

FALL 2019 Inside HIU

THE MAGAZINE OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
& NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



Paul H. Alexander, Ph.D. ('84, '88)
embraces his new calling as
HIU's Seventh President

WE ARE **HOPE**



InsideHIU

FALL 2019

- 4 President's Perspective
- 6 Addressing a Silent Epidemic
- 8 Hope for the Deaf
- 10 Urban "Inreach"
- 12 A Celebration 90 Years in the Making
- 14 Transitions: Dr. John Derry
- 16 Commencement Highlights
- 18 Faculty Spotlight
- 22 New President, Familiar Face
- 26 HIU Royals/NCC Sentinels Athletics
- 30 Alumni News & Notes
- 32 In Loving Memory
- 33 Beyond the Classroom
- 34 A Musical "MasterPeach"
- 35 HIU Golf Challenge
- 36 Our Faithful Donors
- 43 NCC Golf Challenge



6



12



16



26



43

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HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
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Hope International University is a regionally accredited Christian university founded in 1928 that integrates faith, service and learning. Through undergraduate, graduate, and online degree programs with faculty and staff dedicated to student success, our students experience a transformative educational experience and are prepared to make an impact with their lives. Our diverse student body represents over 35 states and 40 countries around the world.



President's

My journey to Hope International University came quite naturally. Having been around Hope interns and graduates throughout my childhood and adolescence, I saw in those students a joy and spark for life that I wanted, too. After a year of college in Tennessee, I transferred to PCC, and I've never really left.

HIU is my professional "home" and I am deeply passionate about it. It is where I met my wonderful wife,

To kick off the 2019-2020 academic year, I shared a chapel message entitled **"What is a Royal?"** I walked students through the Scripture verse from which our beloved Royals mascot comes, I Peter 2:9. "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

There are two keys to this passage. The first is the bedrock foundational truth that we are ALL called into the ministry of reconciliation. Equally important is the "so" in this passage. Whenever God does something, it is for a purpose. The reason He chooses us and sets us apart is so that we, in turn, will let others know who He is and what He has done. Our divine charge is to proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called us from darkness to light.

I love that an outline of a simple basin and towel is embedded into our University Seal. These symbols remind us of the time Jesus knelt and washed the feet of His disciples. It is my favorite part of the HIU seal as it captures the essence of who Christ Himself calls each of us to be: a servant leader, serving humbly and in very personal ways.

As students are integrated into our community of Hope, we do everything we can to help them become true

WE ARE ALL MINISTERS. BE IT IN OUR HOMES, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, OFFICES, OR ELSEWHERE, WE ARE ALL CALLED TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS.

Leslie, and where I learned about the Priesthood of All Believers. The third President of this great institution, Dr. Medford Jones, infused into our DNA the understanding that no matter what major we choose, we are all, in fact, a Royal Priesthood. We are all ministers. Be it in our homes, churches, schools, offices, or elsewhere, we are all called to proclaim the Good News.



servant leaders. We nurture, equip, and empower our students as they morph into alumni, serving in various locations around the globe, sharing the Love of Jesus, and making a difference for His sake. Through them, HIU's reach is truly worldwide.

Our culture needs us now more than ever. Churches and organizations of all kinds need our alumni to come and lead. This work that we do on our campuses and in our programs is laser focused so that our graduates leave HIU knowing who they are: a ROYAL, an adopted child of the King of Kings. We pray and believe that, as a direct result, they have become deeply passionate about and committed to making an eternal impact in the world for our Lord and His Kingdom.

For the past ninety-one years at HIU and seventy-five years at Nebraska Christian College, we have been proclaiming Jesus' love and grace to the world. Our graduates are spread around the globe in places we can name and in some that we cannot due to safety concerns. For generations, we have had the privilege of illuminating scripture and providing our students not just educational training, but also the transformative experience that unfolds when we turn our whole hearts to Him who has saved us.

This really is a remarkable University. Words cannot express what an honor it is to lead HIU into the future. It is my dream job, but more importantly it is

my calling. I will do everything I can to help us thrive. My hope for Hope is that when HIU turns 100, we are stronger

OUR STUDENTS GRADUATE KNOWING THEY ARE *ROYALS*—ADOPTED HEIRS OF THE KING OF KINGS.

than ever, reaching more people, more churches, more organizations than ever, proclaiming the excellencies of Him who has brought us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

If you are new to Hope International University, welcome to the family. If you are a long-time ministry partner, or a relatively new one, thank you for your faithful partnership. Your support makes what we do possible!

May God bless you and keep you as you continue to follow Him,

Paul H. Alexander, Ph.D.
University President

DEPRESSION & MINISTRY

ADDRESSING A SILENT EPIDEMIC

HIU's new President, **Dr. Paul Alexander**, has created a powerful, poignant workshop and video series for pastoral staff entitled "Depression & Ministry." The need to develop a curriculum and presentation for this topic had been on Dr. Alexander's heart, and he was compelled to action after the tragic suicide of a prominent local pastor last fall, thus creating this free resource for pastors and their ministry staff.

"The goal of this workshop and video series is to encourage pastors and give pastoral staff a voice to admit when help is needed," says Dr. Alexander. "We want to take away from the stigma that surrounds mental health, especially in pastoral careers. Because

6% of our population is dealing with depression, we also want to ensure that senior ministry staff understand what some of their church members may be going through."

"We're here to offer a safe space to bring awareness to this topic, as well as offer permission for pastoral staff to discuss any issues they may be having," states **Dr. Joe Grana**, Dean of HIU's College of Pacific Christian College of Ministry & Biblical Studies.

"There's never been a more important time for churches to address the subject of mental health and depression, and there is no one I know more capable of speaking to the subject matter than Dr. Paul Alexander of Hope International University," says **Gene Appel**, Senior Pastor at Eastside Christian Church. "He has spoken to our staff and many of our parents. Everyone has found his presentation tremendously informative and helpful." Dr. Alexander is a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and an Ordained Pastor in the Christian Churches/Church of Christ.

Currently, there is very little information regarding depression among professional clergy. Anonymous interaction during the presentation using Wooclap software will help collect data for furthering research studies on this enormously important issue.



MINISTERING TO MINISTERS

During the past 45 years of marriage and ministry, **Lee** (BS '72, MA '78) and **Loralee** (BS '72) **McClanathan** have experienced the good, the bad and the ugly of pastoral life. This includes depression, bitterness, burnout, health crises, and other challenges that are all too common for vocational ministers.

Over the course of his career in ministry, Lee has pastored growing churches in IL, CA & AR, helping people become devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Though Lee had retired, he is now back on staff at Northeast Christian Church in Rockford, IL, as a liaison for pastoral care and encouragement. He was formerly the church's lead pastor for 11 years.

Recently, Lee was invited to join Standing Stone Ministry to provide care for pastors and ministry leaders, their spouses, and families. "My vision and

desire is to help reduce the number of pastors who leave the ministry because of depression and burnout."

Pastor Lee says, "I can't think of a better way to bring my ministry days to an end, than to invest my life in pastors and ministry leaders through Standing Stone. After much prayer I'm convinced that I have been called to this vital ministry."



After battling stage four lung cancer in 2017, Lorelee is now cancer free and continues to mentor their two grown children and five grandchildren.



As **Dr. Wes Beavis** (MFT '12) began working toward his Marriage and Family Therapy degree, he studied issues that motivate people to seek therapy. Having served in church ministry for more than 20 years, Beavis knew firsthand that Christian ministers are not immune to those same issues.

"Pastors often feel like they should know all the answers and be 'good examples.' If pastors are struggling in their own lives, they can feel a sense of shame or guilt. As a consequence,

many church ministry leaders suffer in silence. As a pastor, I know I did," Beavis shares. "I struggled with many of the symptoms of ministry burnout."

His personal journey inspired Dr. Beavis to further research this important issue. He discovered that when ministers are suffering burnout, they tend to isolate themselves. They just don't want to be around people... which is a very real problem in the role of a pastor.

"One of the essential tips for the wellbeing of pastors is for them to recognize that isolation is an indicator that they are on a burnout trajectory. It is essential for pastors to talk to someone, but not just anyone," says Beavis. "Often burnout is the result of personal issues that have not been dealt with in a healthy way. A trained clinician can help a pastor effectively identify the root cause and reverse the burnout process."

"I firmly believe that we cannot adequately address the reality of pastoral mental health if we don't talk about it," he states emphatically.

Dr. Beavis recently published his findings in his book, *Let's Talk About Ministry Burnout*. He currently shares practical advice for ministry leaders in his private practice and via seminars called "Leading with Wellbeing," during which he presents his research on the six stages of ministry burnout with church and ministry leaders.

"Many of the skills that I employ in my clinical practice, I received from my training at HIU," Beavis says. "At every step of my journey, HIU staff and faculty supported me in the development of my specialization."

Wes and his wife, Ellie, each have private MFT practices in Newport Beach, California. They have raised two sons, David and Zack.



