

ACCENT

MIDAMERICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY | *Summer 2021*

**CELEBRATING PANDEMIC
PERSEVERANCE -
COMMENCEMENT 2021**

IN-PERSON CLASSES CONTINUE

SUMMER AND FALL OF 2021 - PG. 11





The Power of God's Momentum

Recently someone asked me if life seems to be moving more rapidly than ever before, and my answer was an immediate "Yes." Amid a pandemic with all its ramifications, it is evident that change, both positive and negative, has accelerated many dimensions of life and the myriad of decisions confronting us.

Many conversations now include the word "momentum" to describe the feeling that everything is moving quickly and our comfort zones are stretched.

I don't think much about high school science class these days and I am certain I was not paying attention when Newton's Second Law was discussed. For some of you, perhaps the formula $F = dp/dt$ will bring back fond memories. In essence, Newton discovered that the rate of change is equal to the force "F" behind it. Apparently, when power and persistent force are applied to an object, the speed and magnitude respond accordingly. It is simple. More power equals more momentum. It is not difficult to apply this law to physical objects in our lives and even to the press for change in many areas of life we once considered "normal."

Zechariah recorded this reminder from the Lord, "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6 (KJV). Resistance to rapid change is a human defense mechanism and some resistance may be necessary. But what if the powerful force behind the press for change in the world these days is evidence that God is at work even in what we might call the uncomfortable new normal? Can God's power still be at work to bring good in the midst of uncertainty?

Helen Calder paraphrased the Lord's words this way: "Perhaps it is time for an encounter with My Presence. And when the weight of My glory collides with your preparation and your obedience, you are going to experience unstoppable momentum."

This issue of the ACCENT reflects the exciting momentum and progress we are experiencing on our campus. Stable enrollments, the start of construction on the new Cunningham Center, the growth and extension of our capital campaign, new academic programs and new endowed scholarships do not overshadow a strong awareness of God's presence on our campus and the evidence of lives transformed by His Spirit.

Perhaps the best evidence of Newton's Second Law is the evidence of God's power and the reason for our celebration is best expressed in Isaiah 43:19 (MSG), where the Lord says, "Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it?"

We do see it and give praise to God, for it is amazing to behold!

Dr. David J. Spittal
President



- 04 Bright Futures**
Phase III Expands to \$75 Million
- 08 New Partnership Between K-State and MNU**
Joins Other Pre-Professional Opportunities
- 12 Affording College**
The Guide
- 16 President's Honors**
The Virtual Experience
- 18 Class of 2021**
Commencement
- 22 Pioneers Reach National Tournaments**
Plus Season Recaps
- 30 Alumni News**
Check Out Updates Submitted by Our Alums

Accent is published by MidAmerica Nazarene University and mailed free to alumni, friends and supporters of MNU. It is produced for University Advancement by the MNU Marketing and Communications Office. Postage is paid at Olathe, Kansas, and additional mailing offices.

Submit news or comments: accent@mnu.edu

» Sign up for Accent's digital edition at: mnu.edu/accent-notify

MANAGING EDITOR

Carol (Knight '81, MA '08) Best

ART AND DESIGN

Stacey (Asbill '92) Eisele

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Stacey (Asbill '92) Eisele

Nathan Gilmore

Ashlynn Holsinger (AA '21)

Chad Jenkins

Christopher Smith

Jim Smith

CONTRIBUTORS

Ella Phillips ('21)

Chad Jenkins

On The Cover

MNU HOLDS THREE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES AND SECOND 2021 NURSES PINNING - PG. 18

Pictured here: Graduates in undergraduate ceremony



Bright Futures Campaign Phase III Expands to \$75 Million



The Cunningham Center broke ground in the summer of 2020 and construction of the building is rapidly progressing.

With gratitude for sacrificial giving from diverse donors in Phases I and II of the Bright Futures campaign, the campaign executive committee has expanded and extended the effort into a third phase. The first two phases' successful outcome encouraged campaign leaders to increase the comprehensive campaign from \$61 million to \$75 million and extend its length two more years to June 2023.

Generosity Led to Success

"We are so thankful for the remarkable response that's allowed us to fund so many aspects of this campaign in the last five years," says Dr. Jon North, vice president for university advancement. "The broad-based support for Bright Futures from alumni, supporters, businesses and foundations is providing for the excellent education we are able to bring students daily."

Since the launch of the campaign in 2016, donors have contributed over \$62 million in support of academic programs, university operations, and for three fully-funded capital projects.



The Mabee Learning Commons renovation was completed in 2016 followed by a campus-wide technology upgrade the same year. Construction on the new Cunningham Center began in December 2020 and is scheduled for completion in Spring 2022.

Capital Projects

With this momentum, the campaign now turns toward a new goal. Bright Futures volunteer leaders are seeking to fund additional scholarships, generate support for university programs, and construct an integrated athletic complex to enhance all sports and bring Pioneer football, cross country and track & field back on campus.

"Our executive campaign leadership believes this momentum is propelling us toward an expanding vision that includes a new home for athletics," North says. "We have an ambitious goal of more than \$8 million to fund the athletic complex which will serve a significant number of our student athletes."

For several years Pioneer football, track & field and cross country have not had competition-approved facilities on campus due to necessary upgrades, NAIA requirements and funding needs. University leadership is making it a priority to bring athletic competition for these sports back home.

Todd Garrett ('94), athletic director, says working toward funding the athletic complex is an exciting step for student-athletes, coaches, alumni, and friends of the university.

"The complex will provide a physical home for a large portion of our athletes to gather, train and create community," Garrett says. "Approximately half of our 400 student-athletes call track & field and football their sport and affinity group. Addressing the needs of the sports we offer is an investment in these students athletically, socially and spiritually. It's an anchor for our long-term success."

More information about the new athletic complex will be unveiled later this year, including architectural renderings.

University Support & Scholarships

Continued financial support of MNU's programs is of utmost importance to the future of the university. Keeping infrastructure up-to-date and in good repair, providing for the expansion of programming and making sure scholarships are in place to help more students in need, is all part of what MNU's newest campaign committee members will be tasked with.



Women's Soccer Team



2021 INDOOR TRACK & FIELD



HEART OF AMERICA

CHAMPIONS!



Bright Futures Expands

"We asked a group of 12 alumni and friends of the university to join us in this new phase of Bright Futures," says North. "From financiers and attorneys to business owners and CEOs, this group is excited to help us continue Bright Futures through 2023."

The new goal of \$38.1 million for this component of the campaign is an increase of over \$12 million from the previous goal. Beyond funding current operations, the effort will also focus on endowments and special gifts.

Academic Programs

In addition to the goals for capital projects, university support and scholarships, campaign leadership expanded the goal for academic programs by another \$1.6 million to enrich students' scholarly opportunities.

The previous goal of \$6 million was met, funding the following projects:

- » Faculty Development Projects
- » The Center for Academic and Professional Services
- » Expanding Student and Academic Support Services
- » Establishing the Center for Career & Life Calling

Funding raised toward the new goal will support new and expanding academic initiatives as they are developed over the next two years.

Bright Futures is certainly MNU's most ambitious campaign since the initial drive to fund the college in 1966. Its success has advanced university facilities and programs significantly.

To remain current with continuing results, please visit mnu.edu/brightfutures.

CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP EXPANDS

An additional group of alumni, community leaders and friends of the university are volunteering their time and diverse expertise to the executive committee as it launches the third phase of the campaign. Leveraging these individuals' influence and skills, the group sets the tone for this aspect of the campaign, expands its fundraising base, and establishes new relationships with potential donors. Under the leadership of Campaign Co-Chairs Timothy and Gail Buchanan and Dr. Daniel and JoAnne Rexroth, this group joins the previous campaign leadership bringing the number to 42 members.

NEW MEMBERS

Timothy E. Baker
Brent and Lynette Barkman
Bradley Bergman
Rick Fields, Jr.

Stan Holm
Mark J. Moore, Jr.
James Perry
Dr. Mike Redwine
Capt. Tammie Jo Shults

"Our campaign executive committee has provided great leadership for Bright Futures," says Dr. Jon North, vice president for university advancement. "They have been very instrumental in the success of the campaign by providing their professional expertise, opening their homes for campaign presentations, going on donor visits and participating in requests for support. They are excited about adding new members to their effort."

With stiff competition for the attention of potential donors and their resources, the caliber of these influential committee members is essential. Campaign leadership is confident they will uncover new funding resources from others who believe in the mission of MNU.

