toronto Mississauga as an assistant professor Fall 2018.

Dr. Erin (Shively) Conlee -08- has recently moved back to Boise and is now practicing pediatric rehabilitation medicine



Tristan Galloway -06-, Greg Galloway -76-, Barb Galloway -80-, Tyler Layne -06- and Melanie Layne -05- recently participated in a dental mission trip to Guatemala.

at St. Luke's Children's Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Hospital. Dr. Conlee previously practiced at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where she also completed her residency. She graduated from San Diego School of Medicine in 2012. Erin is married to Caleb ('08) and they have two sons, Harrison (3) and Foster (10 months).

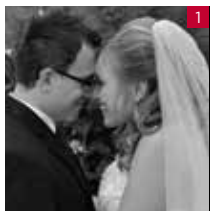
2010s

Isaac Mitchell -18- has been awarded the Maurice and Charlotte Moore Scholarship for medical school from Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED). This \$2500 scholarship is awarded to only one student per region,



Scott Nelson Foster -05-, M.F.A., has been elected chair of the Department of Creative Arts at Siena College. Professor Foster earned tenure in 2016. He recently completed a portrait of abolitionist and publisher Stephen H. Meyer for the Underground Railroad History Project and co-authored an article on community engaged scholarship in the visual arts in the 2017 edition of the Journal of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities. He lives in Albany, New York, with his wife Katria and son Ethan.

and is in honor of Dr. Maurice Moore who served AED for over 60 years. Mitchell graduated from NNU with a degree in biology and is currently a first-year medical student at Loma Linda School of Medicine in Loma Linda, California.



MARRIAGES

- 1 **Jordan (Hazen) -16-** and **Lani Nelson -14-** on August 1, 2015 in Star, Idaho
- 2 **Angela (Babbitt) and Scott Pence -13-** on August 5, 2017 in Shoreline, Washington
- 3 **Jenna (Smith) -18-** and **Cole Logemann -18-** on June 2, 2018 in Ashland, Oregon
- 4 **Lindsey (Mason) -17-** and **Cody Pyell** on June 16, 2018 in Nampa, Idaho
- 5 **Mandi (Dick) -10-** and **Herb Partsch** on June 30, 2018 in Tacoma, Washington
- 6 **Calli (Knight) -18-** and **Greg Smith -18-** on July 2, 2018 in Nampa, Idaho
- 7 **Christina (Ciampi) -15-** and **Jordan Dyk -15-** on July 28, 2018, in Salem, Oregon
- 8 **Esther (Heath) -02-** and **William Mills** on July 28, 2018 in Hoonah, Alaska

Kandice (Gingrich) -05- and **Dr. James Bernhard** on August 4, 2018 in Kenmore, Washington

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

- 9 **Ava Mae** on April 6, 2018 to **Jenna (Cypert) -08-** and **Kevin Knutson -07-**
- 10 **Leeland Kekoa** on May 3, 2018 to **Jordan (Hazen) -16-** and **Lani Nelson -14-**
- 11 **Taiya Marie Alexandria** on May 5, 2018 adopted by **Jamie (Campbell) -05-** and **Trevor Lubiens** on November 30, 2018, joining brother **Kellom**
- 12 **Canyon Mae** on May 30, 2018 to **Stacie (Martin) -11-** and **Brad Ballard**
- 13 **Reese Olivia** on June 8, 2018 to **Libby (Wensel) and Aaron Reimers -07-**
- 14 **James Stanley** on July 7, 2016 to **Kim (Berberick) -08-** and **Sean Christen**
- 15 **William Xander** on August 3, 2018 to **Amy (Parsons) -00-** and **Alex Costello -00-**, joining **Jameson**

