“EMPOWERED WOMEN EMPOWER WOMEN”
Read about our new Women’s Leadership Initiative: WE LEAD - pg. 12

BRIGHT FUTURES
The campaign for MNU

It’s time to close the gap!
Mabee Challenge deadline
December 31
When God Calls Her

Within the biblical account of human creation, God determined very quickly that it was not good for man to live alone, and he created a “helper,” which in the language of the day did not translate to be a slave, second-class citizen or subservient. In the June 2014 issue of Christianity Today, Suzanne Burkey provided a more accurate version of the ancient Hebrew translation as “To end the loneliness of the single human, I will make another strong power, corresponding to it.” Throughout the Old and New Testaments, it is evident God called women to significant leadership roles in the world and in his kingdom to fulfill his will.

One of the distinctives of the Church of the Nazarene from its earliest days has been a clear recognition that God’s gifts and talents are invested equally in men and women. God calls both to leadership roles in the world and at all levels of ministry. In 1848, Wesleyan-Holiness women hosted the very first women’s rights conference in the nation and later were deeply involved in the abolitionist movement, the underground railroad and women’s suffrage. Through the years, the challenges of society and conflicting external voices have not altered the Nazarene and Wesleyan-Holiness positions regarding the role of women in leadership.

At MNU, we firmly believe God calls both men and women to pursue the hopes, dreams and purposes he has planted in their hearts. Thousands of young women, like the ones you will read about in this issue, have discovered God’s plan for their lives on this campus. They serve around the world as strong, effective leaders in business, education, healthcare, sciences, ministry and the home. The university celebrates the women of MNU, past, present and future. A life is transformed and empowered when God calls her name, and she answers.
Leadership Quality: Four  Alumnae Share Their Journeys

They're at different points in their varied careers. Some are seasoned professionals, and some are in the middle of their career climb. All are leaders in competitive settings, feel called to serve by God, and got their start at MNU.

**Candace (Barkman '07) Moss**  
**business education**

Candace has the best professional title anyone could aspire to. She’s the honey buyer for Barkman Honey, a beekeeper family-owned business headquartered in Hillsboro, Kansas, with beekeeping operations in South Dakota, Florida, and Michigan. If you’ve purchased the store brand honey at a national retailer like Walmart, you’ve likely purchased Barkman Honey.

It’s Candace’s responsibility to forge relationships with beekeepers and farmers. The work comes naturally because she grew up in the bee yards, spending spring in Oklahoma, summer in South Dakota, and winter in Hillsboro. Starting as a clerk in the honey purchasing department in 2008, she’s now the buyer for the northern and western United States. Candace is also a beekeeper with six hives of her own.

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**
- Developing nurturing partnerships within the beekeeping industry.
- Balancing professional life with home, church and civic responsibilities.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
Candace is part of the team on the frontlines of safeguarding and sustaining honeybees. Barkman Honey is one of the largest honey packers in the U.S. and the first to achieve the True Source Certified® stamp of approval, a honey industry certification.

**MNU INFLUENCE**
"MNU provides an incredible opportunity for students to study their field of interest at a school with integrity," Candace says. "It’s a great place to question and build one’s faith. The future may look different than what you start out thinking. Be open to God’s changes for you."

**FAVORITE INSPIRATION**
Candace notes the core purpose espoused by her family’s company.

> “We believe that it is our core purpose to serve God with all resources entrusted to us, enlarging our territory of influence through wise stewardship and servant leadership.”

---

**Shelley Hayes (’96)**  
**business administration and public relations**

Shelley is the chief development officer at Community Health Charities, Washington, D.C., where she oversees a remote staff of fundraisers who work on corporate partnerships and grants supporting nearly 2,000 nonprofits nationwide. Shelley connects with corporate partners to build their corporate social responsibility programs. She chairs the board of the Combined Federal Campaign Foundation, which delivers workplace giving to over 4 million federal, military and postal employees.

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**
- Developing Prison Fellowship and Angel Tree Camping programs.
- Directing all Angel Tree programs with hundreds of organizations and families across the US.
- Developing a weekend enrichment program for the children of incarcerated mothers.

**ADDITIONAL EDUCATION/CERTIFICATE**
Certificate, nonprofit executive management, Georgetown University.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
Shelley says her greatest accomplishment has been taking Jesus into the marketplace. “I’m currently working at the first non-faith-based nonprofit in my career. It’s been amazing to use parables to lead the team and pray with those who might not have any other such outlet in their lives.”

**MNU INFLUENCE**
"MNU provides an incredible opportunity for students to study their field of interest at a school with integrity," Candace says. "It’s a great place to question and build one’s faith. The future may look different than what you start out thinking. Be open to God’s changes for you."

**FAVORITE INSPIRATION**
Shelley has counted on Philippians 4:4-7 to guide her career. Each verse in the passage from “Rejoice in the Lord always,” to “…the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,” has specific and practical meaning in her work and personal life.
Dr. Carla (Johnson ’83) Sunberg
nursing

Carla is a general superintendent in the Church of the Nazarene, the highest office in the denomination. At the time of her election in June 2017, she was president of Nazarene Theological Seminary, where she had served since January 2014.

Carla’s early career was in nursing in the U.S. and as a missionary in Russia, she helped develop a training program for nurses in hospitals and clinics. Nursing, she says, will always be foundational to her life and work. In fact, she still maintains her RN license.

"Nursing taught me how to assess situations and problem solve, as well as how to be a wife and mother.”

