In 1941, National American University (NAU) founder, Clarence Jacobsen, opened its doors on a Rapid City, South Dakota main street to students who desired specialized business training. From these humble beginnings, National American University was born. The first graduating class from then-named National School of Business had 28 students; 25 of whom were women with intentions of work in the secretarial fields.

This vision continued to grow with Harold D. Buckingham who acquired the school in 1962. Mr. Buckingham strongly believed in making quality educational opportunities available for every person who desired it. He embraced open enrollment, turning away no one who was willing to give college a try.

NAU has always believed that a university should be built around the needs of its students, from business classes for returning veterans to online courses to provide a pathway for working adults. Today the university includes more than 30 locations across the central United States offering associate, baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degrees in healthcare, nursing, business, accounting, technology, legal studies, and education.

“Tens of thousands of college graduates from 49 states and 27 countries proudly claim NAU as their alma mater,” wrote John Hempe, author and former Vice President of Marketing and Advertising for NAU, in Milestones, a book detailing NAU’s first 70 years. “For a great many of them, their academic journeys through NAU represented their first critical steps into what would ultimately become their lifelong career fields, and the road to substantially better lives.

NAU continues to provide all students with an opportunity for a college education, freedom to learn on their own terms, support to help guide them in following their own path, excellence in programs and standards, and success through hard work. It’s the American Way and our 75 year tradition.
ALUMNI UPDATES
NAU DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECOGNIZED AT GRADUATION CEREMONIES

The annual NAU Distinguished Service Alumni Award recognizes alumni for their educational and professional accomplishments and for their service to others in the university, workforce, community, and society. Congratulations to these eight NAU alumni who received the 2016 NAU Distinguished Service Alumni Award at recent NAU graduation ceremonies at several campuses:

- Mayor Steve Allender – Rapid City, SD
- Loren Koepsell – Sioux Falls, SD
- Scott Jorgenson – Watertown, SD
- Lawrence McCall – Allen, TX
- Gregory Allen – Wichita, KS
- Willie Singleton – Albuquerque, NM
- Mark Simmons – Colorado Springs, CO
- Lei Sun – Bloomington, MN

Biographies for 2016 Distinguished Alumni are available at naufoundation.org/welcome-nau-alumni/.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Candi Borreco, Technology Division Manager at Sabio Systems

(’12, B.S. Management Information Systems): Sabio Systems, LLC, is a placement agency helping match IT professionals with satisfying careers.

Christopher Nettles, Ph.D., Project Director at American Psychological Association

(’95, B.S. Applied Management, NAU-Denver): Dr. Nettles continues to draw on his NAU education. “They are so foundational and positive that I find myself drawing on what I learned at NAU no matter what I’m doing. The NAU degree has serve me so well.”

Sabrina Kastur, Owner, Skin Deep Face and Body Spa

(’08, B.S. Applied Management, NAU-Sioux Falls): A licensed esthetician, opening her own business has been a dream. “Thanks to NAU, I have the knowledge to be confident and independent. I have the necessary skills to advertise and promote my business.”

Detailed Alumni Spotlight articles on these and other NAU Alumni are available at naufoundation.org/welcome-nau-alumni/.

SYSTEM UPDATES
RONALD SHAPE APPOINTED NAU PRESIDENT & CEO

On February 17, 2016, the NAU Board of Governors announced the appointment of Dr. Ronald Shape as President & Chief Executive Officer of the university. Since 1991, Dr. Shape has held various leadership roles at National American University, most recently serving as Chief Executive Officer & System Interim President.

WESTWOOD STUDENTS NOW CALL NAU HOME

After 63 years of educating students, Westwood College has discontinued operations. NAU and Westwood College have been working together to provide Westwood students with an opportunity to continue their education with minimal disruption. “We are pleased to provide degree completion opportunities to certain students affected by the closure of Westwood College, specifically at its two Denver, Colorado, ground campuses and its online campus,” said Dr. Ron Shape, President & CEO of NAU. “We look forward to serving these students with the same commitment to their long-term success that we have demonstrated over the last 75 years.”
NAU’S ROUECHÉ GRADUATE CENTER REACHES MAJOR MILESTONE

NAU’s Doctoral Community College Leadership Program has now reached a major milestone, with its first two students successfully defending their dissertations. On May 6, Dr. Deb Kish, Academic Vice President at Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado, is NAU’s first doctoral graduate. On May 12, 2016, Dr. Thad Russell, Dean of Career Technical and Workforce Development at College of the Sequoias in Visalia, California, become the second doctoral graduate after successfully defending his dissertation. Congratulations to Dr. Kish and to her chair, Dr. Diane Troyer; and to Dr. Russell and his chair, Dr. Martha Ellis.

NAU EMPLOYEE TO PAY IT FORWARD IN ALASKA

Derek Leivestad, a pilot for NAU, will be joining his father and others from the Plymouth Covenant Church in Plymouth, MN, on a volunteer service mission to help the Alaska Christian College in Soldotna, Alaska. Derek is grateful to NAU for its Humanitarian Leave Program, which provides paid leave for employees to participate in approved service projects. To read the full story visit, www.naufoundation.org/2015/08/nau-publications/.

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

NAU has more than 30 locations throughout the central United States. Our campuses are part of their communities and many have given back to their students and neighbors. Here are just a few headlines:

**NAU-Lewisville (Texas)**
Connects Students with Employers at its Quarterly Job Fair in Partnership with Goodwill and Celebrates National Take Your Child to Work Day.

**NAU-Georgetown (Texas)**
Hosts Sock Drive for the Homeless.

**NAU-Centennial (Colorado)**
Hosts Grand Re-Opening and Tour of Newly Renovated Facility.

**NAU-Ellsworth Air Force Base (South Dakota)**
Donates over 500 Books to the American Association of University to be sold for scholarships for girls and women in South Dakota.