HOPE

For Every Deaf Person

HEARING THE CALL TO DEAF MINISTRY

Duane ('56) & **Peggy King** met when she was a sophomore in high school, and a "tall, handsome preacher from Nebraska Christian College" began a weekend ministry at her church. He left the church to travel with The Watchmen Quartet during her senior year in high school and, when he returned for a visit at Christmas, they had their first date. Peggy also decided to attend NCC and they married in 1961, after Duane became pastor of First Christian Church in Norfolk, NE. A few years later, they had two children, **Christine** ('85), who is now an HIU trustee, and **J.D.** ('90), who founded Deaf Child Hope International.

Neither of the Kings, founders of Deaf Missions, expected to become ministers with the deaf. Duane was happy in pastoral ministry, and Peggy, who had originally planned to be a kindergarten teacher, was very happy as a pastor's wife. They both expressed gratitude for their experiences at NCC, which contributed significantly to their openness to following God's unexpected call.

"NCC didn't prepare me to work with deaf people," said Duane. "NCC prepared me to work with all people."

Peggy said she learned how to teach children at NCC, which has served her well as a pastor's wife and in her work with Deaf Missions. "I learned how to give of oneself and follow the Lord – it inspired me for ministry," she recalled.

Their ministry was born when Duane met a deaf couple while delivering an anonymous cash gift to the tenants of one of his congregants. The husband and wife communicated to Duane that they didn't attend church because they couldn't really understand much of the service, so Duane started a service for the deaf on Sunday afternoons and learned sign language on the job, thus initiating the King family's lifelong ministry to deaf people.

The Central Church of Christ in Griswold, Iowa, invited King to serve as Pastor in 1968 and encouraged Duane and Peggy to minister at the nearby Iowa School for the Deaf. Later, the

couple also taught at the Nebraska School for the Deaf, and their ministry blossomed, leading to Duane's decision to minister to the deaf on a full-time basis. The Griswold church paid Duane's salary, while the Kings raised money to start Deaf Missions, whose first home was located in the finished basement of the King's house.

Peggy studied sign language formally, and began to sense the same strong calling that Duane did. Christ's Church for the Deaf was founded at the First Christian Church of Council Bluffs and Deaf Missions grew quickly and bought property adjoining the King's house, where the ministry is still based.

"We have learned so much," said Duane. "Deaf people rely so much on their eyesight that they want everything to be tangible – they want to be able to see everything. This sometimes makes it harder for them to grasp intangibles like salvation through faith."

A significant element of the Kings' calling is to meet the need for an ASL Bible, and they expect to have one completed next year. The Kings said that there are 70 million deaf people in the world and 400 sign languages, but there have never been complete Bibles translated into sign language. The American Sign Language (ASL) version of the Bible is a video recording of a skilled ASL interpreter, signing the Bible. It is much more effective with deaf people who are not skilled with English – which is the case with the majority of deaf people – than a printed Bible.

“Deaf people average a 4th grade reading level in English,” said Duane, “but their understanding of sign language is at a 12th grade level – most hearing people don’t understand how difficult it is to learn to read when you cannot hear.”

MODERN DAY MIRACLE

While the King family has experienced miracles in their ministry over the course of many decades, perhaps the most stunning miracle in their lives occurred when Peggy experienced a traumatic health crisis.

Peggy began to develop a different personality in early 2010, and her unwanted new life included panic attacks, severe pain, anger, and aggression. Her behavior included shoplifting, disappearing from home, lying, lethargy, and loss of her ability to play the piano. She was finally diagnosed with Frontal

Temporal Dementia (FTD), and the doctors believed her condition would deteriorate for the remainder of her life, which they hoped would be mercifully short.

Duane and Peggy moved into a retirement village that included care for those suffering from dementia, and Peggy was soon moved into a Memory Unit, which the devastated family believed would be permanent. She adjusted, made friends, joined the choir and a Bible study group and began to improve a little, but Duane was still overwhelmed. He said he finally told God that he didn’t like it, but that he would accept it.

“I said, ‘Now, will you please help me through it and be glorified in the process?’” Duane remembered.

Peggy then began to improve noticeably, even though she was taking no medication. Prior to a January 2011 visit with the doctor, Peggy sent the doctor a letter, explaining what had been happening, including a vacation with Duane over the holidays that included such ordinary, wonderful activities as cooking meals (during the worst of her illness, she couldn’t follow a recipe).

The very surprised doctor said that she had never seen a patient recover from FTD, and while she couldn’t present it to a scientific audience, it was evident that prayers had been answered. She told Peggy that she would be able to move back in with Duane and resume her life, and later called her recovery a “modern day miracle.”



The Kings may never know in this life, why they endured – and triumphed over – this experience, but they have several theories. God may have wanted to teach them more about faith or the power of prayer. Perhaps He wanted them to know how many people care for them, or how strong their family is. Probably the most intriguing theory is this: Duane had said for years that Deaf Missions should start a mini-Bible college for the deaf, but there was no space for it. When Duane and Peggy moved out of their home and into the retirement village, the space was redesigned to house students, and nearby space was converted into classrooms. Peggy said that they would probably still be in that house, if not for her illness.

“No one but God knows what our remaining days will hold,” Peggy wrote in *I Believe in Miracles*, a book she wrote with Duane about their healing experience. “He says, ‘Trust Me – haven’t I always been faithful?’ and I answer, ‘Yes, Lord, you have never failed me.’”

Duane and Peggy continue to serve, travel, and speak.





When PETE CONTRERAS ('88) and his wife, JULIE ('90) felt the call to urban ministry, there was no such term as "urban ministry." But New Vision Christian Fellowship, which they launched in 2008, has become a remarkably effective ministry to San Diego's most at-risk communities.

URBAN “INREACH”

CULTIVATING UNITY IN DIVERSITY THROUGH FAITH & CREATIVITY

Pete Contreras ('88) grew up in East Los Angeles, part of a Catholic family that went to church only on holidays. His parents were divorced when he was very young and he lived with his mother until a violent tragedy took the lives of his mother and younger brother. He then lived with his father in a community where gang activity was considered normal, but said that sports kept him out of gangs. He joined the high school varsity football team as a freshman, and served as team captain.

He first heard the gospel during the summer following high school graduation, when his friend invited him to church camp. Laughing, he admitted that he only accepted the invitation because he knew there would be girls at camp. While he was there, Pete reflects, “God ‘found’ me.”

“I went out into the woods one day, and told God he had 30 days to prove he was real,” he recalled. “That was my ‘sinner’s prayer,’ and when I got back home, I stopped drinking and using drugs and started reading the Bible. I really knew nothing about God!”

Contreras played football his freshman year at Whittier College, and found a Calvary Chapel in Los Angeles where he could learn, but said that he needed to learn more. The same friend who invited him to camp told him about Hope International University (then PCC), and he soon transferred.

Early in his college years, Pete realized that his calling was working with the poor in cities, and he lived and worked in a housing project in North Long Beach while going to school. He has deep appreciation for faculty members, including **Drs. Joe Grana** and **Paul McReynolds**, who helped guide his growth and learning, as well as for friends who shared the vision of serving the poor, including **Gayla Congdon** (BA '77, MA '89), co-founder of Amor Ministries.

“I knew that I was headed for ministry in an urban environment,” he remembered, “and that foundation was laid at HIU through the strong biblical education and missions/outreach experiences.”

Pete and **Julie** (Hedlund '90) married in 1989 and planted Community Christian Church in San Diego, where they ministered for seven years, the last three with Pete as Senior Pastor. They served the urban community in several capacities before launching New Vision Christian Fellowship in 2008 from their home. A grand total of 15 people attended their first service.



The tiny “congregation” grew fairly quickly, and Julie told Pete that she believed God would give them a building for free. That vision became reality when they began to rent space from a local Baptist church, which later evolved into a merger.

After several years, the building needed maintenance, the congregation was outgrowing the space, and Contreras felt that God wanted the church to diversify its efforts. As church leaders fasted and prayed, residential growth in the neighborhood prompted the City of San Diego to re-zone the property to allow for more housing, and the property was suddenly in high demand. A developer bought the property for \$35 million, and rented the space back to the

church for just \$100/year while the church searched for new property.

New Vision has grown into a remarkable multi-ethnic, multi-generational, multi-economic church, with an average attendance of 350, and is now a hub for more than 30 different ministries at multiple sites in San Diego's most at-risk communities. Those ministries include Hope House homeless teen shelter; youth ministries, children's ministries, a boxing ministry, education ministries in public schools, and Christian Urban Theatre (C.U.T.). The church has also planted 30 churches in Ethiopia.

“The gospel is integrated into all of our programs, including those for homeless, youth, seniors, education and counseling,” said Contreras. “New Vision serves the community holistically, addressing the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of people – body, soul, and spirit.”

This fall, the church will launch New Vision Urban Impact, a vocational training school, through its Community Development Association. The church plans to start a for-profit entity next Fall to benefit non-profit organizations, promoting economic development in urban areas.

Contreras and his congregation find great joy in the services they provide, seeing people thrive as God moves in real ways.

“I am excited about our church as a visual aid,” he said. “The world is so divided, but this vastly diverse church is unified.”

Pete challenges suburban churches to be prepared for urban ministry. As cities and communities change, what was once suburban becomes urban, so whether they are ready or not, “it's coming!”