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS
- Pioneer missionary, Church of the Nazarene, former Soviet Union
- Director of Compassionate Ministries, Moscow, Russia
- Director of Theological Education, Moscow, Russia
- Co-district Superintendent, East Ohio District, Church of the Nazarene

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION/CERTIFICATE
MA, Theological Studies, Nazarene Theological College and University of Manchester, United Kingdom.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- Authored numerous publications.
- Provided healthcare and auxiliary services to missionaries and volunteers in Russia.
- Chair, USA/Canada Region’s Nazarene Women Clergy Council.
- Former president, Wesleyan-Holiness Women Clergy.

MNU INFLUENCE
"I’m very grateful to MNU and how I was shaped and formed by those who invested in me,” Carla says. "A few years ago, I was at a meeting of Nazarene College and University Presidents from around the world. We discovered that three of us had started our careers as nurses. There must be something in that nursing education that helps to prepare leaders.”

FAVORITE INSPIRATION
"During our life and ministry in Russia, we faced incredible challenges,” Carla says. "Things that we had never experienced in life. It was at that time that we were led to the verse that we have clung to in life, ‘With God all things are possible,’ Matthew 19:26."

Susan (Sciolaro ’84) Lynch
accounting and business administration

Susan is senior vice president and chief financial officer at Vectrus, a leading provider of global service solutions in the areas of information technology and network communication services, and facility and logistics services. She is responsible for global financial management of the company’s business, including tax, treasury, audit, accounting, financial planning and analysis, and government compliance. Susan has more than 25 years of financial experience with senior leadership roles in the technology, aerospace and defense, and industrial manufacturing industries.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS
- Executive Vice President and CFO for Sungard Availability Services
- Executive Vice President and CFO for Hitachi Data Systems (now Hitachi Vantara)
- Vice President and CFO at Raytheon Technical Services Company
- Assistant Corporate Controller for Honeywell International

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION/CERTIFICATE
Certified Public Accountant, State of Arizona.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Susan led Hitachi Data Systems’ financial organization through a significant growth period, optimizing its financial processes while improving business partnering.

Susan received the Alumna of the Year award from MNU in 2006.

MNU INFLUENCE
"MNU helped me to reground myself in my Christian upbringing and to put all of my faith in Christ.

FAVORITE INSPIRATION
Susan’s favorite bible verse is Philippians 4:13,

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

"I came from very humble beginnings and never could have accomplished what I have without my faith and reliance on Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. To God, be all the glory."
We’re Honored

MNU is proud to be among the U.S. universities making three “Best” lists this fall.

U.S. News & World Report

One of the 162 ranked Best Regional Midwest Universities on U.S. News & World Report’s list, MNU was chosen based on:

- Outcomes
- Faculty Resources
- Expert Opinion
- Financial Resources
- Student Excellence
- Alumni Giving

The ranking pertains to the university’s traditional undergraduate programs, which this year unveiled the Pioneer Pledge, a loan repayment assistance program. New freshmen and transfer students are eligible under Pioneer Pledge to receive assistance repaying their loans if their income is under $45,000 upon graduation from MNU. This gives students a safety net when considering taking a loan to help pay for their education.

This is the third year in a row that MNU has been selected for the U.S. News list.

Money Magazine

MNU is also a ranked university, for the second year in a row, on Money Magazine’s 2019-20 Best Colleges. Money evaluated 3,000 of the nation’s colleges, narrowing their list to 744 with the best value for the money. MNU is one of only five Kansas universities to make the list.

Money analyzed 26 factors in three categories to find the top college values, including:

1. Quality of education
2. Affordability
3. Outcomes

College Consensus

College Consensus also recognized MNU in its Best Online Christian Colleges and Universities for 2019.

Read more at MNU.edu/about/points-of-pride.

Nurse Practitioner Program Begins

A new online track in MNU’s Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) launching in January 2020 will provide the education and credentials to become a nurse practitioner (NP). The curriculum focuses on caring for adults and the aging. Graduates of the program will earn a Master of Science in Nursing and achieve the designation of Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) upon passing the AGPCNP Certification Exam. MNU is the first university in Kansas offering this specialty.

An AGPCNP is an advance practice nurse with a clinical focus on treating people from adolescent through adult and into advanced age.

This specialty is a great mission fit for MNU as well as being in growing demand, according to the Department Chair for Post-Licensure and Graduate Nursing Education, Dr. Sarah Miller.

“AGPCNP specializes in an area that will only grow as the population ages, particularly as baby boomers retire and their need for healthcare increases,” Miller says.

She also finds the MNU faculty well suited to preparing these kinds of professionals.

“We have outstanding faculty who are qualified experientially and academically,” she says. “They are compassionate and caring—truly wanting what’s best for our students, while still holding them to high expectations.”

Miller says the program should attract nurses who want to impact patient care in a more significant way by being able to diagnose patients, prescribe medication and treatments. They should be driven and organized as the program will be challenging but doable. Location is not a factor since the program is online except for three on-site intensives of two days each.

As far as credibility and reputation, the university holds many top-rated rankings for its nursing programs, from pre-licensure BSN to graduate-level MSN. Additionally, programs are Commission on Collegiate Nursing (CCNE) accredited, and Kansas State Board of Nursing approved. MNU-educated nurses are highly qualified and in demand, according to Miller.

For more information about the MSN program for Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, visit MNU.edu/ag-pcnp.

CAMPUS NEWS

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For more information about the MSN program for Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, visit MNU.edu/ag-pcnp.

