

M O U N T V E R N O N

NOW



A Day in the Life

Discover the faces
and hearts of MVNU

Commencement 2004
photo scrapbook

Dr. Henry Smith returns
to Indiana roots



Global Christians with a world mission

By Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks, President

Anne, Stephen and I returned to Mount Vernon recently following a whirlwind trip to Manila, the Philippines. We made the trip to participate in the 20th-anniversary celebration activities of the Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS) and the 2004 Seminary commencement service.



Dr. Hitoshi Fukue, APNTS president; Dr. Donald Owens, founding president and general superintendent emeritus, and MVNU's Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks at APNTS commencement ceremonies.

All of the former presidents of the Seminary attended the special celebration activities. Dr. Donald Owens, founding president and general superintendent emeritus; Dr. John Nielson, APNTS's third president; and I spoke at various events throughout the week. I served as president of the graduate-level theological institution from 1984 until Anne, Stephen and I moved in 1989 to Mount Vernon. Dr. Hitoshi Fukue now serves as the Seminary president. The attached photo was taken following the APNTS 2004 Commencement with Dr. Donald Owens, founding president, Dr. Fukue, current president and myself.

The week in Manila was a journey down memory lane for our family. Many graduates of APNTS, now serving in leadership roles throughout the Asia-Pacific region, returned to their alma mater for the celebration. Talking, laughing and crying with them was therapeutic for Anne, Stephen and me. Enjoying a concert with a Korean alumnus and his wife was enriching. Spending a morning with faculty, staff and students discussing the subject of Christian leadership was personally rewarding. Leading an all-day session with board of trustees members, faculty and Church of the Nazarene Asia-Pacific Regional Office staff on the subject of an APNTS international partnership was challenging, yet productive, perhaps even historic. Participating in the transition to, and dedication of, the new World Mission Regional Communication Center from the "old" Fairbanks Media Center was a pleasant surprise.

At the invitation of President Fukue, I spoke to the APNTS board

of trustees on the subject of board development. Perhaps the highlight of highlights for me was the honor and privilege of speaking to the graduates at the annual all-school graduation banquet on the evening prior to the commencement service. Graduates this year came from Thailand, Korea, U.S., Papua New Guinea and the Philippines!

Stephen spent a day representing MVNU where he attended school while living in Manila. Faith Academy is also the alma mater of MVNU junior Adam Cobb. Another student from Faith Academy plans to attend MVNU next fall. Dee Sudnick, a 1992 MVNU alumna, is a teacher at Faith Academy.

As I reflect on our week in Manila, I realize the participation in the celebration activities was also a deeply spiritual event for our family. Anne and Stephen had not returned to APNTS since we left the campus in late August 1989, and I had not returned to Manila since 1994 when the Fairbanks Media Center was dedicated. As a family, we were reminded anew of our commitments to the Lord and His mission. The week also reinforced our intense desire to challenge MVNU students in numerous ways to view themselves as global Christians with a world mission.

May it be so, Lord. Amen.

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Cover photo: With more than 600 students, MVNU's 35th Commencement saw the largest graduation to date.

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A senior story: God's guiding hand

By Brian Hermon, junior

Everyone has a story. Marc and Karen Stasiowski's is one filled with blessings, twists and God's power. Their story begins even before their births, and they're nothing short of miracle babies.

Prior to pregnancy, Marc and Karen's mother Georgina had battled with Crohn's disease, taking medication to control her condition. When pregnant, she faced the decision to remain on the medicine for her own health or stop because it could harm or even kill her baby. Doctors advised her to abort or - risk death during labor, and warned that the child may suffer birth defects. The seriousness of the situation grew when she learned her baby was actually twins! Taking a giant step of faith, Georgina opted to stop the medication and trust God to deliver both her and her children. Deliver them, He did. Marc and Karen were born healthy babies and their mother was healed of her disease.

After surviving life's first storm, these two would go on to experience God further in their journey. Marc's and Karen's passion for soccer began at age 10, continued through high school and into college. MVNU's Coach Jonathan Meade contacted Karen about playing for the school's new women's soccer program. With the promise of a new soccer program and a Christian environment, Karen decided to visit MVNU. Her dad brought Marc along to talk to the men's soccer coach. It didn't take long for the twins to fall in love with MVNU. Marc decided to attend upon that first visit, during which he met with Coach Paul Furey, practiced with the men's soccer team and was even offered a scholarship. Karen decided to attend MVNU as well. It appeared to be God's will for them to be at MVNU, where they would continue their mutual passion for soccer and further their education.

Karen commented, "My greatest memories at MVNU are with my team. Coach Meade and the girls have repeatedly shown me Christ on and off the field. I am so thankful for the soccer team and for my education at MVNU." Marc adds, "This has to be the greatest four years of my life with memories that will last forever. I have made lifelong friends. In addition, the teachers are amazing. They really go out of their way to help you succeed. MVNU has truly helped me grow and mature."



It's easy to see God's hand in each of their lives, opening doors and performing miracles. Karen noted, "I've found God in all areas of life. If I trust in God, He will help me through any situation or circumstance." Karen and Marc have continued to nurture their relationship as they look into their futures. Karen graduated with a physical/health education degree and plans to teach in Columbus. Marc participated in commencement, but will return in the fall to finish classes and play a final year of soccer. He plans to pursue a master's degree in math and wants to teach high school math and coach soccer.

MVNU is proud to have both Marc and Karen among this year's more than 600 graduates.



South Africa: Disparity, Diversity, Dignity

By Heather Lewis ('99) and
Rev. Cindy Stiverson ('99)

South Africa appears to be a perfect world. The lush greenery and serenading birds cast against the backdrop of the Indian Ocean create an atmosphere reminiscent of Eden. But this is only a facade for the overwhelming disparity of the people. The AIDS epidemic, prostitution, rape, domestic violence, starvation, illiteracy, extreme poverty, blatant racial and social division and political injustice present an extreme contrast to this seemingly flawless environment.

Cultural diversity brings even more interest to the landscape. Most prominent are populations from India, native Zulu people, Dutch-Afrikaans and British-Afrikaans. There are also pockets of Cambodian refugees and Chinese. It is politically correct to refer to the Afrikaners as “whites”; the Zulu as “blacks”; and the Indians, Chinese, interracial and others as “coloreds.” Each racial group maintains a distinctive lifestyle, living space and work environment.

Many Zulu walk miles to and from work each day. Those without jobs roam the countryside and shopping centers searching for cardboard, wood scraps, anything they can use or take to the recycling station for money. The women carry these large items on their heads for miles just to earn a few cents.

Cindy Stiverson commented, “My first reaction to the weathered faces of these women was pity and grief. By the end, I saw such tremendous beauty stemming from deep within their eyes and a sense of dignity. The hardships they

endure to survive and provide for their families in a day-to-day existence have taught them many lessons.”

Despite the magnitude of problems and tensions expressed on the many faces of South Africa, God’s face is obviously shining upon their land and in the hearts of His people. We caught a glimpse of His grace as we ministered to the people there.

“It was a privilege to accompany local pastors on hut-to-hut visitations. These were sponsored by MEDSA (Mercy Economic Development South Africa), a ministry being established on the grounds of a former Nazarene Bible College in Amanzimtoti. We delivered food, prayers and Bibles. The Zulu people were so receptive to prayer and were even more thankful for God’s word. One woman eagerly held the Bible to her chest repeating, ‘Hallelujah! Hallelujah!’ as she literally jumped for joy that she could have her own Bible in her native language,” Heather Lewis (pictured left) explained.

Seven weeks after returning home, the Lord rewarded and affirmed us with e-mail from Derek Liebenburg, MEDSA, conveying thanks from a family who had struggled to conceive. We had prayed with them and they just found out that they are pregnant. May God continue to work His miracles across the land of South Africa.

Lewis serves The Salvation Army as director of The Harbor, and pastor to youth and community.

Stiverson is an ordained elder, Church of the Nazarene, currently serving as an evangelist. Both reside in Mount Vernon, Ohio.



Third Wave crosses boundaries

By Brittany Coleman, senior



In January, I traveled to Ecuador and experienced an amazing event called "Third Wave." Nazarene Youth International members gathered to discuss ministries, the future of the Church of the Nazarene and how to impact our world.

Nearly 200 attended from 50 countries, and the conference operated in four major languages.

It seemed that our differences would make it difficult to accomplish anything. Yet, all of us had one important thing in common—the love of Christ. I saw this love cross boundaries of age, language and culture. Now I can say that I have friends all over the world! I also had the great honor of learning from these individuals; the greatest lesson was during the last night of the conference.

We were instructed to pray with our sister region which, for MVNU, is South America. The South Americans moved us to the middle and began praying around us. This experience was humbling. The Lord used this moment to break through huge misconceptions. As a U.S. citizen, I am used to giving resources. But in that moment, I was receiving. The Lord showed me that being part of the Body of Christ is receiving as well as giving.

People from all tribes and nations have something to contribute to the Kingdom. This lesson has begun to reshape my views about the global Church of the Nazarene and the part I play. I am to participate with fellow believers, as we recognize and use the gifts and talents that each of us brings.

MVNU women "Come to the Water"

An MVNU group, led by School of Theology and Philosophy professors Drs. C. Jeanne Serrão and Jane Kennard, attended the 6th Wesleyan/Holiness Women's Clergy Conference, "Come to the Water," this April in Cincinnati. They joined nearly 600 registrants from around the world for workshops and inspiration for women clergy in the Wesleyan/Holiness tradition. The conference has a strong emphasis on student participation and organized mentoring for beginning women clergy.



Dr. Serrão, Rev. Cindy Stiverson ('99) and Kendra Lambert ('93) assistant to the MVNU chaplain, gave two workshops on the Purpose and Design of Small Groups. Brittany Coleman ('04), Lambert and Serrão helped with the worship services.

The MVNU Treble Singers, under the direction of Dr. Stan Wood, gave a pre-service concert that prepared the congregation for the evening service.

MVNU students attending were Teresa (Fogle) Baker, Missy Browning, Brittany Coleman, Lisa McCleese and Jennifer Warner. One student writes, "The biggest thing that struck me was just being in the presence of so many other women who have a calling from God on their lives. . . . Just to see a platform filled with women was so inspiring."

The next conference will be in San Diego, Calif., in 2006!

Upcoming Church Leadership seminars

The MVNU Church Leadership Continuing Education program, in conjunction with the regional Church Leadership Resource (CLEAR) Network, is pleased to announce a series of seminars and workshops for 2004-05. These events are geared toward pastors, pastoral staff and lay leaders passionate about advancing God's kingdom and committed to the ongoing training vital to such a task. Details about the program and specific events are available from Bruce Oldham, MVNU Church Growth Continuing Education coordinator, at 1-877-670-7400, or online at www.mvnu.edu/churchrelations/seminardates.html.