Looking north on the construction site for the Cunningham Center in mid-June 2021



BRIGHT FUTURES EXECUTIVE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

*indicates new committee member † indicates deceased

Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs

Coach Curtis and Sandra Ammons
Drs. Paul† and Connie Cunningham
Coach Gordon† and JoAnne DeGraffenreid

Campaign Co-Chairs

Timothy and Gail Buchanan
Dr. Daniel and JoAnne Rexroth

Committee Members

Roger Alexander
Timothy E. Baker*
Brent and Lynette Barkman*
Dr. Matt Beem
Bradley Bergman*
Pete Brumbaugh
Ervin Cash
Dr. Merrill Conant
Chad Cook

Michael Copeland†
Robert Crew
Frank Devocelle
Dr. Robert Drummond
Rick Fields, Jr.*
G. Todd Garrett
Dr. Chris and Janet Halvorson
Stan Holm*
Tim Keeton
Michael Major

Dr. Larry McIntire
Timothy McKee
Mark A. Moore, Jr.*
Dr. Jon D. North
James Perry*
Dr. Mike Redwine*
Capt. Tammie Jo Shults*
Dr. David J. Spittal
John Staton
Allen and Madeline Tollefson



K-State Olathe and MNU Team Up In New Partnership

MNU and Kansas State University have forged a new partnership allowing MNU undergraduates to take advanced animal health science courses at K-State's Olathe campus.

Not only do these courses count toward the students' bachelor's degree at MNU, but later they may be used to help MNU graduates who pursue graduate study at K-State, get a jump-start on a master's degree in animal health or biosciences.

"We are delighted to partner with MidAmerica Nazarene University to help fill a need for advanced science courses while offering these students fast-tracks to an industry-ready master's degree," said Jackie Spears, interim dean and CEO of K-State Olathe. "With a bit of academic creativity, we believe this partnership will ultimately help employers build a highly educated and highly skilled workforce to replace retiring talent and keep Kansas City nationally competitive."

K-State Olathe's academic programs support Greater Kansas City's robust animal health, food production and safety, hospitality, leadership and education sectors. Olathe is in the world's largest Animal Health Corridor stretching from Manhattan, Kansas, to Columbia, Missouri, and hosts 75 percent of the industry's business.

K-State Olathe works closely with K-12 schools, community colleges and industry in Johnson County, Kansas, to establish an education pipeline

that spans from elementary school to in-demand graduate degrees and certificate programs. MNU leaders are delighted to be part of one such cooperative program.

Through the partnership, MNU students enroll as non-degree seeking students at K-State Olathe. Starting in the summer between their junior and senior year, students complete select advanced science courses at K-State Olathe. They can earn up to nine hours of graduate credits that apply to their bachelor's degree at MNU. They can also apply to the M.S. in Veterinary Biomedical Science or Professional Science Master in Applied Biosciences graduate degrees at K-State's Olathe campus, if the student is accepted in one of these degree programs after completing a bachelor's degree at MNU.

Students eligible for this program are juniors and seniors majoring in biology or a similar field at MNU, with a



Dr. Abby Hodges, MNU chair, natural, health & mathematical sciences, professor of chemistry, Dr. Nancy Damron, MNU VP for academic affairs and chief academic officer and Dr. Jackie Spears, K-State Olathe interim dean and CEO.

3.5 GPA or higher, and have completed at least 75 hours of their undergraduate degree before applying to one of the K-State graduate degree programs. They must have earned 90 hours before attending K-State classes.

MNU graduates in biology have an excellent track record with acceptance to graduate school and professional programs already. Adding the option of additional coursework in advanced animal health sciences through K-State is an innovation that Dr. David Spittal, MNU president, says will benefit those seeking either a graduate degree or career in this field.

"K-State Olathe has been a tremendous asset to our community and this agreement is a dynamic advance for students seeking graduate degrees and careers in these key areas," Spittal said. "Partnerships like this work well not only for students and universities but also for workforce development. We are delighted to be included."

The new cooperative program joins other options at MNU to help students prepare for careers in the professions. Standard options for students include medicine, dentistry, law, engineering, physical therapy, counseling, chiropractic and pharmacy. MNU advisors work with students who identify a desire to apply to graduate school in a professional field by preparing them throughout their education. Other universities, such as Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, and Kansas City University's College of Osteopathic Medicine, have created agreements with MNU for early entry to engineering and medical programs, respectively.

MNU students will be able to take courses at K-State Olathe beginning in summer 2022. In addition to earning academic credit hours, MNU students who take advantage of the program may be eligible for a scholarship from the Johnson County Research Education Triangle or JCERT.

For questions on the cooperative credit program, contact Jill Speicher, DVM, assistant professor of biology at MNU, at jrspeicher@mnu.edu. Learn more about MNU's pre-professional programs at mnu.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/pre-professional



MNU Students Perform Well in First Moot Court Competition

By Ella Phillips ('21)

Students Jeremy Thorpe, a junior business administration major, and Elizabeth Krohn, a senior marketing major, are the first MNU Pioneers to compete with the American Moot Court Association, the largest intercollegiate moot court organization in the United States. Moot Court is an event at which law students argue imaginary cases for practice.

Jeremy and Elizabeth competed in the Great Lakes Regional, hosted by Saginaw Valley State University. It was one of many competitions across the country testing students on their ability to identify legal standards. Our team competed in December and placed 16th overall out of 46 teams.

Jeremy and Elizabeth began preparing materials in June 2020, meeting via Zoom for multiple hours a week to analyze cases and formulate arguments. Todd Hiestand, professor of criminal justice and mentor for the moot court team, said he was proud of how the students competed at the regional tournament.

[Continued on page 10]

(Continued)

The students received additional aid and recommendations on their case arguments from three attorneys who are MNU alums, Joel Oster ('93), Matt Rogers ('07) and Stephen Netherton ('09). Stephen was impressed with how the students tackled issues and presented arguments.

"They sounded like law students, not undergraduate students," Stephen said. "That does not surprise me. Prof. Hiestand's teaching style is similar to a law school course. I benefited from his teaching at MNU. Elizabeth and Jeremy are making the most of their opportunity to do the same."

"They had so much wisdom and insight to offer. It was helpful to speak with experts and listen to them weigh in on our progress," said Jeremy. "This experience was wonderful, as I was able to build some connections with previous MNU graduates."

Though the students agreed the training process was difficult in the beginning, both students now feel better equipped to take on law school after graduation.

"This competition brought me out of my comfort zone," Elizabeth said. "It was something I had no knowledge about or prior experience in. This competition and preparation process will help prepare me for law school. I learned so many skills that I can apply. It also gave me confidence in my abilities. I watched myself grow and improve throughout the process."

Undergraduate education at MNU is excellent preparation for graduate school and a career in the professions.

Learn more at mnu.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/pre-professional



MNU Holds 15th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration

Dr. Tiffany Anderson, above, was the speaker and Martin Luther King, Jr. Living Legacy Award honoree at the 15th annual MLK Community Celebration January 19, 2021. Dr. Anderson is the first female African American to hold the position of superintendent of Topeka Public Schools.

Dr. Anderson was honored for her leadership, service, and fulfillment of this legacy of faith and service in action.

"You have been and continue to be a bridge-builder in your life and work, and an inspiration for all who know you," said President David Spittal as he presented her the award.

Bridge Builders Create More Opportunities To Connect

This year Pioneers had many options to learn, communicate and build relationships surrounding the topic of differing cultures and ethnicities. Among seven workshops, two chapel services and numerous educational events, there was a new opportunity to continue the conversation. Bridge Builders, a group of volunteer faculty and staff members from the Diversity Advisory Council, have been available following each workshop. They lead small group discussions for interested students, staff, and faculty. The groups are held at different times and locations to provide convenience and multiple opportunities to attend.



"Our goal with Bridge Builders is to gain a deeper understanding of racial issues that affect each other and to help strengthen and build our campus community," says Dr. Victoria Haynes, coordinator of diversity and cultural competency. "We may not always agree, and it can be uncomfortable, but this is okay because we are growing."

Haynes provided the volunteers with a facilitator's guide with ground rules for leading open, safe and meaningful dialogue along with discussion starters. Jessica Koebbe, an applied music professor, was one of the small group participants.



Student Diversity Council

"Discussion topics helped to focus our discussions, but they also allowed our conversations to evolve into deeper issues allowing us to articulate even more specific incidents that we have witnessed," Koebbe says. "We have been able to talk broadly about how inequalities in one area affect students and people of other marginalized populations in other areas. This has enlightened us about how intersectional many of these issues are. It has led to

brainstorming ways to help solve these problems."

