



NATIONAL NEWS

Albuquerque • Brooklyn Center • Colorado Springs • Denver • Distance Learning
Ellsworth AFB • Independence • Kirtland AFB • Mall of America • Overland Park
Rapid City • Rio Rancho • Roseville • Sioux Falls • Zona Rosa

December 2005

CELEBRATIONS



The Rapid City community celebrated the reversal of plans to close Ellsworth Air Force Base (EAFB), which had been included on the Pentagon's May 2005 list for closure. During June more than 7,000 area people representing businesses and families which would be affected, attended a hearing by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission committee. In August the members of the BRAC commission voted to reject the Pentagon's recommendation for EAFB. Their recommendation was accepted by President Bush. The community's Ellsworth Task Force organized a September afternoon celebration to thank the public for the support and to recognize the effort of a number of people involved in this important occasion. There was also a celebration on base, and students and staff from NAU's base extension were participants in a picnic associated with the good news.

On September 17, 2005, NAU students, faculty and staff throughout the system, celebrated "Constitution Day/Citizenship Day" to create a greater awareness and appreciation of the United States Constitution. The Constitution of the United States was written in 1787 to replace the 1777 Articles of Confederation. There is a conspicuous lack of knowledge/awareness in the mainstream with regard to the significance of this historical document. Only 2% of a national poll of 600 students knew that James Madison is considered the father of the U. S. Constitution.

It begins:



Blake Faulkner and Jamie Iversen

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Several events took place at the Center for Innovation, including a flag ceremony and remarks by an appropriately costumed **Blake Faulkner**, president of the Distance Learning campus. **Paul Grubic** and **Milene Olivera** (NAU graduates) were two of 43 people who received citizenship at an event held at Mount Rushmore and were also recognized in the day's activities.

At the Colorado campuses, displays, contests, a barbecue, a reading of the Constitution and singing of the National Anthem helped students and staff remember and celebrate a "Constitution Week." The Missouri and Kansas region decorated facilities in red, white and blue. Staff also dressed in the

patriotic colors, and pocket-sized Constitutions were distributed to students. Books regarding our country's history were displayed. A trivia quiz qualified the winner for a gift certificate. The New Mexico locations operated on the basis of the theme "Isn't Freedom Sweet?". Campuses were decorated with ribbons of red, white and blue. Cookies were provided and flyers providing information and descriptions of Web sites and resources were provided. In Sioux Falls, cookies and juice were provided along with flyers for faculty to read aloud in their classes. Patriotic colored balloons decorated the campus and a big sign and a copy of the Bill of Rights were displayed.

Campus News

Staff/Alumni/Students

RAPID CITY - S.D.

Laurie Gustafson, a graduate, has 16 years as a state employee, and eight years of employment with the State of South Dakota as an accountant and auditor in the state's retirement system. Her work was with the Department of



Transportation and she also served as an officer in compliance with labor laws. She was recently elected to membership in the board of trustees for the retirement system. Gustafson previously worked as a tax consultant in both Wyoming and Utah. Gustafson and her husband Brian have two children and they live in Pierre, South Dakota.

Robert W. Howell II, a 1982 graduate is a senior travel counselor in California. He describes his education from National as a basis for "a long and satisfying career in the travel industry." **Dennis Lively**, a longtime and important member of the veterinary technology staff has recently served as president of the National Veterinary Technology Association-NVTA, and he serves on the board for the organization. **Peggy Schlechter**, Dean of Student Success recently met for lunch with four recent graduates: **Bryan Beard, Jenny Knapp, Tracey**



Out to lunch

(Dooley) Fichtl and Jamie Fichtl.

Following NAU graduation, **Larissa J. Hood** attended and graduated (2003) from the South Texas College of Law (Houston). She was voted the "outstanding female" and "most diverse and versatile" by her peers. She passed the Texas bar, and



began as an associate attorney in San Antonio, practicing in oil and gas litigation.

DISTANCE LEARNING CAMPUS - S.D.

In order to assist in the continued expansion of international programming, **Paul Boesen** has taken the position of managing director of the university's international programming. He has worked with NAU in this capacity over the past several months. **Ann**



Larson is the associate undergraduate academic dean. She will work in the resolution of student issues and will coordinate student advising. **Jeffrey Bailie** has been appointed to the position of director of online faculty development. His efforts will relate to recruitment, appointment, training, supervision and evaluation. Larson and Bailie are both doctoral candidates working toward an Ed.D. **Kari Blackett** presented "The Inside-out Approach to Learner Achievement" at the "Paving the Road Ahead"-a national and annual conference related to improvements in student achievement in San Francisco, California during the summer. There is a particular interest in improving college access for low-income students. **Jamie Iversen**, a 2003 graduate has two years of experience with NAU academics and has recently joined the team in learner services.

INDEPENDENCE - Mo.

