



In June, just a few days into taking on my new responsibilities as NNU president, I took a two-week vacation. Although some may have thought I was

already so overwhelmed by my new role that I needed a break, the truth was I left the country with my wife to participate in a mission trip to Nicaragua.

You might ask: "Why would be even consider continuing with the trip at that time? And, why would the Board of Trustees and vice presidents even consider letting him go?" The answer is two-fold: first, the trip had been in the works for almost a year and helping to construct a church in Nicaragua was important to me; and second, because NNU has always valued the key role that experience and travel play in the process of education.

Specifically, we value experiences that help shape and transform people. From mission trips to internships to service and experiential learning, NNU recognizes there are some things that are best learned outside the classroom.

The personal impact of my trip to Nicaragua was profound. I encountered people who had very little but who radiated the love of Christ. And I was reminded that my hope is not dependent on situations or circumstances, but upon my faith in God.

During my years at NNU, I was privileged to be involved in multiple opportunities to enhance what I learned in the classroom by participating in activities outside of the classroom. I was able to travel with Crusader Choir to Europe and with Northwesterners to New Zealand; I quickly learned that international travel can be both enlightening and transformational.

I also had the opportunity to work in a Nampa accounting firm, and by doing so I came to understand how the tax knowledge I had learned in the classroom became practical as I prepared tax returns for individuals and small businesses. In each of these experiences, I connected the reality of life with the theory I had learned in the classroom, and I understood how much there is to learn both inside and outside the classroom.

In the pages that follow you'll read the stories of how today's NNU students are taking advantage of opportunities to travel, research, intern and serve during their time at the university. These students are not exceptional cases—programs across the spectrum offer students ways to apply what they are learning in the classroom in "real world" settings.

We believe applied and experiential learning better prepare students to find jobs and have productive careers, while also increasing graduates' sense of preparedness and confidence. In addition, these settings often provide opportunity for spiritual formation as students put their faith into action. In short, these experiences are tools for transforming the whole person, and that is something we specialize in at NNU.

Joel Pearsall, NNU President

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Northwest Nazarene University,

a comprehensive Christian university, offers over 60 areas of study, 19 master's degrees in seven different disciplines and two doctoral degrees. In addition to its 88acre campus located in Nampa, Idaho, the university also offers programs online as well as in Boise, Idaho Falls and in cooperation with programs in 35 countries.

Founded in 1913, the university now serves over 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students, more than 6,000 continuing education students, and 2,300 high school students through the concurrent credit program.

President

Joel Pearsall

Vice President, Enrollment & Marketing Stacey Berggren

Managing Editor

Anna Lee

Editorial Assistants

Barbara LeBaron, Tami Ponsford

Photographers

Tyler Johnson, Brad Elsberg

Designer

Jenny Fultz, Well Communications Group

Contact Us:

623 S. University Blvd. Nampa, ID 83686-5897 www.nnu.edu

Office of Alumni Relations

800-654-2411 / 208-467-8841

Office of Enrollment & Marketing 208-467-8994

Office of Admissions 877-NNU-4-YOU / 208-467-8000

Office of University Advancement

866-467-8987 / 208-467-8772

Center for Professional Development

800-349-6938 / 208-467-8439

Cover image:

Tyler Johnson









Continuing the Mission

Joel K. Pearsall has a long history with Northwest Nazarene University culminating now in his role as president. His willingness to serve the people of NNU will navigate the university the next two years.

Learning from experience

PAGE 8

Studies show that students who participate in experiential learning while at college are twice as likely to be engaged at work. At NNU, opportunities abound for students to apply their studies to the real world.

Designing to make the world a better place

PAGE 10

NNU engineering students enhance their marketable skills and learn the importance of making a difference in people's lives.

Making industry connections

PAGE 12

Through the Contemporary Music Center in Nashville, Tennessee, NNU music majors get a taste of the music industry and leave with the connections they need to make their way in this highly competitive field.

Living the pura vida

Costa Rica is called the land of pure life. NNU faculty and students are experiencing it for themselves through numerous research, mission trip and experiential learning opportunities.

WHAT **WE LOVE**

WE ARE CALLED FIRST TO LOVE. **WE LEARNED THAT** FROM JESUS.

Learn more about what we love and why you'll love NNU, too.

PAGES 20-25

WE LOVE BRICKS. FRESHEREE, AND **AN ELK NAMED** HOWARD.

Find out what else is happening on campus.

PAGES 16-17

WE LOVE PURSUING VICTORY.

Check out the Crusader sports scene.

PAGES 26-27

WE LOVE WHEN OUR ALUMNI MAKE US PROUD, WHICH THEY OFTEN DO.

See what they're up to now.



Hall his junior year and he played on the newly formed soccer team his senior year.

In the summer after his junior year, Joel married Nikki Moritz, his high school sweetheart. Joel and Nikki have three children: Trenton, a graduate of Southern Nazarene University; Chadwick, a 2011 graduate of NNU who is married to Chelsea (Pounds), a 2014 NNU graduate; and Graydon, a senior elementary education major currently at NNU. This summer the Pearsalls celebrated 36 years of marriage.

"I'm a pastor's kid, a district superintendent's kid, a Nazarene university president's kid. I'm the youngest of four children, all of whom are Nazarene educated—my parents were, my wife is, my wife's family is, and our children are.

We believe in Nazarene higher education. It's part of the fabric of who we are. Both Nikki and I feel there is an incredible richness that goes far beyond the academic experience we had here."

Joel graduated from NNU in 1980 with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and Business Administration and then earned a Juris Doctor from Willamette University College of Law in 1983.

Following law school, Joel served as Law Clerk to Chief Justice Charles Donaldson of the Idaho Supreme Court and practiced law with Meuleman & Miller in Boise. From 1985 to 1994, he was in private practice in Salem, Oregon, specializing in business and tax law with an emphasis in employee benefit planning. In 1994, Joel assumed the role of business administrator for Salem First Church of the Nazarene.

Before rejoining the NNU community as a staff member, Joel sat on the University Board of Regents (now Trustees) for seven years, 1992 to 1999. In 1999, Joel became NNU's vice president for financial affairs and in-house legal counsel. For Joel and Nikki, returning to Nampa and NNU felt like a natural continuation of their family heritage.

During his years in the Office of Financial Affairs, the NNU campus underwent significant physical growth, including the building of the Helstrom Business Center and the Johnson Sports Center, redesigning the sports complex, expanding the Kirkeide Apartment Complex and acquiring what is now the Admissions Welcome Center. As CFO, Joel had important roles in each of these endeavors.

After being named vice president for university advancement in 2008, Joel helped oversee the completion of the Thomas Family Health & Science Center from his new role. He also helped to develop the university's campus master plan and contributed to the receipt of the major gifts from the Leah Peterson Estate and the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation to build the Leah Peterson Learning Commons. As vice president for university advancement, Joel also served as executive director of Northwest Nazarene University Foundation, Inc.

"It's been very rewarding to be involved in helping to develop the campus. Each building is unique, and they all have stories that go with them—some that make me smile, some that make me shake my head.

"I HAVE GREAT HOPE FOR THE **FUTURE. I BELIEVE THE BEST DAYS** FOR NNU ARE AHEAD."

