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NCN News

Top Stories for the week of May 18, 2012

2012 USA/Canada Commencement Report

NCN News compiled the following list of spring commencement reports from each of the Nazarene institutions of higher education on the USA/Canada Region:

Ambrose University College

President: Riley Coulter, Acting President and Chancellor

Location: Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Web: www.ambrose.edu

Date of Graduation Exercises: April 28

Commencement Speaker: Franklin Pyles, President of The Christian Missionary Alliance

Number of Graduates: 129

Fast Facts: This was Ambrose's 71st Baccalaureate Convocation and the 41st Seminary Convocation... Eighty-four students graduated from the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, 18 from the Faculty of Theology (undergraduate), and 27 from the Faculty of Theology (seminary)... The first graduates of the education program received their degrees at this ceremony... Gordon T. Smith was [appointed the school's next president](#). Smith's term will begin August 1... The convocation events were held in Ambrose Gymnasium and broadcast live over the Internet... [Full story](#).

Eastern Nazarene College

President: Corlis McGee

Location: Quincy, Massachusetts

Web: www.enc.edu

Date of Graduation Exercises: May 5

Commencement Speaker: Jossie E. Owens, ENC alumna and the first woman elected district superintendent on the Church of the Nazarene's USA/Canada Region

Number of Graduates: 167

Fast Facts: This was ENC's 90th Spring Commencement... The senior class presented ENC President Corlis McGee with a gift of \$10,000 to begin a fully-endowed scholarship... [Photos...](#) [Full story](#).

MidAmerica Nazarene University

President: David Spittal

Location: Olathe, Kansas

Web: www.mnu.edu

Dates of Graduation Exercises: May 5-6

Commencement Speakers: Carla Sunberg, MNU Alumna and Co-superintendent of the East Ohio District of the Church of the Nazarene (undergraduate student ceremony) and David Spittal, MNU President (graduate and adult student ceremony)

Number of Graduates: 680

Fast Facts: MNU's 41st Commencement was held at Olathe College Church of the Nazarene... Of the 680 degrees awarded, 194 were master's, 448 were bachelor's, 19 were associates, and 19 were postgraduate certificates... [Daniel D. Rexroth](#), president and CEO of John Knox Village, was recognized with the Distinguished Community Service Award. Rexroth volunteered his expertise to the MNU Board of Trustees in facilitating the seven-month search process for MNU's new president in 2011-2012... Virginia R. Schafer,

professor of nursing, was recognized as faculty emerita... [Photos...](#) [Full story.](#)

Mount Vernon Nazarene University

President: Daniel J. Martin

Location: Mount Vernon, Ohio

Web: www.mvnu.edu

Date of Graduation Exercises: May 19

Commencement Speaker: [Bishop Timothy J. Clarke](#), Senior Pastor, First Church of God, Columbus, Ohio.

Number of Graduates:

Fast Facts: This is MVNU's 43rd Spring Commencement... Services are in the R.R. Hodges Chapel/Auditorium... This is Martin's final commencement as president. He recently [resigned](#) to become president of Seattle Pacific University. MVNU Provost & Chief Academic Officer Henry Spaulding was [appointed interim president...](#) [Commencement details.](#)

Nazarene Bible College

President: Harold B. Graves Jr.

Location: Colorado Springs, Colorado

Web: www.nbc.edu

Date of Graduation Exercises: May 26-27

Commencement Speaker: Stan A. Toler, General Superintendent, Church of the Nazarene

Number of Graduates: 126

Fast Facts: This is the 43rd Spring Commencement at NBC... Convocation is held on Saturday in the Apostles Court... Commencement is held on Sunday at Colorado Springs First Church of the Nazarene... This is the largest graduating class at NBC in 30 years... Bachelor of Arts in Ministry degrees were awarded to 103 individuals, with 40 of those individuals majoring in pastoral ministries, the largest single designation of majors among the graduates.

Nazarene Theological Seminary

President: David A. Busic

Location: Kansas City, Missouri

Web: www.nts.edu

Date of Graduation Exercises: May 13

Commencement Speaker: Jesse C. Middendorf, General Superintendent, Church of the Nazarene

Number of Graduates: 45

Fast Facts: This was the 66th Spring Commencement for NTS... Commencement activities were held at Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene... This was Busic's first commencement as president... The 45 graduates of the Class of 2012 received degrees as follows: 6 Doctor of Ministry; 28 Master of Divinity; 11 Master of Arts... This class represented 9 countries: Bulgaria, Cameroon, England, Kenya, Malawi, Samoa, South Africa, Thailand, and the U.S.... Stephanie Lobdell preached the Corlett Senior Sermon at Kansas City First Church... [Full story.](#)