SPIRIT OF HOPE | CONCERT & AWARDS GALA

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF FAITH, LEARNING, & SERVICE



Last Fall, Hope International University hosted nearly 500 alumni and friends in the Grand Ballroom of the Disneyland Hotel for a memorable evening of celebration, inspiration, and philanthropy. The University's annual signature event raised more than \$170,000 toward student scholarships, highlighting HIU's 90th Anniversary, and honoring individuals and organizations that embody and exemplify the "Spirit of Hope."

Two Spirit of Hope Awards were presented: to former University Presidents **Knofel Staton** and **LeRoy Lawson**. **Ashley** (BA '99) & **Jaime Wooldridge** (BA '99) both received the Distinguished Alumni Award for their service in ministry at Christ's Church of the Valley based in Peoria, AZ. Alumni **Gerry** (BA '14) and **Kristi Salmeron-Meneses** (BA '13), and **JC Lugo** (BA '13) were awarded HIU's Young Alumni Award.

In addition to the "State of the University Address" from then-President, **Dr. John**

Derry, guests enjoyed the musical performance of songwriter and recording artist **Tyrone Wells** (BA '98), who over his career has had over 60 million Spotify streams, 55,000 albums sold independently, and has had songs featured on American Idol, Grey's Anatomy, and One Tree Hill. Student speaker, **Alexio Gomes** (BA '19) shared of his personal testimony of how God has lead him and a group of his peers to start a grassroots outreach — which they call Messy Church — ministering weekly at a local homeless encampment. An "all-star" alumni worship team performed, and HIU's Praise Team concluded the evening with an inspirational finale.

A deep and sincere thank you goes out to all of HIU's faithful and generous supporters who make it possible for students to attend and earn their degree at Hope. The impact of your investment cannot truly be measured this side of eternity!



THE WOOLDRIDGE FAMILY MEETS MICKEY



CHRISTIAN ANDRES & THE ATWOOD FAMILY



DR. ALEXANDER & THE SALMERON-MENESES



ALEXIO GOMES



TYRONE WELLS & BAND



PRESIDENTS STATON, DERRY, & LAWSON

TRANSITIONS: DR. JOHN DERRY

LOOKING BACK...AND FORWARD

Having recently retired from his post as HIU's sixth President, **Dr. John Derry** has been named President Emeritus by the Hope International University Board of Trustees. Dr. Derry firmly believes that God uses our past to prepare us for the next place of service, and that will prove true in his retirement years as well.

"People often ask me, 'What will you do in retirement – got any hobbies?'" Derry states. "I'm moving to a country club community with golf courses, lakes, and pickleball," he laughs, "but my hobby will probably be service of some kind."

Derry's answer surprises no one who has watched him lead Hope

International University for the past 16 years. His position at HIU represents the longest leg of his career, but each segment of his professional journey has shared a common theme.

"Everywhere God has led me has been a turn-around situation," he reflects. "The Hope community was open to change and willing to sacrifice because of their dedication to the mission."

Along the way, there have been far more changes in higher education – including Christian higher education – than he could have possibly imagined, some of which have led to his greatest accomplishments.

Dr. Derry came into an institution that was struggling financially, and implemented a five-year turn-around strategy that included a list of 120 items he wanted to address for growth. The primary goal of the strategy was to build consistency into the culture and environment. Not long after the campus began working on the plan, the Great Recession hit, and hit hard. Derry notes that the higher education community continues to reel from the impact of those difficult years.

At one juncture, HIU's Board and Administration had been considering possible relocation opportunities, including sites in Brea, Corona, Temecula, and Tustin. Part of then-



Near the end of his tenure as HIU's sixth President, **DR. JOHN DERRY** delivered the keynote Commencement addresses at both Hope International University and Nebraska Christian College last May.

President Derry's strategy was to plan on parallel tracks: what would happen if the campus stayed in Fullerton, and what would happen if the campus relocated?

Building new student housing on campus was cost prohibitive, but a partnership with a student housing corporation changed the landscape of the existing campus, both literally and figuratively. The southeast corner of the campus is now adjacent to a mixed-use development that enhances available housing opportunities for HIU students and improves the aesthetic of the campus.

"It took a long time," Derry recalls. "God closed some other doors, but that project became the catalyst for staying in Fullerton."

He believes this is an exciting time in higher education, and says it's a vastly different world than when he entered college. Little did he know that he would spend more than fifty years in the higher education arena.

"There has never been a time when so many schools were closing," he says. "And six presidents of higher education institutions in Southern California are retiring shortly, which represents a major change."

Derry has contemplated, studied, and championed the idea that colleges and universities must learn to collaborate and consolidate, or "we will be victims of our own narrow-minded competition." He has dreamed of a unified system of Christian colleges and universities, and says that in the past several years, six different schools have approached HIU regarding possible mergers, and each opportunity was carefully considered. Nebraska Christian College met the criteria and merged with HIU in 2016.



That historic agreement is one of the most significant milestones of Dr. Derry's legacy, and could become the foundation of a unified system. He is excited about what will happen on the Nebraska campus, located just outside Omaha, in Papillion.

Derry highly values the consistency of his President's Cabinet, which worked closely with him for nearly a decade, and is very pleased that Dr. Paul Alexander, formerly Vice President for Academic Affairs, has become HIU's new President.

"Surround yourself with the right leadership, enjoy them, and pray with them," he advised President Alexander. "Financial and enrollment challenges will always be present, but commit to the long-term plan."

Dr. Derry also expressed his deep appreciation for members of HIU's Board of Trustees, past and present.

"They have a vision for the future," he comments, "and I am humbled by the honor of serving with them."

Dr. Derry is eager to see what God has planned for him in retirement, which he suspects will include consulting work in the areas of non-profit leadership and higher education with organizations such as the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the Center for Church Leadership, and the Association for Biblical Higher Education, among others.

He treasures his increased availability to spend more time with his grandchildren, who range in age from second grade to college-aged, and expresses deep gratitude and love for his wife, Jane.

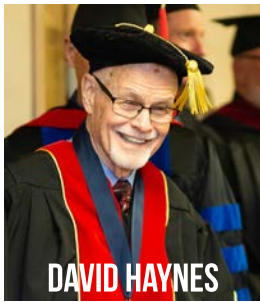
"She has partnered with and supported me faithfully wherever I've been called to serve," Derry says, "often sacrificing being close to our kids and grandkids."

"God directs our steps," Dr. Derry says, "and we see only in retrospect how He was fitting the pieces together all along the way."

NCC COMMENCEMENT

HONOR WHERE HONOR IS DUE

A full house of family and friends packed into the Ministry Equipping Center auditorium to celebrate and congratulate the Class of 2019. Graduates were challenged by an inspiring address from HIU's sixth President, **Dr. John Derry**. Academic and service awards were presented to deserving graduates.



An Honorary Doctorate Degree was bestowed on NCC's beloved Associate Professor of Preaching Ministry, **David Haynes**, to a rousing ovation. Dr. Haynes has been a faithful minister/scholar for nearly sixty years, becoming a regional and national influence through his ministries, seminars,

and teaching at Nebraska Christian College. His outstanding contributions to the church and the academy as a faithful and skilled preacher and teacher exemplify the ideal of servant leadership.

The inaugural Milliken Award for Christian Service was presented to Dr. Derry who retired this summer after 16 years of faithful service as University President. This new award was established by the NCC faculty in honor of one of the most significant families in the history of the college. The Millikens have produced two former presidents as well as several faculty members, students, alumni, donors, and friends.



HIU COMMENCEMENT



FROM HERE...TO ETERNITY

CLASS OF 2019 SETS HISTORIC MARK

Last Spring, Hope International University held its **107th Commencement Ceremony**, proudly conferring degrees on the largest graduating class in HIU's 90-year history. The class of 2019 includes 407 undergraduate and graduate degrees (combined), 31 Hispanic Ministry Certificates, and 102 ESL Diplomas. In all, 540 students successfully completed their chosen courses of study. Drawn from a global student body of nearly 4,000 students representing 42 states and 16 countries, these graduates now join more than 14,000 alumni who carry HIU's legacy of exceptional servant leadership to locations around the globe.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



In addition to his faculty position at HIU, **DR. JOSEPH CHO** directs the Korean American Elders Choir with members from 60 Los Angeles churches, and is the Music Pastor of Sa-Rang Community Church in Los Angeles, the largest Korean church outside of Korea.

He is also Musical Director for the Aioneo Christian orchestra, which consists of professional Christian musicians around the Orange County area.

Dr. Joseph Sung Hwan Cho was born in Korea to a Buddhist family, and never even heard the name of Jesus. His exceptional vocal talent as a boy soprano set him on course for a global education at the age of nine when he was invited to join the World Vision Children's Choir. While traveling in the choir, he appeared on the CBS show, "One to One" with Julie Andrews.

From fifth grade through middle school, as part of the touring choir, he experienced twice-daily prayer with the group. It wasn't until later, when he encountered the Youth With a Mission (YWAM) organization, that he made his own profession of faith.

