The National American University Curriculum Development Group, which was created in 2006, contributes to the university’s mission and core values by collaborating with faculty subject-matter experts to construct courses and supporting materials that enhance and improve student learning. The Group’s internal mission statement reveals this dedication to student learning: “The Curriculum Development Group’s mission is to provide academic services through the design, development, and support of quality, performance-based post-secondary courses and instructional materials that promote effective instruction and enhance student learning.”

Operating as part of Central Academics under the direction of Dr. Marilyn Holmgren, Associate Provost/System Vice President for Curriculum and Instruction, and the Office of the Provost, the Group supports student learning at over 25 physical locations, as well as the NAU Online course rooms. With a professional staff of fourteen, the Group offers an array of services in instructional design, instructional technology, graphic design, quality assurance, and instructional materials design.

System Director of Curriculum, Dave Courson, also actively participates in the current initiative with The Higher Learning Commission’s (HLC) Academy for the Assessment of Student Learning. The Academy offers HLC member institutions a four-year sequence of events and interactions that are focused on student learning, targeted at accelerating and advancing efforts to assess and improve student learning, and designed to build institution-wide commitment to assessment of student learning.

The Group was a major contributor to the university’s recent effort to convert to a new online learning management system (LMS). In approximately four months, 250 courses were moved from the previous LMS, re-configured, and aligned with the new system for delivery starting in January 2011. The Group also collaborated with Pat Hamilton, the system librarian and the faculty General Education Assessment and Curriculum Committee during this same time period to design an online research and writing website to support the university’s writing-intensive requirements for all academic programs. In addition, several members of the instructional design and technology team will be presenting their innovative practices at the Fusion 2011: Desire2Learn Users Conference in Denver this summer.

As evidenced by their efforts, the Curriculum Development Group continually strives to stay abreast of new and emerging technologies, best practices, and creative approaches in order to assist in offering high quality instructional programs and services in a caring and supportive learning environment and to improve student success.

Steven W. Frye, Distinguished Service Alumnus 2011

Steven W. Frye was the 2011 recipient of NAU’s Distinguished Service Award-Alumni during the May commencement in Rapid City. Frye was joined on the stage by Linda Rabe, the commencement speaker, a distinguished service award recipient, and a classmate in the late 1970s. The award is based upon a combination of a high degree of professional accomplishment and/or community service. Mr. Frye graduated in 1978 from the Rapid City campus of National College of Business.

Following graduation at NCB, Frye was on his way to take a position with the Saturday Evening Post in Indianapolis. Around that same time, Norman Rockwell, the most renowned artist and contributor to the magazine, died and eventually Frye replaced Rockwell as the Special Sections Art Director. He also held the position of Director of Art & Production for the Country Gentleman magazine.
Central Administration

Dennis Townsend passed away in March 2011. He had a leadership role throughout the NAU system. He was an interim campus director and he worked with almost every aspect of university operations in a number of locations. • Jacquelyn Peterson is the new system director of human resources for NAU. She has 30 years of human resources experience with a variety of companies including technical colleges, a power company, a law firm and city governments. • John Buxton has been promoted to system vice president for information technology. • Academic Administration—Brenda McGlynn, along with Brad Thuringer and Kyler Schroeder will have a presentation at the Desire2Learn Fusion Conference in Denver in July. Her topic is titled “Critical Success Factors for Designing Effective Multimedia”. Additionally Marsha Conley is also presenting at the same conference and the title of their topic is “Using Multidimensional Rubrics to Score and Document Student Learning Outcomes Aligned with Course and Program Competencies.” • Rachel Menkens took part in a 2011 Rapid City Multiple Sclerosis Walk which rose over $30,000, and she alone raised over $900. • Tony Mosel, Amy Myers, Barb Wargo, Becky Schwartz and Becky Feist’s husband and daughter participated in a “Bowl for Kid’s Sake” event, raising over $800 and a grand total of $6200.