IN MEMORY

- Wendell Bartlow -46-** on September 16, 2018 in Nampa, Idaho
- Peter Burkhart -50-** on August 1, 2018 in Nampa, Idaho
- Ida (Beeman) Westland -50-** on May 30, 2018 in Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Rev. Volney Johnson -51-** on October 18, 2018 in Meridian, Idaho
- Pearl (Wilcox) Bellamy -57-** on May 20, 2018 in Goldendale, Washington
- Roxie Hull Miller -58-** on September 26, 2017 in Nampa, Idaho
- Gary Windom -66-** on October 21, 2018 in Newberg, Oregon
- Arlen Gingrich (70)** on November 7, 2018 in Nampa, Idaho
- Brian Fitch -79-** on October 12, 2018 in Eugene, Oregon
- Megan (Renton) Wiedmeier -89-** on January 20, 2018 in Meridian, Idaho

-year- indicates graduation year

(year) indicates matriculation year



NNU *by the NUMBERS*

13

1,300 UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS ENROLLED
2018-2019

36

36% OF ENROLLED
STUDENTS COME FROM THE
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

99

99% OF ENGINEERING GRADS
GO ON TO GRADUATE SCHOOL
OR ENGINEERING CAREERS

17

17 STUDENTS,
AVERAGE NNU
CLASS SIZE

37

\$37,050, THE ESTIMATED TOTAL
COST OF TUITION, FEES, ROOM
AND BOARD FOR 2018-2019

99

99% OF NNU
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID

28

\$28,000, THE AVERAGE DEBT
OF AN NNU STUDENT UPON
GRADUATION

76

76% OF UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS LIVE
ON CAMPUS

100

APPROXIMATELY 100 STUDENTS
TRAVEL IN STUDY ABROAD
PROGRAMS EACH YEAR

31

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN
31 ACTIVE CLUBS AND
ORGANIZATIONS
ON CAMPUS

80

80% OF OUR PRE-MED
STUDENTS ADVANCE TO
MEDICAL SCHOOL

100

100% JOB PLACEMENT FOR
COMPUTER SCIENCE AND
EDUCATION GRADUATES



IN CORNERSTONE, A FRESHMAN GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE, STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS. THIS YEAR STUDENTS WORKED WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE NAZARENE CARE HOUSE TO PUT NNU'S MISSION—ENABLE EACH STUDENT TO BECOME GOD'S CREATIVE AND REDEMPITIVE AGENT IN THE WORLD—INTO ACTION. HERE STUDENT JENNIFER NOBBS WORKS WITH CARE HOUSE VOLUNTEER, REV. PAUL HULEN, TO SORT FOOD.



READ MORE AT [NNU.EDU/CORNERSTONEPROJECTS](http://nnu.edu/cornerstoneprojects).



AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK FOR GOOD

David Hille was inspired by his experience as a student to return to NNU as a professor

BY COURTNEY RITCHEY, CLASS OF 2022

After spending time across the country and researching in the neotropical region of the world, NNU biology alum David Hille ('03) returned to NNU earlier this year to become an assistant professor in the biology department.

While majoring in biology as a student, Hille had the opportunity to spend a semester in Costa Rica as part of the Latin American Studies Program (LASP). LASP is an international study program offered by NNU that allows students to travel and study abroad at one of 65 affiliate Christian colleges and universities around the world. During the field experience that accompanied his LASP biology courses, Hille discovered a passion for international mission and service work through conservation biology. It was during that semester abroad that he also met his wife Sarah.

After graduating from NNU in 2003, Hille worked as an environmental educator for Mission Springs Outdoor Education, an environmental education program in Scotts Valley, California. He later returned to Costa Rica and joined the staff at Quetzal Education Research Center (QERC) at Southern Nazarene University in San Gerardo de Dota. Hille and his wife spent four years there serving as the field station managers of QERC.

While living, working and studying in Costa Rica, Hille and his wife established relationships with faculty from other Nazarene institutions while also keeping in touch with NNU. Hille developed a close working relationship with Dr. John Cossel, NNU's biology department chair, during this time, and the two became good friends. The couple's collaboration with other biologists across the nation around their shared passion for environmental sciences played a major part in Hille's decision to further his education.

After working in Costa Rica, the Hille family moved to Oklahoma where he continued his own education in the pursuit of a master's degree in biology at the University of Oklahoma. He

worked as a graduate TA in the biology department while at the University of Oklahoma and, after receiving his degree, decided to pursue a Ph.D.

