



DECEMBER

# National NEWS

2015

## GRADUATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING: THE NATIONAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI NETWORK

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Recognizing and Supporting NAU's Exceptional Faculty
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- Calling all Mavericks!

Every year, with each graduation, thousands of NAU students transition from being students to alumni. For nearly two decades, NAU has worked to connect with our alumni, recognizing their valuable place in NAU's success and history. We are proud of the personal and professional successes of our graduates and students. We believe that all of our alumni - from NAU, NC, NCB, and NSB and from all campuses - make a difference in the world and at our university.

## ALUMNI

**NAU will continue to connect with alumni, while also providing opportunities for our alumni to connect with each other.**

For our part, we will build on the communications you have come to expect from NAU, like *National News* and the biennial alumni survey (January 2016), while also offering a new monthly newsletter, *The Maverick Way Bulletin*. In addition, our LinkedIn *Official National American University Alumni Network Group* continues to grow, we are now active on Twitter (@AlumniNAU), and we recently launched an Alumni Facebook page (/NAUAlumni).

The most exciting development is NAU Connect ([nauconnect.com](http://nauconnect.com)), a free online community for NAU alumni and others directly connected with NAU, such as current students, faculty, and staff. At NAU Connect, alumni are able to create and enhance their connections with each other and the university.

**NAU Connect:**  
Your opportunity to connect with NAU and each other. Participation is free. Join today!  
[nauconnect.com](http://nauconnect.com)

These connections will allow alumni to leverage a professional network for advice and job openings.

**All these opportunities - NAU Connect, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and your stories in our publications - depend on you!** Your individual and collective involvement is what will make your experience successful and rewarding.

"Mavericks are independent thinkers—individuals not afraid to be a little different and stand out from the crowd," said Guy Tillett who retired earlier this year after nearly 50 years of services to NAU.

**We are counting on the NAU Maverick in all of you to stand up and stand out!** Follow us online, be engaged and stay in touch. To "Get Connected" visit us online [nau.connect](http://nau.connect).

### Did you meet your significant other at NAU?

If so, please share your story with us! We would love to feature some NAU love connections for Valentine's Day 2016. Please email your story to [alumni@national.edu](mailto:alumni@national.edu).



## NAU LOCATIONS

Albuquerque, NM  
Albuquerque West, NM  
Allen Service Center, TX  
Austin, TX  
Austin South, TX  
Bellevue, NE  
Bloomington, MN  
Brooklyn Center, MN  
Burnsville, MN  
Centennial, CO

Colorado Springs, CO  
Colorado Springs South, CO  
Ellsworth AFB, SD  
Garden City, KS  
Georgetown, TX  
Houston, TX - Online  
Independence, MO  
Indianapolis, IN  
Lee's Summit, MO  
Lewisville, TX

Mesquite, TX  
Minnetonka, MN  
Online - Distance Learning  
Rouche Graduate Center, TX  
Overland Park, KS  
Rapid City, SD  
Richardson, TX  
Rochester, MN  
Roseville, MN  
Sioux Falls, SD

Tigard, OR  
Tulsa, OK  
Watertown, SD  
Weldon Spring, MO  
Wichita, KS  
Wichita West, KS  
Zona Rosa, MO

# NAU NEWS

## ALUMNI UPDATES



### Michelle Schock

MM, MBA, BSHCM, AASMA, '14, A.A.S. Medical Assisting, B.S. Healthcare Management, Masters in Business and Management (Independence, MO)

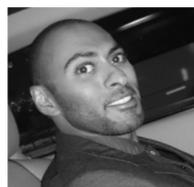
"When I graduated with my Bachelor's degree, I was the valedictorian of the Independence campus. I remember how hard I worked and what that scholarship meant to me. Now I am the office manager at Encompass Medical Group in Independence. I have had the privilege of hiring some of NAU's finest!! NAU has been an important part of my career building journey."



### Daren Anderson

MSIS, '03 and '04, B.S. Computer Information Systems & Management of Information Systems (Sioux Falls, SD)

Daren has over thirty years of experience in the Information Technology field and is President of Big D Technology Solutions, Inc., and Big D Online Solutions. Daren was awarded Diplomat of the Year for the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce in 2014 and 2015. He is also involved with SCORE, a nonprofit association dedicated to helping small businesses, serving as a small business mentor and board member, and he is a board member with the Minnehaha County Historical Society.