**NAU-Mesquite (Texas)**
Hosts Community Health and Career Fair, providing free blood pressure screenings, glucose screenings, bone density tests and information from agencies in the area.

**NAU-Bellevue (Nebraska)**
Attends Omaha Health Expo taking blood pressure and other vitals and providing results to participants.

**NAU-Dallas (Texas)**
Prepares for First Graduation Ceremony.

**NAU-Albuquerque (New Mexico)**
First Pinning Ceremony for the School of Nursing.
Every other year, NAU surveys its alumni to find out how their NAU degree has served them and suggestions that they may have for NAU staff and faculty, among other questions. More than 12,000 alumni were surveyed with a response rate of 3.41%.

The vast majority of respondents (87%) graduated within the last 15 years. There was broad representation from across NAU’s campuses, with 35 locations and online represented. Most respondents (58.13%) received Bachelor’s degrees, but there was also good representation from alumni who received an NAU Associate’s (35.41%), Master’s (14.83%), or diploma (10.53%).

Survey Highlights

**Education**
- **85.41%** of respondents reported being “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the general education courses they received.
- **88.94%** of respondents reported being “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the major core courses they received.

**Employment**
- **54.12%** of respondents reported being employed in their major or related field of study.
- **23.54%** of respondents reported being employed in an unrelated field of study.
- **77.13%** of all respondents felt that their NAU coursework prepared them for suitable employment.

**NAU Connections**
- **24.31%** of respondents were in contact with NAU friends and fellow students.
- **18.46%** felt connected to NAU.
- **14.77% & 14.46%** indicated they were interested in being involved with NAU and connecting with other alumni, respectively.
- **19.53%** of all respondents are already connecting with other alumni at NAU Connect.
- **49.48%** of all respondents were not aware of NAU Connect, an exclusive online networking alumni platform that allows for alumni connections (https://nauconnect.com), but planned to check it out.
- **80.93%** of respondents indicated they would recommend NAU to others.

A special thanks to all alumni who responded. Your input is very important. Alumni feedback helps us better respond to the preferences of our alumni and the educational needs of current students.
Remembering Kaitlyn: Wichita West Nursing Student Receives the Kaitlyn English Memorial Scholarship

Kaitlyn English, a nursing student at NAU-Wichita West in her junior year, died tragically in a car accident on January 21, 2016. To honor her memory, Kaitlyn’s mother, Tami, arranged for memorial donations to establish a NAU Foundation scholarship to benefit a NAU Wichita West nursing clinical core student. She and her family took great pride in her education at NAU. Kaitlyn was buried in her NAU nursing scrubs with a nursing pin that is typically received at graduation.

Alejandra Delgado has been selected to receive the 2016 Kaitlyn English Memorial Academic Excellence Scholarship. Alejandra has maintained a high GPA despite working full-time and raising three children. As a future nurse, she hopes to “help the helpless, heal the ill, and make a difference in the lives of my future patients.” The scholarship, she says, “means the world to me and puts me one step closer to fulfilling my dream, not only for myself, but for my family.”

The NAU Foundation is grateful to several corporate sponsors for their generous support of Academic Excellence Award Scholarships. Donations of at least $5,000 allow for named scholarships. To find out more about these corporate sponsors and the students they sponsored, visit naufoundation.org/scholarships/:

- Gray Plant Mooty Academic Excellence Award Scholarship (16 students) (gpmlaw.com)
- A&B Business Solutions Academic Excellence Award Scholarship (5 students from South Dakota) (abbusiness.com)
- QuinStreet Academic Excellence Award Scholarship (3 students) (quinstreet.com)
- Watertown Area Community Foundation Academic Excellence Award Scholarship (2 Watertown Students) (watertowncommunityfoundation.org)
- Mediaet Advertising (2 students) (mediaet.com/)
- Black Hills Agency (blackhillsagency.com)
- Dave Schmidt Insurance Agency (agents.farmers.com/sd/rapid-city/dave-schmidt)
- Broadband Education (lloydcompanies.com)
- NAU Board of Govenors

Rewarding Excellence: NAU’s Academic Excellence Award Scholarships

70 NAU students were awarded scholarships in recognition of superior academic performance, among other criteria. 63 undergraduate students received $1,200 and 7 doctoral students received $1,800. You can see a list of scholarships recipients, including those most senior recipients who received the Alumni-designated Academic Excellence Award Scholarships, at naufoundation.org/scholarships/.

The sponsorship was coordinated by Tami Bremer, RVT, an NAU alumnae. The CLVH and MVAH Academic Excellence Scholarships will be offered this fall. The NAU Foundation is grateful for this opportunity to help aspiring vet techs.

Rapid City Veterinary Clinics Sponsor New NAU Foundation Scholarship for Vet Tech Students!

Dr. Serena Heig, DVM and Dr. Nick Heig, DVM, owners of the Canyon Lake Veterinary Hospital (CLVH) and Mountain View Animal Hospital (MVHAH), located in Rapid City, South Dakota, have sponsored two scholarships to benefit the veterinary technician students in Rapid City.

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Community College Leadership Program Doctoral Scholarships

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Many people are so grateful to the Roueche’s for their dedicated work over the years. While my career has been impacted by their work, it is an honor to receive a direct contribution for my education and career moving forward.

Leslie McClellon, Roueche Doctoral Summer 2016 Scholarship Recipient.

Thank You Corporate Sponsors!

MESSAGE

UPDATES FROM THE NATIONAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

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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, or share your information directly with Tamie Hopp, Director of Alumni & Foundation Services at 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), LinkedIn, Twitter or Facebook by visiting naufoundation.org/2015/09/get-connected-with-nau/.