Haynes is working with the Diversity Advisory Council on plans for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Ultimately Haynes and Koebbe, like other participants, look at these efforts as a way to strengthen understanding and build the Pioneer community.

"I believe that we will become stronger with events and discussions like these because it forces us to reckon with challenging topics," Koebbe says. "It shows us the minds and hearts of our fellow faculty and students, and it connects us in deeper ways."



Students attend classes and events on campus this year

In-Person Classes Continue This Fall

President David Spittal, EdD, announced that MidAmerica Nazarene University is planning for an open campus this fall and will offer all of its face-to-face classes and campus services for the 2021-22 academic year as well as its online programs.

"We are thrilled with the outcome of the 2020-21 academic year," Spittal said. "To have maintained in-person classes and most campus services, including housing and many student activities, during the pandemic, was a tremendous boost to this university community."

In addition to these results, MNU experienced an increase in enrollment during COVID-19 with 17% more students in fall 2020 than the year before.

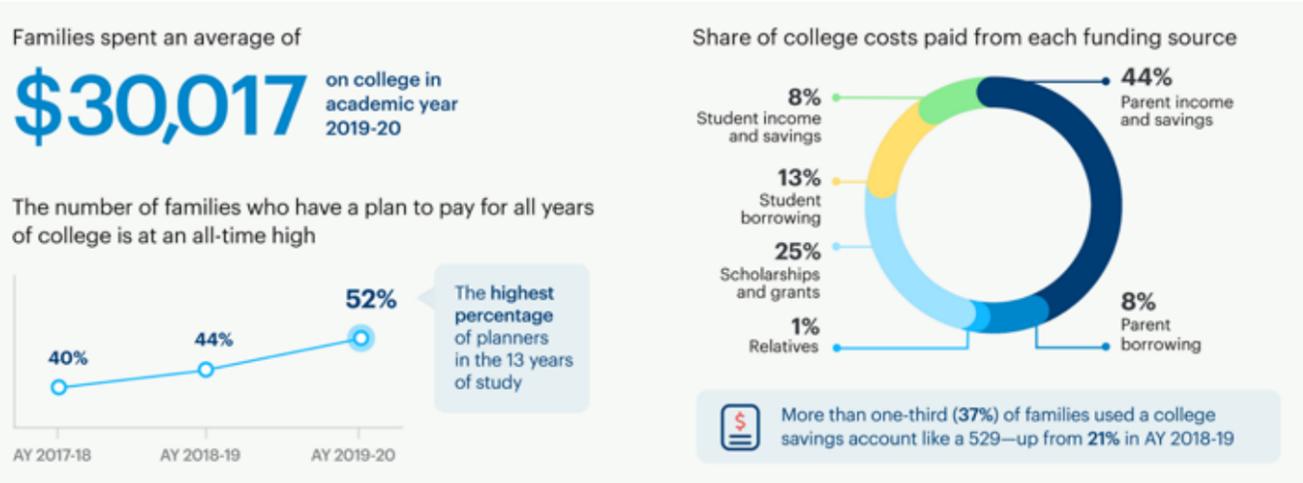
How Parents, Grandparents and Others Help Pay for College Today

Deciding how to help a family member pay for college is something most people will encounter. But not knowing where to start can delay one from making plans that make affording college a reality. So where does one start?

Who Pays?

Although most students borrow some money through student loans, a survey by Sallie Mae® and Ipsos reveals that parents pay a greater percentage of the cost of a college education.

When it comes to paying for college, parents foot the lion's share of the bill.



Advisors suggest that planning should begin with money that does not have to be paid back, in the form of savings, income, scholarships and grants.

Savings

529 College Savings Plans

If you want to invest in a college savings plan, you can request that your after-tax contributions in stock market investments are set aside for your child to access at a later date for their education. The amount of money accumulated in such an account is based on how well the investments provide returns. For more information, please see Jack Hansen's article on page 15.

Coverdell Education Savings Accounts

A Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA) can be set up at a bank or brokerage firm to help pay your child or grandchild's qualified education expenses. Like 529 plans, Coverdell ESAs allow money to grow tax-deferred and withdrawals are tax-free at the federal level (and in most cases, the state level) when used for qualifying education expenses.

Of the top 25 universities ranked for best value in the 2020 Best Colleges U.S. News & World Report, 96% are private colleges due to financial aid packages. Source: myscholly.com

Rewards Programs

There are credit card programs that reward you for shopping. UPromise sends your spending rewards to a student's 529 College Savings Plan account or other college savings account. Parents, family and friends can all open a UPromise account and direct their rewards to your student. Other programs such as Fidelity® Rewards Visa Signature® Card and the College Counts 529 Rewards Visa Card also allow you to link your rewards to a college savings account.

Other Savings

Remember that children can save from their own gifts and earnings as they begin working. Other savings accounts, investments such as property and items that increase in value such as collectibles can be options to help pay for college.

Scholarships

Supplement college savings and income by maximizing college scholarships, grants, and work-study.

Good grades and talent aside, there are scholarships for a variety of situations. In fact, 58% of U.S. families in a 2020 survey by Sallie Mae were using scholarship funds to help pay for college. Grants were used by 48% of families. Relatives or friends contributed to 10% of students' funding for college. While grants and work-study may be awarded based on financial need, not all scholarships require need-based eligibility.

MNU's Office of Admissions provides several sources to search for scholarships at scholarships.com, collegescholarships.org/financial-aid and fastweb.com.

Scholarships From MNU

MNU offers scholarships to a large number of students enrolled in traditional programs who are seeking their first bachelor's degree. Some are based on need, academic record or talent in athletics or fine arts performance. Others require a relationship to a group such as a church. The Nazarene award, for example, provides a significant amount to traditional



Clayton Cook, 2021 MNU Graduate

undergraduate students who are members in good standing of a Church of the Nazarene congregation.

Department scholarships are offered by academic departments to reward students for exceptional abilities and leadership qualities. The Ministry Scholarship assists students going into full-time ministry and there is a scholarship for the dependents of pastors. All of these are explained in the admissions process.

Additional scholarships from endowments created by generous alumni and friends of the university are important additions to the funding available to MNU students. MNU scholarships are funded in various ways, including the University Fund's annual phonathon and the President's Honors gala. Without scholarships, many MNU students would have fewer opportunities.

Clayton Cook, a 2021 accounting graduate, says scholarships made his MNU experience possible. Clayton has enjoyed a rich experience with multiple leadership roles at MNU. He has also helped raise thousands of dollars for the university as a supervisor of a team of phonathon students.

"The scholarships that I received for academics and involvement on campus have given me the opportunities I have had at MNU," Clayton says. "I am very grateful for those scholarships, and I know they will continue to impact me throughout my life. I am so thankful for the support I have received and I look forward to being able to give back in the future."

His future looks bright as Clayton has accepted a job in his chosen field at BKD LLP, one of the country's largest accounting firms.

Whether it's a few dollars or a significant gift, anyone can assist more MNU students by giving to scholarships.

Student Loans and The Pioneer Pledge

Once all of the previous sources have been maximized, it is time to explore federal student loans. The proliferation of stories about the media-named student loan crisis may cause concern about taking out loans for college.

At MNU, students have a safety net called Pioneer Pledge.

The pledge is from MNU to first-time college students. Suppose an eligible MNU graduate has financial difficulty paying their student loans (annual income under \$48,000). In that case, the program will work directly with them to help repay their loans until they either reach a point of financial stability or repay their loans entirely.

Pioneer Pledge provides peace of mind that the cost of an MNU education is not an obstacle to achieving one's goal. Beginning in 2019, all first-time college students who complete their degree at MNU are included in Pioneer Pledge. Visit mnu.edu/pioneer-pledge for more information.

How to Apply for Loans

All colleges and universities recommend that students complete the Federal Application for Student Financial Aid or FAFSA. Completing this application opens the door to all financial aid services at MNU because the FAFSA results will determine eligibility for need and non-need-based financial aid.



If your income after graduation from MNU is modest (under \$48,000), Pioneer Pledge helps you repay your educational loans.

mnu.edu/pioneer-pledge

The information in this article is provided in the form of examples to help individuals consider the many options available to assist in paying for education. Each person should determine their own financial plan. MidAmerica Nazarene University does not endorse a particular lending institution, financial advisor or source of funding.



If there is still a gap between the available funds and college costs, private educational loans are also an option. Consumerfinance.gov provides comparisons and caveats when choosing a private loan lender.

Here to Help!