### Nayef Almoosa

'06, B.S. Business Administration, Emphasis in Management (Online Campus)

"I am now the director in charge of Dollar Rent-A-Car in the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman. We have in our fleet 6,000 cars, which is up from just 200 six years ago. We now own 12 different companies. Thanks to NAU, I am where I am today."



### Patricia Brown

MMHA, CPMSM, CPCS, '15, Master Management, Emphasis in Health Care Administration (Distance-Graduate)

Ms. Brown has worked for Scripps Health for the past 20 years. Upon getting her NAU Master's and required certification, she was promoted to Director of Scripps Centralized Credentialing in San Diego. "When I was 18 and coming to the United States from Panama, I never would have dreamed I would be the Director of my own department. I owe so much to NAU for my career success."

**Attention NAU Alumni: Want to share your success stories? We would love to hear from you. Send your stories to [alumni@national.edu](mailto:alumni@national.edu).**

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

### CAREER RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AND ELIGIBLE ALUMNI

Career resources are available to all students and to alumni who registered while still a student. To access NAU's Career Support page, go to the NAU online library at [library.national.edu/career-support/](http://library.national.edu/career-support/). From here, students and alumni who registered as students will find links to the Job and Career Accelerator, the Learning Express, Career Spots, and the NAU Career Center. These resources are available 24/7 and assist with career selection and job searches, offer tips on building resumes, cover letters and finding job opportunities. You'll also find videos, tutorials for interviewing for jobs, and practice tests to help with licensing and certification exams, that in addition to degrees, can really help boost resumes.

### EARN COURSES TOWARD YOUR MASTER'S DEGREE WHILE YOU FINISH YOUR BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Eligible students have the opportunity to complete up to three dual credit (bachelor's/master's) courses. Dual credits provide the opportunity to students to complete up to 30% of their master's degrees, leaving only seven more master's courses to finish, which can be achieved in less than one year. To be eligible, students must, at the time they begin their dual credit course, have completed the equivalent of at least 120 quarter credits and have at least a cumulative GPA of 2.75. Dual

credit students will pay the undergraduate tuition rate for a dual credit course; there is no additional fee or dual credit application to enroll. Interested students should contact the Graduate School before registering for a dual credit course for assistance with degree planning: (877) 398-0118 or [graduateadmissions@national.edu](mailto:graduateadmissions@national.edu).

### WRITING CENTER AVAILABLE IN ONLINE LIBRARY

NAU is excited to announce the launch of a new resource for both students and faculty. The Writing Center website replaces the Research & Writing website and has myriad tools, short videos, templates, and examples to help students with every stage of the writing process. Check it out: <http://navonline.edu/writingcenter> (all lower case). For questions: [AskALibrarian@national.edu](mailto:AskALibrarian@national.edu).



## COMING SOON:

Biennial Alumni Survey, January 2016. To request an electronic copy of the survey when published, send your request to [alumni@national.edu](mailto:alumni@national.edu), subject line: Survey.

## SYSTEM UPDATES

### NAU RAISES FUNDS TO SUPPORT WOUNDED VETERANS THROUGH THE INDEPENDENCE FUND



NAU honored wounded heroes by raising more than \$8,000 for an all-terrain wheelchair. All NAU locations participated in fundraising activities from September 15-November 11 (Veteran's Day) to raise money for the purchase of an all-terrain wheelchair ("track chair") for a wounded veteran through the Independence Fund ([www.independencefund.org/](http://www.independencefund.org/)). A special thanks to all who donated!

### ALLEN PARTICIPATES IN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OUTING

The Allen Service Center participated for the first time in the Texas North Collin County Habitat for Humanity event. NAU employees and their spouses came together for this great cause. They are planning on making this an annual event.



