National American University has experienced many changes over the past few years with the expansion of locations, new programs, and the addition of the Roueche Graduate Center. NAU first started offering the Master of Business Administration program on-campus in 2000 at the Rapid City location. The following year, online programming was introduced, allowing more students in more locations to enroll. The Master of Management was added in 2006 and the Master of Science in Nursing in 2009. Operations for the graduate school were headquartered in Rapid City until Fall 2012 when it moved to the Roueche Graduate Center (RGC) in Austin, Texas. The RGC is an extension of NAU, serving graduate level students as well as leading community college initiatives to offer bachelor’s degree completion programs for students, master’s degrees for faculty and staff, and doctoral courses in community college leadership.

Dr. John E. Roueche, President of the Roueche Graduate Center, is a nationally recognized expert in higher education and community college leadership. Prior to joining NAU, Dr. Roueche was Professor and Director of the Community College Leadership Program (CCLP) at The University of Texas at Austin for 42 years. He has written 35 books, 150 chapters and articles, and has spoken to more than 1300 community colleges and universities since 1970.

The entire team at the Roueche Graduate Center is focused on serving the current student body and ensuring quality curriculum and instruction continues, while also expanding offerings to more students throughout the United States. Because programs are offered online, students who meet the admissions requirements can enroll in NAU’s graduate programs. While there are still some courses offered on-ground at the Rapid City location, the majority of students take their classes online. This provides convenience and flexibility for them to obtain a master’s degree without
Cover story continued...

having to change their priorities at work and home.

The graduate school plans to grow enrollment by reaching out to adults, many who are currently working and wanting to advance their knowledge and skills in order to either be prepared for promotion within their current career or to move into a new career area. They are also working with businesses looking for ways to offer training and development opportunities to their employees. NAU supports this effort through a corporate scholarship opportunity.

National American University is loyal to its bachelor’s degree graduates, offering a scholarship of up to $243 per course toward a master’s degree. This summer, NAU is also offering a dual-credit course in International Business, allowing undergraduate students to earn credit toward both their bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the same time.

For more information about enrolling in the graduate programs, scholarships, or the dual-credit course, please contact the graduate advisors at (877) 398-0118.

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Staff, faculty, and students of the Albuquerque campus collected over 1,100 books for Emerson Elementary. The team was able to bring the donations to the school, inviting a member of the City Council and local TV stations.

ALBUQUERQUE WEST, NM

Bernadette Fernandez* (Healthcare Coding, Diploma, 2011) had already earned a degree and had no intentions of going back to school when a family member pointed out opportunities in medical billing and coding. The pay was good and demand was high. A working mom with a young son, she took classes online in order to maintain balance in her life. She got a job quickly and appreciates the Monday through Friday schedule with weekends and holidays off. She credits the career management class with helping her perfect her resume, interviewing, and job search skills.

The culture club received over 200 donated books and $200 to help special kids in the area. These items were donated to the Carrie Tingly Children’s Hospital.

BLOOMINGTON, MN

Vickie Lee* (Business Administration, AAS, 2011) points out that she is the only one of her six brothers and sisters to complete a college education. Thanks to the support she received from family, friends, colleagues, and faculty members, she was able to overcome the many challenges that came her way and developed the confidence needed to finish her degree. She made the honor roll and set an example for grandchildren and family members.

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

Jay Lorentz* pursued a bachelor’s degree because he enjoyed learning, was motivated to do it for his family, and wanted to progress his U.S. Army career. He pointed out that the NAU students’ and staff’s encouragement in not only his class work but also his personal life were encouraging to him. Like many students, he faced challenges with time management and finances to cover tuition. Taking evening and online classes helped him keep everything in balance. He was commissioned as a military intelligence officer in July 2010 and having a degree has helped Jay support himself and his family through better career opportunities.

Continued on page 3

Dr. Sam Kerr has been appointed to serve as the Chief Operating Officer of National American University. Dr. Kerr is particularly well prepared for this expanded role based upon the numerous and increasingly responsible positions he has held within the university over the last number of years, as well as his strong educational background.
Medical assisting students toured the reference laboratories at Penrose-St. Frances Hospital. The students were very excited to see what is done with the samples that they will collect during their employment as medical assistants. The students were also happy to hear that their tour guides working in cytology and blood banking were medical assistants. It opened their eyes to the potential employment opportunities other than working only in physician’s offices.

