

the magazine of evangel university

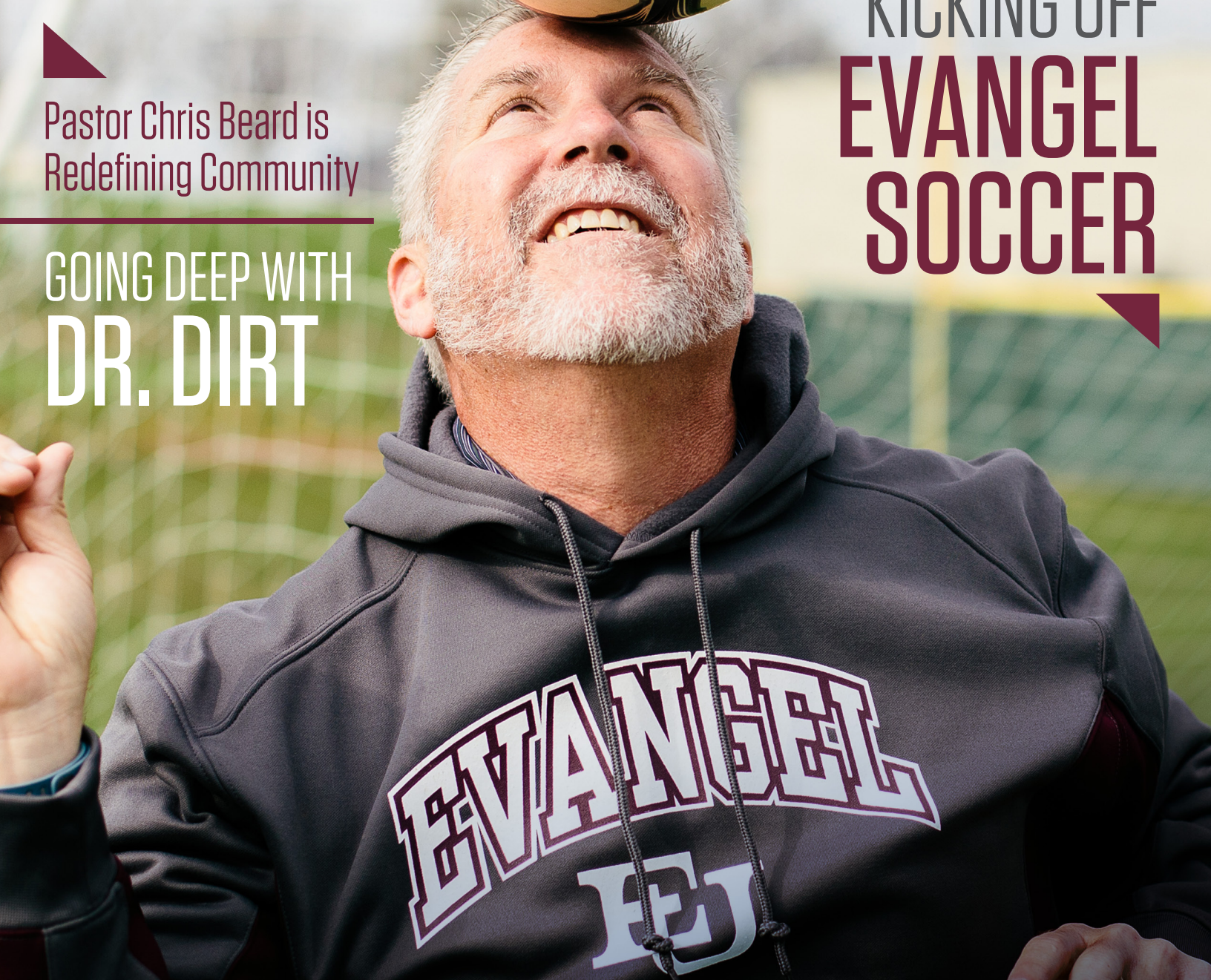
Vision

spring 2015

Pastor Chris Beard is
Redefining Community

GOING DEEP WITH
DR. DIRT

KICKING OFF
EVANGEL
SOCCER





FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of my greatest joys each year is conferring degrees to Evangel University graduates. On May 1, 514 EU students celebrated their academic achievements during our commencement ceremony. The following day, my esteemed colleague, Dr. Byron Klaus, awarded 77 degrees as he presided over his final commencement as president of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary. Together, these new graduates represent the next class of leaders who will serve the Church and society globally.

I want to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Klaus for his 16 years of service. As the president of AGTS, he has provided outstanding leadership marked with vision, integrity, sacrifice, spiritual vitality, humility, faithfulness and perseverance. Under his leadership, AGTS has added three doctoral programs, two masters programs, and 12 certificate programs. Dr. Klaus was a key leader during the consolidation process that formed the first comprehensive university with a seminary of the Assemblies of God. His commitment to shaping servant leaders has empowered our alumni, who in turn have influenced countless people around the world with the Gospel message.