- SEPT. 12, 2004** LEAP Seminar: "How to Change Your Church (Without Killing It!)"
Speaker: Alan Nelson
- SEPT. 14, 2004** Children's Ministry Leadership MRT Workshop
Speaker: Cindy Kenney
- OCT. 9, 2004** SkillQuest Youth Ministry Workshop
- NOV. 9, 2004** LEAP Seminar: "The Connecting Church: Building Community"
Speaker: Randy Frazee

- JAN. 14-15, 2005** Church Finance MRT Workshop
Speaker: Dan Busbey
- FEB. 17, 2005** LEAP Seminar: "Preaching: It's All in How You Tell It!"
Speaker: Haddon Robinson
- MAR. 31, 2005** LEAP Seminar: "The Equipping Church: Serving Together"
Speaker: Chris Hardy
- APR. 7, 2005** Women in Ministry Workshop
- MAY 2-3, 2005** Youth Pastors' Leadership MRT Retreat and Workshop

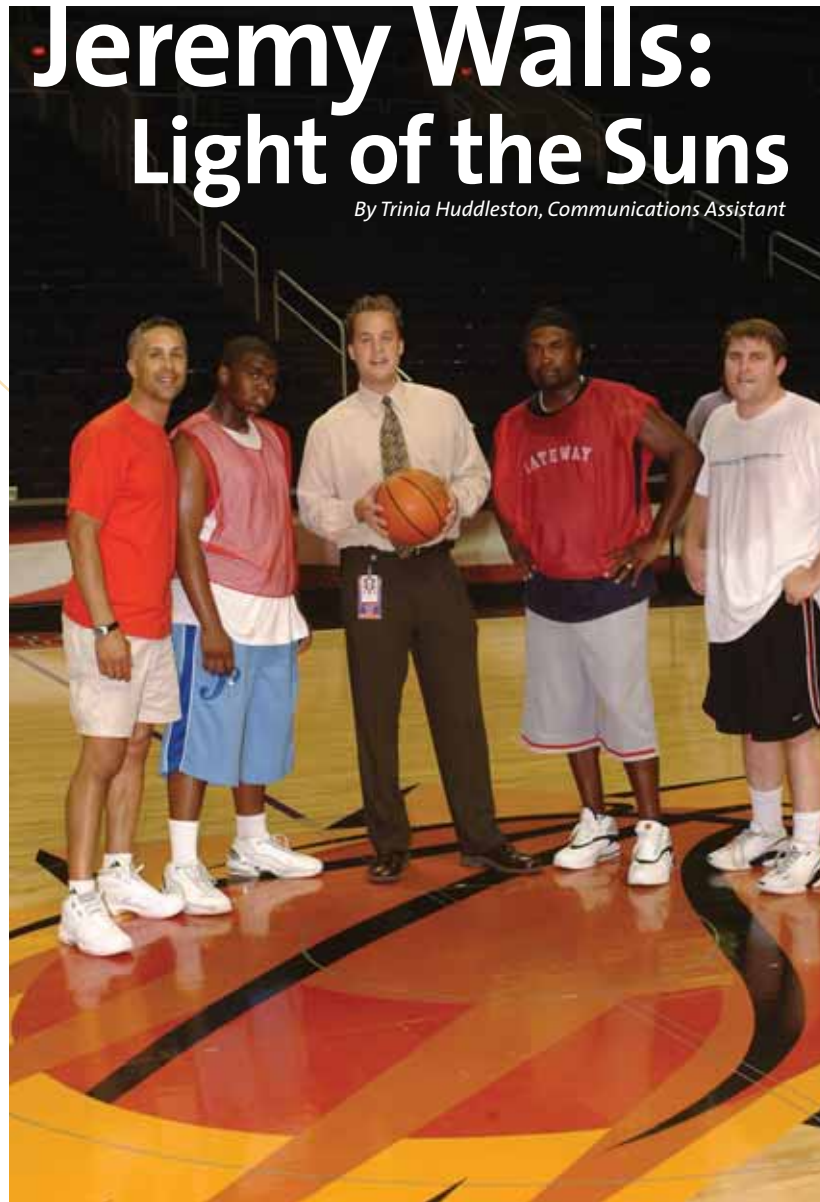
People often journey through life searching for their true calling. Some never really find it. Mount Vernon Nazarene University 2002 graduate Jeremy Walls (pictured below, center) is an exception. He has a job doing what he loves—interacting with people and showing Christ’s love to them daily.

Before graduation, Walls had completed internships with the NBA’s Denver Nuggets, NHL’s Colorado Avalanche and Columbus Blue Jackets. Currently, he is the group sales coordinator for the NBA franchise Phoenix Suns, with whom he also had two internships. His time is primarily spent in sales and event planning, including small groups and theme nights. Organizing individual church gatherings has become Walls’ specialty, complete with worship bands, Christian music artists and Suns player testimonials. Last year, the Suns had their largest church group night in their 35-year history as a record 3,200 people attended, surpassing the old record by 2,800. This was largely due to Walls’ efforts.

His favorite part of the job is building relationships, both with clients and coworkers. “I’ve been here for two years and the hours are long,” Walls said. “You are here all the time, so you have to have good relationships. There’s no doubt in my mind I made the right decision to come to Phoenix. From the top-down, the Suns is a quality organization that takes care of its employees, but also stands for important values.”

Although being president of a team is a long-term goal for Walls, he also aspires to be vice president of marketing. “My mentor, Ray Artigue, senior vice president of marketing, is

the kind of person I want to be. He’s a great Christian guy,” he added. Artigue, one of the most respected businessmen in Arizona sports, has learned to balance his family life and manage his priorities. His daughter is a student at Point Loma Nazarene University, where he serves on Parents’ Council.



Jeremy Walls: Light of the Suns

By Trinia Huddleston, Communications Assistant

Walls’ time at MVNU was a life-changing experience. Through the relationships he had with professors and other students to the positive Christian atmosphere, MVNU molded him into who he is today. “I developed my relationship with Christ, more than any other time in my life,” he stated. “That’s the Rock that I stand on here. It’s what keeps me going.”

One of the biggest influences on Walls has been MVNU women’s volleyball coach Paul Swanson. “From the moment I met Coach Swanson, he’s had a huge, positive impact on my life, through his encouragement, consistent smile and Christ-like attitude.” He

has even talked to Swanson about bringing a January-term sports management class to Arizona.

While it may seem that he has it all, Walls maintains his passion in life is bringing people to Christ. “I want to be excellent in my field, but I can’t wait to lead my coworkers to Christ,” he affirmed. “It’s my relationship on a daily basis that I hope reflects Christ. It’s the respect and a friendship that only God can orchestrate.”

Walls is currently engaged to Maile Kwiatkowski with plans to wed in October.

From life changing education, to life changing educator

By John Hollingsworth,
Excell Graduate Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction and PEL

Mark Carroll ('03)

was already a teacher when he entered Mount Vernon Nazarene University's master of arts in education program through Excell. He already knew his discipline, physical therapy, inside out. He already knew how to make lesson plans, give tests and grade papers. But his experience at MVNU resulted in a whole new perspective of education.

Carroll worked as director of the physical therapy program at Marion Technical College in Marion, Ohio, upon entering the program. He said that this degree from MVNU was an attractive option for his current position. "The entire MVNU environment was terrific. I learned that when you begin class with a prayer, nothing much can go wrong," he said. "My classmates were magnificent and I learned many things about teaching from them."

After completing his degree, Carroll had renewed inspiration to investigate other employment opportunities as well as to continue his education. He was quickly hired as an assistant professor of physical therapy at the University of Findlay and was also accepted into a Ph.D. program. He commented that all of his daily activities directly relate to his master's degree, and that his curriculum, research and thesis work have added tremendous value to his teaching.

"I went into graduate courses as a guy who had taught some classes, but I came out as a 'teacher.' I went in as a guy who had tested students and came out as one who learned how to assess students," explained Carroll. "My ideas of education have changed, along with the reasons that we, as teachers, do the things we do."

Carroll resides in Delaware, Ohio, with his wife Jenny and three children: Emily (12), Colin (10) and Caleb (4). He said his faith in Christ and his family have seen him through some difficult times. Colin, who is autistic, has suffered in the past with seizures. Caleb has cystic fibrosis. Currently, both boys are doing well. Please keep them in your prayers.



Smith named director of innovative Ohio education organization

Dr. Sonja Smith, former Education Department chair, director of Teacher Education and Division chair, has become the director of a statewide research program, the Ohio Partnership for Accountability (OPA). As a new organization in Ohio, the OPA's ultimate goal is to determine the elements within teacher education programs that serve to prepare the best teachers for K-12 schools.

OPA is the first program of its kind in the nation, but will likely be followed by similar programs in other states. The results of the studies sponsored by OPA should provide information to colleges and universities that will assist them in improving their teacher preparation programs. For more information, contact (740) 392-6868, ext. 3491.



FCS majors sweep statewide scholarships

Mount Vernon Nazarene University students Laura Chaffin, Jennifer Johnson and Michaela Strine were each awarded an \$800 scholarship from the Ohio Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. Based on membership in the American Association of FCS, participation in OAFCS and GPAs, the competitive awards were presented at the annual meeting awards banquet in Columbus on Friday, April 2.

Johnson works in the campus library and plans to become an interior decorator. Strine serves as FCS Club president this year and has spearheaded the Hot Meals program, in addition to working for Pioneer College Caterers. Chaffin has attended three OAFCS annual meetings, serving as a session hostess one year, is active in our local club and is a chapel attendance checker and aerobics instructor. Strine and Chaffin are FCS education majors. MVNU has claimed a single honoree in six previous years, plus one year when two of our students were selected. The organization gives only three awards annually, so MVNU can be proud of this year's clean sweep!

A day in the life: Crispin Webb and his art

By Dr. David Kale,
Dean of the School of Arts
and Humanities

Crispin Webb ('02) has just arrived at his job in the Mount Vernon Nazarene University cafeteria at 10 a.m. He puts in eight hours a day except on the weekends when he works 10-hour days. Students walking by him have no idea that in his back pocket is a letter stating he has just been admitted to graduate school at one of the top art schools in the country.

As he works, silently thanking the Lord for His many blessings, he thinks to himself, "Even when God is blessing me, I have to stay humble. I'm really not worthy." He smiles as he thinks back upon submitting his work to a competition in Mansfield, Ohio. His work would be up against that of the best artists from all over Ohio. "All I did was say to the Lord that I was really feeling down and I just needed a little encouragement," he said.

He received that encouragement by winning the top award, judged by the curator for contemporary art at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Later, word got back that the curator considered Webb one of the top contemporary artists in the state. Further "encouragements" soon came as he was invited to display his work in an art studio in Columbus.

On his lunch break, Webb recalls stumbling onto the Web site of the Milton Avery Graduate School for the Arts at Bard College in New York. He was amazed at how open this school is to people who have an interdisciplinary approach to their art—how it encouraged collaboration with other artists, which is exactly the way he likes to work. He remembers thinking, "This is where I want to go." Never mind that 400 people would apply and only five would be accepted.

He remembers all he did to put together his application and portfolio—the computer he bought, the new digital camera, the many high-resolution slides he made, the book with color pictures of his work and the \$4,000 dollars he invested—a significant portion of his earnings for the year.

He reflects back even further to when he was a young boy growing up in West Virginia—a boy who loved to take things apart to see how they worked. That led him to a fascination with computers and technology; to tinkering with blending sound, photography and things that move; and to the eventual development of himself as a sculptor in contemporary art. He thinks, "The Lord has a plan for my life."

After work, Webb meets up with some friends, and they are excited as he tells them the news. He shares his vision for how his love of collaboration in art will provide opportunities for ministry with people who might never hear about the



"Mega Flux" by Crispin Webb

Lord any other way. As he works with his art, he prays that the Lord would work through him. He prays for people while he takes pictures, works with digital images and creates his sculptures. He thinks of prayer as something that has no beginning or end—it is continuous. God is always at work in his art.