Northwest Nazarene University

President: David Alexander

Location: Nampa, Idaho

Web: www.nnu.edu

Date of Graduation Exercises: May 5

Commencement Speaker: Steven G. W. Moore, Executive Director of the M.J. Murdoch Charitable Trust

Honorary Doctorate Degree: Stephen Marcus Walden

Number of Graduates: 533

Fast Facts: Degrees were conferred on 533 students, of which 240 were graduate students and 293 were undergraduates... Among the master's degree recipients were [two Mesoamerica leaders...](#) The ceremony was held at Nampa's Idaho Center... The NNU School of Nursing held its 10th annual pinning ceremony on May

4... Longtime university Board of Trustee member Stephen Marcus Walden received an honorary degree during the commencement ceremony... Larry M. McMillan, professor of education, was honored with the title professor emeritus after 25 years of service to the university... NNU's graduates represented 34 states from as far away as New Jersey and 19 foreign countries, including China, Switzerland, Germany, and Ethiopia... The university honored 19 "Golden Grads" who received their NNU degrees 50 years ago... [Photos](#) ... [Full story](#).

Olivet Nazarene University

President: John C. Bowling

Location: Bourbonnais, Illinois

Web: www.olivet.edu

Date of Graduation Exercises: May 4-5

Commencement Speakers: Teresa K. Woodruff, Olivet Alumna and Director of the Institute for Women's Health Research and Chief of the Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology–Fertility Preservation, Northwestern University (undergraduate student ceremony), and John C. Bowling, Olivet President (graduate and adult student ceremony)

Honorary Doctorate Degrees: Charles H. and Carla D. Sunberg

Number of Graduates: 1,368

Fast Facts: This was ONU's 99th annual commencement... The Baccalaureate Service was held in Centennial Chapel on May 4, with Olivet President John C. Bowling addressing the graduates... At the undergraduate ceremony on May 5, [honorary doctor of divinity degrees were presented](#) to Charles H. and Carla D. Sunberg, as well as [awards for outstanding male and female graduate](#) and for [scholarly and teaching excellence](#)... The university presented its [30,000th diploma](#) and its 20,000th bachelor's degree... There were 453 undergraduate degrees, 127 continuing education degrees, 742 master's degrees, 16 doctoral degrees, and one posthumous doctorate in education conferred... [Full story](#).

Point Loma Nazarene University

President: Bob Brower

Location: San Diego, California

Web: www.pointloma.edu

Date of Graduation Exercises: May 5

Commencement Speaker: Kerry D. Fulcher, Point Loma Provost (keynote), and Robert Smith, Point Loma Professor of Scripture and Preaching (convocation)

Number of Graduates: 844

Fast Facts: All three ceremonies (two undergraduate, one graduate) were held in the historic Greek Amphitheater on PLNU's campus... PLNU had 552 undergraduate students and 292 graduate students... Of the 552 undergraduates, 163 graduated with honors... [Photos](#).

Southern Nazarene University

President: Loren Gresham

Location: Bethany, Oklahoma

Web: www.snu.edu

Date of Graduation Exercises: May 12

Commencement Speaker: [Bobby Gruenwald](#), SNU Alumnus and Co-founder of the YouVersion Bible app

Number of Graduates: 464 (approximate)

Fast Facts: This was SNU's 109th Spring Commencement... Ceremonies were held in the Sawyer Center... The morning commencement was followed by the Tradition of the Ivy Ring with graduating seniors and their families... [Full story](#).

Trevecca Nazarene University

President: Dan Boone

Location: Nashville, Tennessee

Web: www.trevecca.edu

Date of Graduation Exercises: May 5

Commencement Speaker: Jim Hiatt, Dean of Trevecca's School of Business and Technology

Honorary Doctorate Degree: Greg Mason

Number of Graduates: 840

Fast Facts: Trevecca's 111th Commencement was held outdoors in McClurkan Quad... An honorary doctorate was presented to Greg Mason, superintendent of the Louisiana and Mississippi districts... Degrees were conferred upon the first graduates of Trevecca's first completely online Master's of Organizational Leadership Program... Dan Boone announced plans to [name the School of Business and Technology](#) in honor of faculty member Gerald Skinner during homecoming in November 2012... [Photos...](#) [Commencement page.](#)

Glasgow conference commemorates Olive Winchester

Nazarene pioneer Olive Winchester's graduation and ordination were celebrated at a conference at the University of Glasgow on May 11. Winchester, already a graduate of Harvard, received her Bachelor of Divinity (then a master's degree) 100 years ago. Soon after, she became the first woman ordained in the United Kingdom for Christian ministry. As an expert in biblical languages, Winchester later taught in three Nazarene colleges.