George Panebianco and his family celebrate the completion of his bachelor’s degree from MNU. The 85-year-old Belton, Missouri, resident, is a Korean War Veteran who majored in Spanish at MNU in the 80s. Through the School of Professional and Graduate Studies, George earned his BA in general studies this fall. Welcome to the Alumni Association, Mr. Panebianco!
New Path to Becoming a Classroom Teacher

The "special sauce" in this program is that students do not need a degree in education to enroll. This feature opens the door to many career-changers.

The Master of Science in Elementary Education Unified program equips graduates to teach in the elementary grades, no matter their undergraduate major. Providing expertise in both elementary education and special education, it is all online. The program addresses a shortage of teachers, particularly in special education.

"Kansas implemented a new designation combining elementary education and special education at the graduate level," says Dr. Martin Dunlap, program chair. "The goal is to supply the need for teachers in special education. MNU is one of just a few universities with the program.”

Dunlap says the university encounters adults who have earned a bachelor’s degree and want to change careers. Previously they often had to earn a second bachelor’s degree. This master’s degree means higher earning potential sooner.

“We’re drawing students from a variety of careers,” Dunlap says. "Paraprofessionals in school districts, business people, all types of people in all sorts of jobs who want to become teachers.”

For students who do not have an earned bachelor’s degree, MNU also has an accelerated elementary education unified degree program.

For more information, visit MNU.edu/graduate.

Award, Accreditation & Top Scores

Cathedral Builder

On October 4, Olathe Mayor Michael Copeland ('84) honored MNU with the City’s Cathedral Builder Award at the State of the City luncheon. Each year the Mayor presents this award to an organization and an individual that had been instrumental to the community, its culture and its future. MNU is grateful to those, throughout its history, who have made this legacy possible.

Excellence Noted

This fall, the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) approved the accreditation of the Master of Counseling program through October 2026. The approval includes the program specialties of clinical mental health, marriage, couple & family counseling and school counseling.

CACREP accreditation is both a process and a status and denotes a commitment to program excellence. CACREP accreditation is highly acclaimed in the counseling industry. MNU was first accredited by CACREP in 2010.

For information about this and all graduate programs at MNU, visit MNU.edu/graduate.

High Marks

MNU is first in Kansas for the number of pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing students and graduates. In both 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years, MNU outpaced all other Kansas schools that offer the degree. Additionally, the School of Nursing consistently boasts a first-attempt pass rate on the NCLEX-RN® exam (required for licensure) that is higher than state and national averages. In 2019, 95.7% of our BSN grads passed the exam on the first attempt. We are proud of our faculty that prepares these outstanding graduates to give excellent care to patients in Kansas and beyond.

The Mindset of the Class of 2023

As we welcomed the Class of 2023 this fall, we realized that they come from another time. In their lifetime, floppy drives have always been old-fashioned storage devices long ago replaced by USB drives. Their handheld devices hold more storage than their parents’ top-of-the-line desktop computer from a few years back. And let's face it, phones are for texting and taking photos, not talking!

Here is a sample of 60 facts about the Class of 2023, gathered by Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

1. Like Pearl Harbor for their grandparents, and the Kennedy assassination for their parents, 9/11 is a historical event.
2. The nation’s mantra has always been: “If you see something, say something.”
3. The Tech Big Four—Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Google—are to them what the Big Three automakers were to their grandparents.
4. Their smartpens may write and record faster than they can think.
5. Nearly half of their generation is composed of people of color.
6. Because of Richard Reid’s explosive footwear at 30,000 feet, airline passengers have always had to take off their shoes to slide through security on the ground.
7. They may well not have a younger sibling, as the birth rate in the U.S. has been dropping since they were in grammar school.
8. YouTube has become the video version of Wikipedia.
9. Most of them will rent, not buy, their textbooks.
10. Blackboards have never been dumb.
Women’s Leadership Initiative @MNU

Increasing the number and breadth of opportunities for young women is the goal of We Lead – A Women’s Leadership Initiative @ MNU. Birthed from a growing interest among female students, and the dream of two professors, the initiative includes academic, experiential and service options for women starting as early as their junior year in high school.

Dr. Lisa Wallentine (’94), chair, Department of Business Administration, and Jamie Myrtle (’91), intern dean, College of Arts and Sciences, are spearheading the initiative. They co-direct We Lead with the assistance of an advisory board comprised of MNU faculty, staff and alumnae from nursing, science, education, student development, athletics and counseling, as well as numerous volunteers.

The friends and colleagues have talked about women and leadership for years. But their ideas gained clarity after evaluating the university’s mentoring efforts. Women, they found, both approach and benefit from the mentoring relationship differently from men. Wallentine’s research for her doctoral dissertation gave the pair additional evidence. “The literature agreed that women need mentors and certain training to be assertive in leadership,” Wallentine said.

The professors also held focus groups to understand where gaps exist in training and opportunity.

“Immediately, there was high interest in the idea,” Wallentine adds. “Participants said they would join that day if the program existed. All of this is founded on the literature and the primary research we did.”

With the creation of the Women in Leadership Endowment Fund by Lynette (FS ’84) Barkman and Candace Moss (’07) along with focused gifts from individual and Husch Blackwell law firm, We Lead was born.

We Lead has three main components—launch, empower and engage. Each component plays a part in developing women as leaders by strengthening one’s natural gifts and abilities while identifying, educating and building skills where gaps exist.

Dr. Lynnette Barkman (FS ’84) and Candace Moss (’07) have dreamed about a comprehensive plan to promote leadership skills for young women at MNU. Recently others joined their crusade. Coupled with increasing interest among female students and a new endowment, We Lead—A Women’s Leadership Initiative @ MNU was founded.