DENVER

In April, the medical assisting class was invited to participate in venipuncture procedures through the 9HealthFair in Denver. The medical assistant department received a nice compliment from a senior phlebotomy volunteer at the fair. “It was so nice working with you and your wonderful students. I was very impressed with the professionalism of your students and the confidence each expressed in their draws. How blessed our community will be to have all of them at the hub of health and wellbeing for so many patients. In watching you and your students today, I was impressed with the universal standards... and not one of them forgot. The great structure that you have taught your students will be expressed every day as they walk into the future as medical assistants, but also states a lot about you as a professional in this field and being the great mentor you are for each of your students.”

KANSAS CITY AREA

Several NAU students and members of Phi Beta Lambda (the college version of Future Business Leaders of America) competed against students from 67 universities and colleges in the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) conference in Columbia, Missouri. Their leader was Dr. Asefaw Indrias. The winners received medals, diplomas and qualification to compete in the National Leadership Conference, which will be held June 22-25, 2013 in Anaheim, California. This is the first time the PBL students in the Kansas City area (Independence, Overland Park, Lee’s Summit, Zona Rosa) have competed. The winners are Sebastian Dinh, Katherine Perkins, Tabitha Palmer, Stacey Forte, and Jaimee Arnold. Congratulations to these students and Dr. Indrias!

LEE’S SUMMIT, MO

Rebecca Longoria* (Accounting, AAS, 2012) selected online classes because it was a better fit for her family’s lifestyle. Her goal of earning a degree was to make a better life for herself and her family. She credits the strategies for success class for helping her with confidence to complete a degree, realization of who she was, and her own capabilities. Now that she is working, it’s her husband’s turn to go to college and pursue his dreams.

ONLINE

Ben Straight was selected as the online faculty member of the winter quarter, 2012-2013.

ROSEVILLE, MN

“I can’t do this without you!” “Have a support group” “Stay focused, balanced, and find a happy medium between life and school!” “Keep your mind on studies and keep your head in the game!” These tips were shared by three students and friends, Kristina LaFontaine, Sarah Nelson, and Grayson Clevenger, who walked across the graduation stage in May. The school responsibilities along with everything else, might have been too much to take alone, but together, they were able to handle things by sharing their abilities and personal strengths. “Find friends at NAU! Friendships are important.”

Lana Trent* (pictured left) graduated with honors in healthcare coding in 2012. She landed a job at a hospital in the Minneapolis area and is working on medical coding certification. Her motivation was establishing a career and setting an example for her son. She worked full time, attended classes on campus and took a majority of online classes. She states that education and her position have changed her life and she “could not be happier!”

ZONA ROSA/NORTH KANSAS CITY, MO

Elizabeth Jeselnik, clinical laboratory technician student, received an outstanding academic achievement award in medical laboratory sciences from The American Society for Clinical Pathology in April 2013. This award recognizes students in the laboratory profession who demonstrate academic excellence and a commitment to community service and leadership activities.
IN THE SPOTLIGHT
“Major” Maverick Trivia

ACCREDITATION-NSB , NCB , NC & NAU
National American University began in 1941 as National School of Business (NSB) in Rapid City, South Dakota. NSB was one of many hundreds of one-year business schools offering diplomas. It received national accreditation in this regard in 1953. In 1965, the name was changed to National College of Business (NCB) and it became accredited as a Junior College of Business providing associate degrees. In 1968, NCB was one of only 10 Senior Colleges of Business offering bachelor’s degrees, and the only one in the western United States. When the coursework became diversified, the name was changed to National College (NC). In 1979, NC received candidacy for regional accreditation, and the initial grant of regional accreditation came in 1985. A rapid expansion of branch campus locations began in 1974 and as of May 2013, there are 37 locations in 11 states. With the addition of graduate degrees, online programming and major additions in academic programming, the institutional name was again changed to National American University (NAU) in 1997.