Throughout the financial aid application and award process, MNU staff in the Student Financial Services Office will assist students and parents. Contact them at finaid@mnu.edu or **913-971-3298**.

529 Plans: Save Now, Pay off Debts Later

Submitted by Jack Hansen ('92, MBA '99)

If you have children or grandchildren, you may already have invested in, or at least considered, a 529 plan, one of the most popular college-savings vehicles. But you might be interested to know that a 529 plan can now be used not only to save for college, but also to pay off college loans.

As you know, when you invest in a 529 savings plan, your money is professionally managed and you have a variety of investment options from which to choose. Your earnings grow tax-deferred and withdrawals are free from federal taxes, provided the money is used for qualified higher education expenses. In some states, withdrawals are also exempt from state taxes. (529 plan withdrawals not used for qualified expenses may be subject to federal and state income taxes and a 10% IRS penalty on the earnings.)

Until now, you could only use a 529 plan to help pay for college or trade school. (You can also use it for K-12 expenses, but not all states offer tax breaks for K-12 savers.) However, under recently passed legislation, you can now potentially use up to \$10,000 from a 529 account to repay federal and most private student loans taken out by your beneficiary. This \$10,000 is a lifetime limit, applicable to each beneficiary, so if you have 529 plans for three children/grandchildren, you've got \$30,000 to pay for school or pay back student loans. (The new law also allows 529 funds to be used to pay for certain apprenticeships, which typically combine on-the-job training with classroom instruction, often at a community college.)

Of course, you may end up using all your 529 funds just to pay those college bills, which can be quite high. But if you have several children, each with a 529 plan, and one of them attends a less expensive school and doesn't need the full amount in their plan, you could use the money to help pay off some of the other siblings' student debts. Or if a student graduates early from college or receives more scholarships than expected, you could end up with some leftover 529 plan funds, which could then be used to repay student loans.

If you are thinking you'll use 529 plan funds to help pay back student loans, you'll need to keep a couple of things in mind. First, you can't "double dip" with federal education tax benefits – if you pay student loan interest with tax-free 529 plan earnings, you can't also take the student loan interest deduction. And second, some states limit use of 529 plans to tuition, fees, textbooks and supplies. In other words, these states may not recognize student loan payments (or apprenticeship costs) as eligible expenses – which means if you're in one of these states, your 529 plan dollars that go to student loan repayments or apprenticeship costs could be subject to state income taxes and penalties, or possibly repayment of state tax breaks. In any case, you'll need to consult with your tax advisor before using 529 plan funds for loans or apprenticeships.

A 529 plan has always been a good way to help get your children or grandchildren to college – and now it can help them pay off some debts when they leave.



Jack Hansen has volunteered at MNU extensively. He helped set up and advise the Student Investment Club with Dr. Mary Murphy, former assistant professor of economics. The Student Investment Club now manages more than \$100,000 for the MNU Foundation. In 2019 he was honored by MNU with the Carry the Torch Award. He is a financial advisor, regional leader and limited partner with Edward Jones Investments in Olathe.

President's HONORS

MNU FOUNDATION



Above: Heritage Choir with Jazz Ensemble, sound and video technicians; Below: Hosts: Lenny Mullins and Kevin Borger ('97).



Cara (Viner '97) Dumaplin

President's Honors The Virtual Experience

This year, President's Honors, The Virtual Experience was a great success thanks to friends and associates who embraced the cause. The April 16 event streamed online raising over \$463,000 for student scholarships and special campus needs. This brings the cumulative fundraising total to more than \$5.1 million for student scholarships and other initiatives since 2012.

This year's special appeal was MNU's Nursing Simulation Lab. Nursing alum and neonatal nurse Cara (Viner '98) Dumaplin was inspired by the appeal and committed to match every gift to the project, up to \$100,000, through her company, Taking Cara Babies. Her passion for nursing education will enhance MNU's simulation technology and ultimately prepare current and future nursing students for meaningful careers in healthcare. It is still possible to contribute to this matching-gift opportunity by making a secure, online gift. mnu.edu/give

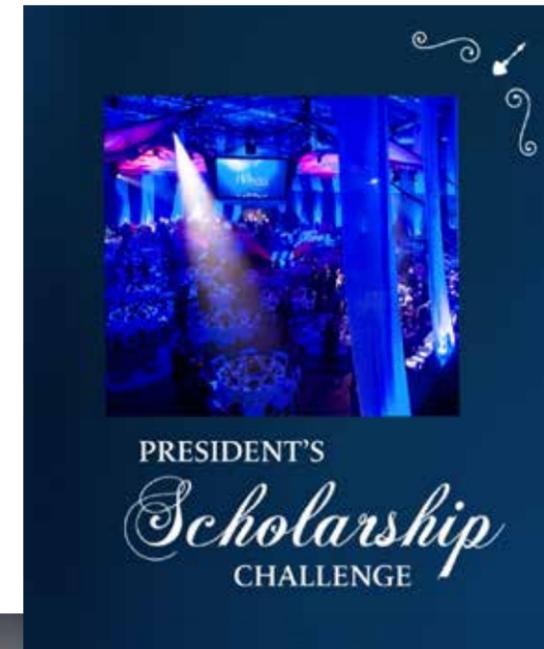
More than 100 items were featured in the mobile auction. Bidding was fun and intense. The MNU Foundation reported it was one of its most successful auctions in the event's nine-year history.

From Left: SIM LAB. Scholarship Recipient, Ashleigh Navarro



"Our Pioneer family and friends have been generous supporters of the university," said MNU President David Spittal. "We are thrilled by the response of those who believe in MNU and the cause of Jesus Christ. It continues to strengthen our resolve with purpose and passion in service to our students."

Dr. Christopher Smith and Dr. Luke Johnson ('03) led Heritage Choir & Jazz Ensemble in an arrangement of Rest, written for this occasion. Microphones were provided for each member to accommodate social distancing, which required mixing by our full team of sound technicians. The livestream event was a coordinated effort led by Ruckus Creative Group. Plans are underway for next year's in-person and online event when President's Honors returns to the Cook Center Friday, April 8, 2022 for its tenth anniversary! To learn more, visit presidentshonors.org.



Thank you



Class of 2021 HONORING OUR GRADUATES for the many milestones reached

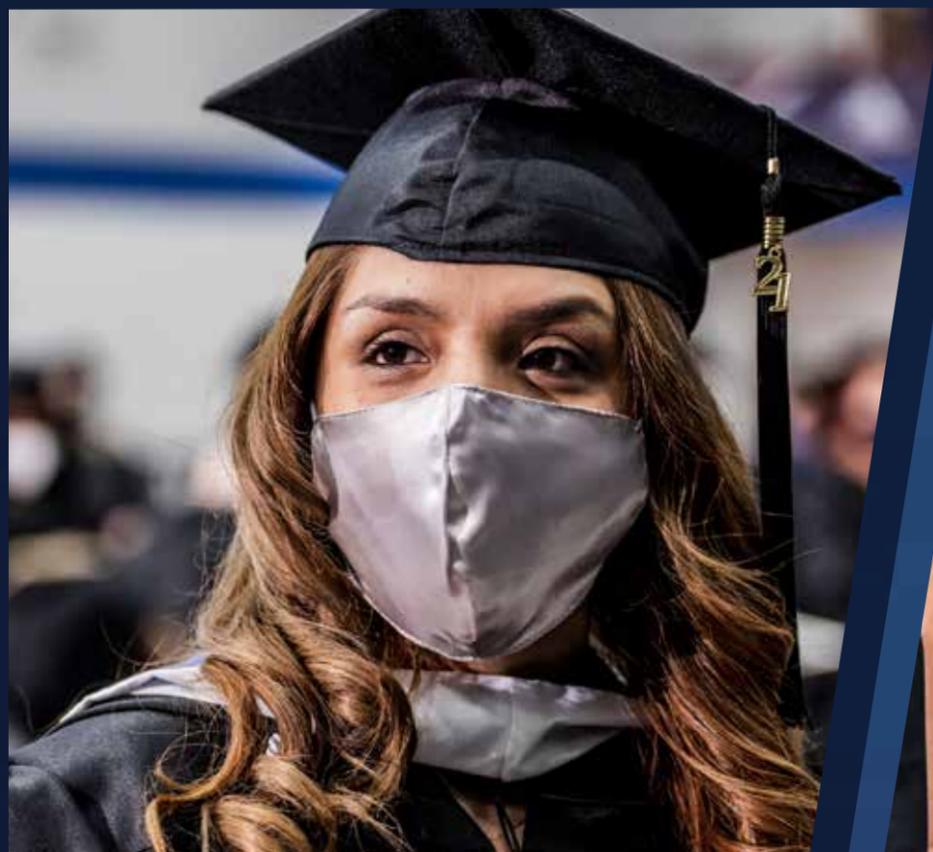
On May 7 and 8, graduating Pioneers from traditional undergraduate, professional studies and graduate studies celebrated in style with three in-person ceremonies to accomplish COVID-19 social distancing standards. The School of Nursing also held its pinning ceremony in-person.

