National American University Celebrates 70 Years!

Evolving from a single South Dakota campus established in 1941, NAU has expanded to include 32 locations and a distance learning campus that reaches areas where our physical campuses are not yet located.

Newer locations in Bellevue, Nebraska; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Burnsville, Minnesota are featured in the “Spotlight Column” on page 4. Work is underway to gain approvals for new sites in Lewisville, Richardson, Mesquite, South Austin and Georgetown, Texas. Similarly, plans are to establish NAU in Tigard, Oregon (near Portland) and Weldon Spring, Missouri (near St. Louis). New programs, new sites and major growth are further cause for a 70-year celebration.

You’re Invited to join in

NAU’s 70th Anniversary Celebration
September 11-17, 2011

Celebration events will be held at each campus. Contact your campus for more information.

Please plan to join us!
NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

For many years before it actually happened, there were ambitious dreams of creating graduate programs. NAU’s addition of the Harold D. Buckingham Graduate School offers an MBA, a Master of Management, and Master of Science in Nursing creating opportunities for alumni, and others wishing to enhance understanding and career potential. Most recently the MBA has added an Accounting emphasis area which is in addition to the established emphasis areas of: Healthcare Administration, Human Resource Management, Management, and International Business. The Master of Management has also established emphasis areas: Healthcare Administration, Human Resources, Criminal Justice Management and Proprietary Higher Education. The Master of Science in Nursing has an emphasis in Nursing Education. All graduate-level programs are offered online with some courses being offered on ground at the campuses. Students can enroll in graduate coursework through the distance learning campus or any of NAU’s on-ground campuses, except the Ellsworth Air Force Base extension site.

DISTANCE LEARNING CAMPUS

James Ryan McCandless, an instructor for NAU’s criminal justice program for the last two years, was the victim in a shooting in Rapid City on August 2, 2011. Officer McCandless, a six year veteran Rapid City police officer, was one of two officers killed in the line of duty. He had a commitment to protect and serve the community and members of his force. He was also known for his dedication in sharing knowledge and experiences in NAU’s educational program. A collection of funds from the employees of DL, Central Offices and the Rapid City campus was matched by the university, and $5,000 was donated to the Rapid City Fallen Officers Memorial Fund. The community was prominent in the response to this tragic loss of life and injury, and law enforcement officers from throughout the state were among the dignitaries at the funeral.

D2L FUSION 2011 CONFERENCE

Kyler Schroeder, Brenda McGlynn, and Bradley Thuringer represented NAU’s curriculum group at this nationally recognized conference in Denver. Their presentation topic was “Critical Success Factors for Designing Effective Multimedia”. Thuringer was recognized as the winner in the ePortfolio competition and Schroeder led the “Rafters” team to first place in the team competition.

EAST REGION

ROSEVILLE CAMPUS

David Grovender is a recent NAU graduate. He completed a capstone course in Strategic Management in the spring quarter. The requirement for students in the class was to participate in a strategic managerial world-wide competition called Glo-Bus. There were 4,617 teams from 302 colleges and universities taking part. Top performers were recognized each week, and Mr. Grovender, the sole member of his team, maintained the winning status and “number one ranking throughout.” Peter Hall was his instructor. Roseville and NAU are very proud of this accomplishment.

MINNESOTA CAMPUSES

The region’s financial aid representatives teamed with the Salvation Army and Target to help children in need with means to shop for school clothes. Target gave each child $85 for shoes and clothes, and each FSR was responsible to assist one individual. The region assisted 30 children, and...
Target and the Salvation Army helped 1,200 students in the Twin Cities, and over 12,000 across the country.

**PHARMACY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

Tracy Buttena, Sioux Falls Campus and Pat Schommer, Pharmacy Tech program chair, represented the university at the 2011 Pharmacy Technician Educator’s Council in Memphis, Tennessee. Speakers and many participants represented the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

**Southeast Region**

**ZONA ROSA CAMPUS**

During late May, a powerful tornado struck the city and the area of Joplin, Missouri and one of the local two hospitals was directly impacted by this storm. A call for professional assistance went out and Zona Rosa’s nursing program staff members; Brenda King Sublett, Jill Smith, and Stephanie Kramer answered this call, and made the trip to Joplin, which is about 165 miles south of the Kansas City area. They arrived at the command center in Joplin at about 2:00 am, and they were directed to Freeman Hospital. They were immediately involved in triage assistance, with the “walking wounded.” Emergency room staff members were coordinating this effort, and the Zona Rosa team members were caring for patients with broken bones, lacerations, those who had been hit by flying objects, and those with head injuries. The support was not only physical, but emotional and spiritual assistance was provided as well. By 6:30 am the situation was calming down, and this NAU team was thanked and released. They traveled through much of the devastation to get to the highway. They returned to classes and university responsibility. The University wishes to thank these individuals for their response, and a very high order of community service. The ZR campus collected materials to be sent to victims of the tornado in Joplin.