I'm very fortunate that I've had the opportunity to enjoy every job I've had. I've found all of my work to be very fulfilling."

In May 2015, the Board of Trustees appointed Joel president of NNU for an interim period. Due to his extensive experience, skills and dedication to NNU and its community, the board asked President Pearsall to fill this vital role for up to two years. He accepted the role with humility and hope for the future.

"I've been very fulfilled serving in vice presidential roles, so I just assumed that's what I would do until God told me to go do something else. To be able to serve in this role on behalf of NNU is a great privilege and a great responsibility."

As president, Joel plans to continue to guide the campus community in living into Vision 2025 and the campus master plan while also addressing some of the cultural issues that have come to light over the past several months.

"We're going to continue to deliver an exceptional education to our students that goes beyond academics to transform the whole person. As we do that, we also need to focus as a campus community on our relationships with each other, the structure of our organization and the shared culture and identity of NNU. We've got phenomenal people who work at NNU and make this place what it is, but we all need to be pulling in the same direction. This will take our best effort, but I think we're going to get there."

"I'm excited about the future; I have great hope for the future. I believe the best days for NNU are ahead." N





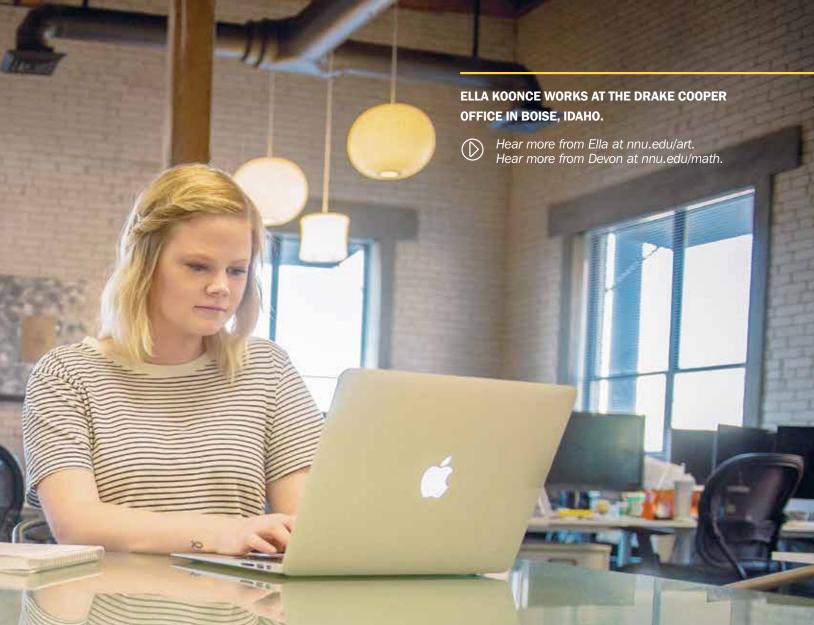


between

graduates' college experiences and their post-college work engagement and well being has been measured by a recent Gallup and Purdue University index. This index includes descriptions of what have been dubbed the "Big Six": six experiences that strongly correlate with whether or not college graduates feel prepared to succeed in their future careers and lives.

The Big Six are split up in two categories—faculty support and experiential learning. To measure experiential learning, graduates are asked if they worked on a longterm project, had a job or internship where they applied what they were learning or were involved in extracurricular activities or organizations. Of the 30,000 students surveyed in the 2014 Gallup-Purdue Index Report, only six percent indicated they had received all three kinds of experiential learning. The study found that those 1800 individuals are 2.4 times more likely to be engaged at work and 1.3 times more likely to thrive in all areas of well being.

Based on these results, the study recommended that institutions of higher education improve their graduates' potential for success by providing students "with more opportunities for deep learning experiences and real-life applications of classroom learning." NNU is already doing just that.



ELLA KOONCE

Graphic design major Ella Koonce ('15) had not just one but three jobs her senior year. An internship with Scentsy Headquarters, work as a designer for Ira & Lucy Vintage Rentals & Styling, and freelance work for multiple clients rounded out Ella's resume. This was in addition to preparing all year for her senior design show and being involved with the Student Government Association (SGA) and NNU Art Club. "It [the graphic design program] really allowed me to grow in my creative mind and in my life, and I've had so many opportunities." These opportunities opened the door for Ella's current position as a junior-level production designer at Drake Cooper, an advertising agency in Boise.

DEVON ELLIS

Computer science major Devon Ellis ('15) found some unique experiential opportunities through not what but whom he knew. "Freshman year I sat next to John Donaldson ['13] in class ... and when I expressed interest in Information Security, he commented, 'very interesting,'" Devon remembers. Two years later, John contacted Devon about an internship opportunity at John's current employer, Lawrence Livermore National Lab. "It was without a doubt the best summer of my life. I learned

so much," said Devon. On campus, he participated in drama, sang with Crusader Choir, and worked on programming a semester-long senior project. This fall Devon is attending Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, to earn a master's in computer science with an emphasis in information assurance.

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

At NNU, experiential learning is built into the degree programs and campus life. We believe giving our students learning opportunities outside of the classroom helps them develop—not just as potential employees but also as citizens of the world.

Internships and cross-cultural experiences are graduation requirements for many students. Opportunities for additional experiential learning abound. From clubs where students invest money on behalf of the university to service learning trips to Peru, we are dedicated to giving students opportunities for meaningful experiential learning where they can develop their worldview and gain a professional edge.

Over the next few pages, we will see what this looks like in the lives of several of our students as they share experiences we believe will be transformative long after they leave this place.



the world a better place

Students practice engineering with a higher purpose.

By Elisa (Rau) Bullock, class of 2015

GO FORTH and be a transformative agent in the world by serving God and loving people is a charge NNU students hear often. It may take the form of a student traipsing through a lush jungle in search of a new species; a youth pastor investing in the lives of countless teenagers; or a group of engineers working with a cutting edge company, using their skills to develop a device to help improve the lives of infants.

In addition to a rigorous academic schedule, the NNU Department of Physics and Engineering also requires its students

to design and develop senior projects, the goal of which is not only to give them a professional edge but also to widen their worldview and allow them to see how their skills can make a difference.

"Our professors sat us down and outlined four different project topics [sponsored by and through organizations like TekFab, the Institute for Affordable

Transportation, and Micron Technology]. One stuck out to me ... an infant emergency detection device," 2015 engineering graduate John Lonai (Milton Freewater, Ore.) explained. "It sounded like something you could really develop a product for and feel like you've accomplished something to help someone."

John, along with Drew Johnson (Tacoma, Wash.) and Tyler Marsh (Boise, Idaho), spent a large portion of his senior year developing this infant emergency detection device. "It will measure the pulse and blood oxygen saturation of the infant and alert the parents if the readings drop outside a safe region," Drew stated.

"On the market currently, three or four competitors have an infant monitoring device, so we thought we could take it further," John explained. "We incorporated into our design an EEG sensor that measures the electrical activity of the baby's brain. It's non-invasive, and infants have it done all the time for seizures or sleep problems."

Sponsored by Micron, this project also gave these three students a unique experience working alongside a local, leading company in the industry. "This project has been a chance for us to demonstrate the strength of our program," Drew said. "Yes, it is a small program, but we are still doing these big-level projects."

