



# The Student Newsletter

A Publication of NATIONSUNIVERSITY®

*"The Mission of NationsUniversity is to build faith and to train Christian leaders around the world through affordable, accessible higher education using distance learning."*

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## Reflections of the Chancellor

### Mac Lynn, Chancellor

I have just returned from The National Jail and Prison Workshop. Although I have attended regional workshops, this was my first time to attend the national session. I met people from Alaska to Florida. Presenters spoke of working in county, state, federal, and international prisons. Sessions were dedicated to training prison workers, enlightening on prison structures, substance abuse, personal inhibitions, segregated situations, and a host of other related subjects. I was invited to address the topic, "Earn a College Degree in Prison."

The workshop experience always brings mixed emotions. First, I am grieved that so many men and women must be incarcerated. In the majority of cases, they are not in prison for righteousness sake, but for actions judged to be evil, senseless, or hurtful. Inmates include hardened criminals, but many are there simply because they committed a single senseless act.

Prison life can be difficult, demeaning, and dangerous. But perhaps the toughest part is not the time in prison, but having to adjust to life after prison. Offenders must start over with their families, with an occupation, and with friendships. In some instances, their families have disappeared. Old friendships are likely to lead them back to prison. And the job market is virtually closed to them. With no money, no family, no friends, and old addictions lingering, the future is anything but promising.

As bleak as the circumstances appear, there is hope. This hope comes through Christian people, who have a burden for those behind bars. Motivated by the love of Christ, they volunteer their evenings and weekends to teach and counsel behind prison walls. They are not there to draw a salary or to satisfy some obligation, but to share the love of their Savior. They have no goal other than to help others find the freedom that a relationship with God in Christ brings.

Thank God for people who seek the well-being of their fellow human beings with *unconditional* love.



## Willison departs from NU

After nearly ten years of service to NationsUniversity, Marcia Willison has resigned her position as Registrar. Her final day was June 11, 2010.

"It was a difficult decision to make," said Willison in May as she announced she would be leaving. "I have enjoyed my tenure with NU, and I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with you. Thank you for the support, guidance, and encouragement you have provided me during my time at NationsUniversity. I believe in what NU is doing and will continue to support it in whatever way possible. Even though I will miss my colleagues and the students, I am looking forward to this new challenge and to starting a new phase of my career."

Marcia has taken a position with the Tennessee Children's Home where her parents served for many years and is "really the only place that could lure me away from NationsUniversity." Though her departure has created a period of transition for our students, the remaining staff is committed to assisting students and answering any questions. We hope the transition will be seamless with no interruption in student services.

# Student Services News

## Marty Lynn, Director of Student Services

Knowledge is good, but there is a vast difference between knowledge (having the facts) and wisdom (application of those facts to life). We might dare to say that knowledge without wisdom is useless. The wise man, Solomon, left us a legacy of written wisdom in his writings commonly known as Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs.

Proverbs are short, concise statements that convey moral truth. They cover a wide range of topics including youth and discipline, family life, self control, wealth and poverty. They give practical suggestions for effective living. Although the Proverbs are general rather than absolute statements, a person who follows their advice will walk closely with God.

As you proceed through your academic program, you will have opportunity to gain more wisdom by paying close attention to all assigned scripture readings. Wisdom comes in two ways. It is a God-given gift and also the result of an energetic search. Throughout your study of wisdom literature, remember that knowing God is the key to wisdom (Proverbs 2:3-6).

As you complete your degree program at NU, you will no doubt have issues that you wish to explore with another person. Think of your advisor as one walking beside you as you gain knowledge and acquire wisdom.

When you write, remember to tell us who you are by including your username. If your question pertains to a specific course, please include the course number and name. With each reply, we attach a blessing and breathe a silent prayer for you.

## Special Information for Prison Students

### John Casteel, Director of Prison Enrollment

This month we have implemented a new way of reporting grades. Your grades are being sent to you along with a letter from me offering suggestions and advice. These letters and grade reports are scheduled to go out during the first week of each month. If you have turned in exams and do not hear from me by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the following month, please let me know. This is a work in progress so there will be some glitches.

We have all heard that an ex-offender with an education is less likely to offend again. In a sense this is true, yet there is so much more to this equation. We need a circle of family and friends. We must become members of a church family as well. Of course we will need a real job and we have to stay away from people who helped us get into trouble in the first place. The Catholic Church has a term for this, "A near occasion of sin." I like that term and I have borrowed it a lot. It means if you are an alcoholic, you do not go to work in a bar. You get the idea. Stay away from what brought you to prison in the first place.