It is now 11 p.m. and time to head to his studio in the basement of his apartment building. He will put four hours into taking pictures, building boxes, making sculptures and communicating by computer with other artists in Poland, Belgium, France and beyond. After a day of looking back, Webb takes some time to look ahead. He thinks of seminars and presentations critiqued by faculty and students at Bard during the summers. The rest of the year will be spent much as it was today—intensely developing his art, working at a side job and preparing to share his work and his blessings with others, perhaps as an art professor someday. He muses, "The Lord has a plan. 'Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.' Thank you, Lord."

Log on to www.crispinwebb.com to learn more about Webb and his art.

A day in the life: WNZR's Marcy Rinehart

*By Dr. Mervin Ziegler, Professor of Communication,
and Michaele Boquist, junior*

The sun hasn't yet warmed the Mount Vernon Nazarene University landscape, but the WNZR 90.9 FM station manager is already beginning to brighten the day. Marcy Rinehart (Street '91) is beginning another broadcast day as host of "The Morning Thing," an enthusiastic, live program. As host, she is mentoring a student co-host, one of many to whom she devotes her time. Though her show concludes at 9 a.m., Rinehart's day is just beginning.

A briefing with the assistant station manager and student interns is next. Production assignments are given, promotional contests are designed and community events are rehearsed. All of the station's daily functions are scrutinized. Meetings almost never pass without interruption: a call from a community leader about an event, a student who has a new programming idea, a listener wondering about online streaming or someone who reports that "The Morning Thing" was just what she needed for the day.

The remainder of the morning is devoted to communicating with the organizations and individuals. Sorting and reading the day's mail is a daunting task. New CDs are examined and set aside to be reviewed and recorded for airing. Letters from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Associated Press and broadcast lawyers are inspected for updates on regulations and opportunities. Rinehart will respond to nearly 50 e-mails daily. The station engineer proposes an equipment upgrade and a supplier replies about microphones and headsets. A student inquires about an assignment. A listener wonders whether his mother's favorite song can be aired tomorrow—her birthday. Each receives due attention.

Meanwhile, student broadcasters are updating the station's Web site (www.mvnu.edu/wnzs), producing spots with digital editing, preparing for the evening sporting event, scheduling the weekend programs, reviewing and recording new music and gaining on-air broadcasting time. All the while, they are supervised by the discerning station manager. Rinehart drives them to be their best.

This afternoon, preparations are made for tomorrow's "The Morning Thing," practicum classes and a report is written to the FCC. She's also meeting with staff to begin planning "Lifeline 2005," the annual fundraiser. The last fundraiser raised over \$53,000 for student scholarships, station operation, expansion and equipment. She knows that next year's demands will be even greater.

Despite such a full schedule, Rinehart blends the management skills necessary to operate the station with the relational skills essential to motivate students, influence University administrators and excite community leaders. There is the strong awareness that the energy, time and care spent today are profitably spent. Students have been nurtured and guided toward their life's goals, relationships with the community have been strengthened and WNZR has glorified God through its broadcasting. Rinehart's day concludes with a Bible study with some church friends. It provides a renewal for tomorrow. Every day has its rewards, and each day Rinehart discovers a fresh resolve to continue bringing honor to the Lord and MVNU.



90.9fm
WNZR Lifeline
Mount Vernon Nazarene University



Getting down to business: It's all about the students for Dean Parks

According to Dr. Tomas Parks, being the dean of the School of Business at Mount Vernon Nazarene University isn't as glamorous as one might think. Despite daily "fire fighting" and distractions that beg for attention, Parks believes it all comes back to serving students and preparing them for their future.

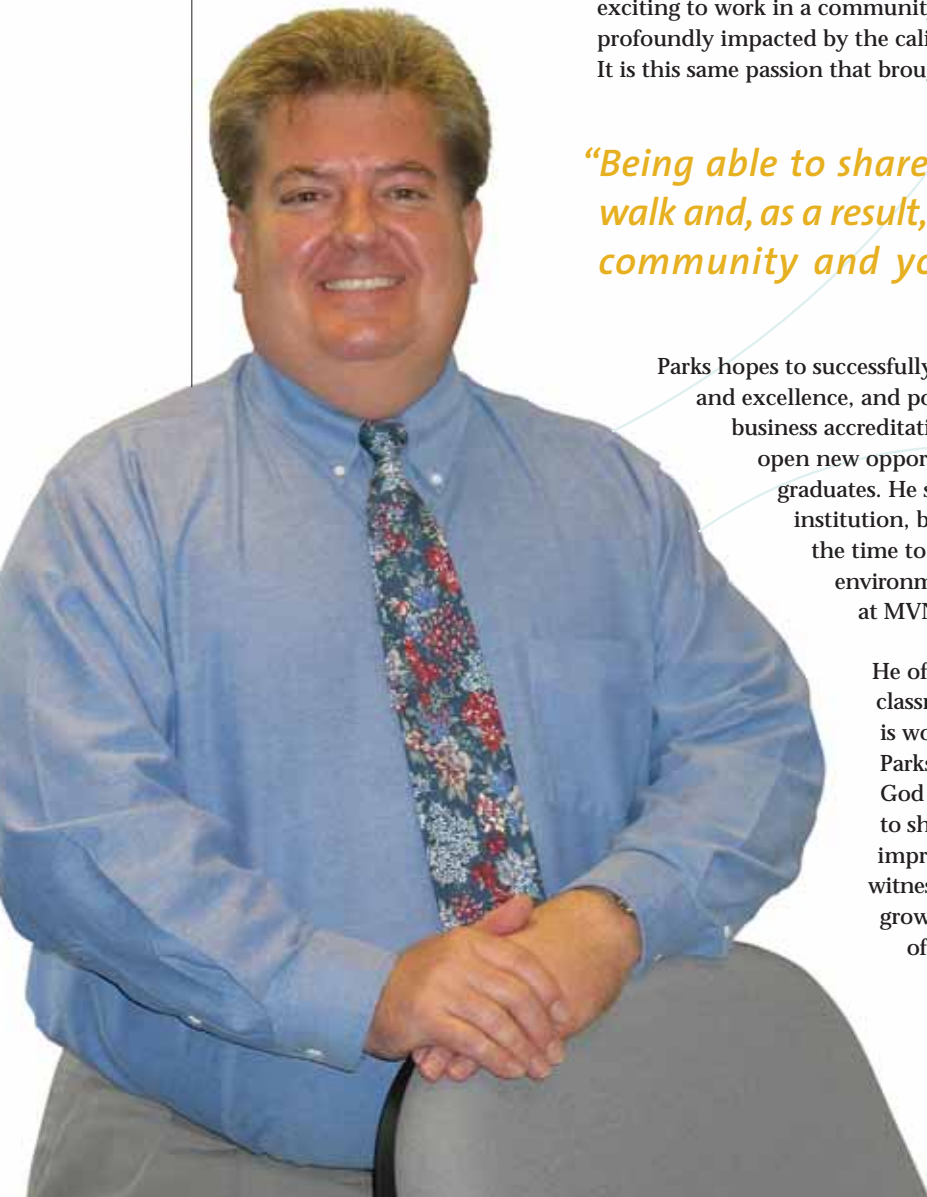
Parks' diverse education and experience have served him well in his inaugural year as dean. He received his bachelor's degree in industrial management from the University of Akron, his master's degree from the University of Phoenix and his doctorate from Kent State University. With 14 years' experience in financial services management, two years at Azusa Pacific University and five years at Penn State University, Parks commented, "It is always exciting to work in a community of faith. When teaching at Christian universities, I am profoundly impacted by the caliber of young men and women and their passion for God." It is this same passion that brought him to MVNU.

"Being able to share your faith strengthens you in your walk and, as a result, improves your service to the Christian community and your witness to the world at large."

Parks hopes to successfully position the School of Business as one focused on quality and excellence, and poised for future growth. One specific goal is to gain specific business accreditation, ACBSP, which will raise the stature of the program and open new opportunities for degree expansion while providing benefits to graduates. He said, "As dean, I handle matters of great importance to the institution, but I also handle tedious routine tasks. It is difficult to find the time to concentrate on the large projects. But there is a positive environment and an overall sense of renewal that pervades everything at MVNU."

He often finds this sense of renewal when walking into the classroom to teach. "The most rewarding aspect of being dean is working with the faculty for the benefit of our students," said Parks. "It is all about the students. The faculty is here to serve God by helping the students realize their potential. Being able to share your faith strengthens you in your walk and, as a result, improves your service to the Christian community and your witness to the world at large." With a continuing focus on program growth, academic excellence and Christian service, the School of Business and its students will flourish under Parks' leadership.

Parks is married to Nancy and has two children, Tomas Jr. and Elyse, who currently attend MVNU. He attends Christ the King Church in Columbus, Ohio, and serves as a youth leader.



Competition teaches business students real-world skills

By Molly Bixel, senior

Donald Trump has recently made the catch phrase “you’re fired!” very popular. Though his hard-nosed dealings may not be reality for the rest of the world, Mount Vernon Nazarene University business administration majors had the real opportunity to develop and manage a company through a competitive strategy simulation.

Five students represented MVNU at the International Collegiate Business Strategy Competition hosted by the School of Business Administration at the University of San Diego in April. The team’s first task in January was to form the identity of a company: MVNU’s team became known as Sips Corporation, a supplier and retailer of bottled coffee. Next, the team devised a strategy and written business plan: Sips based its analysis, planning and decisions on a differentiated strategy.

Five worlds existed in the competition, and Sips was part of World 3 where six teams from across the country competed. Each week Sips received financial, production and marketing reports to aid in their decision making. Decisions were made each quarter for seven years: the first two years’ data was given; the management team of Sips made 11 decisions over 10 weeks in their MVNU headquarters office; and the final 9 decisions were made over 2 days in their headquarters room at the Bahia Resort in San Diego.

After meeting the competition, an annual report and goal attainment report from Year 4 was handed to the judges. Sips’ management team analyzed its results and its competitors’ and made decisions pertaining to marketing, sales personnel, finances, research and development, training, sales office orders, production schedules, capacity adjustments and construction.

Sips Corporation’s goal was to maintain a consistent strategy throughout the simulation. During the seven years of Sips’

life, the competition changed course, and Sips’ two strongest markets collapsed. Throughout it all, however, Sips stayed focused on its strategy of having the highest quality and features. “Business doesn’t always go the way you projected. When that happens, you have to be ready to make adjustments,” Sips’ CFO Daniel Palmer observed.

The finale of the ICBCS was Sips’ formal presentation to the three judges. Here, each executive officer tried to convince the “board of directors” of the efficacy of its strategic business plan and results of operations from Year 6. The competition concluded with a banquet recognizing each team’s work. For MVNU’s first representation at the ICBCS, Sips Corp. maintained its strategy and played hard.

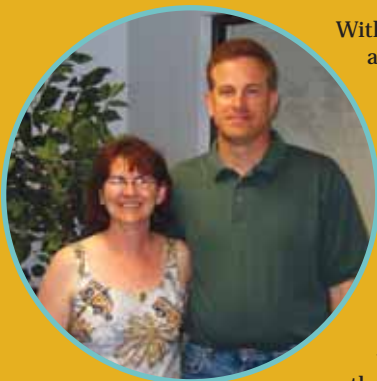
Competing against international teams proved to be a learning and rewarding experience to each executive officer. Corporate Secretary Maribeth Dodds observed, “It was astonishing to see how many factors come into play when managing a business and to see how other companies strategize. You have to research, find out what works and stay with it. The simulation was a tremendous learning experience and I look forward to competing again next year.”