"It has been a good introduction to what it's like to work in a company," Drew commented. "They tell us what they want us to design and what they want the function of the device to be, and then we are given a timeline and budget to work with." The rest is up to the students to figure out, challenging them to be

"THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN A CHANCE FOR US TO DEMONSTRATE THE STRENGTH OF OUR PROGRAM... IT IS A **SMALL PROGRAM, BUT WE ARE STILL DOING THESE BIG LEVEL PROJECTS."**

critical thinkers and problem solvers. When asked what they look for in new employees, representatives of Micron said, "Evidence of candidates' expressing a desire to go above and beyond—going the extra mile to solve difficult problems."

These senior projects are not designed for students to ease through,

but are intended to stretch students to use all of the skills they have learned throughout school. While daunting at first, this exercise pays off. "I've learned I am a better engineer than I thought I was. It has made me more confident and given me the ability to step out of my comfort zone," Drew said. At times, fulfilling the requirement included some creativity. "We have had to figure out how to deal with possible problems and determine ways to solve them," Tyler said.

This project was not just about completing an assignment or building their resumes. "NNU has inspired me to do engineering with a purpose," John said. "Maybe we will be better able to track infant sleep and give information to doctors and parents to try to save the lives of some babies."

With these types of connections and real-life experiences, NNU students are equipped to enter their career fields and are prepared to make a difference in the world.

investing in experiences

we strongly believe it is important to invest in experiences that diversify our education and help introduce and prepare students for their future careers. For many students, field-specific internships are the catalyst to broadening worldviews, establishing beneficial relationships and enhancing their NNU education.

Last fall, two senior NNU music industry majors, Nathan Knox and Miles Wilson, took advantage of a prestigious and highly competitive internship opportunity at the Contemporary Music Center (CMC) in Nashville, Tennessee, available through the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. The program is a semester-long intensive experience designed to prepare students for careers in the music industry. Both Nathan and Miles believe this program was a highlight of their collegiate years, gifting them many benefits and resources, and was instrumental in molding their outlook on the future.

One of these gifts is the relationships they formed. "You are going into this industry with this built-in family all across the country. It's crazy; they [CMC grads] are all over. You could call anyone up in any town, and they would put you up for the night. It's like a blood brotherhood," says Nathan.

"We were alongside people who were in the industry; our teachers are still in the industry and actively involved. By knowing them, you can make connections and learn

from the best. If I moved to Nashville right now, I wouldn't be going in blind. I've got people I can call. Whether that leads to a job or a place to stay, it is a leg-up.'

Having both excelled while in the program, Nathan and Miles recognize that having the program director's recommendation is a large boost. Nathan said, "If Warren (the CMC director) says, 'Yes, I will recommend you for anything, just let me know when you are in town,' that is massive. That is super huge. He has sent students everywhere."

Nathan and Miles are not the first NNU students to become CMC alumni. NNU has had a number of students participate in this program over the years. Justin Hugus ('12) also attended CMC and credits it for many career opportunities in the industry.

"My experience at the CMC absolutely paved the way to my current work. While my time at NNU was incredibly lifegiving and gave me innumerable opportunities to grow and develop, I would say that it was the CMC that ultimately gave feet to those skills. The CMC honed my skills and prepared me for work in Christian music in practical, tangible ways.

"Through the CMC, I was given an opportunity to prove myself. It was a lot of hard work, but by being a good steward of each successive opportunity, here I am. It has taken three years, but I'm now the production manager and front-of-house audio engineer for Building 429.'

MILES WILSON, ON THE BASS, AND NATHAN KNOX, ON THE DRUMS, PLAY A GIG DURING THEIR SEMESTER AT THE CMC.

Photo by Warren Petit, director, Contemporary Music Center

NNU students earn valuable industry chops at the Contemporary Music Center in Nashville.

By Jon Reimer, Class of 2015

Hugus, too, can attest to the value of the relationships developed through CMC. "Relationships are the currency of the music industry. Ultimately, [opportunities are] all about job performance and the ability to be a relational person out on the road."

Though CMC was directly responsible for the opportunities Hugus has had, which led to his current job, he still believes it

was NNU that helped prepare him for that opportunity.

"I would say that going to the CMC was potentially the most valuable decision I could have made within my college career, but I don't know if that's an entirely

fair statement. CMC was a culmination—a capstone if you will—of all my education and career-oriented decisions up to that point. The faculty in the NNU music department taught me so much. I gained valuable road experience through my three summers traveling with Covenant. Playing chapels and church services and traveling with choirs, recording events and recitals—everything that I had the opportunity to do while at NNU—were valuable in ways that I may never know."

Nathan and Miles, both of whom are in their last semester

at NNU, would recommend the experience to any who are serious about entering the music industry. "I would absolutely recommend it if you are not afraid to get your ego crushed to make your music better," says Nathan. Miles found that though the mentors at CMC were often brutally honest, the experience was still worth it. "You see the good, bad and the ugly of it [the music industry]. You see why you love it. You see what

"WHILE MY TIME AT NNU WAS INCREDIBLY LIFE-GIVING AND GAVE ME INNUMERABLE OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND DEVELOP, I WOULD SAY THAT IT WAS THE CMC THAT ULTIMATELY GAVE FEET TO THOSE SKILLS." potentially scares you away, and you also see the dark side. They didn't make the music industry sound like it was perfect. They told us horror stories, which make you ask, 'Do I really want to do this?'

Then you create something awesome, and it's all worth it."

With a few years' experience and a successful career underway, Hugus agrees, "The CMC was incredibly shaping and valuable, in my opinion. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to other students hoping to learn about the various aspects of the music industry while still within the safety of academia. But my CMC experience wouldn't have been what it was without my NNU experience."

Travel to Costa Rica provides opportunities across disciplines.

By Adam Lyon, class of 2010

COSTA RICA is a country the size of West Virginia in southern Central America bordered by Nicaragua to the north, Panama to the south, the Caribbean Sea to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. With rainforests, tropical beaches and active volcanoes all just a short drive away from the country's largest city and capital, San Jose, Costa Rica is truly a unique place. Called the land of pura vida, pure life, Costa Rica has opened the door to a wide variety of possibilities for NNU faculty and students.

BIOLOGY RESEARCH

In spring 2008, Dr. John Cossel, chair of NNU's Department of Biology, first took a group of students to Costa Rica for a week-long biology topics course during spring break. In just one week, students were able to hike through cloud forests on Cerro de la Muerte (Mountain of Death) and swim in the Caribbean Sea while learning about ecology and biodiversity. Since then, students and professors have returned to Costa Rica every year to learn, explore and serve.

Dr. Ron Galloway, professor of business and associate dean for site development, oversees travel experiences NNU offers and has helped develop the opportunities students have in Costa Rica. He shares, "Traveling internationally gives feet and eyes to the liberal arts. Students are much better able to understand history, theology, philosophy and the arts when they travel away from their home and grow their perspective. Costa Rica is a fantastic place for this because of the density of life and culture there." To showcase how international travel complements the liberal arts, NNU offers interdisciplinary trips to Costa Rica every few summers.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TRIPS

In 2011, Cossel returned to Costa Rica with Dr. Ben Earwicker, chair of the Department of Literature, Language and Culture, and Professor Jamie Tucker from the Department of Art and Design. Twenty students joined these three to explore ecology and biodiversity, Spanish and photography. Traveling from the beach, the group hiked into the cloud forest and back during their two-week visit, stopping at an organic coffee farm and a rainforest research station along the way.