The generosity of an American Christian sponsor enabled Cho to come to the United States, where he earned his Master's degree from UCLA, followed by a Doctor of Music Arts degree at USC. While he was working on his doctorate and living in East Los Angeles, a Pacific Christian College student who was struggling with music theory was referred to Cho's wife, Sung-Wan, a respected musician and educator. The student asked Dr. Cho to give her private voice lessons. When her PCC instructors noticed her improved vocal performance, they learned about her new teacher, which led Cho to a part-time instructor position. He became a full-time faculty member a year later, in 1995.

Cho thanks God for giving him opportunities to learn new ways of teaching. Sometimes, just teaching someone how to sing is not sufficient to maximize the education experience, as he found when one of his first students seemed to be blocked by something every time he sang. One day, Cho stopped the student's lesson and asked him to talk; as the student shared his life story, the teacher began to see what was behind the student's inability to perform.

"Every lesson after that was different," he remembered. "Those kinds of improvements pay off every day."

THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF MUSIC

Dr. Cho enjoys seeing the progress of HIU students and alumni, whether they bring him to tears with their musical passion or whether they have followed God's call into music/worship ministry.

The decreasing attraction to classical music, which is foundational to all musical styles and genres, is a growing challenge for music educators. However, Cho believes that there is an upside to teaching students who do not have a background in classical music.

"They are freer in their thinking, more creative," Dr. Cho comments, adding, "Of course, it is ideal if students can

receive the benefits of both classical and contemporary training along the way."

Cho is very aware that alumni of the Music & Worship Arts Department are far greater than the sum of their respective talents. He recalls one outstanding vocalist who went to Africa to work with children orphaned by AIDS, and then returned to the United States to teach at a Christian school. Cho was worried that she was wasting her talent and working for little pay.

"When she said, 'I don't care how much I get paid – God has called me to serve,'" Cho reflects, "I was suddenly

so proud that we had produced that kind of student from our department."

He is grateful to those who have invested in the work of the HIU Music Department, noting a recent significant donation to the University from **Richard & Annette Atwood**, a gift that was largely motivated by the Atwood's deep appreciation for the education, experience, and supportive community that their son, **James** ('18), received as an HIU student.

"Dr. Cho has been a mentor to our son," said Richard Atwood. "He has a genuine faith and love, and demands that students take responsibility for their faith and talent."

"Teaching is a way for me to pay forward the grace that God has shown me," – DR. JOSEPH CHO



FOCUS ON FACULTY

ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Samuel Baney, M.A., (Marriage & Family Therapy) had the privilege of representing HIU

last March by presenting at the International Family Therapy Association International Congress in Aberdeen, Scotland. The research looked at the effects of burnout as related to the marriage relationships of those serving in various ministerial positions within the church. Samuel has also been working with several churches, offering training related to crisis and mental health issues, equipping their staffs to better care for the people they serve.



Elizabeth M. Cooper, MAOM, (Business & Management) will be leading a volunteer

team of authors to write a manuscript on the American Heart Association's Lay Stakeholders in Science and Research Initiative. This paper will describe how the Lay Stakeholder in Science and Research Initiative's best practices of including non-scientists (patients, caregivers, health advocates) has developed and continues to develop as a

valuable strategy for evaluating research applications and science guidelines.



Robin Felix, Psy.D. (Psychology and Counseling) successfully defended her dissertation

entitled "Military Couples' Lived Experiences With Mild Traumatic Brain Injury" in May of 2019. Dr. Felix also successfully completed her Doctor of Psychology degree in Marital and Family Therapy at Alliant International University.



Joseph Grana, D.Min., (Dean, Ministry & Biblical Studies) concluded almost one

year as Interim Teaching Pastor at First Christian Church, Downey, California. He has been assisting with President Alexander's "Depression & Ministry" seminars (see page 6). By October 30 approximately 1,200 pastors and staff will have attended. Joe has announced his retirement as Dean and professor effective June 1, 2020, but will continue to serve HIU as liaison with our churches.



David Haynes, D.D. (Ministry & Biblical Studies) was awarded an honorary Doctorate of

Divinity degree from HIU (see page 16). He has preached at a number of churches in recent months, including: Kingsway Christian Church in Omaha, NE; Journey Church in Wayne, NE; First Christian in Norfolk, NE; Christian Church Trumbull, NE; Church of Christ Carroll, IA; and in Red Oak, IA, where he has been an interim preacher. Haynes spoke at the funerals of two of Omaha's leading citizens, Bill and Lee Sapp (see page 32). Haynes was also the keynote speaker at NCC's Senior Banquet last May.



Wm. Curtis Holtzen, D.Th. (Ministry & Biblical Studies) completed his book *The God*

Who Trusts: A Relational Theology of Divine Faith, Hope, and Love (IVP Academic, December 2019). He also published the essay "So You Are Calling God a Liar?" An Unbiased Comparison of Springfield's War over Science and Religion" in the long awaited book, *The Simpsons' Beloved Springfield:*

Essays on the TV Series and Town That Are Part of Us All (McFarland, August 2019). He published a review of the book *The Philosophy of Trust* for the journal *Philosophy in Review* (Vol. 39, No. 3, 2019). In July he participated in the multi-denominational conference "Reconciling Evolution" held at BYU. He continues active membership in the American Academy of Religion, Wesleyan Philosophical Society, and the Society of Christian Philosophers.



Lydia R. Knopf, Ph.D., (Chair, Business & Management) was a special guest workshop

presenter on the topic of "Strategic Leadership" for the Student Leadership Institute of Santiago Canyon College in March.



Mark S. Krause, Ph.D., (Ministry & Biblical Studies) spoke for the Christian Heritage

Conference at Camp Winema over Memorial Day Weekend on the topic of discipleship. Dr. Krause shared the program with his brother, Bill Krause, who is



Nebraska Christian College is pleased to introduce our new Director for the Ministry Honors Program (MHP), **Dustin Fulton**. Dustin's responsibilities include oversight of the Institute for Church Leadership events, and the placement and support of NCC's fourth-year residency students. Also, as an Assistant Professor, he will teach courses associated with the MHP.

Fulton has recently been involved as the lead for a church plant in west Omaha, Restore Community Church. Prior to that, he served as Lead Pastor of the Jefferson Street Christian Church in Lincoln, IL. He is a graduate of the Lincoln Christian University seminary with a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. Welcome, Dustin!

an adjunct faculty member for Nebraska Christian College. Dr. Krause also wrote the verse-by-verse commentary for six lessons for the Standard Lesson Commentary, a publication of David C. Cook. These lessons will be published fall 2021. Dr. Krause has written more than 200 lessons for this publication over the last 25 years.



Jacqueline Mack-Harris, Psy. D., (Psychology and Counseling) and De Angela Smith, MFT

Graduate Student, presented: "What is the lived experience of 3rd culture kids (TCK) and how does the experience of being a TKC influence one's attachment in relationships?" Robin Felix, Psy. D., and the following MFT Graduate students have assisted in the research and development of this presentation: Aysin Koca, Amanda Rippee, and Samuel Semanda.



Mitchell Pohl, M.A., (Marriage & Family Therapy) journeyed with other HIU staff and students to the 2019 World

Family Therapy Conference to present their research, entitled, "How the Positive Functioning of the Spousal System Affects Burnout Rates Amongst Licensed and Vocational Ministers within a Church Setting." This research studied the potential correlation between spousal support and rates of burnout amongst those actively serving in ministry, with the hope that this research could both help raise awareness about the reality of ministerial burnout, as well as provide potential solutions within ministers' primary support systems for symptoms of burnout.



Robb Ring, M.A., D.Min., (Psychology and Counseling) had his article on "Congregational Colloquy" published in the Eastertide 2019 edition of the peer-reviewed theological journal, LOGIA.



William Thornton, M. Min., (Ministry & Biblical Studies) completed a five-month interim ministry with the Kingsway Christian Church in

Omaha, Nebraska on May 31. He has been invited to preach at: CrossBridge Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Lincoln, NE; F Street Neighborhood Church (CRC & RCA), Lincoln, NE; Auburn, NE Christian Church; First Mennonite Church, Lincoln, NE; Risen Son Christian Village, Council Bluffs, IA; Westwood Community Church (RCA), Omaha, NE; Westwood Hills Church (UCC), Omaha, NE; Journey Christian Church, Wayne, NE.



Denise Wallace, Ph.D., (Chair, Psychology and Counseling) taught a three week course

entitled "Practicing Presence" at Parkcrest Christian Church in Long Beach, CA. The course explored classical spiritual disciplines and other techniques for attending to and engaging God's presence. *(See more at bottom of this page.)*



Solomon Wang, Ph.D., (Psychology and Counseling) and three undergraduate students presented at the National Council of Family Relations (NCFR). Wang and HIU Alumni,

Jovana Milosevic and Jasmine Hyacinth presented at the Annual International Association for Psychological Studies (CAPS) conference in Irving, Texas.



Teresa Wilcox, LMFT, (Psychology and Counseling) and Maggie Yousef, MFT

Graduate Student, presented on "Evidence-Based Faith Positive Therapy; Comparisons of Implicit and Explicit Faith Interventions." Faculty member Heather Silva, M.A., and the following students assisted with the research and development of this presentation: Annabelle Blakey, Jessica Cornea, Heather Frankos, Miriam Mendez-Parra, and Priscilla Roach.