NaTasha Rivera was a campus recipient of an academic excellence scholarship as a general education student. Her plans have been to gain admission to the nursing program at Zona Rosa in December. She wants to encourage other students to "explore what they may want to do in life, and then to hold on to dreams."

OVERLAND PARK - Kan.

Dr. David Cassell was selected as the "Kansas Instructor of the Year" by the Kansas Association of Private Career Colleges

and Schools. He was recognized for his dedication to students, his talents in the classroom, and his willingness to go above and beyond.



MALL OF AMERICA - Minn.

Angela Lynn Burton a graduate is currently living in Ohio and is attending law school at Ohio Northern University. She expects to receive the JD in May of 2006. **Larry Loud** and **Scott Ault** are new admissions representatives. **Keisha Chatman** and **Katie Holt** are new members of the staff. **Heidi Klukas** is the student services dean, and she has taught English extensively.

ROSEVILLE - Minn.

Peter Williams and **Anousone Fongthavisay** are now part of the admissions team. **Lynn Roth** and **Bill Kirkpatrick** are also new on the staff. The state of Minnesota has approved NAU's AAS degree for pharmacy technicians. The program will be offered at all Minnesota campuses, and the major core and laboratory coursework will be held in Roseville.

A regional student appreciation event was held at Roseville, with a local radio station advertising and hosting the event.

New staff members at the Roseville campus include: **Carrie Bates**-therapeutic massage program, **Patti Manderscheid**-administrative assistant, **Carol Peterson**-phar-



Student Appreciation Event at Roseville, Minn.

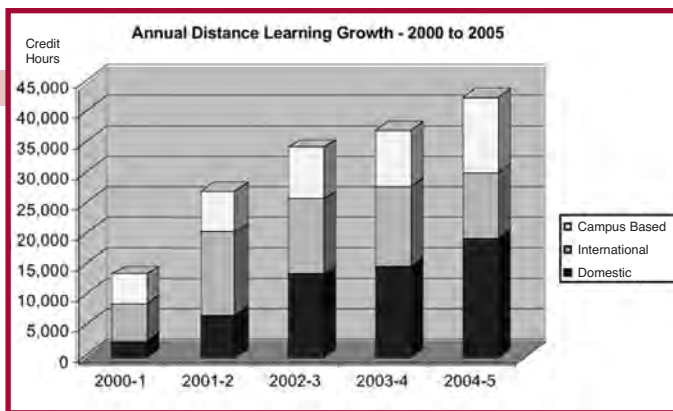
macy technician program, and **Peter**

Spotlight: Distance Learning



Mitzi Austin, Jerry Joy, Paul Boesen, Blake Faulkner, Jon Outland, Amanda Hubbard and Dr. Phyllis Okrepkie

The NAU distance learning campus arrived essentially with Dr. Jerry Gallentine, when in the early 1990s he became the president and the CEO of National American University. Online classes created opportunity and convenience for those who may have been limited by geography, employment or other responsibilities. With approval and accreditation by the North Central Association for online degrees, the distance learning campus enrollment began to grow.



During the past five years, enrollment in the distance learning campus has grown 312%. For the fall term of 2005-2006, there are 758 domestic online students pursuing their degree online, with 704 additional students (campus based) from NAU campuses taking online courses to supplement their on-campus coursework, and 363 international students pursuing their degrees through the university's blended Best of Both Worlds-IDP™ international programs, combining for a one term total of 1,825 students and 14,920 credit hours. As the knowledge economy continues to drive the global demand for a highly trained workforce, it is anticipated that the distance learning campus will continue to grow at an accelerated rate.

Several members of the professional staff have contributed to the development of the supporting technology, services, curriculum and instruction required to support online learners. This is a work in progress, and program quality and increased academic program opportunities are goals

for those involved. The professional staff in the distance learning campus continues to grow in proportion to the increases in enrollment. The current full-time staff consists of 66 professionals in administration, admissions, academic support, student services, and technical support. The instructional staff is similarly tiered, and faculty members exist with varying levels of teaching responsibilities. During the recently completed academic year, 107 instructors were involved in the presentation of class work and in the development of program curriculum.

Support staff and those with academic interests along with an outstanding faculty enhance conditions for student success. Persistence and graduation is evidenced in this program. In 1999-2000, NAU had one AAS and one BS graduate in the domestic category. There were 14 international graduates with AAS degrees for the same period. For the six-year total of distance campus graduates as of the 2004-2005 academic year, 1,594 students have graduated from the distance learning campus. The importance and value of international participation in the distance programs cannot be overstated, and the value of these degrees to those graduates is likewise significant. Recent NAU distance international enrollments and graduates exist in the following countries: Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Germany, Guam, Honduras, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Mongolia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Venezuela.



Mavericks in action.