The group even spent some of their time hiking at night, using headlamps to light the path. Hiking at night exposed students to the rich diversity of life in the rainforest that isn't active during the day and allowed them to observe animal species they would otherwise never have seen. Students spent their last few days in San Jose exploring the city and using their Spanish-speaking skills to barter for food and souvenirs.

In May 2015, another interdisciplinary class traveled to Costa Rica. Joining Cossel this summer were Dr. Darren Grinder from the English department and 20 students who received credit in both biology and English. This summer's dual-credit trip focused on tropical ecology, biodiversity and climate change, with a special emphasis on writing about these issues. In the midst of hiking through the rainforest and exploring exotic beaches, these students wrote about their experiences learning about tropical conservation and sustainability methods first-hand.

SEMESTER ABROAD

In addition to interdisciplinary trips, NNU students can travel to Costa Rica to study abroad for a semester in the Latin American Studies Program through the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. Junior communications science and Spanish double major Michael Reimer (Whitefish, Montana) participated in this program last fall. He recalls that the "main highlight was being able to join in the rhythm of life and really connect with my host family, the people and their culture."

Science students can join Cossel or Dr. Leslie Hay from NNU's biology department in the research they each conduct in the Costa Rican rainforest every summer. Cossel and his student team research native frog species in the canopy of the Costa Rican rainforest, while Hay and her team research Costa Rican cat species like jaguars and ocelots.

NNU continues to look outside its Idaho home for ways to put feet and eyes to the liberal arts. Research, service projects and integrated learning opportunities are at the core of who the university is. Costa Rica provides the ideal environment for each of these things. As students travel, they are learning to engage the world but are also being shaped by their experiences. They are returning to NNU and enriching the community and their futures with a little of the *pura vida* that Costa Rica offers.









Welcoming a new class

Overall, numbers for 2015 of 1,323 undergraduate and 712 graduate and doctoral students indicate a steady total enrollment number of 2,035 compared with 2,058 students in fall 2014.

The top majors chosen by this year's class of new undergraduate students include education, business, biology and pre-health, nursing, and engineering, respectively. First-time freshman and engineering major, Jessica Lund explained why she choose NNU. "NNU is set apart from the rest because of how faithbased its curriculum and values are."

President Pearsall said, "I am pleased with our enrollment numbers this year. But beyond the numbers, I'm delighted by the individuals I've personally encountered who are now calling NNU their home. Having spent time getting to know our freshmen better at Freshman Retreat, I know this class of students will contribute greatly to the NNU community in the years ahead." 🚺

Achieving ABET accreditation

NNU's Department of Engineering received official notification of achieving ABET accreditation in August. After a five-year process of growth and refinement, NNU's Department of Engineering met the rigorous standards of ABET, which ensures that the education offered in engineering programs meets measures of quality and that graduates will be well prepared to serve at the forefront of the engineering industry.

99 PERCENT OF ENGINEERING **GRADUATES IN THE PAST DECADE** HAVE BEEN PLACED IN ENGINEERING **CAREERS OR GRAD SCHOOL**

John Lonai (Milton-Freewater, Ore.), a 2015 engineering graduate, said of the accreditation announcement, "The program has been well established and doing a phenomenal job training its students to think critically as real engineers with a humanitarian and ethical base. The fact that this is finally coming to fruition is really awesome. It means the students will just be finally getting the recognition they deserve."

Sweeping academic championships

Crusader student-athletes excelled well beyond just the playing fields and gym floors during the 2014-15 season. Last July, Northwest Nazarene University Athletics claimed an unprecedented honor as the Crusaders swept the season-long Great Northwest Athletic Conference Academic All-Sports title for the fifth time, tying for the most academic titles in league history.

"This is an incredible accomplishment," NNU Director of Athletics Kelli Lindley said. "Along with recognizing our studentathletes' incredible commitment to their sport and in the classroom, this award goes to the faculty, the support staff and coaches who invest so much into the lives of our student-athletes so they can be successful."

The awards are based on cumulative GPA for all student-athletes on team rosters for the 2014-15 academic year. Ten of NNU's thirteen GNAC-sponsored sports finished as top three academic teams, leading to NNU's All-Sport academic sweep. 🚺







Serving those who serve

On April 7, NNU's new Office of Veterans Services hosted a grand opening celebration for students, faculty, staff and the community. The ceremony included remarks by Director of Veterans Services Bob Sanchez and representatives from the NNU Student Veterans Club.

The Office of Veterans Services is designed to support student veterans and military family members beyond the classroom while providing services that reinforce transition and improve retention.

MORE THAN 70 STUDENTS AT NNU ARE VETERANS, MEMBERS OF THE **MILITARY OR DEPENDENTS**

"At Northwest Nazarene University, we've seen a growing number of military veterans taking advantage of the G.I. Bill to seek higher education," said Sanchez. "We want to give them a welcoming, supportive environment to help ease their transition from military life to college and civilian life as they pursue their academic goals."

Appreciating our supporters

On September 24, NNU held its first ever Give Day, a chance for the NNU community of alumni, students, parents and friends to support the university. Using social media, an online giving page and live participation tracking, this event provided a way for everyoneno matter where they were—to come together, share their stories, reconnect with old friends, wear NNU gear and support the university. See how much was raised at nnu.edu/giveday.

Ever wonder how much it costs to run our university? During Homecoming, NNU will host another new event designed to appreciate our supporters: Tag Day. During Tag Day, price tags will be placed on buildings and objects throughout campus to show the dollar value of constructing and maintaining them. Only objects not covered by tuition will be tagged. This event will be a visual reminder of the magnitude of donors' impact on NNU. N

Filling needs outside the U.S.

In May 2015, seven students and two leaders traveled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti on a trip that concluded a yearlong fundraising effort known as Rippleffect. Thanks to the fundraising campaign led by NNU students, Hope Home, an orphanage that provides care for severely mentally and physically disabled children, was finally able to install a new water pump and large cisterns.

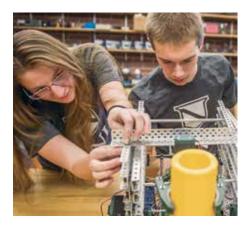
"NNU ON A MISSION" TEAMS TRAVELED TO POLAND, ARGENTINA, **COLOMBIA AND HAITI LAST SUMMER**

Not only did the team install the equipment and renovate the orphanage, they also built meaningful relationships with the people there. McCrea Nirider, who returned to Haiti for the second time and helped lead the Rippleffect campaign, was especially impacted by her time in Haiti: "There was such a beautiful reception of love and gratitude for one another."