Speakers at the University of Glasgow conference included Janet Wooton of the Congregational Federation and Lesley Orr of the University of Edinburgh. Harold Raser, professor of the history of Christianity at Nazarene Theological Seminary, spoke on "Sisters in the Spirit: Women Preaching from John Wesley to Olive Winchester." Among the papers presented were "Olive M. Winchester: A Gentlewoman and a Scholar" by Rebecca Laird of Point Loma Nazarene University and "Rev'd Dr. Olive Winchester: Holiness Greek Scholar" by C. Jeanne Orjala Serrão of Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Diane Leclerc of Northwest Nazarene University and Robert Doyle Smith of Olivet Nazarene University also read papers.

A commemorative service was held on the evening of May 11 in Sharpe Memorial Church of the Nazarene, where Winchester was ordained. The Parkhead building was scheduled for demolition to make way for a new building, but demolition was held off for the service.

Samuel Hynd, grandson of George Sharpe, who ordained Olive Winchester, was present from Swaziland. Sharpe's wife, Jane, was the second woman to be ordained in Scotland, and his daughter, Agnes Kanema Hynd, was the third.

NTS professor T. A. Noble, whose family has attended the Parkhead church since 1906, gave a presentation entitled "Setting the Scene." The presentation contained photographs of Parkhead church members between 1909 and 1914, including one photo of the Young family, who later emigrated to Ohio. Their youngest son, Samuel, later became a general superintendent in the Church of the Nazarene. It was largely through Winchester's influence that the Pentecostal Church of Scotland united with the Church of the Nazarene in 1915.

On Saturday, May 12, the conference continued with presentations by Elaine Storkey, an Anglican and president of Tear Fund, and Deirdre Brower Latz, recently appointed principal of Nazarene Theological College, Manchester. Carla Sunberg, joint superintendent of the East Ohio District and president of Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy, preached on Sunday, May 13.

A resolution was passed by the [Scottish Parliament](#) taking note of the centenary.
--[Manchester Wesley Research Centre](#)

Lymphoma patient signs with Olivet volleyball team

Hannah Reister was diagnosed with Lymphoma in February, the same week she was scheduled to sign her letter of intent to play volleyball for Olivet Nazarene University.

A 5'11" outside hitter, Reister was a four year letter-winner and served as volleyball team captain for three years. She was recognized as All-Conference, All-District, All-Region, and All-Area her senior year. She is a member of the Michigan Volleyball Academy club team.

"We knew when we first met Hannah last fall that she would be a great fit for Olivet," said head coach Brenda Williams. "After going through the recruiting process and both of us knowing that it was a good fit, Hannah agreed to join our team."

Then, in February, Reister was diagnosed with Lymphoma. She has received chemotherapy treatments and will soon undergo her last round.

"We were so excited that Hannah was going to sign with us and the weekend I was going to meet with her to take her the contract was the week she found out about the Lymphoma," Williams said. "Hannah's world had just been turned upside down, but we had made a commitment to Hannah, she was now part of our volleyball family, she needed us and our prayers more than ever. You don't turn your back on someone in need and Hannah needed us to be there for her then and for her future volleyball career.

"Hannah is an outstanding volleyball player and student and wanted to be at a Christian university," she continued. "She will have that opportunity here at Olivet, where she now wants to major in pre-med... God is going to use this young woman in a very special way."

Reister not only brings an impressive playing resume to campus, but also strong academics. She will graduate from high school with a 3.96 GPA, ranked 18th of 250 in her graduating class. She is a member of National Honor Society and the National Honor Society Leadership team and was named to the All-State Academic team her junior and senior years. She intends to major in pre-medicine while at Olivet.

Reister's volleyball club, Michigan Volleyball Academy, is working to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in honor of Hannah. To donate online to "Hearts for Hannah," click [here](#), and then click on the "Donate to LLS online" link near the top of the page.

--[Olivet Nazarene University Athletics](#)

House-based ministry gives Danish youth safe hangout

Although Denmark is officially a Lutheran country, many young people claim to be atheists. Lars Ørsøe was the only believer in his entire high school. When he mentioned to classmates that he was a Christian, they often replied, "Wow, you are the first one that I've ever met."

He knew that if he were to invite one of his friends to his church, the Greve Church of the Nazarene, they would have no interest in coming. He thought it would be easier to introduce Danish youth to Christ if they had a less threatening location where they could gather.