NAU's women's volleyball team is undefeated with 24 wins and 0 losses, number 1 in Region III and number 2 in the United States, according to NAIA statistics, at the time of writing. Three other Region III teams (Dickinson State (N.D.), Dordt (Iowa) and Hastings (Neb.) are ranked in the top 25. The Mavericks are looking forward to another trip to the national tournament which will be held in San Diego, California, during November 30-December 3, 2005.

The October 21st standings in the Great Plains Region have NAU's women leading their college and university competitors. The men are in second place. **Jessica Painter** is the leader in women's all-around and **Nick Guy** is second in the men's all-around category. **Stacey Gaston** has been named the assistant rodeo coach for the Dickinson State (North Dakota) Blue Hawks. She joins **Scott Kleeman**, the head coach. Both are recent NAU graduates with considerable experience in college rodeo and the College National Finals Rodeo.



Jessica Painter

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Williams-admissions.

ALBUQUERQUE - N.M.

Donna Owens, a member of the faculty, is a new admissions representative at the Kirtland Air Force Base extension.



Student Appreciation Event at Roseville, Minn.

She has taught classes at NAU since the fall term 2000. **Damon Flores**, an NAU graduate, completed his MBA and returned to his culinary passions and is the head chef and co-owner of Vincenzo's Fine Cuisine in Albuquerque.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION - S.D.

Paul Sedlacek, a long time colleague at NAU, is now the program chair for legal studies. He will concern himself with core curriculum and will assist in securing approval of programs, by the American Bar Association - ABA.

Pam Gossard is the CampusVue associate systems administrator. She has worked at NAU in student accounts and in information technology.

Donnette Knight is now the assistant director of student accounts.

Ellsworth AFB - S.D.

Stephanie Higdon is a new admissions representative at the base. She has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Michigan State University.



...to Alumni and Friends OF THE UNIVERSITY

There are a number of ways for graduates, staff and others to assist National American University in accomplishing its mission and objectives. If you are aware of job opportunities and/or individuals that you believe could benefit from, and should consider NAU's educational programs and classes, please contact appropriate staff members at any of the university's campus locations.

THE NAU FOUNDATION awards several thousand dollars each year to deserving undergraduate students in support of academic excellence. Beginning with this academic year 2004-2005, each campus of the university will be able to designate one of the long standing academic excellence scholarships as an alumni award. There are 50 of these overall academic excellence scholarships, and a minimum of \$900 is to be awarded over a period of three quarters. The most senior applicant-recipient will be designated and will receive the **Alumni-Academic Excellence Scholarship** award at his or her campus. Current resources will only provide for a single unit in this category, but contributions to the foundation by alumni, staff or others can increase the numbers and enhance the probability of educational continuation at NAU, by outstanding students. Please consider making a contribution to the university's separate non-profit foundation (NAU Foundation). Through itemization and possible tax bracket adjustment, donors may be able to gain financial advantage through these deductible contributions.

A committee which includes a graduate alumnus will continue to evaluate applicants and will make the selection of all academic excellence awards including the alumni units. Applicants should see appropriate staff at the nearest NAU campus location in order to gain additional information and application materials.



Guy Tillett, Director of Alumni Services

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Karen Stone is a baccalaureate student in paralegal studies at the Independence, Missouri campus of NAU. She is a proud recipient of the Alumni Academic Excellence Award and Scholarship. She describes numerous obstacles which she needed to overcome in pursuit of her education at NAU. Severe health problems had left her unable to work. The supportive and intimate atmosphere at NAU made it easy for her. Karen found comfort in small classes and she was able to make connections with other students and with faculty. She describes NAU as creating a beginning for her, which helped her build confidence and determination to pursue a career in law. Working as a paralegal in real estate law with a mortgage company or a title company are employment goals. Karen says "No matter how old you are, don't be afraid to take that first step. I'll be 50 next year when I graduate! Thank you NAU, for believing in me."

CONGRATULATIONS!



Karen Stone

Best Practices

Faculty and staff at NAU have been encouraged to submit descriptions of particularly effective practices or routines to **Dr. Barbara Preszler** at the central academic office. Dr. Preszler is the director of assessment, and she reports that students do particularly well in classes taught by certain instructors. She is now sharing these practices, which are to be periodically described in the *National News* publication in order that NAU faculty and staff can consider and possibly apply these practices at NAU locations within the system. Both academic and campus operational functions will be of interest to all NAU locations.

"I don't have magic teaching techniques for publication. My approach is to be very problem oriented, both in class and in homework. I review homework assignments in the class on the day it is due, and students provide the solutions. Student participation is a key. Following lecture material, students participate in solving in-class problems. The amount of active participation helps keep students from going into a vegetative state, and puts pressure on them to do some preparation. Of course, this stuff doesn't always work!"

Bob Armstrong, NAU Albuquerque campus