Sips’ Executive Management Team (L-R)
Maribeth Dodds, Corporate Secretary
Brian Barrish, Chief Operating Officer (COO)
Tom Parks, Chief Marketing Officer (CMO)
Daniel Palmer, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Molly Bixel, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Together in the classroom: Teamwork aids B.B.A. couple

By Geoff Shmidt, Excell Gahanna Coordinator



With two of three sons away at a friend’s party, most parents would relish a Saturday night as well-earned time to make some popcorn, put in a movie and relax for the evening. But Doug and Christine Schiefer (pictured left) are not most people. They send their youngest off to watch a movie while they settle in to a night of homework for their latest Excell B.B.A. class.

The couple met as students at Columbus State Community College. Now, 15 years into their marriage, they are once again united in the classroom. “We didn’t set out to go back to college at the same time,” said Doug. “The decision evolved

as friends encouraged Chris to look into MVNU. When she discovered she had some tuition benefits left, that allowed us to do it together. Then MVNU opened a campus in Gahanna, right around the corner from our house, and that clinched the decision.”

Nearly halfway through the program, the two make time whenever they can to focus on their studies. “I think we complement each other very well,” said Chris. Doug added, “God put us together in this marriage. She has strengths in communication, writing papers and presentations, and I have strengths that are a little more analytical.”

“Of course there are times when being in the same classes has created tension between us, but we have learned the value of communication and being there for each other,” said Doug. When asked if they have plans for education beyond the BBA program, Chris said they have considered it, but, “Probably not together!” Then after a pause she added, “But who knows ... we will see in a year or so!”

Ten days in the life of a chemistry major

By Dr. Joseph H. Lechner,
Professor of Chemistry

October 11, 2002: For the past week, hemoglobin has been the topic for discussion in Biochemistry. Today, the entire class are wearing coats. On cue, all 14 students remove their jackets, revealing identical t-shirts, designed by chemistry major Mary Manson (pictured left). Each shirt accurately depicts the molecular structure of heme, and is appropriately colored bright red.

May 2, 2003: MVNU's Drama department presents *The Music Man*, in which Manson has a singing role. She is featured in the show-stopping number "Pick-a-Little." She also performed in MVNU's Goliards mixed ensemble for two semesters.

September 3: Manson sends encouraging e-mails to freshmen after their first day of classes. Appointed as a mentor by the Senior Class Council, she has "adopted" 35 residents of Pioneer Hall for the semester.

October 30: Manson discusses her summer research for a chemistry department seminar. She was a research associate during summer 2003 at Children's Research Institute in Columbus, Ohio. Acetaminophen is the most widely used pain reliever in the world, but it is the second leading cause of toxic drug ingestion in the U.S. Manson's team, led by Dr. Yusen Liu, believes that the liver develops a compound which can react with proteins, which eventually prompts cells to self-destruct.

November 14: Manson meets with a 5th grader at Bladensburg Elementary School. She has mentored a different local student each semester. Today, they stretch thick rubber bands, noting that rubber gets warmer when it is stretched, then cools when it contracts. This implies that rubber contracts because its molecular motion can become more random by doing so—a phenomenon chemists call *entropy*.

March 9, 2004: Manson is one of 30 scientists who gather to judge projects at MVNU's 13th annual Knox County Science Day. She and a partner will interview five 7th graders from local schools. This is her second year to assist with science fairs.

April 19: Students begin arriving for Organic Chemistry laboratory. Manson has served as a lab assistant for six semesters. She prepares chemicals and equipment before lab, and answers students' questions during the three-hour sessions.

April 22: Manson is offered a full-time position in the laboratory of Dr. Yusen Liu at Children's Research Institute in Columbus. She will start one week after MVNU graduation.

April 29: Manson hosts a rally at Birch Apartments. It is one of 3,000 being held nationwide in support of the Bush re-election campaign, and includes a conference call with Vice President Dick Cheney. Manson has served as president of MVNU's College Republicans organization since March 2003.

Wednesday, May 12: During Awards Convocation, Mary is recognized as MVNU's Outstanding Chemistry Student for 2003-04.

Mary Manson is the daughter of Rev. Phil and Cathy Manson. Her father pastors the Pickerington, Ohio, Church of the Nazarene. Mary credits much of her fascination with science to her mother, who works as a pharmacy technician.



A Day in the Life: MVNU'S Psychology Department

Dr. Randy Cronk, Professor Colleen Bryan and Dr. Ron Wright of Mount Vernon Nazarene University's Psychology department approach their discipline from a variety of perspectives, lending uniqueness and creativity to their days, and in ways that have a tremendous impact on students' lives. It's all part of their devotion to Christian higher education, and only one of the many ways that MVNU seeks to be a life-changing university.



Colleen Bryan, Dr. Ron Wright and Dr. Randy Cronk.

Mrs. Colleen Bryan

"I see myself as the 'keeper of the detail,'" explains Colleen Bryan, chair of the Department of Psychology, Sociology and Criminal Justice. Typical days include administrative duties, teaching, advising, committee responsibilities and looking at long-term strategies for success. "The department recently proposed and received approval to offer a new major in criminal justice, beginning this fall. I can't begin to describe how much time and effort it took from all of the psychology and sociology faculty to see this happen, and we're very excited," Bryan commented.

In addition, Bryan is in the dissertation phase of a doctorate in organizational psychology, and also places priority on her time with family. "It's all part of who I am and what I love to do, and I can't imagine doing anything else," she said. "I love teaching at MVNU, and find my greatest satisfaction in seeing students transformed during their time here."

Dr. Randy Cronk

Long the "experimental psychologist" in the group, Dr. Randy Cronk devotes hours of preparation for one of several lab-related courses in psychology. Whether students are collecting data, learning about experimental design or completing individual research projects, Cronk is ever advising and encouraging their progress. Equipped with a Ph.D. in social psychology, he began his teaching career at MVNU and has never looked back.

Cronk is well-known for his love of the outdoors. Time is devoted every day to bicycling, running or enjoying God's creation in some form—a lifestyle that has been transformative for himself and his students, as many have participated in the January-term bike trip in California. In and out of the classroom, Cronk gives students a vision for the words of St. Irenaeus: "The glory of God is a person who is fully alive."

Dr. Ron Wright

As the newest member of the psychology faculty, Dr. Ron Wright returned to his alma mater two years ago after completing his Ph.D. in clinical psychology and teaching for five years at Southern Nazarene University. Students have quickly embraced his unique integration of psychology and theology, as the department strives to help students understand their role as Christian psychologists and students.

"My passion is to help students think about psychology in light of theology and philosophy, as it is at those foundational assumptions about humanity that Christianity has much to offer." As part of his pursuit of this passion, Wright has been accepted into a summer seminar at Calvin College addressing scientific and theological perspectives on altruism. In addition, a portion of his time each week is spent in private practice, counseling those in need of psychological services.

Coming this Fall: Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

Following the unanimous action of the MVNU faculty, the board of trustees placed their stamp of approval on a new bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice, to begin in fall 2004. Prior to this endorsement, the Psychology and Sociology Department offered a bachelor's degree in sociology with a criminal justice track, which allowed students to take a prescribed sequence of general courses related to criminal justice. The new major greatly expands the curriculum to include major-specific courses and field experiences not previously offered, and attempts to expand the scope of influence in this highly diversified field.

With criminal justice identified as "one of the leading vocational fields over the next decade"

(www.criminaljusticecareers.us), the new major also seeks to present a distinct emphasis on the philosophy and practice of *restorative justice*—an approach that seeks to impact the restoration of offenders, victims, families and communities in humane and just ways. This mindset, in turn, provides a central link between the mission fit of MVNU and the students' eventual employment in a number of areas.

For more information on the new criminal justice degree, please e-mail Colleen Bryan at cbryan@mvnu.edu in the School of Natural and Social Sciences.

Commencement Activities 2004

MVNU celebrates 35 graduating classes

During Mount Vernon Nazarene University's 35th annual commencement ceremonies, 635 individuals received their undergraduate and graduate degrees. Traditional co-valedictorians were: chemistry/pre-med major James Cash, son of James and Debra Cash of Grove City, Ohio; and biology/pre-med major Samantha Fawcett, wife of Derek Fawcett of Mount Vernon, Ohio. Traditional salutarian was business administration major Molly Bixel, daughter of Richard and Gera May Bixel of Pandora, Ohio. Excell B.B.A. co-valedictorians were: Karen Farquhar (Group 110) of Newark, Ohio; and Rita McKinney (Group 117) of Mount Vernon, Ohio. Excell salutarian was Sandra Schwartmiller (Group 110) of Zanesville, Ohio.

MVNU President, Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks, was the featured speaker for Friday night's Baccalaureate service. Prior to his message, three students gave their final goodbyes to classmates along with their personal testimonies. They were graduating senior Anthony Godinez, Excell B.B.A. graduate Gary Baker and master of arts in education graduate Danielle Basham.

Fairbanks' message, "The Illusiveness of Contentment," repeated the phrase, "If we're not content with what we have, then we'll never be content with what we want." He discussed the irony, the barriers and the secrets of contentment. "God can give you inner peace in any circumstance. You can experience a contentment that defies explanation," he commented. Fairbanks warned students about comparing themselves with others and said that the secret to contentment is being grateful.

MVNU was proud to have Dr. Peter Kuzmič, evangelical scholar and professor of World Missions and European Studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, speak at this year's ceremonies. In his address, he encouraged graduates to become a global generation. "You are the generation that is called upon to shape the world of the 21st century. Don't rush to join the 'me first' club. Swim against the stream of materialism and consumerism," he said.

Kuzmič continued to remind students that it is our responsibility to be an active force for good in the world. "Don't forget you have been learning to be prepared for serving. Christianity has a global vocation and all vocations are a mission field. The world is waiting for Mother Teresas. Graduating class: Jesus is waiting for vessels—vessels to use and shape to save human lives and change their realities," he explained. Kuzmič concluded with, "The world is moving either toward Christ or catastrophe, and you have been called to be the traffic directors."

The 2004 Service Above Self Awards were presented to Rebecca Klontz of Sabina, Ohio, and David "Chip" Wilson of Mount Vernon. These awards are given annually to the male and female graduates who exemplify the school's motto of "To seek to learn is to seek to serve."



Graduation Banquet speaker Stan Foraker ('79).



Honorary doctorate recipients Rev. Carlton Hansen and Rev. Harold Graves, Jr.





Class of 2004 tree planting ceremony.



Class of 2004 gathers around the Eternal Flame.



Excell graduates during their ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Commencement speaker Dr. Peter Kuzmič.



Service Above Self recipients Rebecca Klontz and David "Chip" Wilson.



Excell co-valedictorian Rita McKinney, salutatorian Sandra Schwartzmiller and co-valedictorian Karen Farquhar.



Seniors Jillian Bollinger and Phillip Wilks.



MVNU President E. LeBron Fairbanks addressing students.

Dr. Henry Smith to be Executive VP at Indiana Wesleyan University



Dr. Henry Smith, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, has accepted the position of executive vice president at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana. His responsibilities will begin there on July 1. A native of Indiana, Dr. Smith is returning to his roots. His father is a retired Wesleyan pastor from central Indiana.

Smith earned his Ph.D. in communication from The Ohio State University and began his career at MVNU in 1979. As chair of the MVNU communication department in the mid-1980s, he began the radio station, WNZR. Smith served at Olivet Nazarene University (1988-1997) where he was communication department chair and director of broadcasting for their 35,000-watt radio station. For his last six years at Olivet, he was the dean of the School of Graduate and Adult Studies. Smith returned to MVNU in 1997 as chief academic officer. He is a frequent team chair for the Higher Learning Commission conducting accreditation reviews.