Ørsøe began to imagine a house as the setting to host youth group meetings. He shared his idea with others at the church, and soon the board and the pastor, Kaj Ove Bollerup, embraced the vision.

In late 2009, the Greve Church of the Nazarene opened the White House, a house painted white in which five university students from the church, including Ørsøe, live while hosting youth gatherings and giving homework help. The White House is also a place where teens can hang-out with friends, talk about their problems, or stay when they have nowhere else to go.

More than two years later, the nearly nonexistent youth group has grown to a steady 15 or so young people meeting at any one time.

Four of the original five leaders continue to lead the youth ministry at the house – besides Ørsøe, they include Signe Bollerup, Anders Holm-Pedersen, and Catrine Hansen; the fifth, Jesper Ørsøe, has since departed for studies in Australia. Mission Corps missionary Katie Fitch, formerly a youth pastor in the U.S., joined the group last year.

The youth activity in the church is not centered around a specific time, but around a location – the White House.

"I think Denmark is a very tolerant country," Fitch said. "People are very open to different things, so it's like, 'OK, you believe in Christianity and that's great, but I don't care about it.' So the idea of traditional church, people aren't going to just walk in. It's more comfortable in a house."

Because loneliness is a common struggle for teens in Denmark, the White House meets an important need for friendship and a safe place to hang out, Ørsøe said.

For instance, one young woman spent a few days at the White House while she sorted through some big decisions she needed to make.

Ørsøe has seen his own brother, Kim, who is 17, grow in leadership and self-confidence through being involved in the youth group.

"He takes a lot of initiative and he shows a lot of potential right now," he said. "There was some work in the church that we couldn't continue at some point because there was too much work. He has taken a lot of that work."

With the youth ministry now firmly established, Ørsøe said he hopes to see a core of committed, consistent youth to form in the near future.

--[Church of the Nazarene Eurasia Region](#)

Chicago First Church announces new senior pastor

Brian Wangler accepted an invitation to become the senior pastor of Chicago First Church of the Nazarene. Brian Wilson, Chicago Central District superintendent, made the announcement Tuesday on the church's website and via email blast.

"I am pleased to announce that we have a new senior pastor at Chicago First Church of the Nazarene," said Wilson, who has served as the church's interim senior pastor for the past 11 months. "Rev. Brian Wangler received strong affirmation from our church family this weekend with 97 percent of our voting members approving extending an invitation to him as our new pastor. I contacted Rev. Wangler Sunday evening, after the votes from our five services had been counted and, after taking a day to pray and consider the invitation, he and his wife Lindy have accepted the call to serve. We are delighted and look forward to exciting days ahead of local ministry, growth and missional outreach under Pastor Wangler's leadership."

Currently the senior pastor at Ottawa, Illinois, First Church of the Nazarene, Wangler follows Kevin Ulmet at Chicago First Church. Ulmet resigned in August 2011 to accept the pastorate at Nashville, Tennessee, First Church of the Nazarene. Ulmet served at Chicago First Church for 12 years.

Wangler has been at Ottawa First Church since 2000. During his pastorate the church grew from an attendance of 240 to more than 900, and has implemented a multi-site multiplication strategy. He has served 20 years in full-time ministry.

After attending Olivet Nazarene University and receiving his associate's degree, Wangler served in the business world until God called him into ministry in 1991. He received his district license in 1992 and became

an ordained elder in 1997 on the Chicago Central District. Wangler pastored two Chicago Central District churches, in Fithian and Elgin, prior to moving to Ottawa, which is on the Northwestern Illinois District. On the Northwestern Illinois District, Wangler has also served as a member of the District Advisory Board, and as chair of the Mission Strategy Committee. For the denomination, he has authored a digital daily devotional for new believers entitled "God Time: Your First 31 days."

Wangler and his wife, Lindy, have been married 25 years. They have three grown children, Nick (and daughter-in-law Katie), Nathan, and Natalie. Wangler's last Sunday at Ottawa First Church is June 10, and his first Sunday at Chicago First Church is July 8.

--[NCN News submissions](#)

NNU Team Super-Hydro successfully completes NASA experiment

Northwest Nazarene University's Team Super-Hydro, a team of seven engineering and chemistry students, returned from NASA this week after successfully completing their experiment onboard the "Weightless Wonder" aircraft.

NASA's Waste Management Department wanted NNU students to test how the maximum amount of water, vapor, or liquid can be retrieved from the waste produced in the space station's filtration system using a new super-hydrophobic material. Students worked alongside a NASA mentor in the months leading up to the flight who also flew on the "Weightless Wonder" with them.