Last spring, initiative organizers piloted the first event called Launch—a Girl’s Preview Weekend at MNU. Registration filled before it was widely promoted prompting organizers to make room for more to attend.

The theme was “Belonging” and will rotate with “Becoming” in the second year with new content and structural changes to the program. Attendees were treated to a weekend of engaging seminars, pampering, homemade goodies provided by staff and fellowship with MNU student hosts.

Myrtle says engaging with the girls was just the beginning.

“A big part of leadership is having confidence in one’s ability to lead,” she says. “Confidence is a by-product of having the requisite professional leadership skills and the support of a community. We were excited to show young women how MNU could come alongside and help them.”

With the growth of the program, organizers promptly moved to the second component, Empower. A new certificate program focuses on empowerment through Christ and developing the whole person—mind, body, and soul,” Damron says. “This initiative cultivates leaders who will create solutions and opportunities for others. We are grateful to all who support it and invite others to join us.”

To learn more about We Lead—A Women’s Leadership Initiative @ MNU, visit MNU.edu/we-lead.

EMPOWER

Once enrolled at MNU, women can participate in leadership development through two paths; the participant track and the certificate path. Both paths cultivate a holistic perspective on womanhood while encouraging each student to reach her own unique leadership potential.

Certificate students may take a wide variety of leadership-focused coursework for 12 credit hours. They also participate in The National Society of Leadership and Success, mentoring and a program portfolio. The certificate and associated credit hours will be documented on the student’s official MNU transcript.

Certificate track students will also join in participant track activities such as:

- Strengths Finder
- Conflict resolution
- Body image
- Health & nutrition
- Annual events: Launch, retreats and celebration

The leadership certificate uses a balanced scorecard approach to ensure a focus on the whole person—mind, heart, and strength. The primary goal is to cultivate a holistic perspective on womanhood while encouraging each student to reach her own unique leadership potential.

LAUNCH

Dr. Nancy Damron (’95, MED ’98) says MNU offers mission-fit programming designed to benefit all people through messages of hope and unity.

“We Lead is a positive response to concerns regarding how we connect with self, others, and God. The program focuses on empowerment through Christ and developing the whole person—mind, body, and soul,” Damron says. “This initiative cultivates leaders who will create solutions and opportunities for others. We are grateful to all who support it and invite others to join us.”

ENGAGE

Community outreach and alumni involvement form the third component of the initiative.

“The community and alumni component of this creates a continuous cycle of giving back,” Wallentine says. “We anticipate graduates of We Lead will take leadership positions in the program, providing sustainability.”

Contrary to the voices of division heard across society, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Nancy Damron (’95, MED ’98) says MNU offers mission-fit programming designed to benefit all people through messages of hope and unity.

“We Lead is a positive response to concerns regarding how we connect with self, others, and God. The program focuses on empowerment through Christ and developing the whole person—mind, body, and soul,” Damron says. “This initiative cultivates leaders who will create solutions and opportunities for others. We are grateful to all who support it and invite others to join us.”

To learn more about We Lead—A Women’s Leadership Initiative @ MNU, visit MNU.edu/we-lead.

To financially support this or any program at MNU, visit MNU.edu/give.
2020 Upcoming Events

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<tr>
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<td>Family Weekend at Great Wolf Lodge</td>
<td>Kansas City, KS</td>
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<td>April 23-24</td>
<td>Pioneer Adventure: History &amp; Heroes Tour</td>
<td>Abilene-Hutchinson, KS</td>
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<td>May 2</td>
<td>MNU Commencement</td>
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For details about any of these events, visit MNU.edu/alumni

MidAmerica Nazarene University is a community that values people, ideas and faith. Here, professors are mentors, classmates are friends and friends are family. We serve our neighbors, our city and our world.

Help MNU Meet the Challenge

Progress on the university’s Bright Futures Campaign for the Cunningham Student Center is full steam ahead as a crucial deadline is approaching. In January 2019, the Mabee Foundation granted MNU $1 million contingent on the university’s ability to raise the remaining $11 million needed to build the Center by the end of the year.

“I am excited that our vision for the new Cunningham Student Center is closer than ever to reality,” says MNU President Dr. David Spittal. “With the commitments made to date, I truly believe we will reach the goal. An outpouring of gifts and pledges, of any size, will be necessary to meet the challenge. Thank you, alumni and university friends, as you continue to generously support the next generation of MNU Pioneers.”

Unprecedented giving toward the building has resulted in just over $16 million raised. Support has included many types of gifts, such as land, securities and stock, in-kind services, contributions from IRA charitable rollovers and from donor-advised funds. Others have also contributed gifts in memory of loved ones.

“We are so encouraged by the outpouring of generosity,” says Dr. Jon North, vice president for university advancement. “From the largest to the smallest gifts, we have received such tremendous sacrificial support from alumni and friends of MNU, all over the world. They are committed to seeing this building completed.”

Your Gift Can Make It Happen!

Gifts of all sizes and types are needed to meet the challenge of funding the Cunningham Student Center by the end of 2019. The time is now. Please consider your commitment level and make a generous gift or pledge, payable over five years.

Visit brightfutures.mnu.edu for more information.

Students Are Excited!

“Right now, not a lot of students hang out on campus. You see some in the library, but it’s supposed to be quiet. Some are in the lobbies; there’s not a lot of room. Also, the Student Center will look appealing to visitors—this cool building just for students.”

