Michael Bankston was born October 6, 1955 at Flushing, Michigan to Don and Jackie Bankston. He attended Olivet Nazarene College (University) and received his master's degree from Boston University. At the time of his death on July 15, 1999 Michael was completing a doctoral degree at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. An accomplished clarinetist, Michael was committed to excellence in music. He served as chairman of the Department of Music at Northwest Nazarene College (University) and was principal clarinetist of the Boise Philharmonic and its woodwind quartet. Michael was the director of the Concert Band at NNC and participated in many musical events throughout the Treasure Valley. Although his life was devoted to the pursuit of excellence in music with his students, living out his commitment to Christ remained Michael's highest calling.

On August 14, 1991 Michael broadened his scope of accomplishments to include that of husband and father when he married Sue and became "Dad" to her three children, Jennifer, Nathan and Melissa. As in his music endeavors, Michael was committed to excellence in marriage and parenting. He undertook with enthusiasm the growing and stretching necessary to build and nurture a solid and loving Christian home.

The Michael Bankston Memorial Scholarship will serve as a lasting legacy to Michael's life and foster his dream of helping students achieve excellence in music.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be students who meet general scholastic requirements and show potential for academic success and degree completion;
2. Financial need shall be a primary factor in the awarding of this scholarship; Special consideration shall be given to individuals with an aptitude and passion for clarinet music and performance. Should there be no suitable candidate in that category, the selection pool may be broadened to include all woodwinds, then to any concert band instrument;
4. Recipients are to evidence a commitment to excellence;
5. Recipients may receive the award in successive years, not to exceed four years;
6. Nominations for this award are to be made through the Department of Music and the Office of Financial Aid.

A most satisfying way to honor a loved one or friend is to invest in a life yet to be lived.
Gifts to NNU's Endowed Scholarship Program become a "helping hand" to students as they prepare for their vocations and for lives of service to others. For more information, contact the Office of Planned Giving, NNU, 625 Holly St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8772.