### NAU SCHOOL OF NURSING CHANGES

Dr. Lisa Hawthorne has been named the Dean of NAU's School of Nursing and Graduate Nursing Studies. Deborah Bird, MSN, RN, PHN and Jennie Denker, EdD/CI, MSN, RN have been named

Associate Deans of the School of Nursing. Dr. Hawthorne replaces Dodie Serafini. "Dean Serafini served us magnificently as Dean of the School of Nursing for the past several years, overseeing the expansion and establishment of NAU's nursing programs," said Dr. Lynn Priddy, Provost. "We will all miss Dodie's charisma, leadership, vision, and fabulous sense of humor."

### NAU CAMPUS DIRECTOR SELECTED AS CHAMBER AMBASSADOR



Ben Austin, the Campus Director of NAU-Rochester and an NAU alumnus, has been selected as an Ambassador for the Rochester, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. "The Ambassadors committee is comprised of local business people who are committed to promoting Chamber activities and membership," according to the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce. This is NAU's first representation in the Rochester Chamber and with this experience comes many rewarding opportunities for the community and NAU. Congratulations Ben!

### RAPID CITY CAMPUS HOSTS MEETING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS INTERESTED IN LAW SCHOOL

The Rapid City campus recently hosted representatives from the South Dakota Bar Association (SDBA) and the legal community to present law school information to Native American students. Native American lawyers are under-represented in the SDBA, even though Native American citizens represent 9% of South Dakota's

population. SDBA's purpose, in part, is to "do justice," which is made more difficult without adequate representation from the Native American community. The Paralegal Studies department organized the meeting to be broadcast to all Native American students attending NAU. Several South Dakota attorneys, along with Eric Schulte, President of the South Dakota Bar Association, Linda Benalli, President of the National Native American Bar Association, and Seth Pearman, President of the South Dakota Indian Country Bar Association, shared their perspectives.

### NAU MESQUITE CAMPUS DIRECTOR NAMED



Andrea Jackson was recently appointed Campus Director at the Mesquite, Texas location. Andrea began her career with NAU in March 2012 as admissions advisor in Overland Park. In January, 2013, she was promoted to Director of Admissions at the Richardson Campus where she has continued to grow new and re-entry student enrollment.

“I am looking forward to seeing Andrea and her Mesquite team repeat the success she led her teams to in Overland Park and Richardson.”

Christi Ramirez, Executive Vice President of Campus Operations-South Region

### THANK YOU WELLS FARGO!



The NAU Foundation extends sincere appreciation to Wells Fargo for its donation in

support of Academic Excellence Scholarships. "We are proud to support the National American University Foundation as you work toward achieving our shared goals in the community," said Steve Conzet, Wells Fargo's Rapid City Marketing President.

Thank you Wells Fargo!



# RECOGNIZING & SUPPORTING NAU'S EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY

“Teaching is the essential profession, the one that makes all other professions possible.”

David Haselkorn, president of a nonprofit teacher recruitment group

**Teachers play a critically important and central role in all our lives.**

“It is the work of our faculty that shapes and supports the success of students at National American University,” said Dr. Manual Gomez, System Vice President & Dean of Faculty. “Long after students have met their academic goals, they remember the encouragement provided in our classrooms and electronic learning environments.”

NAU expects faculty to be scholar-practitioners: professionals who are committed to remaining current in their fields of expertise and are able to provide practical instruction for students seeking to enter or advance in a profession.

For this reason, NAU supports faculty members who identify professional development opportunities aligned with their faculty roles. This may be participation and training at a conference focused on learning and teaching, or continuing education in their field of specialization.

The NAU Foundation ([www.naufoundation.org](http://www.naufoundation.org)), a nonprofit organization, also recognizes the importance of investing in the development and growth of our best faculty. In addition to student scholarships, the NAU Foundation Board of Directors has approved \$20,000 toward faculty development, recognizing the role that our faculty play in ensuring career success for our students. In

the past, the Foundation has sponsored conference travel and costs for professional development, and continuing education opportunities for faculty. This December, the Foundation will support a two day virtual conference by offering stipends to faculty who present professional papers or research in a conference of their peers.

**NAU's Core Values are to -**

- Offer high quality instructional programs and services.
- Provide a caring and supportive learning environment.
- Offer technical and professional career programs.

**Exceptional faculty are central to achieving these core values.** NAU is committed to hiring the best and rewarding those who go above and beyond to achieve these core values for our NAU students.