WHAT WE LOVE













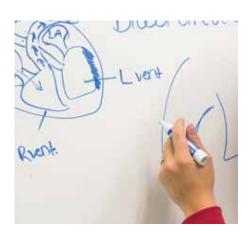








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Cultural Studies +* English + Literature* Professional Writing* Spanish +*

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics +*

MILITARY SCIENCE

Military Science *

MUSIC

Commercial/Music Industry + Instrumental + Music +* Piano + Theory/Composition + Voice + Worship and Music Ministry +*

NURSING

Nursing +

PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy +* Philosophy and Religion +

PRE-PROFESSIONAL

Pre-Chiropractic Pre-Dental Pre-Medical Pre-Optometry Pre-Physician Assistant Pre-Veterinary Medicine

PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Criminal Justice +* Psychology +* **Pre-Counseling** Scientist/Practitioner Sociology +

RELIGION

Biblical Languages* Biblical Studies + Children's Ministries +* Christian Education* Christian Ministry +* Evangelism* Intercultural Ministry (Missions) +* Parachurch Ministries* Pastoral Ministries* Philosophy and Religion + Theology* Worship Leadership* Youth Ministry +*

SOCIAL WORK

Social Welfare* Social Work +



WE LOVE THE **BOISE VALLEY**

OUR LOCATION SHAPES OUR EXPERIENCE — THE MOUNTAINS, THE RIVERS, THE SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST.

At NNU, you'll find a truly unique combination of community life, outdoor pursuits and vibrant culture. NNU students love living on campus, and there's plenty to do when they head off campus as well.

Join Journeys Outfitting Co., an outdoors club that helps students take advantage of all the opportunities for adventure at NNU's doorsteps.

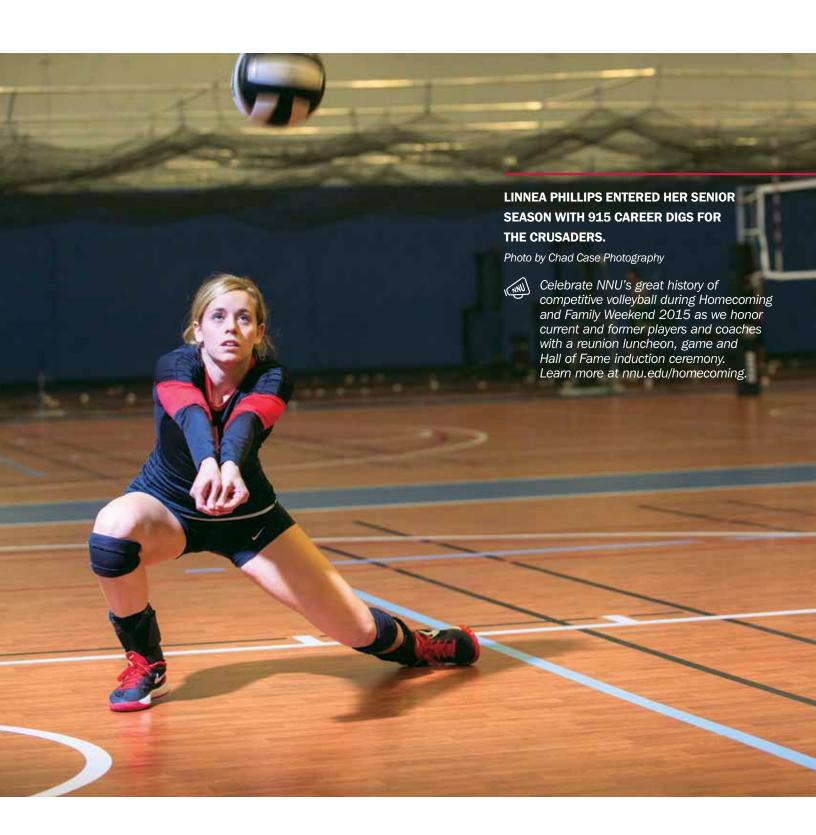
Enjoy northwest coffee culture on campus by sipping NNU's signature coffee drink, the Brick, on Thursday night at the Brick House or study by the fireplace next to The Bean in the Learning Commons.

Participate in beloved student traditions like Fresheree, Mr. NNU, TWIRP and WeekOne. There's so much to do right on campus that you'll have to make time to experience the rest of the Boise Valley.

HIKING UP TABLE ROCK IS A FAVORITE OUTDOOR STUDENT ACTIVITY. THE OVERLOOK OFFERS AN UNPARALLELED VIEW OF THE BOISE VALLEY.

Go to nnu.edu/visit to register for a campus visit and learn more about NNU's unique locale at nnu.edu/location.





LIBERO LINNEA PHILLIPS **SETS THE STANDARD**

Nursing majors are notorious for burying their heads in books or working off campus in clinicals at all hours. Volleyball players practice almost every day and travel part of most weeks when in season. A volleyball-playing nursing major is even busier. While some may shrink away from the challenge of making these two schedules work in harmony, Linnea Phillips, a senior from Yakima, Washington, embraces it.

When Linnea is not donning her scrubs and listening to heartbeats, she plays for the NNU Crusaders, a team that last year went to the national championship as the No. 1 seed in the NCAA West Regional tournament.

When Linnea first spoke with NNU's coach and the nursing department about her desire to pursue a career in nursing and to play the sport she loves, she met some resistance. Both nursing and volleyball have demanding schedules that do not naturally fit together, and many people told her it would be too difficult to attempt both. While she could have easily given up in the face of resistance, all Linnea said was, "challenge accepted."

Following NNU's desire to foster well-rounded students, Linnea's coach and the nursing department worked together to help her succeed. "I couldn't do it without the support of the nursing program, my coach, and all three of us communicating to work around conflicts," Linnea said.

It's not as simple as booking a different flight so Linnea can be back from a game in time for her clinical rotations; the success is also due to her dedication. Coach Doug English has seen the desire that drives Linnea to work hard: "I see it most on the road where she diligently and consistently works on her school work in the airports and any free time we have. She has incredible time management skills and the want, need and work ethic to be both a great volleyball player and a great student."

With practice or a game almost every day, classes and an average of 130 clinical hours to complete per semester, Linnea has had to work hard to be as successful as she is today. Last season she was named to the GNAC All-Academic Team for the second year in a row, proving she has not only balanced nursing and volleyball, she has excelled at both.

CRUSADER SCOREBOARD

>> No matter how you follow Crusader athletics, we've got you covered. Get scores, schedule information and the latest news online at nnusports.com

Social Media fans, Like us on **Facebook at Northwest Nazarene Crusader Athletics.**

VARSITY SPORTS

BASEBALL	M	
BASKETBALL	M	W
CROSS COUNTRY	M	W
GOLF	M	W
SOCCER	M	W
SOFTBALL		W
TRACK & FIELD	M	W
VOLLEYBALL		w

She takes it all in stride and is grateful for the opportunities afforded her at NNU. "Being able to play on a team is such a privilege; any minute on the court is an accomplishment in itself."

NNU WELCOMES BASKETBALL COACH SCOTT FLEMMING

A new era in Crusader men's basketball dawns this fall, led by veteran winner Scott Flemming. Hired in May, Scott takes over for Dave Daniels who retired in April. He brings a 440-273 career collegiate coaching record with him to the Northwest Nazarene sidelines along with two National Coach of the Year awards and a Christian College National Championship.