"I did not leave here thinking I would get a Ph.D. and come back to teach," Hille admits. Ultimately, he says that "it was Dr. Cossel who really encouraged me and planted the seed that it would be great to have me back at NNU teaching someday."

Hille thoroughly enjoyed his experience during his four years at NNU and says that "as a student, I felt very challenged to grow in my faith and develop a sincere community with the people around me, so I knew that this would be a good community to work in."

One of Hille's favorite things about NNU is its focus on equipping followers of Christ to build His Kingdom using their education, and he says that "as an educator, helping students integrate this discipline into what they want to do is something I'm really passionate about."

Hille's cross-cultural experience in Costa Rica as a student was instrumental in determining his future career, as he was able to experience firsthand the impact that an individual's education can have on the world. After understanding what it meant to have professors invest in him as a student then return to work alongside some of those same people, Hille is a firm believer in the mission of NNU.

Hille is in the process of finishing his Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Oklahoma. All of the research for his doctoral program has been on the study of parrot conservation in Nicaragua, which led to his co-authorship of the book "Birds of Nicaragua: A Field Guide."

Hille looks forward to combining his interests, research and experience from working internationally to contribute to the biology department's interaction with the neotropics and wildlife biology in the years to come. 🌿





FALL REVIVAL

Every year, the Office of University Mission & Ministry plans a spiritual event called Fall Revival, a much anticipated time for all of NNU's campus community to come together and take a break from their daily routine. This year's revival was led by guest speaker J.R. Forasteros. The theme was embracing diversity in order to live better as Christ's disciples. Community is one of NNU's core values, so it was invaluable to have a speaker emphasize the importance of embracing the diversity around us in order to be the community of Christ. Forasteros challenged our students to take a look at the ways in which they were living and ask themselves whether they were bringing unity or uniformity to the Church.

"I loved how real he was, how unafraid he was to be blunt and tell us that sometimes we get it wrong," freshman Courtney Ritchey said. "Jesus calls us to love the least of these, and sometimes that means going out of our way to reach someone unlike us. It was a really important reminder that I think we all needed to hear." 🔥



BILL RUSSELL

On October 15, Bill Russell assumed the position of dean of the School of Business. This role will not only focus on the internal aspects of the school, but also work to grow external relationships that will help the School of Business flourish in a dynamic environment. The hope for these local partnerships will be to expand the School of Business' connections in the Boise Valley and beyond and to create pathways for students' continued success as they enter the workplace.

"Bill comes to this dean's role with an established network of relationships with regional business leaders and organizations, an entrepreneurial spirit for shaping our academic programs to meet real world needs, and a passion for the transformational mission of NNU," said NNU Vice President for Academic Affairs Brad Kurtz-Shaw. "Bill gets that NNU is Here for Good and he's going to do everything in his power to make sure that impact is as broad and deep as possible." 🔥



2018 EMERSON AWARD

In September, NNU honored the Salvation Army with the 2018 Eugene Emerson Award, which recognizes the partnership between Northwest Nazarene University and an organization committed to the success and well-being of families in the Nampa Community. Both organizations share a commitment to make the Gospel available and relevant to all members of the community and to care for the whole person regardless of their economic reality.

"Through partnering with the Salvation Army, our students have had invaluable opportunities to serve others in our community and gain a deeper appreciation of the importance of service," President Joel Pearsall said. "It delights my heart to see students and faculty come together alongside the Salvation Army in order to be the hands and feet of Christ to our community." The Salvation Army has provided NNU students thousands of hours of work, volunteer and internship opportunities in ministry, social work, education and social science. 🔥



FALL ENROLLMENT

President Joel Pearsall announced the total fall enrollment at 2,013 students, with 1,287 undergraduate and 726 graduate and doctoral students.

“NNU is privileged to welcome all students, new and returning, who have chosen NNU this year,” President Pearsall said. “I am delighted by the individual students I’ve personally encountered and look forward to journeying with them. I know these students will have a positive impact on NNU and will also carry out our mission throughout the Boise Valley and beyond.”