Dr. Smith leaves MVNU after completing a total of 25 years in Nazarene higher education. He has served 16 years at

MVNU, most recently completing seven years as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. Smith has served MVNU with distinction and will be missed. He led numerous councils and committees, including a board-of-trustees-mandated Blue Ribbon Commission on University Standing. He subsequently led a yearlong commission on academic restructuring.

Smith is married to Teresa, an office manager at the Mount Vernon First Church of the Nazarene, and has three children—Derika, David and Dale—who are enrolled in, or have graduated from, Nazarene universities.

The executive vice president position has been created to assist the Indiana Wesleyan University president with the rapid growth of the University. It is the hope of the Indiana Wesleyan University board of trustees that the executive vice president could be the successor to the current president upon his retirement.

MVNU plans to appoint an interim vice president for Academic Affairs for the 2004-05 school year. We wish Dr. Smith and his family all the best as they transition to Indiana and their new assignments.

Hoffman “lights the way” at MVNU

*By Trinia Huddleston,
Communications Assistant*



After working on Mount Vernon Nazarene University’s campus for 20 years, Dennis Hoffman (pictured left) has learned that every day is different. As supervisor of mechanical services, his main responsibility is to serve as campus electrician. Unlike others at MVNU, members of Physical Plant rarely know what tasks their day may bring.

They may be changing light bulbs, remodeling a building or cleaning out the pond in the grove.

Hoffman has aided in the renovation of many campus buildings, including conversion of the Family and Consumer Sciences building first to a food laboratory, then to the current Excell offices. Right now he is working in the University House, updating the electrical wiring. Hoffman strives to make the campus lighting and studying atmosphere optimal for

everyone. “There are places on campus where we have suggested more lighting and were able to act on it,” he said. He recently added lighting to the walking path that connects campus to Lakeholm Church of the Nazarene. He has also assisted in updating offices and dormitories to accommodate more computers, an ever-increasing need.

MVNU has greatly impacted Hoffman’s life since he arrived in 1983. He has listened to a variety of chapel speakers and has truly enjoyed interacting with students and professors. He occasionally has a project in a dorm or apartment that allows him to get to know the students. He said he enjoys talking with students and even helping with their homework.

Hoffman recalls many interesting stories during his time at MVNU. Once, while working near Cedar apartments, he received superficial facial burns when a screwdriver slipped and crossed with a wire. In February 2003, he was working in the room where the Associated Press wire comes into WNZR. A breaking story came across that the Columbia space shuttle had just exploded. He and colleague Dave Seaton were some of the first on campus to learn the tragic news.

Hoffman and his wife, Judy, have two daughters, Lisa and Karla, both MVNU alumnae, and five grandchildren. His son-in-law, Charles Lahmon, also graduated from MVNU.

A triple-force collaboration results in technology partnership

Embracing the foundations of collaborative thought, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Northwest Nazarene University and Point Loma Nazarene University are working together in what is perhaps a historic venture of a consortium-like arrangement. These three schools have worked since 2001 to negotiate a three-year contract with software vendor Jenzabar Inc. that provides benefits of cost containment, new software and employee training.

Supported by the collaboration emphasis at MVNU during 2001 and 2002, the schools exchanged personnel for one week to share software and information about database operations. Due to the success of this endeavor, and with help from a Teagle Collaboration Grant, a three-day meeting was organized and hosted on Mount Vernon's campus by Stephen H. Doenges, director of Administrative Computing Services. It quickly became evident all involved could conserve valuable resources by jointly developing projects of common interest.

Working side-by-side, momentum continued to build. A synergy of ideas flowed, moving the group toward common goals. Discussion of forming a consortium soon became the focal point, with the potential of strengthening processes and services among the institutions. To fertilize the potential, Doenges planted seeds of consortium thought with the senior management of Jenzabar in April 2002.

With support of MVNU's president, Dr. LeBron Fairbanks, the issue was placed on the agenda of the U.S./Canada Council of Education meeting at Nazarene Headquarters in December 2002. Jerry Harder, former associate vice president for Information Technology at PLNU, Dr. Eric Kellerer, director of Information Technology at NNU and Doenges made a joint presentation to the group. Returning to Kansas City in January, Doenges presented the concepts at the annual meeting of the U.S. Nazarene University and College Financial Officers.



Upper left is PLNU, lower left is NNU and above is MVNU's Rick Raymond and Stephen Doenges signing the technology consortium agreement.

The three schools continued working together on several projects but suspended efforts for an organized structure. Then, in late February 2004, Ken Evilsizor, director of Information Systems at PLNU, initiated discussions with the Jenzabar sales team. After a blizzard of communication, all three schools signed a common three-year agreement with the software vendor in March. Doenges stated, "It has been exciting to work with NNU and PLNU—building relationships with our Nazarene sister schools that deal with the same issues. This consortium endeavor has contained swelling administrative software costs while allowing our institutions to keep current with new software applications. In Philippians, Paul writes of our partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In this area of technology, we are partnering together to further the mission of our institutions."

A day in the life: Johnson holds keys to safe campus

A soft-spoken man in a blue uniform quietly watches over the Mount Vernon Nazarene University campus community. He is Rick Johnson (pictured right), just one of many MVNU security officers. His previous experience with other aspects of the campus has given him the foundation and background needed to protect and serve MVNU students, faculty and staff.

Johnson was first hired in 1985 as a mail carrier. Other duties included receiving shipment of campus packages and running bank errands for the accounting office. He would end his day by cleaning Founders Hall. In the fall of 1987, Dr. Stanton Parry, previous vice president of Finance and Management, approached him about a new position as full-time security officer working the midnight shift. Johnson held that position until 1997, when he transitioned to second shift.

As a security officer, Johnson is responsible for writing incident reports, locking and unlocking doors, providing assistance with vehicle issues, enforcing traffic regulations, taking accident reports, contacting parents or University officials in an emergency, enforcing community policies and many other duties. He is also in charge of monitoring the locks and keys on campus, scheduling security officers, training new officers

plus arranging for and working with the Mount Vernon Police Department for assistance with large campus events.

One thing Johnson enjoys about his job is seeing students mature during their four years on campus. His greatest challenge is showing people the importance of abiding by the campus rules and regulations. "Working here has taught me to have a lot of patience. You need to listen to what people have to say and show them that you care," he said.

Johnson likes being part of the team that works to ensure the safety of our campus community. "We have a wonderful staff. They are always willing to help out when called upon," he said of his fellow officers.

Johnson resides in Mount Vernon with his wife, Bea. His hobbies are hunting and gardening.

By Trinia Huddleston, Communications Assistant





Numerous Excell students have the challenge of balancing family, work and school responsibilities. May 2004 graduate Scott Tarrh knows this all too well. He is shown here with his wife, Linda, and children Colby (12), Cassidy (8) and Dylan (4).

At the end of the day . . .

by Dr. Randall Wells, Associate Vice President of Graduate and Adult Education

One of Stephen Covey's habits of highly effective people is to "begin with the end in mind." He writes, "The most fundamental application of 'begin with the end in mind' is to begin today with the image, picture or paradigm of the end of your life as your frame of reference or the criterion by which everything else is examined."

I want to shorten the frame of reference of "the end of your life" to "the end of your day," as in the end of your literal day. If the end of your day was the criterion by which everything else is examined, how would your day look? What did you accomplish today? What could you have done differently?

I want us to think about the end of the day. As for myself, sometimes the days seem to blur together, and on some days I wonder if I actually accomplished anything. The intense activities of daily living tend to dull our sense of the significant, and we may end up missing opportunities to do something important. By considering our activities at the end of the day, we can reawaken ourselves to the idea that each day carries its own significance.

The proverb, "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today," comes to mind. The shorthand version would be, "Don't procrastinate." Allow me to put a different meaning to it. I want to say something like, "Make each day count because what we do each day really does matter." Sometimes I think we put things off because we're in the habit of planning for, and thinking about, tomorrow and we don't realize that today is not yet finished.

We're also caught by the idea of living in the present while planning for the future, and how we do that sometimes becomes a real juggling act. Our Excell students have plenty of stories of how they balance immediate needs, such as family and employment, while meeting a long-range goal of earning a college diploma. They are easy to admire because of what they are trying to accomplish.

We work with their end in mind, doing on a daily basis those activities which help them succeed with their educational goals. We want the end of our day to look like theirs—significant and successful.

Planting seeds of faith

By David Baker, Curriculum Specialist for Excell



“It is a joy for me to watch as students develop their faith. My goal is to at least plant a seed, with hopes of it eventually bearing fruit.”

A typical day in the life of an Excell chaplain: Is there such a thing? Dr. Rick Williamson and Dr. Willie Dishon would be quick to say no. A chaplain is in the position of meeting needs, and each day brings different needs from a variety of people.

Williamson is located at the Mount Vernon campus and covers Newark and Lima as well. Dishon covers Polaris, where he maintains an office, and Gahanna. Being a chaplain is a full-time job. They must be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This is not easy when 60 percent of their schedule is composed of teaching Bible, religion and theology classes. But Williamson stated, “There is never a time when I am not the chaplain.” He tries to relate to people as a pastor and see things through those eyes.

Both have extensive pastoral backgrounds. Dishon pastored for 15 years in Houston, and spent time in Kansas, Indiana and even South Africa. Williamson pastored Nazarene churches in the Iowa District for 14 years. Their daily responsibilities of counseling students, making visits and praying for individuals stem directly from being pastors.

Providing support for students is the focus. “I believe that spiritual care is essential to who we are,” Williamson explained. It is during crises when the chaplains are most valuable to students, such as a death in the family or a sick child. Many may not have a church to provide support, and the Excell chaplain is often their only contact with a pastoral figure.

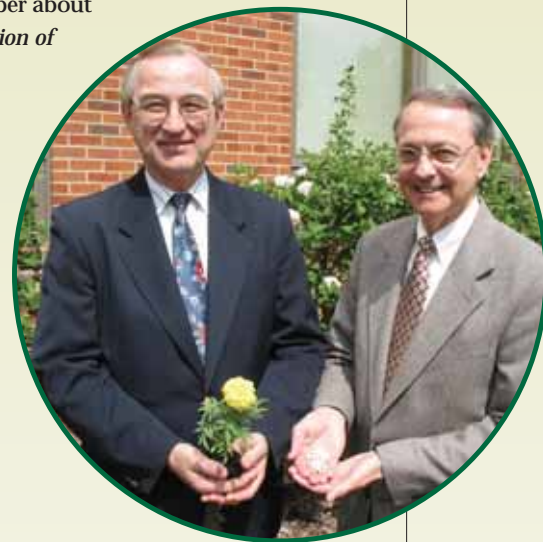
Dishon feels his primary function as chaplain is to inspire faith. “It is a joy for me to watch as students develop their faith,” he said. He has seen some start to attend church, and has even led a student’s mother to Christ. “My goal is to at least plant a seed, with hopes of it eventually bearing fruit.”

Excell students come from diverse religious backgrounds. Some may be regular church attendees, while others may have never been inside a church. Despite this, Williamson said he finds a great deal of openness to spiritual issues. For one particular assignment, 18 of 22 students chose to write a paper about Mel Gibson’s film, *The Passion of the Christ*.

The biggest challenge of the job, Dishon and Williamson agree, is finding ways to stimulate contact in order to plant seeds. Because they never have the entire student body together in one place, they must devise ways to reach out to students, many of whom they do not see regularly. One solution is for Dishon and Williamson to attend every “Night Zero,” the first night of a new cohort group. This allows each student to put a face with the name of their Excell chaplain.