Distance Learning Campus

Dr. Andrea Serna, General Education and Organizational Leadership program coordinator, recently earned her Doctorate of Education in Education Administration with an emphasis in Higher Education from the University of South Dakota.

Rapid City Campus

A benefit-cancer fund raiser was held on April 10, 2011 for Carla Allard-Watson, Rapid City graduate. She was recently diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer. Kevin, her husband, has shared that current treatments include twice/day radiation and weekly chemotherapy. Fund raisers will help her family defray the substantial costs of treatment. Carla and Kevin have two children KJ and Kayah. Carla was inducted into NAU’s athletic hall of fame in 2005. She was All-State (South Dakota) and All-District in NAIA women’s basketball all four years as a “Lady Maverick!” In high school (Martin, SD) she was first team all-state in ’84, ’85 and ’86. Also in 1986 she was named South Dakota’s Miss Basketball and Player of the Year. She is coordinator of an after school program serving alternative school youth in the Rapid City School District. Kevin has arranged a special account with his bank:– Carla Allard-Watson Cancer Fund, c/o Great Western Bank, P.O. Box 2290, Rapid City, SD 57701. This was done in order to receive donations & support from friends and interested individuals. Please help if you can! • During February the State Department of Game Fish and Parks was assisted again by NAU students in Vet Tech and Vet Assisting. Fifteen bighorn sheep were vaccinated, pregnancy tested, weighed and their records were updated. Annette Ardrey, Kaitlin Jacobi, Margaret Button, Shelby Tyler, Presli Darr and Jessica Hitzel assisted (pictured below).

West Region

New Mexico Campuses

Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert, State Representative, was the speaker for the May graduation event for the Albuquerque and Rio Rancho campuses.

Austin Campus

Nancy Meason, Matthew Painter, and Harriet Ruka (pictured right) represented NAU at a Pre-MBA Expo sponsored by the Austin Chapter of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs.

Left: Bowl for Kid’s Sake Team

Carla Allard-Watson

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**EAST REGION**

**MINNESOTA CAMPUSES**
The pharmacy technician programs at Bloomington and Brooklyn Center have been accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. The term coincides with Roseville's current term. NAU's pharmacy tech program in all of NAU's Minnesota locations is now programmatically accredited. • The Minnesota campuses have been aligned as a “referral agency” with two community support groups (Dress for Success and Ready for Success), in order to support students and graduates in a “dress for success” aspect of career development and employment. These support groups provide personal clothing and accessories for job seekers, “recognizing that without a suit, how can you get a job?” In order to contribute as a referral agency, the Minnesota campuses will conduct a “Professional Clothing Drive” each quarter and the Brooklyn Center campus will be the first to receive clothing items with other campuses following in subsequent quarters. Minnesota campus alumni are encouraged to assist students and alumni in this effort. • The Minnesota Region Legal Studies Coordinator, Brian Gravely announced that Rebecca Irvine a current Roseville campus student has been employed by Legal Solutions LLC, a Minnesota based law firm. She is near completing her AAS and intends to finish a four year degree. • Bethany Chan has been promoted to the position of regional academic and learner services trainer. She has considerable educational background and experience in these areas to accomplish these needs for the university.

**SOUTHEAST REGION**

**KANSAS CITY CAMPUSES**
Under the leadership of Dr. Asefaw Indrias, Director of Regional Business Studies, the three campuses (Overland Park, Zona Rosa and Independence) have formed a new student senate and Phi Beta Lambda to help contribute to the quality of student life. The student senate is also publishing a monthly newsletter representing the three campus locations.

**OVERLAND PARK CAMPUSE**
Going Green - Members of the staff have taken the reins and have placed a tiered planter which will be filled with growing herbs and vegetables for the campus.