“The value and contributions of NAU's faculty to the advancement of the university's mission are at the core of National American University's success.”

Dr. Manual Gomez  
System Vice President & Dean of Faculty

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU to our Faculty of the Quarter recipients!

## Faculty Recognition Awards

Congratulations to **Ms. Amanda Easton**, **Ms. Patricia Weiss**, and **Ms. Terri Clark**, the faculty who earned the Faculty of the Quarter recognition award for Summer 2015.

**Ms. Amanda Easton** (Bloomington), who teaches Composition, makes connections between writing and the real world her students are in. She goes above and beyond to mentor, coach, and teach her students to become better learners by improving their communication skills.

**Ms. Pat Weiss** (Rapid City), has taught for NAU for 23 years. She cultivates lasting relationships with her students. She listens to students' needs and works to make sure they have successful learning experiences in face-to-face classes and online. She was one of three subject matter experts for the new College and Career Success course.

**Ms. Terri Clark** (Sioux Falls) consistently exceeds students' expectations; she has helped students by doing extra tutoring and working with students outside of the classroom. As a nursing faculty, she works to prepare students for the real world, inspiring them to be successful.

# CALLING ALL MAVERICKS!

PLEASE SUPPORT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE WITH YOUR HOLIDAY DONATION

Happy Holidays Fellow Mavericks!

As NAU alumni, students, faculty and staff, you join tens of thousands of others who, like you, are part of the exclusive NAU family. As proud Mavericks, you are independent and determined.

All paths to NAU are different, but worthy of celebration.

**Consider Celia McDonald.**

At just 19 years old, Celia was providing financial and caregiving support to her ailing parents while also working two jobs. NAU allowed her the flexibility to pursue her dream to make health care a career. She earned the Academic Excellence Scholarship while working toward her Associates of Applied Science in Medical Assisting. She graduated this year with honors and scored the highest in her class on the credentialing exam. She is now working toward her NAU Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management and will then pursue her Master's in Physician Assistant Studies. Celia is achieving her goals and is determined to pay it forward:

“ NAU has allowed me to continue my academic pursuits, and with the Academic Excellence scholarship I was able to complete my degree plan with less expense. My story is not original. There are many students out there that struggle and make it through with sheer determination. I encourage everyone to work through those challenges, because we all know in the end, we ourselves and our families will be so much better for it. My ultimate goal is to become a physician's assistant and give back to those who have helped me along the way. ”

Celia McDonald, RMA  
A.A.S. Medical Assisting, '15 Georgetown, TX

As Celia said, her story is not original. Many NAU students and graduates have overcome significant challenges to make it to where they are today, some with the help of scholarships funded with donations from their extended Maverick family and other contributors.

**Mavericks, will you consider a year-end charitable donation that will have a big impact in the lives of deserving and eligible NAU students?**

Your tax-deductible donation to the nonprofit NAU Foundation will be used to reward academic excellence. Only students who achieve and maintain at least a cumulative 3.66 grade point average are eligible for the Foundation's Academic Excellence Scholarships. Your donation will reward hard work, academic excellence and bright futures.

Thank you for your consideration. An envelope and form are enclosed, or you can make an online donation at [www.naufoundation.org/ways-to-give](http://www.naufoundation.org/ways-to-give).

Warm holiday greetings to fellow Mavericks around the world!

# NATIONAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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## **ATTENTION ALL ALUMNI!** **GET CONNECTED WITH NAU AND EACH OTHER**

Please continue to submit updates relating to career and personal successes at [www.national.edu/alumni](http://www.national.edu/alumni), or share your information directly with Tamie Hopp, Director of Alumni & Foundation Services at [alumni@national.edu](mailto:alumni@national.edu) or 605-394-4976. This will allow NAU to provide you with alumni updates, services, benefits, and communication. Notice: NAU will never sell alumni or student contact information. Contact information will be used only for official NAU purposes. Recipients have the right to unsubscribe and opt-out of such communication. You can also connect with alumni, faculty and students on NAU Connect ([nauconnect.com](http://nauconnect.com)), LinkedIn, Twitter or Facebook by visiting [www.naufoundation.org/2015/09/get-connected-with-nau/](http://www.naufoundation.org/2015/09/get-connected-with-nau/).