Forty-eight percent of the new freshman students are from Idaho, while the other 52 percent represent 21 states and four countries. Last year’s freshman class represented 12 states and two countries, making this year’s freshman class much more geographically diverse. The academic profile of our new freshmen class continues to be strong, boasting an average GPA of 3.7. 📖

ONE CAMPAIGN

On October 17 and 18, the NNU Office of University Mission & Ministry hosted speaker Michael J. Gerson on campus. Gerson is a syndicated columnist for the Washington Post and a policy fellow with the ONE Campaign. He spoke about ONE, an organization dedicated to the fight against extreme poverty and preventable diseases in the poorest places on the planet. Gerson invested in campus and our students, visiting four classrooms, eating in the cafeteria and engaging with everyone he encountered. NNU students are now starting a ONE chapter and hope to bring its mission to life on campus and beyond.

“Michael J. Gerson was a gift to our campus. Our community is thankful for his call for all Christians to work together for common ground and the dignity of all people,” Chaplain Olivia Metcalf said. Chaplain Dustin Metcalf added, “He was very thoughtful and provoked our students to engage in our world and not make people think that poverty is someone else’s problem. He made students aware that we have a voice and that we need to use it for those who are voiceless. That’s what the kingdom of God wants.” 📖

CHUCK JAZDZEWSKI

In November, NNU hosted alumnus and Google software engineer Chuck Jazdzewski ('87) for a two-day lecture series on campus. He spoke about the future of technology and how it affects us, and he also held a session that was dedicated to preparing students for technical interviews upon graduation.

“Chuck confirmed for the students that learning never ends so the greatest value of their NNU education is building a strong foundation upon which to grow and learn,” said professor Barry Myers.

Student Garrisen Cizmich added, “I found Jazdzewski’s series of talks to be very informative about the future of computer science. I particularly appreciated the discussion of industry expectations for computer scientists entering the workforce.” 📖



LOGAN AND THE LADY NIGHTHAWKS
TAKE ON COLLEGE OF IDAHO

LETTERS *TO MY* FRESHMAN SELF

DUAL-SPORT ATHLETE IN TRACK & FIELD AND BASKETBALL
ELLIE LOGAN (FOSSIL, OREGON) GRADUATED WITH A BIOLOGY
DEGREE SUMMER 2018. NOW PURSUING HER MBA, SHE REFLECTS
ON HER JOURNEY AT NNU AND THE PROCESS OF CONSTANTLY
GROWING AND LEARNING.

Dear 18-year-old Ellie,

Hold on. Tight. You have no idea the ride that you are about to go on. There will be ups and downs, but don't let your focus stay on the turbulence. It's like that red-eye you're going to take coming out of Fairbanks later this year. You can focus on the fatigue, or you can wake up and see the Northern Lights. Keep your eyes open, soak it all in, and engage every moment.

I know this sounds crazy to your competitive mind, but this next season of life is never about what you do in the gym or out on the track. It is about investing. Invest in your faith; it is the only eternal bank account. Invest in the people around you, they will show you what it means to have a home away from home and a second family. They will accept you at your worst and love you into being your best. Never doubt how far they will go to make you know your value. Make sure you do the same for them.

At the same time, never forget that your value doesn't come from what others may or may not think of you. You are fearfully and wonderfully made—it's about time you start believing it.

This is a season of growth. Get outside your comfort zone. Fail hard. Get back up. Do it again. In all honesty, this is a challenge you will still be trying to meet in year five (yes, I said five; don't freak out). You are going to mess up (a lot), so learn to give yourself the same grace that you give others.

Speaking of year five, let's talk about that whole injury bug thing, because it's not going away anytime soon. Embrace the setbacks; they are really just set-ups for greater things. The elbow surgery, concussions, fractured tibia, torn ACL—yeah, they're all coming. The thing is, though, they will make you fall in love with the process of rebuilding, taking something from ground zero and working until it's back where it was meant to be. It's what God is doing with you. It's what you are going to do with your body. You don't know how privileged you are to have family, trainers, physical therapists, teammates, coaches and so many others who are going to take you through this process. Never forget to say thank you.