- **Dr. Thomas Canfield** was a presenter at the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival in Kansas City. His topic was “The Art of the Scottish Play: Historical Interpretation of Macbeth in Graphic and Performance Art.
- **Katondra Lawson** received the Outstanding Nursing Student Award at the May Pinning Ceremony from the Missouri League of Nursing.
- **Terrie Simmons**, the program coordinator for the clinical laboratory technician program was awarded the 2011 regional member award from the American Society for Clinical Pathology, ASCP. She was selected by her peers for professional service, commitment and support of ASCP. The award will be received during October in Las Vegas at the ASCP convention.
- **Brent Moore**, an adjunct instructor at Zona Rosa was selected to receive the Sage Teaching Innovations and Professional Development Award. Moore has a PhD in Psychology and the award was presented by the American Psychological Association in Washington D.C., during August.

**Midwest Region**

**WATERTOWN EDUCATION CENTER**

During June, the campus celebrated their 4th annual “Fun in the Sun” social event, an opportunity to recognize a variety of student honors, awards, and scholarships. Lots of food, games and a Taekwondo presentation were part of the activities. On July 4th, the Student Ambassadors joined in the Chamber of Commerce Parade, by constructing a “parade float,” and throughout the route spectators joined in the singing of NAU’s “Get your degree, Set yourself free…” jingle.

**Southwest Region**

**RIO RANCHO CAMPUS-GLO-BUS**

Two groups of students enrolled in the Strategic Management class recently earned Top 50 rankings in the Glo-Bus simulation exercise game. The co-managers of A Advantage Pix were recognized in the categories: “Return on Equity”- 11th place and “Stock Price”- 47th place. The co-managers of CNAPS were recognized in the categories: “Earnings per Share”-43rd place and “Stock Price”- 38th place.

**Austin Campus and South Austin Education Center**

Travis County Sherriff’s Deputy Taylor visited with criminal justice students and prospective students regarding the types of available positions and some of the realities in criminal justice work. • **Demetric Browder** is the academic advisor for the CJ students, and the IT chair in Austin. • **Kaila White**, the campus culture club president has arranged for them to adopt a soldier through a program called “Soldier’s Angels” which aims to boost morale and support for troops who might not receive support otherwise. The campus has been matched with an Army Sergeant, who will receive a letter per week and a “care package” each month through the period of deployment. • The South Austin Education Center opened its facilities during the second week of August. This site will assist in university and student support for the expanding city of Austin and outlying communities of Kyle, Buda, San Marcos and Bastrop.

**West Region**

**COLORADO SPRINGS CAMPUS**

Matt Sibenaller and Nicholas Albers are active duty military, and both were recently chosen to receive scholarships from the “Green to Gold” program intended to assist Army students in the completion of a baccalaureate degree, and to potentially receive a commission through an ROTC program. A total of 150 military members are chosen, and 4 of these were from Colorado Springs and two; Matt and Nicholas are NAU students. Selection is based on GPAs and SAT or ACT scores.
The Burnsville, Minnesota location has officially opened its doors. Located at the intersection of I-35W and Burnsville Parkway, it is easily accessible for students. There are currently six admissions advisors, a director of admissions, a financial services representative and a director of first impressions. This site houses the regional team’s offices and a training center for the east region of NAU. Burnsville offers an array of programs from the health care coding diploma all the way to the Master of Management with an emphasis in healthcare administration. The team looks forward to serving the community, spreading the NAU word and giving back through volunteer projects.

- Kristin Marthaler, Campus Director

The Tulsa campus of NAU opened its doors in February of 2011. Our location is conveniently located in the heart of southern Tulsa. This is a growing and busy city. Current staff includes a director of first impressions (day and night), director of admissions, seven admissions advisors, a financial services representative, and an academic dean. We pride ourselves in providing an environment for students that encourages learning, growth and success. We just became members of the Tulsa Metro Chamber and we are working on community outreach in the Tulsa area. Community connections will create relationships to help students and the Tulsa community.

- Amanda Oppel, Campus Director

The Bellevue, Nebraska location of NAU opened in its new building on July 1, 2011. It is easily located in the Omaha Metro Area, off Highway 370 and 36th Street in Bellevue. The campus director, Trevor Mischke, is assisted by staff including the director of admissions, Mari Jane O’Donnell, and five admissions advisors, a financial services representative and a director of first impressions. The location offers a variety of programs in business, information technology, health care, and criminal justice. NAU-Bellevue is a member of both the Bellevue and Sarpy County Chambers of Commerce, and staff and students look to make an immediate impact in the community and welcome the opportunity for continued growth!