Andrew Wood, D. Min., (Ministry & Biblical Studies) led a group of students on a mission trip to

Guatemala in March – see page 29. He also began an interim preaching ministry at Trumbull Christian Church, Trumbull, NE.



This year, **Dr. Denise Wallace**, Associate Professor of Psychology and Counseling, received the the Rose B. and Edgar B. McReynolds Faculty Excellence Award. Students who nominated Dr. Wallace shared how much they thoroughly enjoy her lectures, citing how they often wished her classes could be extended to allow Dr. Wallace to go into more into depth about the course topics.

"Dr. Wallace is an outstanding faculty member committed to finding creative and innovative ways to engage students in the learning process. She is dedicated to the students and committed to empowering students to pursue their own passions," said Dr. Laura Steele, HIU's Dean of the College of Psychology and Counseling.





Dr. Paul Alexander
embraces his new role as
HIU's Seventh President >>>



OUR SEVENTH PRESIDENT

PAUL H. ALEXANDER, PH.D.

HIU ALUMNUS NOW LEADS THE MARCH TOWARD THE UNIVERSITY'S CENTENNIAL

In retrospect, **Dr. Paul Alexander's** ('84, '88) entire life has been preparing him for his new role as Hope International University's seventh President, though he wasn't always aware of it. He was well into his career in academic leadership when then-President **Dr. Leroy Lawson** asked if Dr. Alexander ever envisioned himself becoming a college president one day.

"I needed to ask myself the question, 'Is this for me?'" said Alexander. "And while I had no specific plans, I began to feel a calling in that direction and began to pray for leadership opportunities." Six years ago, he went through Harvard University's Institutional Education Management certificate program to cultivate the seed that Lawson had planted years prior.

His calling took a definable shape after President Emeritus **Dr. John Derry** announced his planned retirement late last year, and Dr. Alexander felt led to pursue the position. When HIU's Board of Trustees announced their appointment of Dr. Alexander as Dr. Derry's successor, he accepted with humility and gratitude, as well as deep respect and appreciation for his predecessor.

"I am so indebted to John Derry," said Alexander. "His support and graciousness have made the transition very smooth."

Some new presidents step into their office determined to create an entirely new legacy, even at the expense of their predecessors' work. By contrast, Dr. Alexander's vision is to build upon and strengthen HIU's enduring mission, the foundation of the University's ninety-one years of legacy-building.

For Dr. Alexander, mission drives everything, and it's what gets him out of bed every

ANSWERING THE CALL

morning. “This University will hold fast and true to our mission, serving the church and serving the world for Christ.”

President Alexander looks forward to helping churches thrive, seeing students launch well, helping the University become more widely known, and helping the Nebraska campus grow and prosper – all goals that are firmly grounded in the University’s mission.

“I would love for us to triple our number of ministry students, and to be on the cutting edge of a national Christian University system,” he said. “I’d also like to add new programs each year and to seriously investigate the possibility of adding doctoral degrees.”

As President Alexander leads the University towards its centennial, he envisions how HIU might look in 2028 and has several ambitious goals to fulfill those dreams:

- *Prepare more pastors for churches of all sizes, especially within the Restoration movement, through excellent preparation*
- *Become well-known for producing exceptional servant leaders from each of HIU’s five Colleges*
- *To take the lead in cooperative partnerships with other colleges, building on President Emeritus John Derry’s pioneering leadership, which was central to the 2016 merger with Nebraska Christian College*

Formerly HIU’s Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Alexander is excited about growth potential in the areas of Psychology and Education and

is very proud of how the University has partnered with AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination). AVID programs in local schools help pave the pathway to higher education for students whose families generally have lower rates of college attendance.

“I was speaking locally about HIU’s partnership with AVID, and a teacher from a local junior high school approached me,” Alexander recalls. “He said, ‘HIU is giving some of my students their only hope!’”

Dr. Alexander is the first alumnus to become HIU’s President. His personal experience and history at HIU give him a unique perspective, and he loves to hear from fellow alumni and laud their accomplishments. President Alexander plans to develop regional alumni networks to facilitate connections and deepen relationships.

All big jobs come with big challenges, and Alexander notes that limited financial resources and long-term sustainability are the top two.

“We have to manage those challenges while keeping education affordable for students, many of whom represent the first generation of college students in their families,” he said.

“Students usually don’t meet or even consider the hundreds of donors who give to support their education,” he explained. “In my case, my parents paid for part of it and I paid for part of it, but much of it was paid by people I didn’t even know – I want our alumni and friends to experience the blessing of being part of that ‘much,’ paying it forward for future generations.

“We are always in the process of making new friends, which is a good starting point with prospective donors,” President Alexander continued. “I will be an active partner with our Institutional Advancement staff, helping to convey how seriously we take stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

“I want to help people leave their mark, and I firmly believe there is no better investment than future leaders. Who wouldn’t want to give to that? We just need to keep ringing the bell, reminding people of the significance of what we are doing here.”



*Paul Alexander has been married for 30 years to **Leslie** (Bosanko '84), who teaches middle school. They are active members of Eastside Christian Church in Anaheim. Their daughter, **Kelsey**, is pursuing her Ph.D. in Chemistry at University of California San Diego/Scripps and their son, **Cole** ('17), is a recent HIU graduate.*



ROYALS RECAP

2018-2019 HIGHLIGHTS, HONORS, & ACHIEVEMENTS

Our outstanding HIU Royals teams and athletes posted a historic year of bests and firsts!
(For more, visit hiuroyals.com.)

WOMEN'S SOCCER was seeded fourth in the GSAC and made an incredible run through the tournament to win in the final against Westmont. The Royals advanced to the NAIA Opening Round against #8 Embry Riddle in Prescott, Arizona and fell in overtime 2-3. This was a historic season for the Royals marking the farthest the women's soccer team has gone in the postseason. Captains Leigha Williams (JR/Fountain Valley, CA) and Jazzmyan Esquivel (SR/Hacienda Heights, CA) were named to the **All-American** team. Esquivel also

broke the all-time career goals record, and was named HIU Female Co-Athlete of the Year.

MEN'S SOCCER: Two Royals were honored as **All-Conference**, Kyle Pizano (SR/Lake Forest, CA) and Omar Morales (JR/Santa Ana, CA).

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: Jalyssa Sanchez (FR/Whittier, CA) was honored by the **GSAC as Freshman of the Year**.

CROSS COUNTRY: Daphne Solomon was named All-Conference for her performance at the Cross Country GSAC Championships. Joe Tobin (JR/Brea, CA) broke his own school record and took the Royals the farthest we've ever gone – to our first Cross Country NAIA Championships.

BASKETBALL: Sophomore Josh Powell-Davis (SO/Oakland, CA) was named **All-American** for his breakout season.

TENNIS: The Royals Tennis program continues to grow and thrive under head coach Mike Longanecker. The men's team was nationally ranked most of the year under the leadership of **GSAC Player of the Year** and **All-American** Kyle Rae (SR/Corby, UK) as well as GSAC Newcomer of the Year Tanishq Mahendru (FR).

GOLF: New Head Coach Dan Mulville brought fresh energy and a focused approach. Both men and women competed in the GSAC tournament with the men finishing 6th and the women finishing 2nd.

Within hours of each other, our Softball team won its second consecutive GSAC Tournament Championship; and Baseball, which has played in the title game three years running, defeated William Jessup to capture its first GSAC Tournament Championship in team history. Dual GSAC Championships for Baseball and Softball this year was an incredible experience for all HIU Royals – athletes and fans alike!



FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR, HIU'S **JOHN TUREK** WAS NAMED **GSAC ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR**

Capping another banner year for Royals Baseball, two athletes were drafted by Major League Baseball teams: relief pitcher Shaine McNeely (New York Yankees) and starting pitcher Justin Friedman (Chicago White Sox). This marks the first time two HIU athletes have been drafted in the same year, and the first time a pitcher has been drafted from our program.



MEN'S VOLLEYBALL returned to the postseason in 2019, posting its best record to date under Coach Henry Valiente Jr. Three players received **All-Conference** honors: Daniel Bilinski (SR/Placentia, CA), Nicolas Bilinski (SR/Placentia, CA), and Chase Larson (JR/Henderson, NV).