RAPID CITY CAMPUS & MAVERICK ATHLETICS
National’s campus in Rapid City participated very effectively in collegiate athletics from the 1960s into the 2000s. Although it was one of the smallest colleges with this kind of programming, championships were commonplace. The men’s and women’s rodeo teams won Great Plains Regional Championships regularly, and four Maverick men and two Maverick women won national event championships in the College National Finals Rodeo. The Lady Maverick basketball team won the NLCAA (little college) national championship in 1982. The Maverick men won the NLCAA basketball championship in 1987 and again in 1988. The Lady Maverick volleyball team, in NAIA competition, won against much bigger schools in Missouri, Texas and California, and went twice undefeated with 41 wins/0 losses, and won two national NAIA championships in 2002 and 2006. One of the players who now is coaching in Florida, was a four year All American, Player of the Year in 2001 and 2003, and was added to NAIA’s Athletic Hall of Fame.
Several years ago, in relation to NAU’s interests in building a stronger relationship with graduate-alumni, the Rapid City campus began recognizing an alumnus or alumna with an award at the May graduation event. The award has been based upon a high degree of professional accomplishment and/or an exceptional extent of service to the community in which the recipient resides. The university wishes to encourage these qualities in its alumni. This annual award is the highest honor awarded to a graduate by NAU. Paul VanderWoude, a 1971 graduate of Rapid City and a successful CPA in Sioux Falls, is the 13th graduate honored at Rapid City’s graduation ceremony in May.

This spring, NAU’s other campuses or collective regional sites have also determined and awarded this distinguished service alumni award to a graduate of the campus or within the region. The qualifications are consistent in terms of professional accomplishment and service. A portion of the recipients of NAU’s distinguished service alumni award, by campus or by region, are noted below. The university is very proud of the accomplishments of these individuals, and brief biographies are included. (Additional honorees will be noted with photos and brief biographies in the September National News)

**Distinguished Service Alumni Award Winners**

**Brenda Tirrel** (Paralegal Studies, BS, 1999, Sioux Falls) is employed as a senior paralegal at POET, LLC and her focus is in terms of corporate, securities, and contract law. She also works with an attorney on real estate matters and with a privately held company on issues of licensing and compliance.

**Michael Gerard** (Business Administration with emphasis of financial management, BS, 2010, Bloomington) Was first employed as a customer account specialist with Valspar Corporation, a Fortune 1000 company and one of the largest paint companies in the world. He has since been promoted to the lead credit analyst for North America and Europe, and he works monitoring the health and credit status of the company’s largest customers.

**Paul VanderWoude** (Accounting, BS, 1971, Rapid City) is a successful CPA and partner in his own firm in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He has a long standing personal and professional life with NAU. He married a classmate, Susan (Bingen) in 1970, and they have three children and two grandchildren. He has been extremely active in the Sioux Falls community, in the church, the Jaycees, the Chamber of Commerce and other service groups. He is an active member of the American Institute of CPAs, the South Dakota Society of CPAs, and he serves on the board of directors. He has taught accounting for NAU and for Augustana College in Sioux Falls. He and other members of his firm conduct Federal Student Aid audits at NAU and have done so since the late 1980s.
GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Virginia A. Rud (2001, Veterinary Technology, AAS - Rapid City) has been named the program director of veterinary technology at Muscatine Community College in Muscatine, Iowa.

Dale Nelson (2010, Applied Management, BS – Bloomington) is a customer service representative at Schneider Electric in Burnsville, Minnesota.

Marcy (Bowers) Pratt (1998, Business Administration, BS – Roseville) is vice president of admissions-health group for Career Education Corporation in Maryland.

Margaret M. (Kentch) Ames (Accounting, BS – Rapid City) is a senior budget analyst for the U.S. Army at the Redstone Arsenal in Alabama.

Deanna Thate (2011, Healthcare Coding, Diploma - Overland Park) is working for the IRS-Department of Treasury in Kansas City, Missouri.

Leslie Benjamin (2010, Accounting, BS - Brooklyn Center) is working as an accounting specialist for Carl Zeiss IMT LLC in Maple Grove, Minnesota.


Patrick G. Plank (2012, Medical Assisting, AAS – Brooklyn Center) is a registered medical assistant for Maxim Health Care, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Heather Cox (2004, 2006, Business Administration, AAS, BS - Rapid City) is the branch sales manager for Bank of the West in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.