In addition, Dishon has developed literature to spark conversations while encouraging and educating students in spiritual matters. Williamson commented, “[Teaching] also gives us a vehicle to create relationships that can be continued in the chaplain role.” Dishon agrees, and said that he becomes more aware of students’ needs when he sees them regularly in class.

And that is where the true joy comes in for Dishon and Williamson: cultivating relationships and making differences in students’ lives.



Dr. Rick Williamson and Dr. Willie Dishon



MVNU's Veale keeps baseball in proper perspective

By Dave Parsons,
Sports Information Director

For Keith Veale, coach of the Mount Vernon Nazarene University baseball team, the spring brings days that start before sunrise; span teaching, coaching, recruiting and even mowing; and finish after the sun has gone down.

However, Veale, at the helm of the Cougars since 1990 and approaching his 500th victory with the team, balances his responsibilities successfully while keeping things in the proper perspective.

Veale has had tremendous success at MVNU as his 498-229 overall record and four National Christian College Athletic Association titles indicate. Over the past ten years, he has led the Cougars to six conference titles, their first NAIA World Series berth in 1997, and the national record in 1996 for best winning percentage in the history of college baseball by going 43-3.

In addition, nine players have signed professional baseball contracts during his tenure. Thirteen have earned NAIA All-American honors, six have been named the conference Player of the Year and two have been selected as the conference Pitcher of the Year.

More important to Veale than wins and losses are the growth and development of his players as Christian young men. One example of this was during the team's recent spring trip to Florida when he took the team to see *The Passion of the Christ* during what could have been a free evening.

The next morning, Veale held a devotional time for discussion of the movie and the importance of each player having his own personal relationship with Christ. Players

shared their thoughts and concerns for teammates and how the movie had impacted their thinking. The hour-long dialogue ended with each senior player sharing and a time of prayer.

"Coach is definitely a player's coach in that he looks out for his players more than himself," said senior Justin Clarey. "He cares about us as people, and knows that there is more to life than baseball."

"I have enjoyed playing for Coach and cannot imagine having played for anyone else," added senior Dan Matheney. "Even the other teams respect him for the way he runs our program, and it has been a great four years for me at MVNU, thanks to him."

"I am fully aware that most of my players will not become professional athletes," said Veale. "However, nearly all of them will become a husband, a father, an employee and a community member.

If I can have some small part in helping in those areas, then I consider my time with them a success. I will be more impressed with their performance ten years after graduation than the numbers they put up here. That is when it really counts."

By passing on his proper perspective, Veale's players will continue to post victories in the game of life well after their time on the MVNU baseball diamond has come to an end.

Editor's note: At press time, the MVNU baseball team was 33-15 heading to postseason play. Please go to www.mvnu.edu/sports/nazbb to find out more about the team's season.



Dunn receives Maravich Award at NCCAA Tournament

By Dave Parsons, Sports Information Director

Andy Dunn, a member of the Mount Vernon Nazarene University men's basketball team, has been selected as the 2004 recipient of the Pete Maravich Award, presented annually by the National Christian College Athletic Association.



A 6-foot-1 senior guard from Hamilton, Ohio, Dunn received the award at the NCCAA National Tournament Tip-off Banquet in Frankfort, Ky. The Maravich Award, named after college basketball's all-time scoring leader, is given annually to a senior player who is highly skilled, an outstanding student and an exemplary leader and Christian witness.

Dunn ranks among the national leaders in scoring at 20.1 points per game and in free-throw accuracy at 92.9 percent. The former Lakota West High School star finished second in all of college basketball with a school-record 150 three-pointers. In addition, he has compiled 80 assists and 32 steals. He was selected to the NAIA Division II Honorable Mention All-American Team and the NCCAA All-American First Team.

In the classroom, Dunn is a standout with a 3.587-grade-point average in business administration and accounting. He was an NAIA and NCCAA Division II All-America Scholar-Athlete, and was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District IV First Team.

In addition to serving as a team captain, Dunn has been an active leader at MVNU. Last year, he served as junior class president though busy playing basketball and baseball. This year, he is vice president of finance for Student Government. In addition to being active in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he also traveled with Athletes in Action to Fiji during the summer of 2002.

"Andy represents what this award is all about," said MVNU head coach, Scott Flemming. "He is a gifted basketball player, an outstanding student, a campus leader and a devoted follower of Christ. I am proud to have him on my team."



MVNU wraps up outstanding year with NCCAA runner-up finish

By Dave Parsons, Sports Information Director

The 2003-04 season was supposed to be a year of rebuilding for Mount Vernon Nazarene University men's basketball team. Over the two previous seasons, the Cougars had graduated seven players who combined for a 44-24 record, and the returning roster players had combined for just 39 collegiate starts.

However, with career years from every returning player and important contributions from the freshmen, MVNU posted an impressive 23-13 record finishing tied for second in the American Midwest Conference South Division with a 13-3 mark. The Cougars also advanced to the championship game of the National Christian College Athletic Association National Tournament for the second time in three years.

"This was a very successful season by a special group of young men," said Scott Flemming, himself named NCCAA East Region Coach of the Year. "It may have been a surprise season for most everyone but our players. To finish the season ranked 24th in the NAIA and to make to the NCCAA National Championship game was a great." Regular season highlights include sweeping the season series from the University of Rio Grande for only the second time ever, and sweeping Shawnee State, Walsh, Wilberforce and Tiffin Universities.

After falling in the first round of the AMC Tournament, the Cougars focused on making the NCCAA National Tournament for the third straight year. Despite losing to Nyack (N.Y.) College 72-70 in the NCCAA East Region Tournament championship game, MVNU still received an at-large berth in the eight-team National Tournament.

In the tournament's first round, MVNU held off sixth-seeded Central Baptist (Ark.) College and, in the semifinals, the Cougars shot 58.3 percent from the field to hold second-seeded Bethel (Ind.) College below its scoring average for one of MVNU's best performances of the year.

Despite falling to top-seeded Christian Heritage (Calif.) College in the championship game, the Cougars reached the 20-win mark for the seventh time in the past eight years.

Leading the way was guard Andy Dunn, averaging a team-best 20.1 points per game (19th in scoring in NAIA Division II). Dunn finished his career ranked 18th on the MVNU all-time scoring list with 1,293 points.

Dunn led all NAIA Division II players with a school-record 150 three-pointers and finished second in all divisions of college basketball, concluding his career ranked fourth in school history with 307 career treys. He also set a new school record by with 92.9 percent free-throw shooting (second in NAIA Division II). He also broke the Cougars' free-throw percentage at 88.1 percent. Dunn was selected as the Pete Maravich Award recipient as the NCCAA Player of the Year.

Senior center Matt Hilbert finished his career averaging 9.7 points and a team-leading 8.9 rebounds. His 320 total rebounds tied for the second-highest single-season total in school history, only four rebounds shy of the single-season school record. For his efforts, he was an AMC South Division Honorable Mention pick and an NCCAA East Region Second Team selection.

Dear MVNU Alumni,

I am writing my last letter to you as director of Alumni Relations for Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Gratefully, I am still working at our alma mater, but with a different focus on my responsibilities. I have been named the director of Major Gifts and Grants, a new position at MVNU.



I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as alumni director. A major appeal to this new position is the opportunity to remain connected to our alumni. I have enjoyed meeting you and developing new relationships. You are very special people. It has been my pleasure to hear your stories and watch God use you to make a difference in your homes, workplaces and communities. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the years to come.

I believe in Mount Vernon Nazarene University. I am one of many whose life has been changed because of the experiences and relationships associated with my years here—as student, alumnus and now as a staff member. God has used, and is still using, MVNU to raise up a great host of young people called to live lives of service to His glory and our world's good. As a benefactor of MVNU's influence, I want to do what I can to repay a debt I owe. But there is more to my passion for MVNU. I want to play a part in helping us advance our purpose and mission. My dream is for MVNU to become one of the leading Christian institutions of higher education in our nation. It seems to me at the present time, that can best be done in my new assignment.

May God continue to bless and use you to advance His kingdom. Keep serving; keep making a difference. Stay connected to our alma mater, and give your best to our new director of Alumni Relations.

Sincerely,
Mike Cheek

Alumni Relations 2004 Summer Events

For more information or to register go to www.mvnu.edu/alumni, e-mail alumni@mvnu.edu, or call (740) 392-6868, ext. 4310.

July

- 9 – Cleveland Indians vs. Oakland A's
- 14 – Columbus Network Lunch
- 15 – Downtown Columbus Network Lunch
- 20 – Morgantown, W.Va., Network Lunch
- 21 – Charleston, W.Va., Network Lunch
- 22 – Ashland, Ky., Network Lunch
- 23 – SWO District Assembly Alumni/Friends Lunch
- 24 – Toledo Zoo
- 28 – Cleveland Network Lunch
- 29 – Canton Network Lunch

August

- 3 – Dayton Network Lunch
- 4 – Cincinnati Network Lunch
- 5 – Toledo Network Lunch
- 13 – Cincinnati Reds vs. San Diego Padres
- 28 – Move-In Day on Campus

The Grape Vine

1970s

MVNU regrets to announce that **REV. JAMES UEHLEIN ('77)** passed away on April 30, 2004. He had been working as a supply pastor while running a private counseling practice. He resided in Southgate, Ky.

MANUEL ('78) and **CINDY BATRES (SUTTON '77)** are headed to the mission field in Guatemala. They have been appointed missionaries by Nazarene World Mission and left the U.S. at the end of April. The Batres will be in charge of W&W and a new chapel factory there, and will serve as youth coordinators for the Central Field of the MAC region, which includes Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Their daughter, Myra, will continue attending MVNU, majoring in Spanish and psychology.

1980s

MATTHEW PRICE ('80) had his 19th book published: *The Passion of Jesus: Remembering the Death of Our Savior*. After Belle Rive Publishing released it, it hit Christian Book Distributors' bestseller list on April 2. Matthew and his wife, **JEANIE (MATHEWS '81)**, live in Brentwood, Tenn. with their five children.

ANN CRAIG-FULMER ('81) has lived in Chicago, Ill., for the past 13 years. She is a teacher for the Chicago Public Schools and has started her M.A. in educational curriculum and instruction from Olivet Nazarene University.

ED WITTUNG ('84), wife, **LYNN (MOORE '81)**, and son Philip welcomed John Mark to their family. He was adopted in January 2004. The Wittungs continue to serve the Church of the Nazarene as career missionaries in South America.

Tom West takes the alumni helm



Mount Vernon Nazarene University is proud to announce Tom West as the new director of Alumni Relations and University Fund! Please get to know him as we have—his warm spirit, enthusiastic attitude and love for MVNU are contagious.

West graduated from MVNU with a bachelor's degree in Christian education in 1990. He attended Nazarene Theological Seminary from 1990–91 and earned a master's degree in education administration from the University of Missouri.

Both his educational and work experience have prepared him well to be a leader in Alumni Relations. In the past, he has served as a Youth In Mission assistant at Nazarene Youth International in Kansas City, registrar at the University of Missouri for the School of Dentistry and a graduate program coordinator at the University of Cincinnati.

"We believe Tom brings a wealth of campus experience to this position. His work with students in our traditional and non-traditional programs, combined with his extensive network of relationships across our region, will allow him to lead the Alumni Relations and University Fund to the next level of excellence," commented Keith Newman, vice president for University Advancement.