The ride is never static; it's going to be a constant carousel of people coming in and out of your life. Some will be there for a moment; some will be there for it all. Each one has something to show you, something to teach you. Be a willing student.

Lastly, never forget the power of a pause. Pause, and spend time with God. Pause, and get outside somewhere. Pause, and go play cards with Martha. Pause, and remember your roots. Pause, and cherish right now.

~El

Read more of the ongoing series "Letters to my freshman self" written by senior student-athletes at nnusports.com/letters-freshman-self. 🔥

NIGHTHAWKS NEW COACHING STAFF



COACH DANNY BOWMAN

TRACK & FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY

In early September, the athletic program welcomed Danny Bowman to its coaching staff. The 2005 NNU graduate is the school's 10th head track & field and cross country coach.

Bowman earned his undergraduate degree from NNU in psychology with

an interdisciplinary emphasis, and he received his master's in organizational leadership from Olivet in 2012.

"Being an alum obviously meant a lot to me," Bowman said. "I just want to give back, as well as continue the success the program has gotten."

He has been the head track & field and cross country coach at Concordia-Irvine since 2014. Before that, he was an assistant track

coach at Olivet Nazarene, a high school teacher in Idaho Falls, and an assistant coach at NNU from 2004-07.

"We are thrilled to have Coach Bowman back at NNU and leading our track & field and cross country programs," NNU Athletic Director Kelli Lindley said. "Coach Bowman has proven himself an exceptional collegiate head coach as well as a gifted leader of young adults. I am confident he will not only build on the winning tradition of track & field and cross country at NNU, but also pour himself into the social and spiritual development of the student-athletes he leads."

Bowman coached four Pacific West champions in the three years Concordia was in the conference. He has coached more than 80 track & field school records, and 359 of 360 athletes he has coached have recorded lifetime personal bests. He also has coached two NAIA national champions and 34 NAIA All-Americans.

"I just mainly want to bring my coaching philosophy and style and implement it," Bowman said, "to create a culture where everyone can be successful in their academics, athletics, spiritual walk and social endeavors."



COACH JOE SCHAEFER

BASEBALL

Summer 2018, NNU welcomed Joe Schaefer as the 16th head baseball coach in program history.

Schaefer comes to NNU from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California, where he had been the head coach since 2009. He had been assistant coach for five

years before that, starting not long after graduating in 2003.

"We're just super excited about the opportunity," Schaefer said. "I think from a baseball standpoint, NNU could be a really big deal in the GNAC and the West region. That is something that caught my eye."

Under Schaefer's leadership, Point Loma qualified for the NCAA tournament twice in the first four years of eligibility. He has been honored as the NAIA regional coach of the year two

times, led Point Loma's program to the NAIA World Series in 2009 and 2010, and has had 16 former players sign professional contracts. All of that success made it hard for Schaefer to leave his alma mater, but he felt like this opportunity was too good to pass up.

"It checked every box for family: Quality of life, quality of job and opportunity to win," he said.

"We feel incredibly blessed to have Coach Schaefer stepping in as the next leader of NNU baseball," said NNU Athletic Director Kelli Lindley. "He has a proven track record of excellence on and off the field. I have no doubt he will make an immediate impact on our campus, within our community, on the baseball field and in the lives of the young men he leads. I look forward to working with him as we strive to make our athletic department and baseball team one of the best in Division II."

Schaefer said he is even ready for the cold winters, as he is trading in Point Loma's famous campus beach for Idaho's four seasons.

"I think the Treasure Valley is very appealing," he said. "The cold and snow don't scare me. We think it is beautiful. It is an opportunity to be in a really great part of the country where you can do so many things outdoors and be a part of a smaller, tight-knit town."

NIGHTHAWKS SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



MEN'S SOCCER

Senior Alex Mitrovic and sophomore Jake Levine were named to the all-GNAC second team, while junior Rafael Junqueira garnered honorable mention. The Nighthawks were beset by injuries and youth this season, finishing 3-14-1 overall.