NationsUniversity offers a great opportunity which you can seize while you are still inside looking out. I was able to earn both the Bachelor's and Master's Degree during my eight years in prison. My education opened doors for me that would have otherwise been closed. I won't lie and tell you it will be easy when you get out because you have a degree. It won't be. However, what you learn is a gift no one can take from you. The degree is a bonus blessing. So I urge you to pursue the academic program while you are inside and have time. You will be a better person and your life will be enriched by a closer relationship with our God.

Write to me if you have problems. While I may not be able to respond to every letter, I will be working behind the scenes to make sure you receive material and exams as needed.

John Casteel  
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### The Student Newsletter

A Publication of

**NATIONSUNIVERSITY®**

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Brentwood, TN 37024

[www.nationsu.org](http://www.nationsu.org)

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### Important note to students

If you are receiving this Newsletter by Post and are not incarcerated, we ask that you obtain an email address as soon as possible. Then contact us by email so that we can set you up with an Advisor who will assist you with your studies. [martyl@nationsu.org](mailto:martyl@nationsu.org)

# Graduates Since the Last Newsletter

## Certificate in Religious Studies

Terrance Simmons, United States  
 Robert Paul McNaspy, United States  
 Fidelis Ighodaro Aghedo-Samuel, Egypt  
 Mark Adam Tims, United States  
 Jonathan Michael Earnhart, United States  
 Daniel Folwell, United States  
 Angela J. Smith, United States  
 Christiana Odiye, Nigeria  
 Daniel Ervin Luchtman, United States  
 Ronald Johnson, United States  
 Victoria A. Voaden, United States  
 Guy Quam, United States  
 LaMont Robinson, United States  
 Jean Leon Assiene Nsem, Cameroon  
 Arthur Torrence McIlwane, United States  
 Edward C. Pullin, United States  
 Claudius Brown, Jamaica  
 Joel Parfait Ubawunwa Bonga, Cameroon  
 Ricky W. Turner, United States  
 Jambalo Sukadi, South Africa

## Associate in Religious Studies

James Back, United States  
 Greg Bell, United States  
 Billy Guy Anderson, United States  
 Alexander Maina Ikobe, Kenya  
 Lori Ann Williams, United States

## Diploma in Religious Studies

James Back, United States  
 Johnny D. Mabra, United States  
 Jorge Porras, United States

## Bachelor of Religious Studies

Ephantus Irungu Mukundi, Kenya  
 Mwenge Mufuzi, South Africa  
 Abraham Ayalew, Ethiopia  
 Hasson Tilliib Hawkins, United States

## Bachelor of Religious Studies

Natalia Cortes Lopez, United States  
 Earnest Jay Jordan, United States  
 Tina McDonald, United States  
 Stanley Harold Laurence, United States  
 Jorge Porras, United States  
 Charles Edward Scott, Jr., United States  
 Ikponmwosa Uwahen Odeh, Nigeria  
 Tabitha Manga, Cameroon  
 Breens Robinson Gichaba, Kenya  
 Keith David Harrier, United States  
 Frederick Pheiffer, United States  
 Monty J. Sharp, United States

## Master of Religious Studies

Eugene E. Onwukwe, Cameroon  
 B.Div., International Theological Seminary  
 Tibebe Endalmaw Ayalew, Ethiopia  
 B.A., Alpha Higher Institute of Distance Studies  
 Rudy Mario Lopez Santiago, Guatemala  
 Professor de Enseñanza Media  
 La Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala  
 Anonymous for Security Reasons  
 Leroy Kent Wheeler, United States  
 M.Ed., Wichita State University

## Master of Ministry

Alemu Tessema, Ethiopia  
 B.S., Asmara University  
 Abera Ayalew, Ethiopia  
 B.Ed., Bahir Dar University

## Master of Divinity

Jacob Alvin Brittell Sianungu, Zambia  
 M.R.S., NationsUniversity  
 Myles A. Calvin, United States  
 D.Min., American Christian College & Seminary

## News & Notes

### Name the newsletter!

We need your help! For 15 years, the quarterly newsletter has been simply called *The Student Newsletter*. It's time for a change!

NationsUniversity is searching for a special name for the quarterly student newsletter. We are asking students to submit names for consideration.

We will narrow the suggested list down to the finalists and allow students to vote for the one they like most.

If you would like to submit a name, please e-mail it to [administrator@nationsu.org](mailto:administrator@nationsu.org). Or, you can mail it to:

Kelli Bratton  
 PO Box 3342  
 Brentwood, TN 37024

The finalists will be announced on the NU website and in the September newsletter. Students will then have an opportunity to vote. Instructions for voting will be included with the list of finalists.