— Lauren Fleshman, freshman from Oklahoma

“It’s going to create a communal gathering space— just to be together. I’m excited about a better café that’s new and appealing. It’s going to be a great opportunity for pulling in new students.”

— Logan Frye, sophomore from Olathe

“This is going to give MNU students a lot more things to do on campus! The new Student Center will be a blessing to the student body here at MNU.”

— Roda Tut, freshman from Iowa

“The new Student Center will be more than just an amazing update for the campus. It’ll be an awesome place for people to come together as a community. It will be a great venue not just for current students but also for students that are considering MNU.”

— Ashlynn Holsinger, freshman from Kansas

We have $4 million to go to receive the $1 million Mabee Foundation challenge gift by December 31.

Visit brightfutures.mnu.edu to give.
Alums Pay It Forward For The Next Generation

Accent asked alums David (’82) and Cherie (Brown ’84) Martin why they are supporting the Bright Futures Campaign for the Cunningham Student Center.

Cherie is an RN, BSN. She served at St. Anthony’s Hospital after graduation from 1994-1997 and then worked for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City 1997-2003 and 2009-2012. David is the CEO of Hotel Management and Consulting, where he has served since 2004 after owning a retail establishment. HMC manages 59 hotels across the country.

The Martins are grateful for the education they received at MNU. They also value the friendships, spiritual deepening and lifelong relationships that were forged there. Now they’re helping a new generation experience what they did.

Accent: Why did you choose to attend MidAmerica?

Cherie: My high school friends were enrolling at MNU, so I looked forward to enjoying dorm life and social interaction while getting an education.

David: Like Cherie, I grew up near MidAmerica, and I knew other people from around here were attending. I went to Blue Valley High School, which was nearby.

Accent: What stands out in your memory about college?

Cherie: My favorite memories at MANC center around the first few weeks of my freshman year. I remember being excited to meet kids with strong beliefs and values centered on the Christian faith. In addition to classes, our days were filled with class parties, special chapel services, and late-night concerts. Some of the most meaningful hours were spent in Campus Center, visiting about our days and spending time together around the table.

David: I remember fellowshipping with friends at dinner in the Campus Center, intramural sports, and late-night fun in King’s Court. (Apartment complex formerly owned by the university).

Accent: Did MNU prepare you for your career?

Cherie: Definitely. My education at MidAmerica was invaluable. Time spent in the classroom, labs and in the clinical setting prepared me for my work in the hospital. I had nursing instructors who prayed with us and over us before our clinical days began. It was so reassuring to know that God was in control of our days.

As I went on to work after college, I could fall back on that training and was grateful daily for the education and instruction I had received.

David: I enjoyed my business courses. It’s not that I can point to any one thing. I remember Professor Jim Ackerson, Sr. told us we should think about investing in this start-up called Apple. I wish I had. But the lessons I made, I wouldn’t have gotten into the business I am in without the (college) connections.

Accent: You’ve supported MNU through scholarships for some time. Why is that important to you?

Cherie: As students, we received financial assistance from our families and scholarships for academics, athletics and from our local church. Now that we are able to give, it is our privilege to help current MNU students.

David: The cost of college when I attended was much different. I paid for half; I had a good job at a grocery store, and my parents paid for half. I graduated with no college debt. Now it is so much more, and I feel that it is our chance to give back. God’s blessed us, and we have the ability to give. It’s just the right thing to do.

Accent: What will the Cunningham Student Center mean for MNU and its students?

Cherie and David: We feel the Cunningham Center needs to be built to allow students to have a place where they feel comfortable and where they can engage in meaningful relationships with one another and share life together.

An important part of life is dinner time. We come together as a family to eat, share our day, tell stories, laugh, express concerns...so also in college. Connecting with people over shared mealtime is crucial to our wellbeing. Joining with friends in the Cunningham building during the day will help fill the hole that’s created when students leave home. These are the ties they will remember. Sometimes it’s not a specific memory, but just the warmth of connection with others—a place to belong.

We are so pleased that MNU has chosen to honor the Cunningham family in the naming of the new student center. Pastor Paul and Connie Cunningham impacted Cherie’s life from early childhood and into her college years. They challenged Cherie to believe in a God who can provide more than we can ask or imagine. The Cunninghams lived out this vision, giving leadership to College Church and the development of MNU.

Accent: Why is the campaign a worthy investment?

Cherie and David: We feel that’s a great value to Christian education in today’s society. MNU is equipping the next generation of students to be sent out into the world to teach and serve Christ in the areas in which they are called.

JOIN US

Like these alumni who love MNU, you can be a part of helping the next generation of MNU students gain important career preparation, spiritual growth and life long connections. Visit MNU.edu/give to make your mark on the next generation of Pioneers.
Cross Country Women Looking for Another Championship

Coach Kevin O’Grattan and the MNU Cross Country squads have been preparing for the Heart Championships, with competitions at the Eagle Invitational in Fayette, Missouri, the Missouri Southern Stampede in Joplin, Missouri, the Columbia Invitational in Columbia, Missouri, and the Mid-States Classic in Winfield, Kansas. The three-time defending Heart Champion women’s squad looks to make it four in a row as they now head back to Fayette to compete at the Central Methodist-hosted Heart Championships November 9, with an eye to nationals in Vancouver, Washington November 22.

Football Asserts Itself This Season

Second-year Head Coach Todd Sturdy has MNU back in the national conversation after earning a top-25 ranking for the first time in several seasons. A five-game win streak and the rushing attack led by sophomore Jamar Moya have the Pioneers looking to move higher in the rankings and challenge the top of the conference in 2020. Running back Moya, defensive back David Haney, kicker Pablo Pereira, and linebacker Jackson Berck earned Conference Player of the Week honors.