West most recently worked as assistant director for Academic Records and Registration at MVNU, as well as an adjunct instructor for Excell. He has taught Sunday School, been a church board member and small-group leader. He was ordained as a deacon in the Church of the Nazarene in July 2002.

"I anticipate great days ahead as I continue to serve in my new position at MVNU. As I join the University Advancement team with much excitement, I look forward to getting to know all the wonderful MVNU alumni, constituents and church leaders," said West. "I'm thankful to my Lord for providing this opportunity. God is faithful and will always be my strength."

West is married to Tara (Hodges '89) who serves as an academic peer mentor coordinator in MVNU's Academic Support department as well as an adjunct instructor. They reside in Mount Vernon and have three children: Taylor (11), Noah (7) and Jenna (5).

West's responsibilities begin July 1. Watch for him at MVNU's summer alumni events!

1990s

RICK ('90) and JULIE BURKE (WARD '93) have returned to Mount Vernon, Ohio. Rick is the technology manager with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil & Water Conservation in Columbus. Julie is working at MVNU as the secretary for Church Relations. They have two daughters, Courtney (11) and Lauren (6).

BRENDA McLEAN (GALLIHER '90) and husband, Jammy, announce the birth of their second child, Caleb Josiah, born March 7, 2004. C.J. joins his 8-year-old sister Brook. Brenda is currently working at home as a receptionist for a carpet cleaning business. She also sings on a worship team and is active in the drama department of her church. Jammy is an ERT in the local hospital.

Jeff and **BRENDA ('90) PARKER** announce that their son Sam just turned 1. He joined the family, including sisters Ellie (5) and Anna (3) on Feb. 7, 2003. The Parkers reside in Fairfield, Ohio, where Jeff is an architect and Brenda is a stay-at-home mom. Both are involved at Springdale Church of the Nazarene. Brenda is the MOPS coordinator and Jeff directs Upward Basketball.

TIM PRESSLER ('92) and DAWN BOUTWELL ('91 AND '98 EXCELL) were married on Sept 13, 2003, in Carey, Ohio. Ten other MVNU alumni participated in their wedding. The couple currently resides in Grove City, Ohio, and attends Grove City Church of the Nazarene.

VALERIE HARRINGTON (GRAY '92) and her husband, Bill, announce the birth of Ryan Paul, on March 28, 2004. Valerie teaches family and consumer sciences in a middle school in Springfield, Ohio.

TAMI KING (BISHOP '93) and her husband, Jack, announce the birth of their daughter Kylee Violet on April 2, 2004. She weighed 5 lbs, 9 oz. and was 18 inches long. The couple resides in Grand Rapids, Mich., where Tami is a store manager for Barnes & Noble and Jack is the transport manager for Family Christian Stores.

KAREN MILLER (ROEHRIG '93) and her husband, Matt, announce the birth of their first child, Caleb Matthew, on Feb. 20, 2004. Karen has retired after 11 years of teaching, but continues to serve as assistant director of children's ministries at Calvary Baptist Church in Bethlehem, Penn. Matt is an occupational therapist with Bucks County Intermediate Unit.

MICHELLE WINEBRENNER (HOOVER '93) and her husband, Brian, announce the birth of Bethany Mae, on March 27, 2004. She was 7.2 lbs. and 17 inches long. Bethany joins older brother Jordan. Michelle teaches third grade in Spartanburg, S.C.

GARY DEARTH ('95) is working for Olivet Nazarene University in the information technology department. He and his wife, Brenda, have been married seven years and have two children, Robert (2) and Makayla (1).

TODD FEASEL ('95) and his wife, **CARLETTA (CUMSTON '99)**, reside in Heath, Ohio, with their three children, Julia (6), Jared (3) and Jason (1). Todd is currently working at Moundbuilders Guidance Center and is part-time professor at Central Ohio Technical College. Carletta is working at Licking County YMCA as a coach and sports referee.

KARL HEINS ('95) and his wife, **JULIA (WALKER '94)**, welcomed Adalyn Michelle on Feb. 20, 2004. She joins big sister Kayln in their new home in Johnstown, Ohio. Julia is a stay-at-home mom and Karl is a mortgage officer for Chase Manhattan. He also teaches for Excell.

David Hogan ('88): Strong foundations, lifelong friendships



David Hogan with his fifth grade class from Monroe Elementary School.

David Hogan recently shared with Alumni Relations what his MVNU experience meant to him.

Mount Vernon Nazarene University is a special place. I have so many wonderful memories of my experiences at MVNU where I was involved in student government extensively, and was elected to serve as treasurer of the Nazarene Student Leadership Council. Through my role as student council vice president and then as president, I was afforded rich and memorable traveling opportunities, including a trip to Colorado Springs for one of the council meetings. I will never forget the wonderful friendships made there.

MVNU helped to shape me. Coming from a public school experience with very few evangelical believers in my graduating class, MVNU gave me the tools, the courage, and the confidence I needed to live a successful, professional life that is unashamedly Christian. Positive role models who exemplified how this could be done, living out their Christian life in a loving way, surrounded me. Education professors Marilyn Greer and Donna Shiverdecker were true examples of professionals who lived the University's motto, "To seek to learn is to seek to serve." They invited us into their homes and made us a part of their lives for those four wonderful years.

During my time at MVNU, I served as a pianist for a Living Witness team. One year, the Spiritual Life committee offered a "Prayer Life" video seminar. I thought at the time that

TERRY McCONNEL ('95) and his wife, **JENNY (JOHNSTONE '96)**, are currently working together as youth pastors at Northwest Church of the Nazarene in Worthington, Ohio. They have three children: Libby (5), Brianna (3) and Gabriel (1). Terry works full-time as a senior field supervisor for First National Restoration and Jenny stays home to watch her niece and nephew.

ERIC THORNE ('95) and Nichole Lewis were married on Sept. 22, 2001. They welcomed their first child, Aubrey Marie, to the family on Aug. 12, 2003. She weighed 9 lbs., 2 oz. and was 21 inches long. Eric is the vice president of Briar Hill Foods, Inc. and Nichole is a pharmacist at Alliance Community Hospital. They reside in Louisville, Ohio.

SHARON FILLER ('96) served in the U.S. Air Force for four years after graduating from MVNU. She worked with radar on an aircraft and was a weather observer. She also worked at a weather station prior to the tornados that

recently devastated Oklahoma. She is currently finishing her master's degree in business with emphasis on computer information technology at the University of Central Oklahoma.

LURA WHITE (RAMSEY '96) and husband, Tim, married eight years, announce the birth of their twin sons, Ethan Virgil (6 lbs.) and Tyler Alan (5 lbs., 14.5 oz.) on Dec. 4, 2003. The Whites live in Greenwich, Ohio, where Lura works part-time as the director of social services at Heritage Care Center and Tim works in inventory at MTD.

BECKY MOFFETT ('97) announces her engagement to James A. Coontz. They will be married on Oct. 16, 2004, at Lakeholm Church of the Nazarene. She is a probation officer in Newark, Ohio, and James works for Thomas Glass Company in Columbus, Ohio. They will reside in the Mount Vernon following the wedding.

KEVIN TIMPE ('97) recently completed his doctorate in philosophy from Saint Louis University. He spent the previous year as a research fellow at the Center for Philosophy of Religion at the University of Notre Dame. Kevin's wife, **ALLISON TIMPE (LITTLER '96)**, also earned an M.B.A. from Saint Louis University in 2003. The Timpes will relocate to San Diego this summer, where Kevin will be an assistant professor in philosophy at the University of San Diego.

MELISSA HOFFHINES (YOUNG '98) and her husband, **MARK ('03 EXCELL)**, welcomed their second child on Dec. 23, 2003. Connor Allan weighed 7 lbs., 1 oz. and was 21 inches long. He joins big brother Kyle Evan.

ERIN (ROWINSKI '98) and **BILL HOLLOWAY ('98)** had a wonderful Mother's Day on May 9, 2004, when Brooke Janina decided to join the family a little early. She was 6 lbs., 1 oz. and was 19 inches long. She joins big brother Josiah Neil (2).

KAREN LANDES (KROEKER '98) and her husband, Kurt, announce the birth of their first child, Kadison Grace, on July 26, 2003. She weighed 10 lbs., 4 oz. and was 21 inches long. Karen is an accountant for Antietam Health Services and Kurt is the general manager of the Hagerstown Suns baseball team. The family resides in Hagerstown, Md.

JUSTIN ('98) and **AMBER McCANN (RHOTON '97)** announce the birth of Rory Cavan McCann on Oct. 14, 2003. He joins his big sister Svea (2) in Laurel, Md., where Justin works for the federal government and Amber is a stay-at-home mom.

MATTHEW RAMSEY ('98) and his wife, Lynden, announce the birth of their son Lochlyn Case on Aug. 4, 2003. He weighed 7 lbs., 9.5 oz.

BOB ('98) and **RACHEL SCROGGINS (RUTGERS '97)** announce the birth of their son, Samuel Alexander Wylie, on

this sounded like the most boring thing a person could do—and occurring over the weekend, no less! I had no intentions of participating. Then, our group leader asked each of us to attend the seminar as a team, so I complied. and it changed my life. Even though it's been nearly 16 years ago, that seminar continues to have an effect on my life. And the bonds of the friendships that were forged within the context of spiritual development have only grown stronger through the years.

During my sophomore year, my home church asked me to serve as youth pastor for the summer because our full-time youth pastor had moved on. I went to my former MVNU psychology professor, Dr. Wayne Reno, and asked if he'd help me make the decision. I was an elementary education major—not a ministry major. He suggested that I fast and pray and walk through the doors that God opened in my life. I had never fasted before, yet I recall that particular time as one where I drew so much closer to God. I took the job and grew like never before—or since—that summer.

As a fifth-grade teacher for the past 16 years, I have had the opportunity to host several student teachers from other universities; with each one, I have seen how my university has prepared me so well—at many points, even better prepared I feel than were many of these student teachers.

A group of my college friends recently took our friendships and college relationships to a new level by beginning a twice-a-year reunion. The five of us and our spouses and children come together for a weekend to continue building our lifelong friendships.

Hogan is currently teaching fifth grade at Monroe Elementary School in Monroe, Ohio. He is married to Janet and they have one daughter, Madeline. The family resides in Middletown, Ohio, where they attend the Breiel Blvd. First Church of God.

If you'd like to tell us about your MVNU memories or about the impact MVNU has had in your life, please visit www.mvnu.edu/alumni and click on "Alumni Questionnaire."

Alumni Association partners with Liberty Mutual

The Mount Vernon Nazarene University Alumni Association is proud to announce a partnership with the Liberty Mutual Group. MVNU graduates now have the possibility for benefits in life, auto and home insurance through the Group Savings Plus plan—a comprehensive program from Liberty Mutual that provides an exclusive group discount with competitive insurance rates (guaranteed for 12 months) and convenient payment options.

In addition, the MVNU receives a royalty from alumni premiums in this program. For the first year of new business for Liberty, the Alumni Association receives a 2 percent royalty. After one year, and for existing Liberty customers, it's a 1 percent royalty.

If you are currently a Liberty Mutual policy holder, you are eligible for this Group Savings Plus plan.

Contact your agent for more information, visit Liberty Mutual's Web site, www.libertymutual.com, or contact the Alumni Relations office at 1-800-397-9294 or alumni@mvnu.edu.

March 22, 2004, in Beijing, China. He was 9 lbs., 5 oz. and was 20 inches long. He joins big sister Maya Elizabeth (18 months). They have returned to China, and Bob is teaching fourth grade at Tianjin International School.