"I am excited to get back on a college campus, and it is particularly exciting to be at NNU," said Flemming, who most recently coached the National Men's Basketball Team of India for three years after spending two years as an assistant coach for the NBA D-League's Texas Legends.

"I believe God has brought me to this place, in this position, at this time," added Flemming, who coached at NCAA Division II Nyack College (N.Y.) before spending 20 seasons as head coach and athletic director at his alma mater, Mount Vernon Nazarene University (Ohio). "I have a passion for coaching the game and using this platform to make an eternal difference.

"Although this will be a transition year, our staff is working hard to build a foundation that will lead to success in the future. We want to engage with the Crusader fans and build on the strong basketball tradition at NNU." 🚺

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Adult and Professional Programs

BUSINESS

Business Accounting

EDUCATION

Elementary Secondary

RELIGION

Christian Ministry

NURSING

RN to BS in Nursing

Graduate Degrees

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

Missional Leadership Pastoral Ministry Spiritual Formation Youth, Children & Family Ministry

MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.DIV.)

Missional Leadership Spiritual Formation Youth, Children & Family Ministry

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA)

Business Administration

MASTER OF EDUCATION (M.ED.)

Curriculum, Instruction & Innovation Educational Leadership: **Building Administrator**

EDUCATION SPECIALIST (ED.S.)

Educational Leadership: **Building Administrator** Educational Leadership: Superintendent Educational Leadership: Director of Special Education

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Educational Leadership (Ed.D.) **Educational Leadership** (Ph.D.)

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COUNSELING (MS)

Clinical Counseling Marriage and Family Counseling School Counseling

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSN)

Nursing

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)

Social Work

NNU Online

BUSINESS

Business (AA, BS, MBA)

CORE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

EDUCATION

Elementary Education (AA) Curriculum, Instruction & Innovation (M.Ed.) Educational Leadership (M.Ed., Ed.S., Ed.D., Ph.D.)

LIBERAL STUDIES

Liberal Studies (AA, BA)

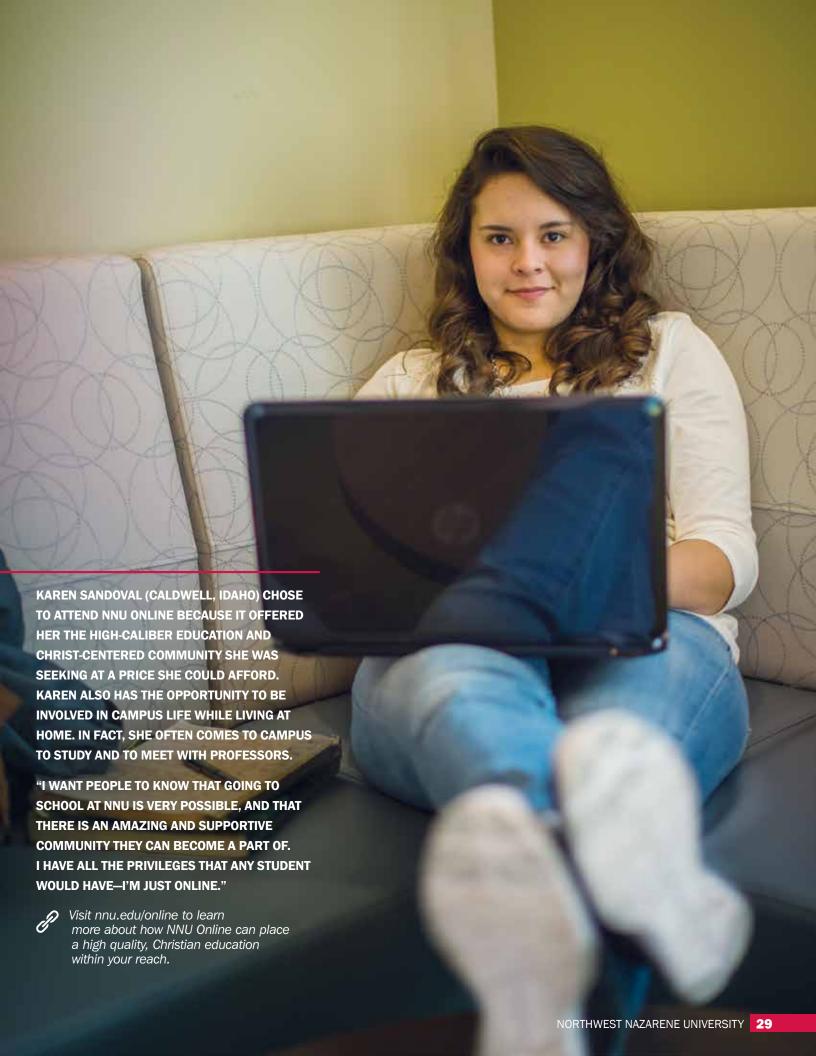
MINISTERIAL COURSE OF STUDY

NURSING

Nursing (RN to BS, MSN)

THEOLOGY & CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Christian Ministry (BA) Pastoral Ministry (MA) Missional Leadership (MA, M.Div.) Spiritual Formation (MA, M.Div.) Youth, Children & Family Ministry (MA, M.Div.) Christian Studies (M.Div.)



We love when our alumni make us proud

Honoring outstanding graduates with the 2015 Alumni Awards

JUDY AND ANDY BENNETT **ALUMNI OF THE YEAR**

"Judy and Andy have given themselves fully to service in the Kingdom of God. They are wonderful missionaries with a deep love for the people of Papua New Guinea. They are tremendous examples of Christ-centered compassion and sacrifice," said Dr. Bill McCoy, a colleague at Kudjip Nazarene Hospital, of NNU's Alumnus of the Year Award recipients, the Bennetts.

By combining their passions for service and medicine, Dr. Andrew and Judy Bennett have been making a difference in Papua New Guinea for over 12 years. This life of service can be traced back to their time at NNU where the Bennetts first met and where they received an education that would form the foundation for their future endeavors.

When Andy ('79) decided to attend NNU, he continued a family tradition. His parents, both of his siblings and their spouses attended NNU, as well as many other relatives and family friends. The decision was simple. "I had been on campus many times when my family attended Homecoming or other events. It never really occurred to me to attend elsewhere," commented Andy.

The journey to NNU was not a foregone conclusion for Judy ('79). Born and raised in Alberta, Canada, Judy originally attended Canadian Nazarene College (now Ambrose University College), but in the summer of 1972, while serving on a jointly sponsored work and witness team, she decided to pursue her new friendships and attend NNU.

After graduating from NNU with a BA in music, and a BS in biology in 1979, Andy went on to attend the University of Washington School of Medicine to receive his MD. He completed a residency at the University of North Dakota in family medicine, and began practicing medicine in the U.S. in 1987. Andy and Judy entered missionary service in August 2002, and arrived in Papua New Guinea in February 2003.

Judy graduated with a BA in speech and hearing therapy in 1979 with the original intent of using her degree in public schools. When asked about her experience at NNU, Judy explained, "It was a great time of personal and academic growth. My overall self-confidence grew tremendously during my time there."