MNU President David Spittal expressed gratitude that through God's provision and the efforts of everyone, MNU was able to operate in-person this academic year as well as hold Commencement.

"Our three Commencement ceremonies last weekend were celebrations first and foremost of the students' achievements, but also, of the whole community's achievement," he said.

While seating at the commencement ceremonies was limited, each event was livestreamed and can be viewed at mnu.edu/commencement.

A gallery of Commencement and Nurses Pinning photos can be viewed and downloaded at [flickr.com/photos/mnu-pioneers/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/mnu-pioneers/albums).



Congratulations!
Class of 2021 (CONTINUED)



PLAN YOUR PIVOT

ALUMS AND FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A TUITION DISCOUNT FOR SELECT DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES.



LEARN MORE: mnu.edu/pivot

CALL: 913.971.3868



PIONEERS REACH NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS PLUS SEASON RECAPS

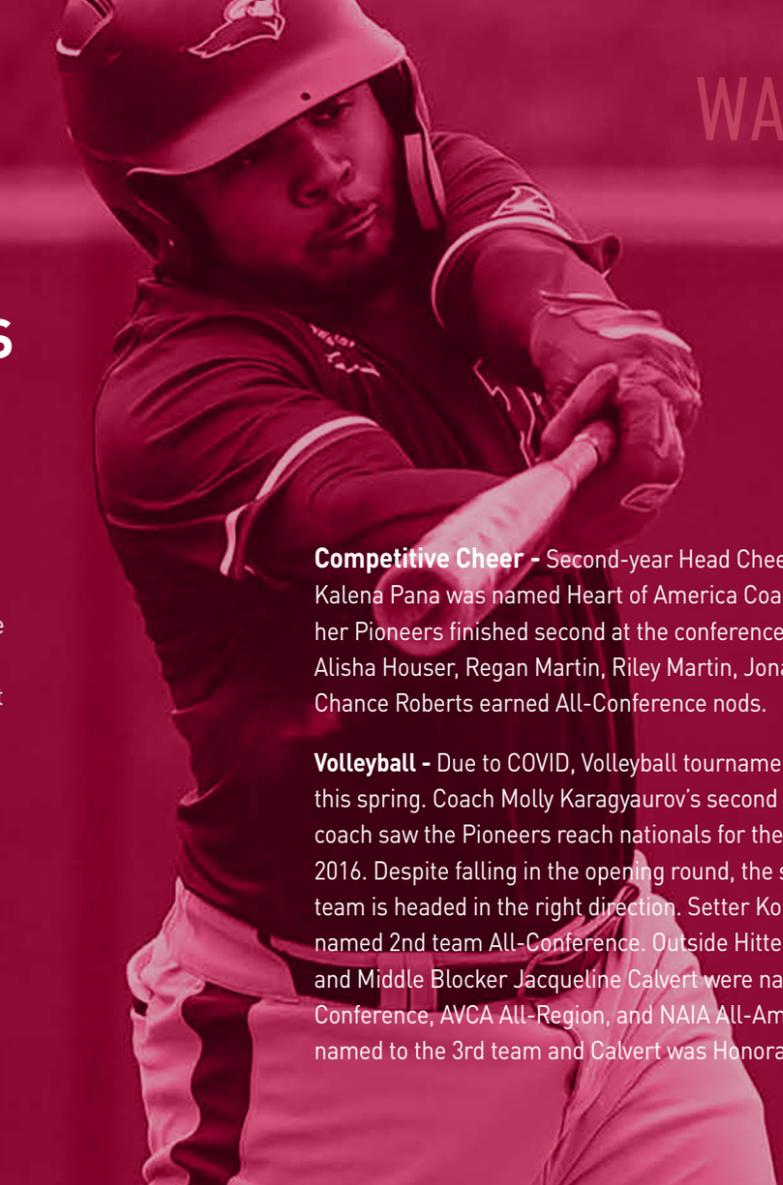
Baseball - Head Coach Ryan Thompson won his 400th career game as the MNU baseball team ended the regular season on a 22-game winning streak and a #23 national ranking. Catcher Joshuan Sandoval broke the MNU-career and single-season home run records, and pitcher Jhon Vargas broke single-season wins record (12), plus the career (245) and single-season (137) strikeout records. The Pioneers are third in the country with a .367 team batting average and fifth with a .609 team slugging percentage. The team on-base plus slugging (OPS) was 1.065. Jhon Vargas, Joshuan Sandoval, Brycen Sherwood, Daunte Freeman, Kyle Waller, Adam Rellihan, Randy Fernandez, Austin Healy, and Ryan Leo were named All-Conference. The Pioneers earned a spot at nationals after a conference tournament runner-up finish.

In the five-team double elimination opening round, the Pioneers lost their first game but rebounded to win the next two launching back into contention. A stunning late loss prevented further advancement, but MNU enjoyed the best season in program history.

Softball - An up-and-down softball season saw fifth-year head Coach Rob Wade win his 100th game. The Pioneers finished 20-20. A nine-game win streak highlighted the early portion of the schedule, but key injuries derailed the promising season. Kaleigh Bayless earned a Conference Player of the Week honor, and the All-Conference honors will be announced at a later date.

Olympic Weightlifting - The first year of Olympic Weightlifting, coached by Strength Coach Whitney Rodden and McKenna Webster, graduate assistant, has been positive. Each competitor had new personal records at each meet. Bryson Wesley competed at the University Nationals Championship performing well by hitting all personal records and placing seventh overall for his weight class. The future is bright for the growth of this program as they have some talented athletes lined up to join them this fall.

Women's Soccer - The Pioneer women's soccer team finished fourth in the tough Heart of America Conference in Coach Bryce McClanahan's second season. Savannah Bussmann (1st), Rachel Slack (2nd), Elvia Villagomez (2nd), Itziar Rodriguez (3rd), and Grace Stein (3rd) earned All-Conference.



Competitive Cheer - Second-year Head Cheerleading Coach Kalena Pana was named Heart of America Coach of the Year after her Pioneers finished second at the conference championships. Alisha Houser, Regan Martin, Riley Martin, Jonas Pippitt, and Chance Roberts earned All-Conference nods.

Volleyball - Due to COVID, Volleyball tournament games were held this spring. Coach Molly Karagyaurov's second season as head coach saw the Pioneers reach nationals for the first time since 2016. Despite falling in the opening round, the season showed the team is headed in the right direction. Setter Kourtney Hansen was named 2nd team All-Conference. Outside Hitter Jennifer Roth and Middle Blocker Jacqueline Calvert were named 1st team All-Conference, AVCA All-Region, and NAIA All-America. Roth was named to the 3rd team and Calvert was Honorable Mention.

Conference and National Awards

HEART Conference Freshman of the Year; Football – Caleb Tanis

HEART Conference Cheer Coach of the Year – Kalena Pana

NAIA National Tournament appearance – Baseball

NAIA National Tournament appearance – Volleyball

HEART All Conference Athletes – 26

Heart Athlete of the Week – 11



Want to learn more? Visit mnusports.com



Conference and National Awards

- HEART Conference Assistant Track & Field Coach of the Year – Anthony Yates
- HEART Conference Championship; Women’s Indoor Track & Field
- HEART Conference Player of the Year; Men’s Soccer – Mathieu Ecourtemer
- HEART Conference Champions; Women’s Basketball
- HEART Conference Women’s Basketball Coach of the Year – Jon Lewis
- NAIA National Tournament Opening Round appearance – Women’s Basketball
- NAIA National Tournament Opening Round appearance – Men’s Soccer

TOURNAMENTS AND RECAPS - CONTINUED

Men’s Soccer - MNU men’s soccer survived a tumultuous season and barely missed advancing to the final site at the national tournament. Despite several key injuries and departures, Coach Kevin Wardlaw’s 18th season ended with a double-overtime loss in the opening round. Mathieu Ecourtemer (1st – Co-Offensive Player of the Year), Fernando Churin (1st), Andrea Dorella (2nd), Nico Theberge (2nd), Philippe Chevalier (3rd), and Kevin Myftiu (3rd) were named All-Conference.