This edition of Vision looks at Evangel's impact and influence in the lives of our alumni and staff. A pastor working to reconcile people in the heart of a city, a scientist striving to feed the developing world, and a staff member who helps provide an environment where students are known and cared about. All of these are examples of how we learn to embrace our vocational callings and prepare for a life of Spirit-empowered service. I sincerely hope you enjoy taking part. God bless you, and God bless Evangel.

Dr. Carol A. Taylor

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CALENDAR

MAY

25 Memorial Day Holiday

JUNE

8 Summer Session 2 Classes Begin

JULY

4 Independence Day Holiday

9 Summer Session 2 Final Exams

AUGUST

21-25 EU Launch

23 All Evangel Worship Service

26 Fall Classes Begin

SEPTEMBER

7 Labor Day Holiday

OCTOBER

1-3 HOMECOMING

19-20 Fall Break

NOVEMBER

27-30 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

11-12 Final Exams

24-31 Christmas Break

WILL RUN FOR FOOD



**JASON STREUBEL
RUNNING TO
RAISE AWARENESS
for AGRICULTURE PROJECTS**

104.8 MILES IN 4 DAYS

Check out more
about Jason Streubel
on page 14

SUMMER 2015 18 SERVICE TRIPS IMPACTING THE WORLD



EVANGEL TWEETS



EU Athletics @eu_athletics

BREAKING: Evangel will announce Russell Brand as Evangel's next head baseball coach. More details to follow...



Bryan Sanders @ProfSanders

25 years completed. Thanks Evangel University for allowing me to serve in your vineyard.



Dr. Joy Qualls @madamspeaker

Thank you @EvangelUniv for these #courageousconversations. The more we do, the less courageous we have to be. It will be normal. Let's talk!



Hannah Beers @HannahBeers

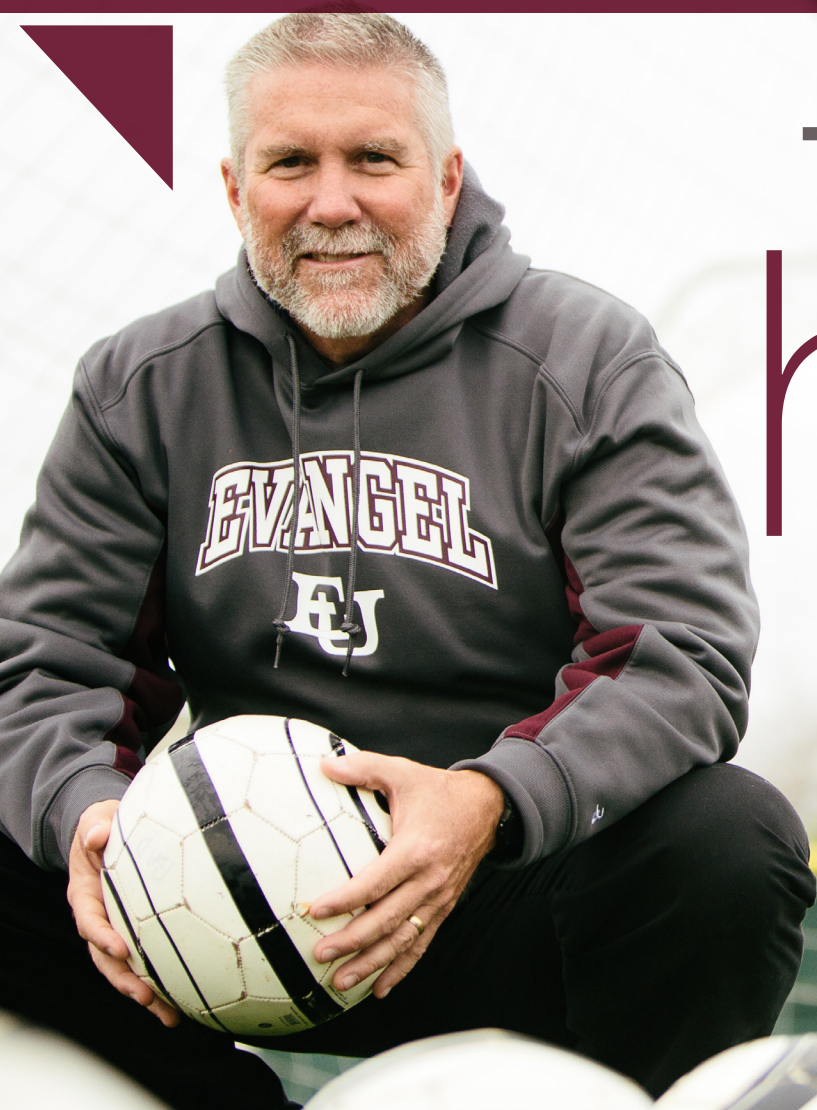
Three years later and a dream comes true. I'm honored to be your Student Body President for the 2015-2016 year, @EvangelUniv!