MIKE ('99) and **AMY MURPHY (HOLLER '99)** announce the birth of their son, Blake William. He was born Jan. 20, 2004. Blake joins big sister Abigail Grace (3) and big brother Ethan Michael (1).

DOUGLAS ('99) and **MELISSA REX (PRATER '99)** announce the birth of their first child, Caleb James, on Oct. 6, 2003. He weighed 8 lbs., 6 oz. and was 20 inches long. Douglas is in his first-year residency in the general surgery program at Grandview Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio. Melissa enjoys her time as a stay-at-home mom. The family resides in Centerville, Ohio, and are members of the Parkview Church of the Nazarene.

2000s

ELAINE CARR (LEGG '00) and her husband, Doug, welcomed Hayden Douglas on April 7, 2004. He weighed 7 lbs, 9 oz. and was 20 inches long. The family resides in Findlay, Ohio.

AMY LOU LOGAN ('00) married Jonathan Blayney on Jan. 10, 2004. They reside in Clarksville, Tenn., where Jonathan is serving in the U.S. Army. Amy is pursuing a career in community development.

APRIL D. SIETMAN ('00) married Kevin Litmanon Jan. 17, 2004, at Grove City Church of the Nazarene in Grove City, Ohio. April is teaching English as a second language for Columbus Public Schools. Kevin, a DeVry University graduate, is a senior technical analyst for UPS. They reside in Grove City.

SEAN WRENN ('00) and his wife, **LACIE (GRAYSON '99)**, welcomed Caeden Joshua on, March 8, 2004. He weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz.

KELLY CLUTTER ('02) married **JON RUSH ('97)** on Sept. 6, 2003, in the MVNU chapel. Kelly works for Excell and is an M.B.A. student at Ashland University. Jon is a good manufacturing practice chemist at Roxane Laboratories. He is pursuing his M.B.A. at OSU.

KATHY BEAMER ('03) married Robert Rider on Aug. 31, 2003, in Westerville, Ohio. The family resides in Columbus.

MELINDA MYERS ('03) married **ANDY RUTH ('03)** on Aug. 8, 2003, and both now reside in Marion, Ohio, as educators: Melinda, a third- and fourth-grade reading teacher at Elgin West Elementary in LaRue; and Andy, at Harding High School in Marion.



Entries with a camera icon (📷) have a photo available online.

To view these photos, visit

www.mvnu.edu/alumni/grapevine/grapevine.html

Please feel free to submit photos of weddings, babies, etc. to Mount Vernon NOW, 800 Martinsburg Rd., Mount Vernon, OH 43050, or by e-mail to alumni@mvnu.edu, or online at www.mvnu.edu/alumni/grapevine/grapevine.html.

Investors for a lifetime: Denny and Jan Taylor

By Austin Swallow,
Executive Director for Development



For Denny and Jan Taylor (left), investing in MVNU is all day, every day. Denny is the University's Physical Plant director: His department is responsible for everything but school administration and student instruction. His cell phone rings day and night, but he always responds with a smile.

Applying for the position 16 years ago, Denny believed he could use his accounting, management and budgetary skills and knowledge of local tradesmen if selected. Today, Rick Raymond, vice president for Finance and Management, stated, "Denny provides excellent positive leadership to a critical MVNU function. He is truly a Christian servant leader. He and his staff have a reputation for going above and beyond meeting campus needs. Working with Denny is one of the most gratifying parts of my job."

Denny commented, "I never know what my day will bring but my excellent work crew makes my job so much easier." That crew has grown to be 40 employees and five supervisors; his budget responsibility is now over \$2.6 million. When asked about innovations and improvements, Denny pointed out an energy savings program, serving as general contractor of several campus building projects and the computerization of his department. He recently told his counterparts at an Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges meeting on energy savings, "We have already established such a program which will save our campus \$70,000 a year." Several other OFIC schools may adopt the MVNU model.

Jan has been an elementary teacher in the Mount Vernon city school system for 30 years. She was named systemwide teacher of the year in 1991. "Having nine student teachers and countless education majors in my classroom, it has been thrilling for me to be a part of their education, to invest in a small way in the preparation of such qualified students," she commented.

To the Taylors, investing involves not only their time and talent, but there is also a monetary aspect. When asked why, they were quick to respond, "We believe in MVNU and its mission of shaping students to serve." Their daughters attended MVNU: Tricia, a 1995 graduate, and Tonya who graduated in 1997 along with Jan who earned her master's in education. Jan added, "I am proud my husband and I are affiliated with such a quality institution. We want to support MVNU any way we can."

Denny and Jan were one of the first contributors to the upcoming Events Center. Denny explained, "I was on the original committee and felt I should be a leader in fund raising. I see this building as propelling the University into its next growth spurt. We need it."

Jan and Denny give to MVNU on the job, in the classroom, at home with their family and by investing in the future. They even advertise for MVNU with their special license plates. We are indeed grateful for lifetime friends and investors like Denny and Jan. God bless you all.

CSA Scholarship Golf Tournament



The CSA Scholarship Golf Tournament will be on Saturday, October 16, 2004. Please mark your calendars! The tournament raised more than \$4,000 last year for an endowed athletic scholarship. More detailed information will be available at a later date. If you would like to be included on the mailing list for a tournament brochure, please e-mail alumni@mvnu.edu or call 1-800-367-9294.

Savings bonds and MVNU?

Are you one of the many who purchased U.S. savings bonds years ago and are still holding on to them because you really don't know what to do with them?

We have several suggestions—possibilities that can benefit you and MVNU.

Make a charitable gift of your Series EE bonds today. Series EE bonds accumulate interest income that is taxed when you redeem the bonds. You may choose to either reissue the bonds in MVNU's name or redeem them and give the cash as a gift. Either way, you can claim an offsetting charitable income tax reduction for the full value of the bonds, which will eliminate the income tax in the year you make the gift.

Exchange your Series EE or HH bonds for a MVNU gift annuity that offers a lifetime income for better cash flow in today's low-interest-producing environment.

Make a bequest of your savings bonds through a provision in your will stating that your bonds will become the property of MVNU after your death. Because MVNU is a tax-exempt organization, the accumulated interest income will never be taxed when the bonds are redeemed.

No matter how many bonds you have, large or small, they can make a difference in a student's life at MVNU.

For answers regarding Planning Giving, visit www.mvnugift.org, or contact Austin Swallow, executive director of Development, at 1-800-367-9294.



Keith Newman with Tami and Eric Buell and their daughters Paige and Jessica

No two days the same

By J. Keith Newman, Vice President for University Advancement

A volleyball spiked to the face is not exactly the best way to start a relationship, but love overcame a painful beginning in the case of Eric and Tami (Parker) Buell ('91). They met on the MVNU campus during what was supposed to be a friendly game of volleyball in the Donoho Recreation Center. While it would not take long for them to begin dating, neither could have predicted the future God had in mind.

Today, Eric, Tami and their two daughters, Paige and Jessica, live on the campus of Seminario de las Americas in San Jose, Costa Rica, where they are intern missionaries for the Church of the Nazarene. Eric serves as the Mexico and Central America South Field Work and Witness coordinator; Tami, a medical doctor, is the Compassionate Ministries coordinator.

Tami was determined to attend another school when she received a letter from Dr. Jim Radcliffe ('76), medical missionary in Papua New Guinea, recommending the pre-med program at MVNU. Missions

was far from her mind, but today she knows how important that letter was in preparing her for the journey ahead. Following graduation, Tami entered medical school at The Ohio State University, where by her own admission, she had her heart set on a successful and prosperous medical practice.



Looking back, she marvels at the patience of God and the transformation that took place in her life as she put aside self-interest and began to consider the lesson she encountered at MVNU: "To seek to learn is to seek to serve."

Eric and Tami married while she was still in medical school and he was teaching high school history. During a Work and Witness trip with their local church, Eric's call to missions was renewed. Following medical school, Eric and Tami moved to south Texas where Tami worked in a family practice and Eric served as an NIVS (Nazarenes in Volunteer Service) missionary to Mexico. The three-year experience prepared the Buell's for their assignment to Costa Rica.

During spring break of 2004, I had the opportunity to travel with 18 MVNU students to Costa Rica where we watched, listened and experienced the ministry of the Buells. I never asked what a day was like in the life of a missionary because I became convinced that no two days are the same. Their job description might read something like this: tour guide, translator, backpacker, construction superintendent, negotiator, treasurer, doctor, problem solver, historian, zoologist, question answerer, encourager and friend. We marveled at the way God is working in Costa Rica and watched with admiration how He is using the gifts and graces of Eric and Tami.

Describing themselves as conduits between Work and Witness teams and the national workers, Eric and Tami said they "wouldn't want to be anyplace else," even if no two days are the same and they are answering the same question for the 27th time. Their enthusiasm is contagious and their testimony is inspiring. They remind us all that a life of service is a life of success!

MVNU honors faculty and staff excellence



The Mount Vernon Nazarene University Staff Member of the Year award went to Betty Linkous, administrative assistant for Business Services, a part of the Finance & Management division. Linkous has worked at MVNU since the fall of 1986, previously serving in Natural and Social Sciences, University Advancement and Admissions.

A colleague commented, "Betty is the person who made me want to work for MVNU. As a point of first contact for prospective employees, you couldn't ask for anyone better. She is friendly, remembers you from one visit to the next and shows off MVNU at its best!" Linkous resides in Mount Vernon with her husband Ralph. They have one daughter and three grandchildren.

Accounting Professor Philip K. Rickard was this year's recipient of the President's Award for Teaching Excellence. He has served at MVNU since 1996 in both the traditional and Excell degree programs. A student said, "Phil Rickard is awesome. His enthusiasm about the subject was great. I have always struggled to just slide by in all math-based



courses and he is the reason I was able to achieve a good grade. Professor Rickard is extremely knowledgeable, kind and always will to explain accounting concepts in great detail."

Rickard is a lifelong learner and plans to begin a juris doctorate at The Ohio State University in the near future to enhance the dimension of business law in the MVNU School of Business. He resides in Sunbury with his wife, Connie, and two sons, Brock and Nicholas.

Dr. Jim Dalton (right) was honored with Excell Faculty Member of the Year at the Excell Graduation Banquet. Now completing his 14th year at MVNU, he has chaired numerous crucial committees and assisted in the creation of the master of science in management program.



An Excell student had this to say: "Dr. Dalton is a dynamic instructor! He immediately puts everyone's fears to rest and showed us how the course would positively impact our professional lives." Another commented, "The man knows how to teach! He is awesome, knowledge, and passionate about assisting his students." Dalton resides in Powell, Ohio, with his wife, Deborah, and their two children, Jami and Jennifer.

FESTIVAL OF JOY SENIOR ADULT CELEBRATION

Thursday, August 26, 2004

Morning Speaker: Rev. Bob Huffaker

Rev. Huffaker is the senior pastor of Grove City Church of the Nazarene. He has a heart for church growth, and has spoken in many local church leadership conferences and at district functions.

Worship Music: Martha Reed Garvin

Martha Garvin has been a professional musician for over 30 years. She frequently performs for conventions and events around the Chicago area. She is also the host of a radio and television program called "Musical Memories."

Afternoon Entertainment: Kay DeKalb Smith

Kay DeKalb Smith will amuse audiences with "Celebrate Your Beautiful Feet." After receiving many delightful comments last year, Kay returns to make guests laugh with her stories and songs. Her goal in life is to make people happy.

To register, call 1-800-367-9294, or e-mail events@mvnu.edu

Cost: \$17

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