"We weren't sure if we were going to [see] the phase separation of water in zero-gravity or not, but we saw it the whole time," said team leader and junior engineering student Kevin Halle. "Every time we experienced 0g those bubbles went in a specific direction, and we saw serious phase separation. It was really cool!"

The NNU team consists of Hale (Edmonds, Washington), Dorothy Ackerman (Great Falls, Montana), Chad Larson (Medford, Oregon), Darrell Leber (Lake Stevens, Washington), Keith Moilanen (Brush Prairie, Washington), Weston Patrick (Wasilla, Alaska), and Grady Turner (Nampa, Idaho).

Halle and Turner flew on Thursday, April 26 with NASA mentor Greg Pace. Ackerman, Larson, and Patrick flew on Friday, April 27 with Dan Lawrence, NNU chair of the department of physics and engineering.

More information on Team Super-Hydro, videos and details about their experiment can be found online at www.nnu.edu/teamsuperhydro or on their [blog](#).

--[Northwest Nazarene University](#)

NTS announces staff changes, grant award

This week Nazarene Theological Seminary announced changes to its administrative staff.

Jerry Lambert, who has served the seminary since 2008 as director of global initiatives, will now serve the institution as director of institutional advancement, giving special attention to donor development.

Marsha Sailors, director of development, communications, and alumni relations since 2004, will now primarily focus on the marketing needs of the seminary, serving as director of communications and alumni relations.

"I am excited about these important changes and how they will strengthen the seminary and ultimately enable us to make more and better pastors," said David A. Busic, NTS president. "I know of no one more qualified to understand Nazarene higher education than Dr. Lambert. And Marsha Sailors will greatly enhance our communications with the church at large and our alumni."

Additionally, NTS recently received word that an anonymous foundation awarded the seminary a grant of \$300,000.

"These funds will go to support our global initiatives, including the Global Consortium, the Doctor of Ministry Degree programs in Africa and Latin America, and our 365M program," Basic said. "We are very grateful for God's faithfulness and the foundation's generosity."

To learn more about NTS and its degree programs, including [365M](#) and NTS as a Multi-Campus Seminary, log on to its website at www.nts.edu.

--[Nazarene Theological Seminary](#)

In Memoriam

The following is a weekly listing of Nazarene ministers and leaders who have recently gone home to be with the Lord. Notices were received May 14-18, 2012.

[Julia "Judy" Collins](#), 78, of Jacksonville, Texas, passed away on May 14. She was the widow of retired minister Bobby G. Collins, who served in Texas. Bobby G. Collins passed away in 2010.

[Wanda H. Hughey](#), 77, of Vancouver, Washington, passed away on May 15. She was the wife of retired minister L. Charles Hughey, who served in Alaska, Washington, and Oregon.

Juliette Monroe, 81, of Salem, Oregon, passed away on May 12. She was the widow of retired minister John A. Monroe, who served in South Dakota, North Dakota, and California. John A. Monroe passed away in 2005.

[Patsy \(Cawthorn\) Porter](#), 60, of Chester, South Carolina, passed away on May 12. She was the wife of minister and evangelist John R. Porter, who has served in Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Kentucky.

[Harold V. Quantz](#), 90, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, passed away on May 11. He was a retired minister, serving in Alberta. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy (Vliet) Quantz, who passed away in 2002.

Melquiades Santiesteban, Sr., 72, of Hialeah, Florida, passed away on May 15. He was a minister, serving in Florida. He is survived by his wife, G. Nora Santiesteban.

[Dwight E. Shirey](#), 60, of Columbus, Ohio, passed away on May 8. He was a retired minister and evangelist, serving in Pennsylvania and Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Susan E. (Thompson) Shirey.

[Charles M. Simmons](#), 69, of Shelby, North Carolina, passed away on May 17. He was a minister, serving in North Carolina. He is survived by his wife, Frances L. Simmons.

[H. Douglas Tuck](#), 78, of Pavillion, Wyoming, passed away on May 4. He was a minister who worked with the North Carolina District and served in Nebraska, Washington, and Michigan. He is survived by his wife, Joan E. (Martin) Tuck.

Victor Wright of Jamaica passed away on April 12. He was the pastor of the Jamaica East District Boulevard Church of the Nazarene.

For previous editions of *In Memoriam*, see the "Passings" section on ncnnews.com by [clicking here](#).

Note: Please join with us in prayer for the families who have lost loved ones. Click on names for full stories, funeral information, local online obituaries, and/or guest books (if available). To submit an entry of a minister or church leader, send to submitnews@ncnnews.com.

--Compiled by NCN News