Men’s Basketball - The Pioneers recovered from a shaky start to finish with a respectable winning record. Head Coach Rocky Lamar’s 36th season started with a 1-6 conference record before turning things around. Two, five-game winning streaks saw MNU go 10-3 down the stretch before falling in the conference tournament. Anthony Brown (1st) and Trey Brown (2nd) earned All-Conference nods.

Women’s Basketball - Head Coach Jon Lewis’s 2020-21 team won the conference title for the first time since 2015. The Pioneers advanced to the national tournament, ending the season after a dramatic overtime victory in the opening round. Coach Lewis was named Conference Coach of the Year. Makayla Gooch and Megan Scott were

named 2nd team All-Conference. Mackenzie Loe was named 1st team All-Conference and NAIA 2nd team All-America.

Indoor Track & Field - Coach Nate Wiens’ Pioneers finished solid indoor seasons with a fifth-straight women’s conference championship. Anthony Yates was named Women’s Indoor Track & Field Conference Assistant Coach of the Year. Carly Lindenmeyer earned Athlete of the Meet at the Indoor Conference Championships after winning the high jump, long jump, and finishing second in the pentathlon. Other event champions included Kelly Brown (400 & 600), Jayden Hammond (pentathlon), and Bayley Welk (triple jump). Torrion Montgomery won the long jump for the fifth-place men’s squad.

Outdoor Track & Field - The Pioneer Track & Field Teams qualified 14 individuals for the national championships held in Gulf Shores, Alabama, May 25-28, after finishing third in the Heart Conference Championship meet. Named All-American at nationals were: Ardeen Walker (5th) high jump, Liz Krohn (8th) marathon, Tim Ballah (5th) long jump, Torrion Montgomery (6th) long jump and Freshman Gage Hiebert (8th) javelin.



Want to learn more? Visit mnusports.com



Following His Lead

Family Establishes Endowment Honoring Influential Husband, Father & Coach

By Carol Best

Brad Yantis ('83) was an educator, coach, athlete, youth mentor, husband, father, son and friend. Above all, Brad was a Christian with a strong faith that saw him through more trials than most people will ever endure. During his 59 years, Brad

dealt with a new cancer diagnosis six times from 1999 to 2020. Early on, it looked as if Brad beat the disease and he had many excellent years ahead. Eventually, though, cancer took his life. But Brad would not want you to remember that. As his wife of 37 years will tell you, Brad would want you to remember to be generous with your time and talents.

Brad and **Edianna (Carlson '83)** were married one week after graduation from MidAmerica Nazarene College (now MNU) in May 1983. They had both come to college as freshmen. He was an athlete from Iowa, and she had been on the cheer squad at her high school in Colorado. They met in physical education class. Neither was particularly impressed at first, but by their sophomore year, they were dating.

Brad's high school counselor in Marshalltown, Iowa, had told him he probably was not college material. But Brad was a natural athlete and earned a scholarship to play football for the Pioneers in their debut season in 1979. He played tight end and he also ran track. It only made sense to major in physical education with hopes of becoming a teacher and coach. That dream became a 37-year career and was where he went on to have success and incredible influence.

As a youth, Brad was very involved in church, where the roots of his deep faith were established. He would later attribute his spiritual growth to his parents, who taught him about God, prayed daily for him and took him to church every time the doors were open. He gave his heart to Jesus in elementary school and was baptized at age 11. He continued to follow Christ and was a witness to many throughout his life.

Brad and Ediana moved to Colorado after graduation. He taught history, physical education and health, as well as coaching in junior high and middle school. She was a substitute teacher. In 1991 they returned to Olathe for Brad to complete his Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at MNU. They planned to return to Colorado with their two children, daughter Micah and son Brady, after graduating. During his master's program, Brad served as a graduate assistant coaching football and basketball at MNU. Then he landed a teaching position in the Olathe School District teaching PE. He continued to be an assistant basketball coach at MNU for four years.

The couple joined College Church of the Nazarene where they mentored youth and served in various volunteer positions over the next 30 years. Ediana recalls the conversation they had about attending College Church in 1992.

"We hadn't planned on attending such a big church," Ediana says. "But Brad said he wanted us to go to College Church because the MNU students he coached went there. He wanted to continue to make an impact in their lives, beyond coaching."

Life was good as the Yantis family settled down in Olathe. Ediana was a homemaker and substitute teacher. Brad taught PE, coached athletics, sponsored FCA and mentored youth. During summers, his part-time driver's education business went full-time. In this, and every part of his life, he strove to be a positive influence.

"Brad's goal was to teach kids integrity," Ediana says. "Those one-on-one driver's ed sessions sometimes allowed him to share his faith. That's where his love was. He just wanted to influence others."

Ediana cherishes the notes and cards from past students and their parents, telling how much Coach Yantis meant to them. Toward the end of Brad's life, when Ediana relayed one of those messages to him, Brad responded with, "It's not the man, it's Jesus."

Since Brad's passing in August 2020, the outpouring of love led Ediana, Micah and Brady to wonder how they should memorialize Brad's legacy and the heartfelt donations received in his name. After much consideration, they decided on establishing an endowment at MNU to provide scholarships in Brad's name. Its proceeds will help students like Brad, who are skilled athletes and need additional financial assistance to receive a Christ-centered education.

According to Tim Keeton, associate vice president for university advancement, what is unusual about this endowment is that it was fully funded so quickly largely by a wide network of individuals whose lives were positively impacted by Brad.

"Endowments are a great way to honor a loved one's legacy," Keeton says. "The investment earnings can then be distributed for scholarships or programs making it a gift that impacts lives for years to come. Endowments are not just for the very wealthy," Keeton asserts. "Gifts to an endowment can be funded over a period of years and donors can encourage others to contribute to it."

That's what happened in the case of the Brad Yantis Endowment. In addition to the memorial gifts Ediana and her children received when Brad passed, Brad's longtime friend, Larry McGraw, turned his family's Thanksgiving tradition into a way to give more to the endowment. For nearly 10 years, the McGraws





Following His Lead CONTINUED

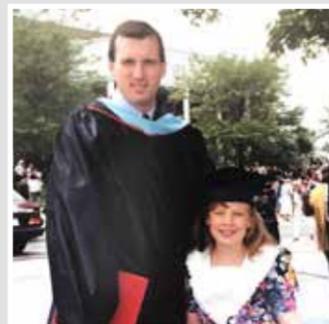
had put on a 5K fun run for friends and family each Thanksgiving. They were not trying to raise money, just having fun being active together for a holiday. The Yantis clan joined in every year.

Last November, Larry and his wife, Rhonda, decided to honor their friend by changing up their event. The Coach Yantis Fund Run was held on Thanksgiving Day 2020. Previously, the McGraws had as many as 35 at their neighborhood event. Last year, through social media promotion, the fundraising effort attracted 85 individuals, with many family members and friends from the community. Still others contributed to the fund.

Larry says Brad encouraged him even as the two said their goodbyes just days before Brad passed. Staying positive during his suffering, Larry and Brad still laughed together. They also talked about faith in God. Through it all, Larry remembers Brad never stopped saying his favorite phrase, "God is good."

As time became short before he passed, Edianna relates that Brad told her, "Edianna, I want you to be generous." She says he was not talking about anything specific and could not have known how many friends, family and acquaintances would choose to honor him with memorial gifts that would result in the endowment.

"The number of people honoring his memory is a testament to just how giving Brad was," Edianna says. "It shows how much influence he had in our community. We are just following his lead."



The McGraw and Yantis families plan to continue their memorial run each year to add to the funding in Brad's endowment. They welcome the participation of anyone who wants to join them in the Fund Run.

ESTABLISHING AN ENDOWMENT

Endowments are one of the financial pillars of the university. Rather than used for immediate needs, endowed funds are invested. The earnings on these investments then provide a reliable, ongoing source of funds for scholarships, academic programs, professorships, operations and other important areas of campus life.

- Named endowments may honor an individual, a family, or create a lasting memorial that will influence generations to come.
- Endowments provide annual income to MNU enabling more students to achieve a Christian education.

- An endowment enables one's goals and values to live on in the form of ongoing charitable support in perpetuity.

Endowments can be funded with multiple contributions over a period of years. The endowment can be added to by the original donor(s) or anyone wanting to support that cause. When the endowment reaches \$20,000 investment earnings are utilized for scholarships or other campus needs according to the provisions established by the originator.