Since 2003, Andy and Judy have served together in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, working at Kudjip Nazarene Hospital. Andy practices general medicine and has a special interest in treating children with clubfoot. "It's a great passion of mine, and is really what is unique about my work here." Andy explains. Judy supervises the medical storeroom where she receives, sorts, stores and distributes supplies and equipment that are donated to the hospital.

Andy reflects on how his experiences at NNU prepared him for this time in his life, saying, "For me, NNU was important in shaping me spiritually and in character. While I pursued my pre-med degree I received more direct preparation for my career as a doctor, realizing that math and science were not beyond my abilities. Although I wasn't aware of it at the time, I now realize that God used those years to prepare me for mission service. I don't believe that I would have been as successful as I was had I gone anywhere else for my pre-med."

Kudjip Nazarene Hospital has been serving the people of Papua New Guinea since 1967 and has experienced growth ever since, currently operating with over 230 staff. In 2014, the hospital served nearly 60,000 outpatients with just over 6000 admissions. Each year, all of the committed Christians who work in the hospital devote themselves to showing God's love and holistic concern for all people.

"The Bennetts' insight into needs in the world and how the Church could be 'salt' and 'light' led them to apply for Nazarene missions. They serve unselfishly in [Papua] New Guinea. God has blessed them abundantly," offers Hugh L. Smith, former WaPac District superintendent. Since their arrival in Papua New Guinea in 2003, Andy and Judy Bennett have led lives full of compassion with a motivation to serve. They are truly a credit to the Kingdom of Christ. 🚺



HOMECOMING & **FAMILY WEEKEND 2015**













NNU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERT

Crusader Choir alumni are invited to join NNU's 2015 Crusader Choir & Orchestra for an unforgettable evening performance. You also won't want to miss events celebrating and honoring Dr. Marvin Bloomquist for his years directing the choir from 1968 to 1994.



PEP RALLY AND DINNER

Get ready to cheer on the Crusaders at a pep rally before the men's basketball game. Don your red and black, grab some grub and bring the kids to this event for both alumni and current students.



VOLLEYBALL REUNION

Former players are invited back to campus for a reunion in their honor. Other points of connection will include a luncheon, a volleyball game and a Hall of Fame induction ceremony recognizing former coach Darlene Brasch and former player Liz Benear Nixon ('99).



ACADEMIC BRUNCHES

We will gather to say thank you to our former professors and reconnect with old (and new) friends from our majors at the Academic Discipline Brunches. Attend events for Education, SMA, School of Business, and STCM and NTS.



CLASS REUNIONS

Class reunions will be held for alumni graduating in years ending in '0 and '5 beginning with 1970. These gatherings are always a highlight of Homecoming. Don't miss your chance to catch up face to face.

VISIT NNU.EDU/ HOMECOMING FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS!

Take the 2015 Alumni Engagement Survey online at nnu.edu/alumni if you haven't already. Help us know how best to stay connected with you.

Earl and Gladys Mosteller -41- recently celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary with a quiet celebration dinner at Callahan Village in Roseburg, Oregon where they reside.

1960s

Allen Johnson, PhD -68- teaches psychology and communications at Washington State University and is a speaker, consultant and author as well. His latest book "The Awakening" is available through Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Allen and his wife Nita divide their time between their home in Richland, Wash. and their adopted home in Pérols, France.

Carol (Yeend) Calbom -71- of Seattle has retired after 44 years as a classroom teacher in the Kent School District.

Daniel and Carol Ketchum -72- moved to Jerusalem in October 2014. They are serving Skyline Wesleyan in community development across Israel, a new global initiative FIRM: Fellowship of Israel-Related Ministries, and global intercession from the Jerusalem Prayer Tower, a ministry of King of Kings Community Jerusalem.

Frances Huffman -76- has made a career of advocating for children with challenges and is now the CEO of Tesh, a Coeur d'Alene nonprofit that offers life and job skills training, counseling and child development services to residents with disabilities.

Clark L. Roberts -77- is a motivational speaker on the topic of overcoming life's challenges, having lost his ability to see at age 24. Clark lives in Bellevue, Washington, and recently published "Wags to You - Short and Long Dog Tails."

Robert Stevens -83- was appointed as Senior Warden of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Spokane, Wash.

1990s

Kevin Kehus -93- moved to Maryland after having lived in Mozambique and other countries of Africa for 18 years. Kevin has been involved with endeavors such as refugee relief, low cost housing, and ultimately, coffee importing and roasting. Kevin and wife, Cathrein, have three children, Tomas (15), Lucas (13) and Zahra (12).



Jason Steiner -97- is now the IT Infrastructure Engineering Area Lead at POWER Engineers.

Jeff Turner -MEd-00- has been named superintendent of the Mesa Union School District in Ventura County, California, moving from the assistant superintendent of educational services role at the Rio School District in Oxnard. Jeff earned his bachelor's degree at Idaho State University and master's degree in educational leadership at NNU.

Dr. Ryan Danker -01- is the visiting Assistant Professor of Church History and Theology at Greensboro College, Greensboro, North Carolina. Ryan has a few articles coming up in the "The Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States" (Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2015). One of

the articles is about Dr. H. Orton Wiley, first president of NNU and a major theologian in the Church of the Nazarene.

Kara Lyons-Pardue -02- defended her dissertation at Princeton Theological Seminary in December 2014. The doctoral research is entitled "A Later Ending Reclaims Mark's Faithful Women," discussing the varying depictions of faith and disbelief among Jesus' followers in Mark 16:9-20.

Kenneth Tennyson -01-MA-04- lives with his family in Catharpin, Virginia, where he is director of quality & reliable engineering at iDirect.

Lauri Tolmie -03- has joined Bank of the Cascades as vice president and professional banking officer for the Treasure Valley region. She is located at the Commercial Banking Center in Nampa. Lauri has more than 25 years of banking experience and is a past board member for College of Western Idaho Foundation, Nampa Business Improvement District, Nampa Library Foundation and Commissioner of the City of Nampa Development.

Jill Deakins -04- was selected for Idaho Business Review's Accomplished Under 40 program, which finds accomplished professionals who are building their companies and the regional marketplace. Jill lives in Meridian.

Steve Lynch -MEd-08- is the new head girls' soccer coach at Clackamas High School (Washington). In his 17 years of coaching, Steve has coached at the club, Olympic Development, high school and collegiate levels. Lynch played soccer in Boise and at NNU as an undergrad. He earned a degree in elementary education from BSU and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from NNU.

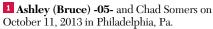


Isaac Barrett -MBA-11- was selected for Idaho Business Review's Accomplished Under 40 program, which finds accomplished professionals who are building their companies and the regional marketplace. Isaac lives in

Jordy Turner -11- joined Nichols Accounting Group (Nampa, Idaho) as a staff accountant

Gabriella Homan -12- joined Leavitt Group in Boise as a commercial account specialist.

Travis Keller -MA-13- has been named Mount Vernon Nazarene University's Director of Alumni Relations. Keller previously served as Director of Student Life since 2011. In addition to his MVNU undergraduate degree, Keller also received an MA in Missional Leadership from NNU.