Volleyball Doubles Its Wins

First-year head coach Molly Karagyaurov turned a nine-win team into a 19-win team as the Pioneers qualified for the conference tournament. Middle hitter Jacqueline Calvert, Libero McKenna Webster and Setter Kourtney Hansen have earned Conference Player of the Week honors. And Calvert ranks 10th in the nation in hitting percentage (.349) while Rachel Dossett ranks 31st in blocks per game (1.1). Webster ranks 40th in digs (146).

Women’s Soccer Wins At-Large Bid to Nationals

First-year head coach Bryce McClanahan led the Pioneers to their second consecutive second-place finish in the Heart of America Conference while achieving their highest ranking in program history (#18). The squad lost in the conference tournament semifinals, but won a bid to the NAIA Championships Nov. 22. Goalkeeper Kailee Barnhard earned four Conference Defensive Player of the Week honors including a National Defensive Player of the Week. Junior forward Savannah Moxley received a Conference Offensive Player of the Week honor while leading the team in goals and points. Sophomore forward Maria Garcia, junior midfielder Brylee Johnson and junior midfielder Elvia Villagomez compiled double digit points in one of the best seasons in program history.

Men’s Soccer Finishes Seventh in Tough Conference

Head Coach Kevin Wardlaw’s 16th season resulted in a seventh-place finish in the tough Heart of America Conference. Several key injuries turned a promising start into a disappointing finish, but some standout seasons have the Pioneers primed for a return to the top of the conference next year. Freshman midfielder Mathieu Ecurtemer was third on the team in goals and freshman midfielder Jayedon Marswell turned in a solid first season as well. Senior forward Felipe Hideki earned a Conference Offensive Player of the Week honor while finishing second on the team in goals despite missing six games due to injury.

Pioneers’ Season Wrap Ups

by Sports Information Director Chad Jenkins
Rustin Dowd ('13)
Basketball, Business Administration

Among the best shooters in MNU history, Rustin Dowd was a four-year starting shooting guard from 2009-2013. Twice his teams qualified for the national tournament, peaking with an Elite 8 finish in 2013. Dowd had seasons shooting 44.6% and 44.8% from beyond the arc. He averaged 17 points per game, finishing eighth in MNU history with 2,163 points. He was a four-time Conference Player of the Week and three-time First-Team All-Conference honoree. He was named Heart Freshman of the Year in 2010, Heart Player of the Year in 2012, and NAIA All-America in 2011 (HM), 2012 (third team), and 2013 (third team).

Rustin and his wife, Breanna, reside in Paola, Kansas. They have two children.

2002 Indoor Track & Field
4x400 Relay Team

The 4x400 squad of Vincent Hobbs ('02) (representing team in above photo) physical education; Jermaine Ricketts (FS '05) business administration; Brandon Earls ('02) physical education; and Ryan Raber ('05) sports management, won the 4x400 National Championship in 2002 with an NAIA record time of 3:12.34. This was the first of MNU’s back-to-back national championships in the event. Ricketts and Raber were also on the 2003 championship squad.

Megan Hayes ('13)
Volleyball, History & Government Education

Megan was instrumental in putting MNU volleyball on the map, helping her team to the Heart of America Athletic Conference tournament for the first time in years as a freshman. As a sophomore, she led the Pioneers to their first Heart Tournament championship game. In her junior year, the Pioneers had their first 30-win season, the first Heart Tournament championship, and the first trip to the NAIA National Tournament. In her senior year, the Pioneers had the most successful season in program history. MNU was 29-5 and undefeated in conference play on route to the Heart title, Heart Tournament championship, and a fifth-place finish at the national tournament. She finished her career with 1,037 kills and 581 blocks. Megan was a four-time First Team All-Conference honoree, two-time NAIA All-America honoree, and an NAIA Scholar-Athlete.

She lives in Olathe, Kansas, and is an assistant coach for MNU Volleyball while working on a Master of Science, Specialist in educational school psychology.

Jose Sibrian ('08)
Soccer, Marketing

Jose was a four-year starter from 2004-2007, anchoring some of the most successful teams in program history. As a freshman, he earned Second Team All-Conference and NCCAA All-Region on a team that won the NCCAA National Championship. As a sophomore, he was named First Team All-Conference, NCCAA All-Region, and NCCAA Honorable Mention All-America. As a junior, he was Second Team All-Conference, NCCAA All-Region, and NCCAA First Team All-America for a team that won another NCCAA National Championship. As a senior, he was named First Team All-Conference, NCCAA All-Regional, NCCAA First Team All-America, and NAIA Honorable Mention All-America.

Want to learn more? Visit mnusports.com

Each year at Homecoming, MNU recognizes some of the greatest achievements of our institution’s sports history. Those recognized are shining examples of hard work, character and spiritual formation since their time at MNU.
Alumni Award Winners 2019

YOUNG ALUM OF THE YEAR:
HEATHER (ENGLE '16) SMITH

Heather Smith is passionate about anything involving design. A major in graphic design made sense for this creative soul. Heather’s first internship was in the MNU marketing office, where she learned about layout and organizing documents in visually pleasing, professional ways. This led to becoming a graphic design intern at Burns & McDonnell Engineering in Overland Park, Kansas.

“This was an amazing opportunity for me to be able to gain real world experience while getting my feet wet in the corporate world of design and marketing,” she says.