**MIDWEST REGION**

**BELLEVUE CAMPUS**
Trevor Mischke has been named as the campus director for the newest campus location in Bellevue, Nebraska, pending final state approval of NAU's application. He received the Master of Management graduate degree from NAU in September 2010, and has worked for NAU in Watertown, since 2006.

**WICHITA WEST**
Dr. Tona Leiker (pictured below) successfully defended her doctoral dissertation and research during April. She is a faculty member for the school of nursing at the Wichita location. The PhD will be conferred in May.
This segment features individual members of the faculty and their own unique perspectives describing their teaching experiences with NAU’s students and locations. It is planned that this “Spotlight” featuring NAU faculty will become a regular topic in future issues of the NATIONAL NEWS.

A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others. ~Author Unknown

**Michael R. Smith**

Michael R. Smith has been teaching both undergraduate and graduate classes at NAU Albuquerque since 2003. He is an NAU graduate. He states, “Teaching for NAU is not a job to me, it is a rite of passage ensuring that students not only get that sound academic foundation I received, but they also develop those emotional and social dimensions for career success. The true progression toward success is balancing education and experience on a chosen career path. A former mentor once told me you can go to school and learn what you need to accomplish a task, but to truly learn that discipline, teach it. This educational journey has been pivotal in my professional success.”

**Catrina Carrington**

Catrina Carrington teaches composition, advanced composition, technical communication, and speech for Online and Colorado Springs locations of NAU. She has been an adjunct faculty member since 2003, and she is also certified as a secondary English teacher. “NAU is such a wonderful institution of higher learning that promotes values and academic recognition for graduates. Students impress me every quarter with a supreme quality of submitted work, and their motivation to succeed is exceptional.”

**Jennifer Menon**

Jennifer Menon teaches Anatomy/Physiology and Medical Terminology at Overland Park and the other Kansas City region locations. She wrote “My philosophy of teaching is simple, create an environment that stimulates student creativity to accelerate learning. National American University has given me the freedom to create such an environment. Today’s learner is as unique as their learning styles... Exploit it! I want to not only teach, but to enlighten and excite my students about science.”
Frye began his consulting business, Frye Publication Consulting, in 1985. The firm specializes in periodical production, manufacturing and distribution. Services include representation of magazine, book and catalog publishers in vendor negotiations, designing of cost-management software, and development of e-commerce platforms. They have worked with such prestigious organizations as the Smithsonian Institution, Boy Scouts of America, MIT, Walt Disney, Journal of Science, Harvard Business Journal, TV Guide, Parenting Magazine and AARP, a $500 million account. An industry expert, he regularly speaks at publishing conferences, writes industry articles, and has been awarded the Magazine Illustration Annual Award of Excellence from Communication Arts. Coming full circle, Frye now resides on the Board of Directors of the Saturday Evening Post and Benjamin Franklin Society. At the close of 2011, Frye will become the publisher of the Saturday Evening Post and other divisions of Curtis Publishing. Currently, he is the Acting Director of Website Development for Consumers Digest in Highland Park, Illinois. (stevefrye.com)
National American University hopes to be able to gather current information from all alumni regarding graduate-alumni career success, and to be able to share information about you in future issues of the NATIONAL NEWS. Please go to the university website and link, www.national.edu/alumni. Click on the career link and enter some personal data.

NAU believes that your campus faculty, staff, students and other alumni would like to hear from you through our newsletter. The link will also request input data regarding additional education, employment changes or promotions, and any other personal material you may wish to share. Most colleges and universities routinely publish information related to personal accomplishments of graduates. There is hope that National’s alumni from all campuses and all time periods will assist in this activity.

This current career survey effort is apart from all other surveys in which you may have participated as a student or graduate alumni. The comprehensive surveys of staff, faculty, students and alumni which have been conducted every two years since 1985 will request statistical and impersonal information from recent graduates (alumni) again in 2012. This overall biennial survey provides collective and important data which is used in NAU’s assessment responsibilities. These outcomes influence NAU’s planning, budgeting, growth and development.