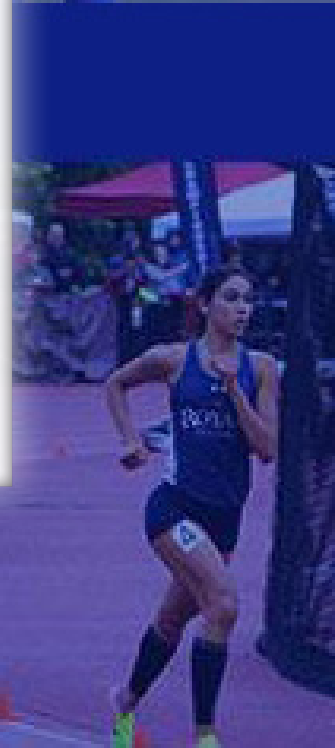
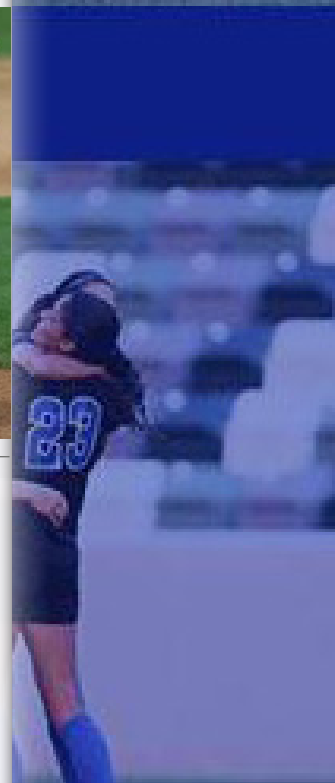
BASEBALL'S bid to the NAIA opening round landed them in Montgomery, Alabama, where they fought through the losers bracket playing 5 games in 50 hours, facing Faulkner University in the final game. They ended their run in the national tournament ranked #25. Founding member of the Royals baseball program, Dominic Potlongo (SR/Placentia,

CA), finished his four years at Hope with a bang, throwing the program's first complete game no-hitter. Potlogno was named **GSAC Pitcher of the Year**, earning **Gold Glove** and **All-GSAC** honors, as well as being named **All-American** with his teammate Juan Gonzalez (JR).

SOFTBALL built on its incredible momentum from the previous season under the guidance of coach Dennis Blas and mirrored the men's team with their run through the Southern Oregon Bracket of the NAIA Opening Round in Medford, Oregon. Our Royals lost in the final to the Southern University Oregon Raiders who went on to win the World Series.

Senior and Utility Player Anessa Cepeda (SR/Long Beach, CA) was honored as an **All-American** and along with Bree Maikai (SR/Oak Hills, CA), Melanie Okazaki (JR/Cerritos, CA), Taylor Pierce (SR/Norwalk, CA) and Jamie Ponce (SO/Escondido, CA) made up the Royals **All-GSAC** team. The Royals finished their unprecedented season ranked #11 in the nation.

TRACK (DISTANCE): Joe Tobin not only qualified to compete in the National Championship Cross Country meet in Iowa, but also in the Marathon at the NAIA Track and Field Championships in Alabama, finishing 27th in the nation.



ROYALS

STANDOUT STUDENT ATHLETE **LEIGHA WILLIAMS**

Current Vice President of HIU's Student Government Association, **Leigha Williams**, is a born leader. Last year, as the only non-senior captain on the HIU Royals Women's Soccer team, and holding one of the highest cumulative GPAs of any student athlete (3.85), Leigha was honored by the Golden State Athletic Conference for her stellar scholarship, character, and citizenship.



Leigha's presence on the field makes a tremendous difference for her team, which went as far as it has ever gone last season, largely due to Leigha's playing ability and the culture she helped shape on and off the pitch. Williams leads spiritual small groups with her teammates as well as weekly study groups to help herself and others boost their schoolwork. She participated in the Human to Human club, focused on making sandwiches for the homeless, and has been active in the Fellowship for Christian Athletes.

Leigha has given back to her favorite sport by contributing to NHB Academy Nights at Hope View School where she taught and demonstrated soccer skills and drills, facilitated a 7-week soccer training for 8-9 year-old boys, modeled sportsmanship, and assisted and collaborated with coaches.

Williams is a teacher's assistant at Carrillo Elementary where she works with disabled students, assisting with school work, teaching math, helping with crafts and serving as a mentor and motivator. She has been active with **Night to Shine**, an unforgettable Prom Night founded for the special needs community.

As a soccer captain again this season, Leigha's soccer team will continue to be lifted up by her indomitable spirit and the incredible work ethic and attitude that has made Williams such a special athlete, teammate, friend, and human.

SENTINELS



STANDOUT STUDENT ATHLETE **KAYLA BLOODWORTH**

As a 2-year captain, **Kayla Bloodworth's** leadership extended far beyond the basketball court. Bloodworth has a heart for ministry and kids and interned with the children's ministry at a local church. She also led a group of students on campus, creating a place that encouraged and challenged them in their walk with Christ.

The NCCAA awarded Kayla the 2019 Kathy Freese Award, the highest honor for Division I Women's Basketball. A 2-time NCCAA Scholar-Athlete (2018 &

2019), Bloodworth was also a member of NCC's 2018 NCCAA Scholar Team, as well as NCC's Female Athlete of the Year.

"Kayla is one of the first people to encourage her teammates when they are down," said her NCC Head Coach, Jenna Bloodworth. "She is always willing to go the extra mile to serve her team even if she receives no credit. She is a great representation of Nebraska Christian College, the NCCAA, and what it means to be a Christian student-athlete."

Behind the Shield

An inside look at the Sentinels



TEAM GUATAMALA



For the past six years, Nebraska Christian College has been nurturing a relationship with the Prince of Peace church in Guatemala, sending a team of students and staff every year over that span. The teams support the local Guatemalan ministries, and share the love of Christ with those they meet along the way. One NCC alum even relocated there as a full-time missionary.

Dr. Andrew Wood, who led the trip this year, explained how the groups have partnered with

the church and schools in the area, providing food for students and praying with students and teachers, answering questions about what it means to follow Jesus. He considers it a great privilege for NCC teams be able to work alongside the thriving Guatemalan church to establish a sustainable ministry.

"I am deeply impressed with the Guatemalan Christian Church, how they are reaching their community and even sending out missionaries to Argentina."

For freshman Sentinels Men's Soccer player **Dakota Fox** (*back row, fourth from right*), this was his first mission experience, first time out of the country, and even first time flying. Dakota remembers the feeling as his team landed and left the airport, seeing dozens of locals standing outside the airport to watch as foreigners arrived. As the team loaded up in the bus and began driving through Guatemala, Dakota was trying to absorb as much of the Guatemalan culture as he could.

Dakota recounted some of his highlights from the Guatemala trip, sharing stories about the people that he met. One particular little school boy stood out to him. The team visited his school and brought pizza for the students. This little boy clung to Dakota from the moment he got there until it was time to leave. They talked, played, laughed and prayed together. When Dakota left, he felt something in his pocket; the little boy had snuck his bracelet into Dakota's pocket

without Dakota knowing. Dakota was overwhelmed, knowing how little the boy had, and yet he gave Dakota one of his few possessions.

The experience reminded Dakota that when you serve and love others, often you may experience much more love in return from the people you are serving than you could ever offer to them. He said he learned, "Let God do what He's going to do, and He will lead you in the ways that He has for you. He will put the right people in your path. And remember, it's no accident that you're interacting with the people you meet."

This year, NCC students served on mission trips to Guatemala, Houston and Omaha. Please continue to pray for our students as they serve in their communities and around the world, sharing the gospel and making an impact for Christ.

AS DIVISION I REGIONAL CHAMPIONS, THE SENTINELS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ADVANCED TO THE NCCAA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT.



ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

[HIU in blue • NCC in red]

>>> 1960's

Evelyn (Day/BA '67) and Ralph (former HIU faculty) **Swearngin** are retired and living in Perry, GA. The Swearngins will celebrate 51 years of marriage this year. Evelyn and Ralph have 2 children and 4 grandchildren who live in the Atlanta, GA area. Ralph serves as a trustee of Point University, formerly Atlanta Christian College in Georgia.

>>> 1970's

Teresa Dobson (BS '76) is retired and enjoying the good life in northern Idaho.

Gary Fast (BA '77) is in his 30th year as a Director with Seattle's Union Gospel Mission. Gary and his wife Margaret celebrated 40 years of marriage in 2018. They live in Everett, WA, have four children and nine grandchildren, and are long-time members of New Life Foursquare Church in Everett.

Paul Leavens (BS '70) has been the minister at Lindsay Christian Church, Lindsay, CA for the last 30 years.

>>> 1980's



Brad Dupray (BA '83) celebrated his 20th anniversary at CDF Capital on February 20, 2019. Brad is a Timothy of Knott Avenue Christian Church and began his career with CDF in 1989. He has been instrumental in providing financing and investment opportunities to HIU on many occasions.

Dustin Parker (FS '86) was elected to the position of Regional Vice President of the Pacific Southwest District of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, meaning Dustin will serve to equip and help pastors and churches as well as serve on the District's Board of Directors. Dustin and Kay celebrated 30 years of marriage this summer. They have a 12-year-old son.



Marco Sassoon (BA '88) is the Senior Pastor at Westwood Hills Christian Church. Marco's daughter, Noel, graduated from high school in June and is now enjoying her freshman year in college.

Wendy (Stephens/'89) Vallier attended HIU under a GI bill before transferring to Cal State Fullerton. She has been a teacher in the Garden Grove School District for 20 years and has two daughters, ages 26 and 24.

>>> 1990's

Ethan (BA '90) and Tiffany (Larsen/ BA '91) Halliday are living in the greater Los Angeles area. They have raised three awesome adult children.

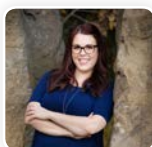
Diana Miller (AA '99) is raising her 2 amazing boys, Chris 16 and Camden 8 in Phoenix, Arizona where she is a middle school teacher. Soon Diana will be starting her 2nd Master's Degree in Educational Leadership at Grand Canyon University so she can get her Administrator's Certificate. She is actively involved at Central Christian Church, Arizona, and serves in the Women's Ministry as the Coordinator for the campus in Ahwatukee.