Follow us @evangeluniv for the latest
and greatest stuff that's happening at EU!



COMMENCEMENT 2015





the hectic 100

by Janet Gause

Each passing day brings Evangel one step closer to officially kicking off sanctioned soccer for the first time since 1974.

For Bruce Deaton, the countdown might as well have rockets attached to it. Evangel's director of soccer operations is building two programs from scratch, and as of May 17, he has 100 days to bring all the details together.

Formerly women's soccer coach and associate athletic director at Louisiana College, Deaton has been tasked to launch the men's program after a 41-year hiatus, and a women's program for the first time.

"The position caught my attention because of the plan to start two new programs from scratch," Deaton said. "That does not come along often in one's coaching career, if ever."

Deaton also saw opportunities to return to Springfield, where he lived for a stint 20 years ago, and continue coaching in a Christ-centered environment.

"With the family atmosphere here, my greatest passions

are right on this campus: my Christian walk, family and the game of soccer," Deaton said.

The challenge now is tapping into that atmosphere to produce two competitive programs in the Heart of America Athletic Conference.

To that end, Deaton has ventured outside traditional recruiting to add players to both soccer programs. Current Evangel students were invited to evaluation days in April, and 16 players (eight men, eight women) were invited to join the program.

"We continue to add new incoming freshmen and transfer students each week," Deaton said. "I'm looking forward to stepping on the field with them in August."

Deaton hopes to be joined by an additional coach in the coming months to help balance the demands of both teams. While the overall aspects of player training and program management are similar, the needs of players from a developmental standpoint can be varied, especially given all the new moving parts.

EVANGEL UNIVERSITY SOCCER

"There will be shifting gears at times, but I always tell my players: 'Don't focus on the work; focus on the reward that comes from the work,' Deaton said. "In essence, keeping your eyes focused on the finish line, or the goal, can help get you through those tough training moments."

Deaton learned how to persevere through those tough moments as a Division-I athlete at Marshall University. That experience of taking his talent to the highest level possible has inspired a coaching career with a higher purpose.

"Soccer is my ministry, and to me, collegiate athletics is truly an example of what happens throughout life," Deaton said. "I love teaching the game and helping players develop, and I honestly believe that we will be a relevant and exciting program by having quality people playing quality soccer."

Evangel's soccer programs debut Aug. 25 with a doubleheader at Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas.

The first women's home game is Sept. 10 against Ecclesia College, and the first men's home game is Sept. 29 against Central Methodist. Both games will take place at Lake Country Soccer, located at 2334 E. Pythian in Springfield.

For Deaton, the university, and everyone associated with the program, the countdown is on.



KICKING OFF AUG 25

FIRST HOME GAME
WOMEN: SEPT 10
MEN: SEPT 29

FOR MORE INFO
evangelathletics.com



REDEFINING COMMUNITY

chris and jan beard are pulling people together

by Bryce Wilks

You can't rattle Chris and Jan Beard — they're too comfortable with being uncomfortable. The 1989 Evangel alums have learned to embrace discomfort through 25 years of ministry together, especially when it's for the sake of sharing a distinctively reconciling Gospel with everyone who will listen.

The Beards came to campus last semester while Chris participated in a panel discussion called "Courageous Conversations" and delivered a chapel message that challenged students to pursue unity in Christ.

Familiar faces greeted them, as six of Evangel's current students hail from Cincinnati, Ohio and Peoples Church, where Chris has served as lead pastor for 14 years. Though each made their college decision independently, Beard says it's no coincidence they landed at Evangel together.

"Receiving unconditional love from a place of truth is so healthy and so Kingdom oriented," he said. "It's attractive to young people who want to influence the marketplace, and it's a common theme for both EU and our church."

The group's common bond was formed at Beard's multi-ethnic congregation that is made up of members from more than 30 nations.

Those cultures fuse together at weekly gatherings that *The Wall Street Journal* described as having "hands of all hues reach toward the heavens." But getting there, in the midst of a city with extreme social, economic and spiritual segregation, wasn't easy.

"I had a friend tell me once that every important change is one difficult conversation away," Beard said. "And I never get tired of having difficult conversations because I see how much they better our community and change lives in the name of Jesus Christ."

Beard's calling led him to Evangel, and his experience

prepared him for a life of ministry that looks radically different than he imagined.