Earning her degree and the knowledge she gained during her MNU experience propelled her to land a job in the Kansas City Crossroads at Barkley, a major advertising agency. She also gained experience as a visual designer at Garmin.

“The knowledge I gained at MNU from the amazing professors there and the passion I have for design helped me to be the best I can be in the field that God has called me to,” Heather says.

At age 21, Jack was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic disease that causes progressive vision loss. After absorbing the shock of learning he was going blind, Jack was determined to discover God’s calling for his life. God had equipped Jack with a desire to serve others, and he needed a professional opportunity where he wouldn’t be limited by others’ perceptions of what he could achieve as a blind person. Jack found both when he joined Edward Jones in 2002.

Knowing that his vision was deteriorating quickly, Jack worked hard to build his business from scratch and establish himself in the community. He has been president of the Olathe Public Library board, participated in Olathe Civic Academy, taught Sunday school, and directed the Stephen Ministry program at his church. He also leads a student investment club at MNU, passing on his expertise and knowledge to a new generation of business students.

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Jack enjoys family time and indulging his passion for golf. He is part of American Blind Golf, a national non-profit golfing organization promoting the game for blind and visually impaired persons.

CARRY THE TORCH:
JACK HANSEN (’92, MBA ’99)

Jack Hansen is a financial advisor, regional leader, and limited partner with Edward Jones Investments in Olathe. In addition to serving clients, he leads nearly 70 branch teams in northeast Kansas.

While they were students at MNU, Jack met his wife, April (Loomis ’96). They have two daughters: Abby (’19) nursing, and Ally, a high school senior.

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ALUMNA OF THE YEAR:
DEBBIE (BUXIE ’01) JASICZEK

Debbie Jasiczek is associate director of engineering at Garmin International, where she leads the Core Platform Technology Group. In this role, she sets the vision for the team, leads internal global communication efforts, and builds the organization that serves all five of Garmin’s product segments. Her group is diverse and includes engineers, project managers, and wireless technology leaders that develop, maintain, and advance shared technologies across multiple business segments.

Debbie has held a variety of positions at Garmin, starting as a software engineer in 2001. She worked on algorithms used in Garmin’s Aviation, Automotive OEM, Fitness, and Outdoor products.

The progression of her career took her from engineer to engineering team leader, team manager and associate director. Debbie earned an MS in mathematics from Emporia State University in May 2014.

Debbie has served as vice president of the MNU Alumni Council for three years, and on the President Honors Council for the past two years. She has also served as a mentor and an adjunct instructor at MNU.

Debbie has been a Bible Quizzing Coach for 21 seasons. She loves to travel and experience different cultures. She has been to 30 countries on four continents.

Debbie is the daughter of an early faculty member, the late Kathy Buxie.

“Every day, I try to live up to the legacy that my mom set,” Debbie says. “She was my first hero, and I love it when people see her through me.”

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR:
DR. ROD SMITH (’92)

Dr. Rod Smith is principal at Frontier Trail Middle School, serving 800 students in grades 6-8, located in Olathe, Kansas. Rod is starting his 27th year in education and his 10th year as principal at Frontier Trail.

His career began in the Shawnee Mission School District, teaching fifth grade at Highlands Elementary. He was named principal at McEowen Elementary in Harrisonville, Missouri, then returned to the Shawnee Mission School District as principal for 16 years before taking his current position.

Rod has a Master of Science degree from Emporia State University and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Baker University.

He is the recipient of the 2018 Kansas Association of Secondary Schools (KASSP) Principal of the Year Award, the Shawnee Mission School District Teacher of the Year award, and the Elementary Principal of the Year award in 2005 and 2007. While principal at Mill Creek Elementary, the school received the National Blue-Ribbon Award in 2003 and the “Kansas Standard of Excellence Award” nine years in a row.

Rod served five years on the school board for Kansas Christian College and now serves on MNU’s School of Education Advisory Board.

He and his wife, Brenda, a sixth grade ELA teacher in the Olathe School District, have a college-aged son, Benton.
ALUMNI NEWS

Sandra (Alumbaugh ‘73) Johnson retired as an executive administrative assistant with CSG International in Englewood, Colorado. Her husband, Jerry D. Johnson (74), retired in 2018 from Carollo Engineering.

Rev. Mark McCuiston (‘76) is senior pastor at Odessa, Texas, First Church of the Nazarene. He was previously an executive coach and trainer with the Kansas City-based John Maxwell leadership group. He and his wife, Patricia, have four children and two grandchildren.

Dr. Jerry (‘79) and Brenda (Minor ‘81) Rice, have received the Distinguished Service Award from Bethany First Church of the Nazarene.

Susan (Sciolare ‘84) Lynch is now the chief financial officer of Vectrus, a global government services company based in Colorado Springs. In her role as CFO, Susan will be in charge of the company’s tax, treasury, controllership, and financial planning and analysis.

Melanie (Talley ‘92) Vilardo earned her master’s in nursing for Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and is a nurse practitioner with Newton Urgent Care and a nurse practitioner hospitalist with Atlantic Health.

David Wyatt (‘92), earned a PhD in nursing healthcare systems research in 2018 from the University of Colorado, Denver. He is president-elect of the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN) and will begin his tenure in April 2020. David is vice president, perioperative enterprise at Vandenburg University Medical Center.