Steve Naslund (BS '99, MBA, '01) retired after 39 years in the financial services industry at the end of 2018. Steve spent the last 18 years working with ministry leaders across the country regarding treasury issues, real estate and construction needs; at one point he even handled the banking needs of HIU. Steve is continuing in the role of adjunct faculty at HIU, which he has done for the past 18 years. He is looking forward to having more time to partner with ministry leaders, visiting with his son, who is in his first year of college, and supporting his wife who has been an elementary school teacher for over 30 years.

Todd (BA '91) and Sarah (Brazier/ BA '93) Randall adopted a sibling set of 2 and another sibling set of 4, bringing the Randall crew of kids to a total of 11. The Randalls are now in their 15th year of homeschooling.

>>> 2000's

Abigail Crandall (Rhoads/AA '06) is the Regional Operations Manager at the Kansas Department of Commerce. Abigail and husband Jacob live in Hays, Kansas.



Lani (Smith/ BA '09) Forbes' first of a three book deal with Blackstone Publishing is scheduled to be released in February of 2020. The book is a historical fantasy for young adults.

Dale (MA '09) and Diana (Bea/ BA '79) Lawrence celebrated 28 years on the mission field in August 2019. Since founding Arizona Reservation Ministries in 2002, 35 homes

for the homeless have been built, 100+ have been baptized, and countless members of the Navajo, White Mountain Apache and San Carlos Apache Nations have been changed as well in this grand adventure...as have the Lawrences!

Jennifer McClintock (BA '08) worked as a pre-school teacher at Calvary Chapel Christian School in Downey, CA for 7 years before moving to the elementary office where she is blessed with the opportunity to serve the students, parents, teachers and administration on a daily basis. Jennifer has 2 beautiful daughters that both attend CCCS as well.

Melanie (Dalfior/BS '01, MED '05) Oliver met her husband Sean at HIU and they married in 1990. Since then Melanie received two degrees from HIU and has gone on to have an exemplary career in education. She spent 15 years with the Corona-Norco Unified School District, 13 at the same elementary school she attended as a child, teaching 2nd grade. In 2016 she was selected as CNUSD and Riverside County Teacher of the Year before becoming a semi-finalist for CA Teacher of the Year (top 16 teacher of 350,000 teachers in California). Melanie was also honored as a Women of the Year for District 60 by Assemblyman Eric Linder in 2016. Wanting to impact the next generation of Educators she moved in July of 2017 to Riverside County Office of Education to become a Program Manager for the Center for Teacher Innovation.



Mark (BA '01) Reisdig in July 2019 started a new role as a pastor at a 3-year-old church plant in North Phoenix,

Alumna of Hope International University, and Life Pacific University, **Angela Richey (M. Ed '03, MFT '10)** was recently appointed the 11th President of Life Pacific University.

Richey brings an expansive knowledge of the institution, higher education, and The Foursquare Church to this position. She is widely regarded as a gifted educator and future-focused innovator with a proven track record of adaptive leadership.

She is a recognized voice in Christian higher education, recently featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education, and demonstrates a keen understanding of the felt-needs of Generation Z, having presented at the CCCU (Council for Christian Colleges and Universities) 2018 International Forum and other national conferences.

Richey is known as an active culture builder who has a history of developing and empowering high caliber, diverse teams. Her ability to identify talent in others and connect

"I look forward to working with our LPU Community to build upon the University's strong foundation, to advance influence through service, and to live passionately on mission for the transformational development of students into leaders prepared to serve God in the Church, the workplace and the world."

—**Angela Richey (M. Ed '03, MFT '10)**
President, Life Pacific University



people with efforts they are passionate about has created a strong culture of ownership and helped to propel the university forward.

Michael Whyte, Ph.D., Chair of the Board, states "The LPU Board of Trustees wholeheartedly and enthusiastically agreed that Angie Richey is the ideal president to lead the university forward in this pivotal time. Her personal faith commitment, her love of the

university, her multi-faceted experience in the higher education landscape, and her fervent commitment to raising up leaders qualifies her for this crucial role. We couldn't be more thrilled to welcome her as our president."

Richey, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a vibrant speaker, has been ordained as a minister in the Foursquare movement since 1998.

CityView Church. Mark's focus will be leading discipleship, leadership development, systems and mission.

Elizabeth "Liz" Worthley (BA '08) married David Ronan in 2015. Their son Harrison Jack is now two years old. Liz is in her sixth year of teaching elementary PE in Cutler-Orosi Unified School District in Visalia, CA where the family has purchased its first home.

>>> 2010's

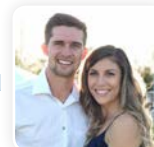


Michael (BA '12) and **Bethany (Christian/ BA '12) Allen** have served with Campus Crusade for Christ for the past 8 years. The Allens spent the first six years doing campus ministry with college students and have

now transitioned to serving with Jesus Film Project, where Michael is a film director and is part of developing new evangelistic media content. At Jesus Film, their team is tasked with reaching the 3.5 billion urban community dwellers around the world. Michael's short film, *Delight*, made it to the final round of the 2018 Austin film festival and his new film, *Uninvited Guests*, is currently on the film festival circuit. Michael also recruits and trains new churches and communities on using short film in ministry. The Allens have 3 children, Ellanora (5), Lola Mae (3), and Daxton who turned 1 on April 18th. They are so thankful for the foundation they received at HIU of reaching the world for Christ with their talents and passions.

Caitlyn Barnes (BS '16) self-published her first book called *DIRT on the Table*, a devotional inspiring others to think deeply about God and listen closely to His Spirit. The devotional comes out of Caitlyn years spent at HIU learning how to read the Bible and extract contemporary truth. *DIRT on the Table* is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble online.

Kim Beisel (BA '15) graduated in May 2019 with a Master's in Mental Health Counseling from Buffalo State University of New York. She has returned to California to complete a second year of internship with Christian Encounter Ministries, focusing on crisis intervention with the residents.



Melissa Bierend (BS '15) is employed by the Hart School District in Santa Clarita, CA in Special Needs Education at Rio Norte Middle School. She is also an in-home behavior technician for The Behavioral Learning Center. Melissa is pursuing an MS in Occupational Therapy.

Jocelyn (Young/ BA '17, MBA '18) married **Titus (BA '17) Carlson** in June 2018. Jocelyn started her own business as a wedding videographer in 2019 while Titus works in marketing as a civilian for the Air Force. The Carlsons currently live in Big Bear Lake.

Michelle Coats (MA '13) has been appointed to her first pastorate

>>> MORE **ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES**

at the Pulaski Free Methodist Church, in Pulaski, MI. Her studies in the Master's Ministry program at HIU equipped her well for her new role. Since graduation, two of her daughters have married giving her two grandchildren, Zander & Jasmine with the third arriving in December.



Cristal (Sanchez/ BA '18) and **Christian Fuller** announce the birth of their first child, Davina born on March 8, 2019.

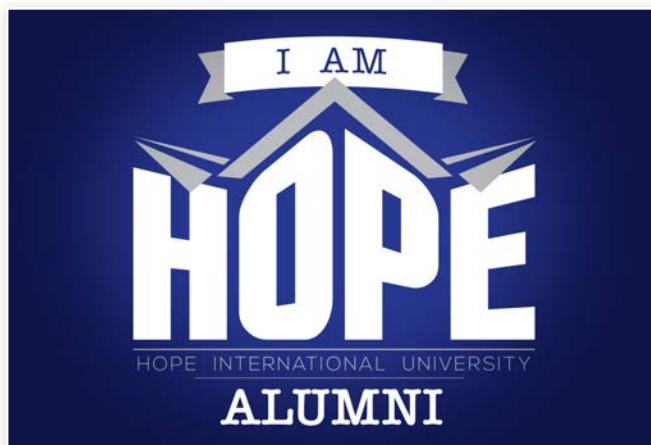
Amy Van Dorsten (BWA '17) got married in December 2018 to TJ Goepfert. Amy currently holds the position of Executive Assistant at Mission Church in Omaha, NE. She also owns her own event planning and petting zoo business. The Goepferts reside in Avoca, NE.

Lauren Leffler (BA '15) is a foster/ adoption social worker in San Diego

for Olive Crest, a non-profit that contracts with the County to provide foster families for children who need a safe home. Lauren is earning her hours towards becoming a licensed clinical social worker.

Scott (BA '16) and **Emily (Thomas/ BA '15) Stebner** welcomed their second child, Lucy Joy in March 2019. Scott is a union electrician in Orange County. Emily completed her credentials and is substitute teaching until Lucy is older, when she will pursue full-time teaching. The Stebners live in Downey, CA, with Lucy and their 3-year-old son, Arlen.

Nate (BS '13) and **BreeAnna Walter** are serving at Dallas Christian Church in south central Iowa. The Walters have a one-year-old daughter, Karis, and are excited to continue to let God use them to make his name famous in Iowa.



SO...WHAT HAVE *YOU* BEEN UP TO LATELY?