- 2 Heather (Miller) -09- and David Pillers -03- on January 4, 2015 in Issaquah, Wash.
- 3 Autumn (Tustin) -13- and Andy Zane -15on August 30, 2014 in Seabrook, Wash.
- Jennifer (Kruse) -10- and Stephen Huff -10- on June 16, 2014 in Nampa, Idaho
- Michelle (Cunningham) -12- and Benjamin Skipworth on July 26, 2014 in Buckley, Wash.





6 Arielle Askren -11- and Patrick Marston on August 2, 2014 in Bend, Ore.



7 Payton Michelle on May 20, 2014 to

Michelle -12- and Benjamin Skipworth

Iackson Daniel on June 5, 2014 to **Denae Propeck -10-** and Daniel Walters

9 Samuel Copeland on August 29, 2014 to Robyn (Evens) -01- and Ryan Chambers. His siblings Grace Noelle and Liana Joy (2) are with Jesus.

Barrington Bruce on November 19, 2014 to Ashley (Bruce) -05- and Chad Somers

II Jessenia Mae on November 20, 2014 to Jennifer (Martin) -08- and Joshua Siordia, joining sibling Jamie

12 Emsley E was adopted on December 15, 2014 by Heidi (Zimmerman) -03- and John Hunter -94-

Emma Janae on December 19, 2014 to Molly (Bales) -04- and Robert Fleming -99-

Hazel Elizabeth on January 2, 2015 to Charlene (Williams) -13- and Corry Robertson, joining sibling Lena

¹⁵ Aleyah Elaine on February 22, 2015 to Nicole and Eric Depew -00-, joining siblings Stella, Kristen and Celeste

Paige Leora on February 23, 2014 to Kendra (Little) and Nathanael Hunter -14-

Oliver Harvest on April 2, 2015 to Amanda (Sugden) -09- and Forest Fisk -06-, joining sister Annabelle

Julia Allison on August 1, 2015 to **Rev.** Kristen (Parke) -11- and Kyle Mayer -08-

In Memory

Ailee Thiessen -38- on December 3, 2014 in Sidney, Mont.

Elizabeth "Betty" Jane Bell -41- on April 25, 2015 in Nampa, Idaho

Rev. Earl Hunter -41- on April 8, 2015 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Esther True -41- on March 27, 2015 in Ventura, Calif.

Mildren Vanderpool -42- on April 2, 2015 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Elizabeth Gunter Rimbey -42- on April 11, 2015 in West Linn, Ore.

Evelyn Wing -42- on December 25, 2014 in Nampa, Idaho



















Donna Neth -59- on October 18, 2014 in Nampa, Idaho.

Dan Hudson -60- on December 15, 2014 in Nampa, Idaho

Ruth Hartley Beeson -62- on Nampa, Idaho



March 2, 2015 in

G. Van Lybyer -63- on March 21, 2015 in Caldwell, Idaho

Fredric Lewis Dautermann II -66- on March 31, 2015 in New Cambria, Kan.

Saundra Jakola Running -66- on December 9, 2014 in Bremerton, Wash.

Lenore Hughes Smitherman Knight -68- on October 27, 2014 in Caldwell, Idaho.

Loretta Nettleton -68- on February 5, 2015 in Boise, Idaho

Theodore "Ted" Doramus -69- on December 17, 2014 in Caldwell, Idaho.

Rev. Michael Allen -70- on May 21, 2015 in Medford, Ore.

Debbie (Ryan) Campbell -85- on June 5, 2015 in Yukon, Okla.

Joseph Hassis -89- on December 14, 2014 in Nampa, Idaho

Rodney Robert Thomson -00- on February 16, 2015 in Caldwell, Idaho

Alicia Wungwattana -00- on September 4, 2014 in Boise, Idaho.

Rev. Fred Laeger -73- MA -06- on May 2, 2015 in Kansas Čity, Mo.

-year- indicates graduation year (year) indicates matriculation year





Mildred Gish -43- on January 30, 2015 in Norman, Okla.

Laura Mangum -43- on April 27, 2015 in Nampa, Idaho

Ruth Speer Skagerberg -45- on February 4, 2015 in Nampa, Idaho

Charlotte Edgar -45- on March 4, 2015 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Geraldine "Gerrie" Gaines -46- on May 24, 2015 in Hunters, Wash.

Rodney Smith -46- on December 17, 2014 in Tualatin, Ore.

Dr. Harold M. Daniels -48- on February 5, 2015 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Mary Bellamy -48- on February 14, 2015 in Nampa, Idaho

Rev. Willis Walker -48- and -49- on June 4, 2015 in Yakima, Wash.

Ralph Shoemaker -49- on February 13, 2015 in Nampa, Idaho Glenn Ludlow -49- on May 12, 2015 in

Portland, Ore.

Merlin Housen -50- on March 6, 2013 in Nampa, Idaho

Ina Smith -50- on June 27, 2014 in Tualatin, Ore.

Adell Vauthier -50- on January 8, 2015 in Nampa, Idaho

Opal Powell -50- on January 29, 2015 in Nampa, Idaho.

Jodi (Sanders) Hovee -51- on April 5, 2015 in Tucson, Ariz.

Marjorie James -54- on December 19, 2014 in Nampa, Idaho

William "Bill" Richards -54- on January 3, 2015 in Portland, Ore.

Dr. Ruth Knight Laws -54- on June 14, 2015 in Nampa, Idaho

Joyce Thompson -55- on January 13, 2015 in Tumwater, Wash.

Garroll Gary Lund -57- on January 3, 2014 in Kinnear, Wyo.

Gayle Yvonne Stroup -57- on March 18, 2015 in Salt Lake City, Utah

Marian Anderson Peterson -57- on June 3, 2015 in Klamath Falls, Ore.



It was a simple phone call that started my journey through the world of professional internships. I was at choir retreat my freshman year of college when my dad called and asked, "How would you feel about an internship in California?" I wasn't really sure what this internship was or if I even wanted it, but the word "California" piqued my interest, and I agreed.

I spent that summer interning at a branch of UBS in California, working by day and reading on the beach at night. I quickly learned I did not want a career in corporate finance, but the time was not wasted. Every day I would go to work and experience the professional world in a way that I could have never imagined during college.

Two years later, I have experienced several other internships ranging from nonprofit marketing to political relations. Each one taught me something new: not to let the phone ring more than twice, create social media content that is interesting, and always, always, ALWAYS put the customer first.

In March 2015, I went to New York on an NNU trip. My boss from California heard about it and went out of his way to set up a meeting for me with one of the UBS executives. The meeting was simple: I wanted to learn from her, and she wanted to invest in me. Halfway through the meeting, she asked about my plans for the summer. I shared that I did not yet have any but was hoping to get an internship in New York.

"Forward me your resume," she said. "I'll send it to some friends." I did, and a week later I got an email from Teneo Holdings, a global advisory firm in New York. I interviewed, was offered an internship and am now writing this article from the 45th floor of the CitiBank Building in Manhattan.

But these internships didn't just teach me how to write a concise business memo or add the perfect amount of sugar to my boss's coffee (although that is now a special skill of mine). They challenged the way I think, see the world and experience life. I've learned that it doesn't matter if you're the smartest person in the room or if you have the best resume. It matters that you take opportunities, treat people well and go out of your way to solve problems. In any career, as throughout life, taking the time to recognize a problem and solve it goes further than any diploma, certification or GPA ever will.

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