Dale Schaeffer (‘99) was recently elected Illinois district superintendent for the Church of the Nazarene. Previously he served as lead pastor at Mustang Church of the Nazarene in Oklahoma. He and his wife, Becky (Zachow ‘79) Armstrong, have been in full-time ministry since 1981. They also pastored in Guymon, Medford, Bartlesville, and Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

Sheila (Vandervoort ‘79, MBA ‘04, MAOA ‘05) Bird has been named director of stewardship development for the Global Ministry Center, Church of the Nazarene.

Dr. Charlotte (Pickenpaugh ‘79) Holter is now a gifted education adjunct professor at Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa.

Krista (Dunn ‘99) Wyatt, is now an academic advisor with George Washington University Online High School, after teaching 23 years, 10 in the online environment.

David Platter (‘04) is an assistant professor of art and serves as the gallery director at Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa.

Stephanie (Dyrness ‘07) Lobdell is the new campus pastor at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. She recently published a book, Signs of Life.

Joe Hall (MSM ‘14) is the director of football student-athlete development at Kansas State University.

Cohen Plummer (‘14) is the assistant administrator at Prime Hospice in Phoenix.

Alllegea Vieux (‘14) is the new marketing and events coordinator for the San Diego Rescue Mission.

Beth (Drego ‘10) Laird is a graphic designer with Kansas City-based Gift Card Impressions and recently won the Louise Award at an art gallery in New York City for her design of a birthday gift card holder.

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Jeremiah German (‘14) was recently promoted to director of environment, health & safety at AT&T.

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1) Nathan (’19) and Beth Anderson, a son: Waylen Reid, July 17, 2019
2) Bradley (’14) and Jessica Baur, a son: Rowan, July 24, 2019
3) Mario (’17) and Makenzie (Anderson ’17) Flores, a son: Leo, August 23, 2019
4) Jake and Tyler (Hobson MED ’07) Hill, a son: Ezra Phineas, June 10, 2019
5) Mike and Judah John, June 6, 2019, sons: Valor Jennifer (Fuhrman Garner and Martinez)
6) Landon (’17), a son: Micah, June 10, 2019, and Alayna Grace, August 30, 2019
7) Jesse (’13) and Stacy (Johnson ’15) Olson, a daughter: Lillian, June 12, 2019
8) Bradley (’14) and Morgan Pritchard, a daughter: Mary Irene, February 18, 2019
9) Myke (’13) and Katie McJunkins, a son: Calvyn Lee, September 23, 2019
10) Drake (’16) and Faith (Keker ’16) North, a son: Jon Parker, August 25, 2019
11) Kyle (’13) and Adrien Bebermeyer ’08 Piercy, a daughter: Kramer Althea, January 19, 2019
12) Clayton (’07) and Morgan Pritchard, a daughter: Chloe, June 7, 2019
13) Johnathan (’07) and Amber Riley, a daughter: Mary Irene, February 18, 2019
14) Johnathan (’07) and Amber Riley, a daughter: Mary Irene, February 18, 2019
15) Kyle (’12) and Lexi Segraves, a son: Declan, June 3, 2019
16) Harold and Nicole (Graham ’08) Staley, a son: Ian Jared, September 18, 2019
17) Remington and Lisa (Najarian ’07) Taylor, a daughter: Emery, June 7, 2019
18) Seth (’09) and Tori Turner, a son: Graham Douglas, August 31, 2019
19) Stormy (’11) and Lindsey White, a son: Grayson, June 25, 2019
20) Riley and Amber June 7, 2019, a daughter: Chloe, Pritchard and Morgan January 19, 2019
21) Taylor Segraves, a son: Declan, June 3, 2019, and Lexi February 18, 2019, a son: Rowan, July 24, 2019, and Jessica and Bethany-Peniel College (now SNU) where Adeline earned a BA in religion in 1961. They returned to missions in Metro-Manila, Philippines in 1981.

In 1985, Dr. Owens was elected MNU’s second president and Adeline became the cherished first lady of the community. Dr. Owens was elected General Superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene in 1989. Adeline supported his efforts from their home in Olathe until his retirement in 1997.

Adeline Owens is survived by her husband, Dr. Donald Owens, their two sons, Valora Michael and Judah John, their two daughters,Valor Jennifer (Fuhrman Garner and Martinez), and their two grandchildren.

Former First Lady Adeline Owens Passes

Adeline Owens, age 89, of Olathe, Kansas, beloved former first lady of MidAmerica Nazarene University, went to be with her Lord September 24, 2019. Mrs. Owens was a gracious, loving, supportive wife, mother, missionary, educator, first lady, and friend.

Adeline Owens has been described by her husband, Dr. Donald Owens, MNU president from 1985-89, as her inspiration and mission partner, having worked alongside him faithfully during their 68-year marriage. They met at Bethany-Peniel College (now SNU) where Adeline earned a BA in religion with a minor in English. Their first pastorate was at the Church of the Nazarene in Fairbury, Nebraska.

The Owens’ were pioneer missionaries to Korea. Adeline taught at Korea Nazarene Theological College, now University, which he founded. They served in Korea from 1954-1963. Back in the U.S., they founded Lake Owerholzer Church of the Nazarene, while he taught at Bethany Nazarene College (SNU).
Friday, April 3, 2020
MNU Cook Center

Join us for an inspiring evening of exquisite food, live and silent auctions, and special entertainment. This signature event has raised $4.5 million for student scholarships and other priorities at MNU.

Plan now to be a part of the 2020 President’s Honors, a night to celebrate God’s faithfulness and donor generosity. Be sure to reserve your tickets early!

LEARN MORE AND PURCHASE TICKETS AT www.PresidentsHonors.org