Email updates and pics to alumni@hiu.edu or alumni@nechristian.edu – or use the convenient forms on our respective websites.

IN LOVING MEMORY

GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANTS



LAURIE WILSON

Beyond her longtime tenure on NCC's staff, **Laurie** was well known for her many contributions in the greater Omaha Community, including her active participation in the Omaha Opera Chorus and soloing at weddings and funerals. She also taught piano, led children's music, and worked for the Symphony.



WILLIAM "BILL" D. SAPP

With his three brothers, **Bill** founded Sapp Bros. Inc. and Sapp Bros. Petroleum. He was a member of Gideons International, American Legion #129, Ashland Men in Mission, and the National Association of Truckstop Operators. He and his wife, Lucille, donated the largest gift in NCC history.



VIRGIL MARSHALL III

The life, leadership, and testimony of **Virgil**, and that of his entire family, have had a profound impact for God's Kingdom. His testimony of faith was evident in everything he did and his success as "The Penny Merchant" enabled him to be a very generous financial supporter of NCC.



LEE H. SAPP

A Korean War veteran, **Lee** was most noted for founding Sapp Bros. Inc with his three brothers. He was a member of the Masons, Shriners, and was the NE Rotarian of the Year in 2011. Lee generously supported higher education in Nebraska, funding scholarships at several institutions, including NCC.

STUDY ABROAD

ALL ECOSYSTEMS GO

Students from our CA and NE campuses – **Desiree Chance** (NCC), **Brianna Gamez**, **Joshua McBride**, **Katy McGuire**, **Claire Murphy** (NCC), and **Herminia Perez-Jiminez** – traveled to Belize for an immersive 10-day educational experience studying tropical ecosystems and organisms firsthand. In addition to field trips to the Smithsonian Institution Marine Research Station on Carrie Bow Caye, and the Tobacco Caye Marine Station. The group also enjoyed multiple snorkeling opportunities, encountering sea turtles, nurse sharks, spotted eagle rays, and other local marine life. The group spent five days in the lowland broadleaf rainforest and three days in the savanna wetlands.

“Studying in Belize was much more than just an awesome and adventurous

opportunity to earn 4 units of lab science credit. This trip allowed us to see God, the Creator, in a new light,” reported HIU junior, Katy McGuire. “In just 10 days, we were able to visit four very different ecosystems. By the end of this trip, we returned with a new appreciation and understanding of tropical ecosystems and organisms.”

HIU offers this immersive study abroad experience as a 4-unit course, *Tropical Ecosystems with Lab*. The trip was coordinated and led by HIU Assistant Professor of Science **Karen McReynolds** with assistance from the Tobacco Caye Marine Station, who led the marine unit of the course. “It was fabulous to meet with the actual scientists who write the peer-reviewed papers we had been summarizing all week,” adds Professor McReynolds.



NCC STUDENT OUTREACH

HOUSTON, WE HAVE A SOLUTION



In February, a team of NCC students traveled to Houston, TX, with an organization called 12Two Missions. They served at several different urban ministries, sharing God's love with seniors, homeless, and children, through compassionate acts of service. Stretched well beyond their comfort zones, both physically and spiritually, the team bonded, developed deeper friendships, and made memories that they will cherish for a lifetime.

Sophomore **Zach Gomez** said one of his favorite experiences was helping host the opening concert for a new worship band composed of local high schoolers. “It was simple event, but so powerful. Those talented students reminded me of how vital it is to be genuine and authentic in worship, as a leader and as a worshiper.”



12Two Missions plans and organizes outreach/mission trips for individuals and groups, both domestically and abroad. The ministry handles lodging, food, and project work, and all other on-the-ground logistics, tailoring each trip to meet the specific goals of each team.

SPRING MUSICAL & V.I.P. RECEPTION

“MASTERPEACH” THEATRE

Each Spring, just prior to the final performance of HIU's annual Spring Musical, we host a special reception to show appreciation for our alumni, friends, and everyone who supports the University. This annual affair has become a popular tradition for our supporters, providing a delightful opportunity for them to visit the campus and see our talented students perform.

This year, HIU's Center for Music & Worship Arts staged a rollicking production of Roald Dahl's poignantly quirky tale of **James and the Giant Peach**. Before gathering in the Pacific Auditorium for the show, our

honored guests enjoyed themed desserts, student ambassadors, and an opportunity to connect with old friends and/or make new acquaintances. During the reception, **Dr. Paul Alexander** was officially introduced as HIU's President Elect, marking the first public announcement of that breaking news.

In addition to public performances, the University also hosted special free matinees for hundreds of local public school kids, exposing them to musical theatre, and to HIU as well. After each matinee, the cast spent time in character answering questions and signing autographs, to the delight of the young guests.

This year's production was directed by alumna **Ember Williams** (BM '00), who has spearheaded HIU's spring musicals each year for well over a decade. Ember has also teamed up with fellow alums Erin Koshay (BM '14) and Gina DeSon (BA '15) to co-found SPERO Program for the Performing Arts, a year-round youth theatre program that provides kids training, experience, and the opportunity to participate in the annual HIU spring musical as well.



HIU GOLF CHALLENGE

RAISING FUNDS...AND FRIENDS



Last May, Hope International University held its **13th Annual GOLF CHALLENGE** at Monarch Beach Golf Links. The 2019 event raised \$65,000 to fund student scholarships and departmental programs. Since its inception, this popular event for our donors and friends has raised a cumulative total surpassing \$600,000.

Our 2019 tourney participants included HIU friends, supporters, alumni, trustees, administrators, staff, and local church pastors/leaders. The enthusiastic and generous golfers enjoyed spectacular coastal views while competing for prizes before and during the round. Immediately afterward, the group gathered at nearby Salt Creek Grille for a fun, informal awards dinner.

Special thanks to all of our 2019 sponsors whose significant contributions helped make this event successful: **Chuck Puckett** (top fundraiser), **Arthur J. Gallagher & Company**, **Christ's Church of the Valley San Dimas**, **Direct Print & Promotion**, **Logos Bible Software**, **Journey Christian Church**, **Peter C. Foy & Associates**, **Proline Electric**, **Solomon Foundation**, **The Crossing Church Las Vegas**, **The Wright Image**, **Rainier View Christian Church**, **Refinery Christian Church**, and **Rizio Law Firm**.



*For more information about HIU's annual golf fundraiser, contact **Ryan McKinney** at 714-879-3901, ext. 2210.*

HIU *Honor Roll of Donors* 2018

This Honor Roll of Donors features individuals, churches, corporations and foundations that have made gifts through cash or pledge payments received by **Hope International University** between January 1 and December 31, 2018. Gifts received after December 31, 2018 will be recorded in the 2019 calendar year. On behalf of the entire HIU administration, faculty, staff, and student body, THANK YOU to each and every donor. Your gifts are very much appreciated and vital to the success of our scholarship recipients, many of whom otherwise could not afford to attend HIU. You have impacted their lives, as well as countless lives that they in turn will impact as they take Hope to their corner of the world.

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Ida Macklin Gifford
Gerriday Gill
Ila Belle Henning
Velo Hicks
Kenneth & Marion Hoschouer
Prof. Ralph Johnson
Bud Larsen
Howard & Dolores Mickelson
Harold & Greta Milliken
Bricie & Anita Nicholson
Dennis Olsen
Jonathan Marc Palmer
Merle & Donna Ring
Kay Sleeper
Marlene Williams
Patricia A. Willson

NCC GOLF CHALLENGE

ON THE COURSE FOR THE CAUSE

NCC hosted its annual **Golf Challenge** at the beautiful Tiburon Golf Club in Omaha, raising more than \$34,000 for student scholarships and academic programs. The field of 44 golfers included friends, supporters, alumni, trustees, administrators, church leaders, and community members. Following some friendly contests and competition on the course, the event culminated in a fun, informal awards dinner, complete with donor recognition, prizes and giveaways.

Our 2019 corporate sponsors included: **Curry Dental, Sapp Bros., Stefani Rowe Counseling, Gene's Auto & Truck Service, Universe Truck Lines, CDF Capital, Werner Trucking, Rolling Hills Bank & Trust, Faithlife/Logos, Millard Lumber, Rent-A-Van, TD2 Engineering & Surveying, and Sysco.** The Hole-In-One contest car was provided by **Lee Sapp Ford** again this year.



On behalf of the entire NCC community, University President **Dr. Paul Alexander** extends our sincere gratitude for the generous financial support of our 2019 players and sponsors. Every dollar donated truly makes a significant impact on the lives of the NCC students who receive scholarships funded in part by proceeds from this event.

To inquire about participation in NCC's annual Golf Challenge, contact **Jane Jech**, Director of Development & Church Relations: call (402) 935-9418 or email jane.jech@nechristian.edu.



THANK YOU!

SAVE THE DATE!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO JOIN US FOR

NCC's 75TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT & AWARDS GALA

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2020 • 5:30PM RECEPTION • 7:00PM DINNER
LAVISTA CONFERENCE CENTER • PAPILLION, NE
WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS!

Mission

As a campus of Hope International University, Nebraska Christian College empowers students through Christian Higher Education to serve the Church and impact the world for Christ.