Establishing an endowment fund at MNU can be accomplished by contacting 1-877-496-8668 or foundation@mnu.edu. Visit mnu.edu/give for more giving opportunities.



EXPLORE

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

AT MNU

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS Graduates could work in content creation and curation, digital marketing, social media, management, search engine optimization, and marketing direction. The curriculum for this highly practical major integrates communication theory with skills in demand today, including HTML coding, graphic design, web design, animation, and Google Analytics.

MIDAMERICA
NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

GET STARTED TODAY
admissions@mnu.edu

ALUMNI NEWS



**Tammie Jo
(Bonnell '83) Shults**



Dean Flemming ('75)

Dean Flemming, PhD ('75), MNU professor of New Testament, published a book with Lexham Press titled, "Self-Giving Love: The Book of Philippians." Part of the Transformative Word series, intended as a resource for personal or small group Bible study, Sunday School teaching, and preaching.

LeRoy "Lee" Hammerstrom ('78) retired in May 2020 after serving 40 years as a mathematics professor at Eastern Nazarene College, where he was granted professor emeritus status. He and his wife, Lorie, live in Hingham, Massachusetts.

Joyce (Mitchell '80) Hobbs retired after nearly 40 years with Southwest Airlines. During her career, she was a customer service agent and worked in the marketing department before being promoted to a national sales manager covering the Midwest.

Rev. Candice Wiley ('80) is the senior pastor of Carrollton Church of the Nazarene, Carrollton, Missouri.

Tammie Jo (Bonnell '83) Shults was inducted into the International Space & Air Hall of Fame in San Diego for her heroics in landing Southwest Airlines Flight 1380 after the aircraft sustained severe damage. Tammie Jo has leveraged her experience to share her faith with audiences around the world.

Ty Lasher ('86) received the 2020 Buford M. Watson, Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Management from the Kansas Association of City/County Management for his service to the citizens of Bel Aire, Kansas, as their city manager.

Chad Garinger ('95) Pastor of Sciotoville Church of the Nazarene says their compassionate ministry, The Potter's House, was able to distribute 800 tons (more than double from last year) of food to those in need in their Ohio county. Read more on Nazarene.org/article/ohio-church-doubles-yearly-food-distribution-amid-pandemic.

Mike Birge ('97) was promoted to senior analyst - marketing at T-Mobile after the company's merger with Sprint.

Troy Edwards ('98) started a new position at RE/MAX, where he is the infrastructure technical lead in the Denver metro area.

Duane Close II ('99) retired from the United States Navy with the rank of commander. He is now a first-year law student at Regent University School of Law.

Kelley (Letts '00) Denham is a children's clinician at Johnson County Mental Health Agency.

Matt Rice ('00) led his DeSoto High School boy's basketball team to a third-place finish at the Kansas 5A State Tournament. Matt was also selected Coach of the Year for the United Kansas Conference.

Steven Vaughan ('00) is now the project manager at B&C Mechanical Services in Kansas City.

Marcos Barbosa ('01) was recently featured in the organizational newsletter for Leadership Council on Legal Diversity in Kansas City.

Sherry (Norsworthy '03) Elder was recently promoted to staff software engineer at Garmin International in Olathe, Kansas, where she has worked since 2003.

John Miles ('03) is now an insurance adjuster with the Independent Insurance Agency of Texas.

Chris Gilbreth (MHR '05) was hired as a medical laboratory scientist with Amazon.

Robert Laughter ('08) was recently promoted to manager/marketing specialist for web strategy at Cerner Corporation.

Jennifer Rieck ('08) is now the equipment control manager for Intermodal and Automotive Operations at Kansas City Southern Railway in Gardner, Kansas.

Andrew Davey (MHR '09) is now the vice president at Jericho Home Improvements.

Lucas Rodriguez ('09) is now the assistant coach/video analyst for the Kansas City Club of the National Women's Soccer League. Lucas recently retired from playing with the Kansas City Comets after nine seasons.

Tyler Vaughan (MHR '09) was promoted to department vice president, large group sales at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City.

Micah Klinger ('11) was promoted to store manager at Big O Tires.

Montez Willis ('12) is now a sales executive at JB Hunt Transport Services.

Alayna Chipman ('13) was promoted to vice president, commercial lending at ANB Bank in Overland Park, Kansas.

Gordon Wetmore III ('13) was one of three referees to receive Referee of the Year awards from the All-Kansas High School Soccer Coaches for KSHSAA Fall 2020 Boys Soccer Season.

Colin Starr ('13) recently received his certified financial planner certificate. Colin is a financial advisor at Northwestern Mutual in Kansas City.

Kennedy Conner, RN ('14) became a traveling nurse in summer 2020 to help in COVID-19 hotspots. Her story is told in her hometown newspaper, the Liberal, Kansas First.

Asa Bunnett ('15) is now a software test engineer at Retail Software Solutions Group in Kansas City.

Russell Love ('15) added a new role. He is an adjunct professor at Park University in Kansas City.

Rachel Ukena, LMSW (MSM '15) is now a mental health therapist at the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs in Des Moines, Iowa.

Abby Felter ('16) graduated from George Washington University Law School in Washington, DC, and was hired by Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville PC, one of the top law firms in the U.S. She serves in the firm's education practice.



Duane Close II ('99)



Kennedy Conner ('14)

» HAVE NEWS?

PLEASE SHARE YOUR NEWS about births, marriages, new jobs and accomplishments with alumni@mnu.edu or connect on social media.

ALUMNI NEWS



Abby Felter ('16)

Andrew Sexton-Chavoya ('16) was promoted to senior escalation associate at Acorns, a leading micro-investing company based in Irvine, California.

Britney Lewis ('16) had her young-adult manuscript, "The Undead Truth of Us," picked up by Disney-Hyperion as part of a two-book deal. The book is expected to hit the market in Summer 2022.

Felipe Abreu ('17) was recently signed as a member of the Kansas City Comets of the North American Soccer League. He will play forward. Felipe is currently the league director with the KC Legends Soccer Club.

Jonathan Babcock ('17) was promoted to project manager at Forsyth Advisors, where he has worked since January 2019.

Alexis Gonzalez ('17) is at Paylt in Kansas City as a marketing & communications content specialist.

Michelle Holland (AOL '17) earned her Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from Northwest Nazarene University.

Lydia Reyes ('17, MAC '20) is now the clinical case manager for People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) in San Jose, California. She is also starting a

doctoral program at California Southern University.

Juan Pablo Riesco ('17) was promoted to reporting analyst with DH Pace in Olathe.

Addison Lucchi (MBA '19) received the KLA Young Professional Award from the Kansas Library Association. Addison is MNU's instructional and research librarian and is currently pursuing a PhD in educational leadership and English at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Daniel Hendricks ('19) is an ensign in the United States Navy currently stationed in San Diego.

Sam Parrish ('19) was accepted into the graduate program for occupational therapy at Nebraska Methodist Health System in Omaha, Nebraska.

Camry Bradford ('20) is assistant track and field coach at William Chrisman High School in Independence, Missouri. She was the 2020 NAIA national indoor champion in the 60-meter hurdles for MNU.

Chloe Smith ('20) was accepted into the graduate program for school counseling at Kansas State University.

Michelle Holland (AOL '17)



Britney Lewis ('16)



Felipe Abreu ('17)

HOMECOMING

AND FAMILY WEEKEND

Together AGAIN

October 22-24, 2021

We're Back In Person! You Won't Want To Miss It! What's new this year? A Reunion Lounge space to meet students and relax each afternoon until 11 p.m., Homecoming Celebration Breakfast, and Generation Blue activities for elementary and middle school students, both Friday & Saturday with day and evening events for kids. Plus, popular traditions like alumni games Friday and Saturday, the Athletic Hall of Fame luncheon and Homecoming Chapel. **Here's a peek**—you can find all the events and details at [MNU.edu/homecoming](https://mnu.edu/homecoming)

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

2021 HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

*Event requires registration on the Homecoming website.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

Virtual 5K (running starts)*
Homecoming Chapel
Reunion Family Feud
MNU Block Party
Baseball & Softball Cookouts & Batting Practices
Performing Arts Concert*
Pioneer Volleyball vs Evangel

Remote Locations
College Church
Bell Center Auditorium
Cook Center (West Pavilion)
Dixon Stadium & Williams Field
Bell Center Auditorium
Cook Center

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

Virtual 5K (continues)*
Homecoming Celebration Breakfast*
Class Reunions*
Campus Tours
MNU Archives Presentation
Tailgate Lunch
Women's Soccer vs Culver-Stockton*
Homecoming Football vs Central Methodist*
Men's Soccer vs Culver-Stockton*
Farewell Feast
Alumni Showcase*
Homecoming Dessert Reception

Remote Locations
College Church Uphaus Hall
Cook Center/Mabee Learning Commons
Cook Center
Mabee Learning Commons
Cook Center (West Pavilion)
Pioneer Field
Pioneer Stadium on campus
Pioneer Field
Campus Center (next year in new Cunningham Center!)
Bell Center Auditorium
Bell Center Lobby

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

President's Memorial Prayer Breakfast*
Homecoming & Family Worship
Virtual 5K (running concludes)*

Bell Center Lobby
College Church
Remote Locations

Activities subject to change due to health and safety regulations, as well as other considerations.