WOMEN'S SOCCER

Senior Olivia Carter and sophomore Rikki Myers were named to the all-GNAC second team, while junior Tennyson Young garnered honorable mention. The Nighthawks finished the season 8-8-1, which is the second best winning percentage since 2001.



VOLLEYBALL

Senior Cami Heninger was named all-GNAC honorable mention, while senior Shayli Siegfried set the school record for digs in a career with 1,686. The Nighthawks struggled while replacing five starters, finishing 6-21 overall. Head coach Doug English moved into second for career wins at NNU with 113.



MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Junior Godfrey Kemboi earned all-GNAC honors and placed 34th at the West Region Championships, while senior Nick Hamilton was 62nd. Kemboi ran the third fastest 8K time in program history this fall, while the men's team placed sixth at the GNAC meet.



NIGHTHAWKS FAN CLUB



Get scores, stats, schedule information and the latest news online at NNUSPORTS.COM. Glimpse the experience of freshmen student-athletes in a special series at NNUSPORTS.COM/FRESH-EYES. Hear veteran athletes reflect on their NNU experience in their own words at NNUSPORTS.COM/LETTERS-FRESHMAN-SELF



Social Media fans, "like" us on Facebook at [NORTHWEST NAZARENE NIGHTHAWKS ATHLETICS](https://www.facebook.com/NORTHWESTNAZARENE.NIGHTHAWKS.ATHLETICS).



WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Nighthawks finished 17th as a team at the West Region Championships, as junior Bethany Danner led the way in 48th place. Freshman Kalen Johnson was 50th and sophomore Annalisa Hamilton was 78th. Johnson and Danner ran the fourth and fifth fastest times in the 5K, respectively, in program history earlier this season.



A FOUNDATION *for a* BRIGHT FUTURE

Political science student Jessica Charles carries lessons from NNU with her to law school and beyond

BY CALI CARPENTER, CLASS OF 2017

Most college seniors are in their early 20s, but Jessica Charles isn't one to blend into the crowd. She is a senior political science major who is ready to take the world by storm, and did we mention she's only 19 years old?

Jessica first heard about NNU from her pastors at her home church in Yakima, Washington. They would tell her stories about their NNU experience and share about the loving community that quickly becomes like family. Jessica always knew college was in her plan. While in high school, she came on a campus visit with her youth group, and as soon as she saw NNU for herself, she said it was a done deal.

In high school, Jessica felt herself yearning to be around people who were teaching subjects they loved and were passionate about—which she often struggled to find. This prompted her to apply to a community college during her sophomore year of high school, so she graduated with not only a high school diploma, but also an associate degree from Yakima Community College.

By entering NNU as a junior, Jessica was able to focus strictly on classes for her major—political science. Ever since elementary school, Jessica knew she wanted to be a lawyer.

"I have always had a passion for politics," she said. "I don't necessarily want to be part of them, but I want to do everything I can to learn more about them."

Her experience in NNU's political science department has been a time of transformation for her; not only is she walking away with newfound knowledge, but she has also learned how to approach people who believe differently than she does.

"We're all lucky at NNU because we have Christianity to fall back on and that's what brings us together," she said. "In a lot of places, people can't find comradery, but NNU has shown me that it is possible to come from completely different viewpoints and still find common ground at the end of the day."

She has especially enjoyed her classes with Dr. Steve Shaw, who has challenged her by the way that he draws out students' divergent ideas.

"He's inspiring in the way that he brings people together," Jessica said.

He has taught her how to deal with the hard questions in a way that's different than other professors—defend your answer logically, not emotionally. Jessica has learned that if you can

logically defend yourself and keep emotions out of it, people will be more likely to listen.

"Dr. Shaw wants to help you grow, and he prepares you to handle what the world is going to throw at you," she said.

This is something Jessica knows she will take with her as she prepares for life after NNU.

After graduation, Jessica is planning to attend Willamette Law School in Salem, Oregon—the law school President Joel Pearsall attended. Knowing this, Jessica made an appointment and visited President Pearsall to talk about his experience. He filled the hour with tips, recommendations and fun memories from that time in his life.