- Trevor Mischke, Campus Director

MILITARY STUDENTS

The university was recently listed for the second year in a row as one of the top 50 colleges for active duty troops according to an article in the Military Times Edge. The active duty troops are usually those with particular needs which come along with the military obligation. • In support of the military personnel, their dependent family members, and retired military, NAU offers a reduced tuition rate for both undergraduate and graduate programs.
Todd Tucker is a 2001 Rapid City graduate with a BS in Business Administration and an emphasis in Sports Management. He is presently the Director of Residence Life, the Director of the Student Center and Director of Judicial Affairs at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Mr. Tucker presented a topic at the recent South Dakota College Personnel State Conference on Mental Health First Aid. He pointed out that many students struggle with mental health issues, but the difficulties are not as conspicuous as a broken leg, but can ultimately be more crippling (www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org). Following graduation he coached soccer and softball, but he was evidently drawn into student services and higher education. His Master of Science in Education with an emphasis in Teaching and Learning was awarded in 2009. He and his wife Lannie have a 7 year old daughter, Makenna.

Awan Riak Ater is a 2011 MBA graduate of the Harold D. Buckingham Graduate School. He has worked for the Della Lamb Charter Elementary School in Kansas City, Missouri as an In-School-Suspension teacher and translator.

Angela Estes is a Rapid City campus graduate and a stand out volleyball player for the undefeated 2002 national champion Lady Mavericks (41 and 0!). Estes is also the manager of the NAU mail center for the central offices and the DL campus. On July 14th, she joined more than one hundred other individuals at Mount Rushmore to take the oath and be sworn in as a citizen of the United States. Her immediate family, parents from Brazil, her in-laws and friends from NAU were present for this occasion.

Kerri Bailey, a 2011 graduate-BS in Business Administration with a Human Resource Management emphasis lives in Lee’s Summit, Missouri. She is in her 14th year with a small manufacturing company in Shawnee, Kansas. She began as a student at NAU in 2005. She admitted some trepidation at the outset, and at the conclusion she points out that continuing education was one of the best things she has ever done. She now shares an e-mail she received at the beginning of her journey in higher education. “The pencil maker told the pencil about 5 important lessons to be expected before joining the other pencils being closed in the box!”

1. Everything you do will always leave a mark.
2. You can always correct the mistakes you make.
3. What is important is inside you.
4. In life, you will undergo painful sharpening, which will only make you better.
5. To be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you.

Ritchie A. Kaul, a 2008 Rapid City campus graduate in accounting and IT, is the president of Diversified Technologies, LLC in Fargo, North Dakota.

Katondra Lawson, ASN graduate from the Zona Rosa campus, received the Missouri League of Nursing’s Outstanding Nursing Student Award at the pinning ceremony in May 2011. Katondra expresses a desire to help people, especially the less fortunate. Like her Cherokee-Choctaw ancestors who were forced from their lands, murdered and harassed; they were stripped of their heritage. Who would stand for them, and be an advocate? Her great-grandfather rode with Pancho Villa taking from the cruel and giving to the poor. She was descended from long lines of adversity. Told she could never go to college, she was too poor. Then in high school she became part of the National Honor Society and graduated with honors. She finished nursing school on the third try, and during one of those attempts her first son died. Perhaps, adversity is what you make of it!

Steve Parra, an Albuquerque campus graduate, BS Applied Management, is presently a professional account manager for Roche-Diagnostics-Medical Device Sales. He is living in Albuquerque.

Debbie Moore-Hargrove lives in Kansas City, Missouri. She is a BS graduate in IT from the Independence campus. She works for MCC Penn Valley as a program specialist and she is teaching adult basic education and has received the Teacher of the Year Award-Computer Technology.

John Vallejos graduated from NAU’s location in Pueblo, Colorado and he still lives in West Pueblo. He retired as a billing coordinator for the state after 31 years. He is presently a director of residential services. His area of study was business administration with an emphasis in accounting.

Stephanie Hernandez earned a BS in Paralegal Studies at the Sioux Falls campus and she lives in Tea, South Dakota. She is working as a paralegal at the Turner County State’s Attorney office in South Dakota.
2011 Academic Excellence Alumni Awards

Andrew N. Njenga, Austin, BS - Organizational Leadership
Frank Applewhite-Bey, Bloomington, BS - Paralegal
Zelda Smith, Brooklyn Center, BS - Healthcare Management
Donna L. Wooten, Denver, AAS - Medical Assistant
Jamison L. Daughtery, Rapid City, BS - Information Technology
Jodi G. Lovelace-Boerema, Sioux Falls, BS - Nursing

Those listed above are approximately half of the group of NAU students receiving the 2011 Academic Excellence-Alumni Awards. The balance of the group for 2011 will be included in the December National News. The most senior and successful applicant is designated as the Alumni Academic Excellence Award Recipient. Please consider donating to the Alumni Scholarship fund, in order that additional scholarship awards may be given in the future. Donations can be sent to Alumni Office, 5301 S. Hwy 16, Ste. 200, Rapid City, SD 57701.