Learn more and register at mnu.edu/homecoming

BIRTHS

John and Heidi (Scroggins FS '10) Alexander, a daughter: Amaya Mary, March 7, 2021.

Zack and Kelsey (Cranford '14, '19) Anderson, a son: Calum Ulysses, February 24, 2021.

Trey and Michelle (Vogt '11) Avins, a son: Declan Isaiah, October 29, 2020.

Carlos and Ashley (Bessmer '15) Barron, a son: Matteo Carlos, January 4, 2021.

John and Abigail (Darland '16) Beahm, a son: Sawyer, January 22, 2021.

Brent and Jen (Costa '13) Beley, a daughter: Ainsley Lynn, November 3, 2020.

Matt and Kimberlee (Kreeger '14) Bradley, a daughter: Lucille Dawn, March 24, 2021.

Patrick and Angela (Hoffman '07) Cady, a son: Taran James, February 16, 2021.

Clinton ('07) and Courtney (Clark '08) Conant, a daughter: Jovie Truth, December 15, 2020.

Juampi and Hanna (Trott '14) Costello, a daughter: Joy Emmeline, December 20, 2020.

Gentry ('12) and Dani Craig, a daughter: Amelia Ray, December 9, 2020.

John and Katy (Ward '14) Cramer, a son: William Everett, March 21, 2021.

Dalton (FS '11) and Shawna (Siegfried '13) Diehl, a son: Siggie Jones, November 30, 2020.

Garrett ('14) and Leah Dollins, a daughter: Mckinley Dawn, November 15, 2020.

Andrew and Kala (Goldade '13) Elliott, a daughter: Bria Noelle, December 29, 2020.

Josh ('13) and Shelby (Klein '13) Furnas, a daughter: Henley James, January 27, 2021.

Diego German Cordero and Kiley (Herold '13) German, a daughter: Sofia Grace, December 17, 2020.

DeShawn ('08) and Amanda Goldsmith, a daughter: Tiana, March 5, 2021.

David ('09) and Kim (Nigh '09) Gonzalez, a daughter: Liliana Claire, November 7, 2020.

Andrew and Jessica (Gee '13) Gregory, a daughter: Rya May, December 9, 2020.

Zach and Kelli (Harris '09) Haeffner, a son: Hunter Jax, December 21, 2020.

Kendall (FS '13) and Angelica Johansen, a son: Desmond Dawson, March 2, 2021.

Kameron (FS '18) and Alexa (Rutledge '17) King, a daughter: Kennedy Sue, February 18, 2021.

Robbie ('08) and Lindsay Laughter, a daughter: Reagan Charlie, September 29, 2020.

Brent and Lexi (Golden '18) Lindstrom, a daughter: Bricelyn Lantana, October 14, 2020.

Nick and Sarah (Melton FS '13) Loganbill, a son: Lincoln Mark, December 6, 2020.

Zach ('11) and Rachel (Stadter '11) Magnuson, a son: Lincoln River, November 15, 2020.

Joey and Jessica (Lovelace '19) McGuire, a son: Remington Chace, December 3, 2020.

Stephen ('08) and Casey (Neden '08) Morrison, a daughter: Elliana Joy, October 6, 2020.

Dylan ('14) and Maggie Nave, a son: Huck Nolan, October 17, 2020.

Dylan and Trisha (Meyer '12) Nelson, a daughter: Margot James, February 6, 2021.

Tyler and Jady (Hayhurst '16) Neumann, a son: Elliott, February 4, 2021.

Daniel and Lindsey (Eaton '16) Nichols, a son: Jensen Lynn, November 30, 2020.

Drake ('16) and Faith (Koker '16) North, a son: Jonah Deen, November 29, 2020.

James ('20) and Maddy (MacKinney '16) Parison, a son: Carter James, January 29, 2021.

Lafaele ('17) and Amanda (Davis '16) Pasetlio, a daughter: Kilali Dee, January 20, 2021.

Tyler ('13) and Bethany (Taylor '16) Roberts, a daughter: Lennox Joy, February 19, 2021.

Robbie ('07) and Jenna (Tollefson '14) Rundberg, a daughter: Emma Marie, February 26, 2021.



Beahm



Cramer



Dollins

BIRTHS (CONTINUED)

Angel and Krista (Fischer '15) Sigui, a son: Samuel Elijah, January 7, 2021.

Kyle ('08) and Lindsay Sloan, a daughter: Avery Grace, October 14, 2020.

Nick ('16) and Nacia (Palu '14) Syrie, a son: Koa Jordan, January 9, 2021.

Josh and Becca (Stroman '12) Teal, a daughter: Remi Michelle, December 2, 2020.

Nick and Jennifer (Kay '13) Tygard, a son: Carson Mark, October 9, 2020.

Keaton ('19) and Ashlee Wilbur, a daughter: Emelia Jolee, March 17, 2021.

Nick ('11) and Abby Williams, a son: Noah James, January 26, 2021.

Mitch (FS '12) and Merit Wood, a daughter: Grace Evelyn, October 23, 2020.

Nick ('11) and Laura (Zimmerman '09) Woodard, a daughter: Palmer Grace, December 10, 2020.

Joshua ('16) and Lauren (Roberts '16) Woodward, a son: Carson Ryan, December 26, 2020.



Woodward

MARRIAGES

Nic and Jaclynn (Sumstine '15) Beaty, October 16, 2020.

Steven and Lindsey (Weathers '14) Bond, March 3, 2021.

Conor and Anastasia (Weissenbach '17) Coleman, October 24, 2020.

Ryan and Christel (Meinhold '13) Gresham, October 11, 2020.

Tony and Taylor (Pearcy FS '17) Guy, October 11, 2020.

Mark and Marissa (Richardson '18) Sherman, October 11, 2020.

Matthew (FS '18) and Bethany (Kouts '20) Smith, October 25, 2020.

Bryce and Melinda (Bond '14) Van Buren, May 30, 2020.

CONDOLENCES *We remember*

Barbara (Bonham '72) Eaton, February 23, 2021.

Linda (Harding FS '75) Daggett, November 8, 2020.

Lana (Jones '76) Murray, July 5, 2020.

Darrell Knee ('77), September 27, 2020.

Brad Hingst ('85), February 22, 2021.

Patrick Weyrauch ('87), January 17, 2021.

Michael Beekman ('88), February 25, 2021.

Dorothy (Kolar FS '88) Haffey, January 9, 2021.

Diane (Martin FS '89) Cosper, October 29, 2020.

Eddie West (FS '89), November 25, 2020.

Dennis Potter (MHR '94), December 30, 2020.

Randy L. Whitworth ('97), April 9, 2021.

Gregory Shaw (MHR '99), December 12, 2020.

Paul Drinkard, Sr. ('13), February 16, 2021.

Leticia Hardy ('16), March 3, 2021.

University Advancement
2030 E. College Way
Olathe KS 66062-1899

Change Service Requested

If you receive more than one Accent Magazine at your home, or if you are the parent of an alum and you are also receiving their copy, please call 877-496-8668 or email accent@mnu.edu.

October 22-24, 2021

HOMECOMING

AND FAMILY WEEKEND

Together
AGAIN

Homecoming Welcomes You Back on Campus

We are thrilled to gather in person with activities for the whole family:

- Generation Blue activities for elementary and middle-school students day and evening Friday & Saturday
- New Tradition: Homecoming Celebration Breakfast
- Class Reunions (both in-person and remote)
- Homecoming Football Game returns to campus!
- Final Homecoming dinner @ Campus Center (next year in Cunningham Center!)
- Great performances at the Alumni Showcase
- Remembering the Pioneers we lost in 2020 and 2021 at the President's Memorial Prayer Breakfast

All this and MORE!

Activities subject to change due to health and safety regulations, as well as other considerations.

REGISTER TODAY AT www.mnu.edu/homecoming