Votes will be taken through November 30, 2010 and the new name will be revealed in the final newsletter of the year.

Thank you for your participation! NU is looking forward to seeing your ideas!

### NU website gets a facelift

Since May, the NU tech team has spent hours working on our website.

"We're going for a fresh new look," said Kelli Bratton, NU administrator. "Though it is still a work in progress, we hope that those who visit the website will find it user friendly and appealing."

We encourage everyone who can to check it out and see the benefits of studying online!

[www.nationsu.org](http://www.nationsu.org)

## Current Enrollment

\* As of May 31, 2010

**Total Students: 4,240**

Male - 3,460  
 Female - 780

Undergraduate - 3,571  
 Graduate - 669

**Total Countries: 135**

### Top Ten Countries:

United States	1,256
South Africa	365
Iran	259
Ethiopia	251
Kenya	231
Nigeria	231
Cameroon	109
Malawi	85
Egypt	82
Brazil	81

# A Student's Story

## Dave Broos (Used with permission and edited for length)

My name is Dave Broos, and I enrolled in NationsUniversity in October, 2009. I was born in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia. My name may sound foreign to Indonesians because I am of mixed descent. My mother was of Dutch-Ambonese descent.

Although I was raised only by my mother, my life was not all bad. We lived with grandpa, grandma, and my mom's younger brother, a really cool uncle to me. All of that changed when grandpa passed away. My grandma moved back to the Netherlands, and my mom got married. I was ten years old and quite shocked at the way my stepfather tried to raise me. His values were very different from what I had experienced with my grandparents.

For example, my grandma never used negative words or negative ways when she wanted to discipline me. My stepfather did both. I was so confused and mad that I became rebellious. I was also disappointed and angry with my mother but did not know how to express my feelings.

Before my grandma left us, I was a good kid. I did not like violence, and I was always obedient at home and at school. After my mother's marriage was the turning point in my life. I entered the dark world because of my disappointment toward my parents.

At that time, I was persuaded to smoke, see pornographic pictures, pick fights with kids from neighboring schools, and even drink alcohol. I was only in fifth grade.

In my teenage years, I made friends with the wrong crowd, kids who had also been hurt by their parents. Religion was the most boring thing in my life. For middle school and high school, I went to Christian schools where there were daily and weekly devotionals. But, Godly things never crossed my mind. Why? Because I thought, "Why would I care about God when He only cares about nice families?"

Teenage delinquency soon turned into serious crimes when I joined a gang. I never thought I was able to do such violent acts or commit crimes, but that's what happened when I fell deeper into this dark world. Repeatedly, I had brushes with the law, I was locked up in suffocating jail cells, and I was admitted to the hospital after overdoses of illegal drugs or injuries sustained in gang-related fights.

My stepfather repeatedly threw me out of the house. My mother would usually look for me in the streets, but finally, even she became

very angry and threw me out as well. I was taken in my grandmother's sister, and I stayed there until I graduated from high school in 1988. College did not make me change. I was going at it with more intensity with my gang who was having a heated rivalry with another gang in our city.

In 1990, someone enrolled me in a Bible study course about the Gospel of John, and I began to understand what God wants. Even though my comprehension was hazy, I was too proud to ask anyone about matters related to spirituality. But God has his own ways.

On March 28, 1991, I went to a revival meeting, and I truly felt God's touch. I realized my need for a Savior and Lord, and I became a new creation in Christ. When I came to repentance, no one believed it, including my parents. There had been too many lies in my life, and no one was sure if my repentance would last. Because of the doubt surrounding me, I decided to move to another city and start a new life. In the city of Surabaya, I surrendered my life to serve the Lord full time. At first, the congregation had reservations, so I started my ministry as the church keeper. As their trust grew, so did my responsibilities and my training, and I was named youth pastor and held the position until 1994.

In 1998, I started a congregation and a social foundation in Surabaya. In 2000, the Lord revealed to me more about the practice of the early church. After this, I began changing the ways and practices of the church. The congregation moved from being 200 members who only sit and listen to sermons to disciples of Christ who long to be more like him and carry the burden of the Great Commission--no longer a one-man show but instead the whole body in action! Since that time, I have continued in church planting and sharing the gospel.

I married Novie Durant in 1999, and we are blessed with two children: Philip Broos and the late Regina Broos who passed away in April, 2005.

We recently moved to Bandung in the West Java Province and are starting a new work. Our heart is to spread the Good News, to make disciples in every nation and tribe, and to send them back into the world and plant churches.

God changed the "garbage" that was my life. He made me to be his child and his instrument.

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