She said she found encouragement from him, hearing that the community at the Salem law school has similarities to the close-knit community of NNU.

NNU has given Jessica a special community and sense of belonging that she hopes to take with her for the rest of her life.

"As I go to law school and enter into the career force, NNU will always be with me, and the connections I have made will help me continue to build on that community," she said. "I run into alumni all the time, and they are so supportive. I will never forget the relationships I have built at NNU. My professors have helped me figure out what I'm going to do with the rest of my life and where I am going."

After graduating, Jessica hopes to become a prosecuting attorney in public interest cases and eventually become a judge. Growing up, she was close with a family from Kenya, and this is when she first became aware that not all people are treated the same. She realized the world is so much bigger than her hometown in Washington and not everything in the world is as nice as it may seem. From then on, she became passionate about anything that jeopardizes human rights and people's not being treated equally. She is especially passionate about prosecuting sex crimes and human trafficking, so, eventually, she wants to work on enforcing the rule of law internationally.

No matter where her career takes her, Jessica finds comfort in knowing that she will always have a home at NNU. The connections she has formed in this community are and always will be here for good. 🍷





CONSTRUCTION ON THE NEW STUDENT COMMONS IS RIGHT ON TRACK. CURRENTLY, STEEL IS BEING PREPARED FOR INSTALLATION AND THE ROOF WILL BE GOING ON TO ALLOW WORK TO CONTINUE THROUGH THE WINTER MONTHS. ALL OF THE SMALL BUT IMPORTANT DETAILS SUCH AS FINAL FINISHES, FURNITURE CHOICES AND BRANDING ARE BEING FINALIZED AND COMING TOGETHER NICELY. ALTHOUGH PROGRESS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE WEATHER IN THE COMING MONTHS, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT WINTER WEATHER WILL COOPERATE AND NOT HINDER THE BUILDING PROGRESS.

📺 TO SEE CONSTRUCTION IN REAL TIME, VISIT [NNU.EDU/LIVE](https://nnu.edu/live)



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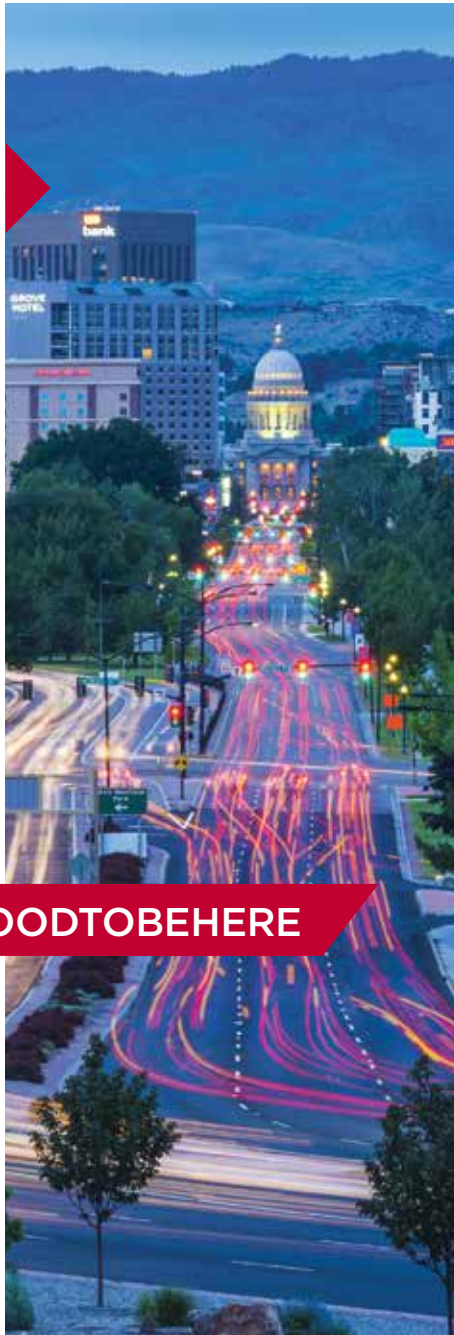
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