A NEW CALL

As a high school senior, Beard attended a service at First Christian Assembly in Cincinnati that changed his path.

With eyes set on medical school, he was considering multiple options. But that night changed his mind after the speaker's message confirmed that he should pursue vocational ministry.

Having already applied to Evangel based on his parents' recommendation, Beard decided EU was his top choice while visiting campus and having conversations with Bible and Theology faculty members.

"I was so intrigued with their fresh approach to theology, life, ministry, society and history" he said. "I wanted to be of the same mindset."

Beard's time at Evangel shaped him, in large part because he met an Intercultural Studies major named Jan (Grage).

Since both had come from missions backgrounds, they envisioned their future including an assignment with Assemblies of God World Missions.

But when Beard completed his master's degree and received an opportunity to minister in Bulgaria in 1992, the couple couldn't shake Cincinnati from their hearts and minds. They believe God divinely placed that feeling in their hearts to pave the way for the work they are doing now.



"Jan and I had prepared to pursue international missions, so staying in Cincinnati was a shift and sacrifice of sorts for both of us," Beard said.

He called First Christian Assembly, the place he had originally felt called to ministry, to ask the pastor if they had any openings. The church obliged, and Beard has been on staff since, serving as associate pastor for eight years before being named lead pastor in 2001.

A NEW NAME

Four months after Beard became pastor, Cincinnati experienced an important civil rights moment when a police officer shot and killed an unarmed black man named Timothy Thomas less than two miles from the church's campus.

A city-wide call for justice followed, and in the midst, Beard's heart was convicted to see his church behave more like heaven on earth. Nearly every member at the time was Caucasian, though the surrounding neighborhoods had the melting pot make-up of most major cities.

"We weren't quite doing the Great Commission at that time," Beard said. "So we began to articulate a vision from scripture for all nations coming together as a racially reconciled church in the spirit of Revelation 7:9."

That meant some big changes, including an intentional effort to hire diverse staff members and a reluctance to embrace political ties that would alienate certain groups of people. All of it, Beard says, has been worth it.

"The benefits of a diverse church body are still blowing my mind," he said. "The richness of perspective, the wealth of unique talents converging, and the worship experiences are exceptional. It's a phenomenon that is attractive to those who are far from God, which is who we are trying to reach."

For Beard, seeing the church stretch and diversify has confirmed that God didn't waste the passions he and Jan had as students.

"I see now that all of those desires we had, from engaging unreached people groups with the Gospel to caring for the poor, are being fulfilled now through our church. It just looks a bit different than we imagined."

By 2012, the vision of racial reconciliation had become reality. The church decided to adopt a new name that reflected its broad composition. First Christian Assembly became Peoples Church, no apostrophe, celebrating the newly found generational and racial richness.

As what Beard calls an anchor church in the heart of the city, Peoples Church is pushing ahead as a catalyst for bringing people together and closer to God.

"Through the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ, we want to address racial inequity in our city, be it in the areas of education, economics or criminal justice," Beard said. "Biblical justice, because of Christ in us, is a huge value for us."

A NEW DAY

Following the animosity of 2001, Cincinnati signed a collaborative agreement that has been a healing measure for everyone impacted. The agreement brought the community, police forces and the federal government together in a more intentional effort to have better oversight, accountability and supportive training for police officers.

Other cities, including St. Louis,

have been asking to study the agreement in hopes of beginning to tackle their own challenges. Beard is also working with community leaders and other clergy to develop an additional agreement for the prosecutorial and judicial systems.

His involvement in difficult discussions has led to opportunities. In 2014 alone, Beard conducted interviews with CNN, ABC Nightline, *The Wall Street Journal* and numerous magazines. All of them wanted to know how he was guiding people through divisions and into a united effort to live out Christian faith.

"It's crucial that people of the Gospel are involved in coming up with solutions to these problems we face in our nation," Beard said.

At Evangel, students from Beard's church are emerging as they prepare to tackle issues of their own.

Grant Barnes is a sophomore Biblical Studies major who's preparing for seminary. Like Beard, he has a heart for urban churches trying to reach the city.

Through the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ, we want to address racial inequity in our city...

"I'd like to work on ways that churches from different denominations can come together and minister to their communities more effectively," Barnes said.

He's honing his skills as the assistant director for activities and events of Crosswalk, Evangel's student-led ministry organization.

Like Beard, he says faculty members have left their mark on Barnes and his preparation.

"Coming here, I knew I'd be getting a lot of history about Pentecostal theology," Barnes said. "But I never realized how much relevant help I would receive for how to prepare for ministry, regardless of what type of church I'm walking into."

Stevie Smith is another of Beard's students, a junior who is preparing to work in the marketplace as a Journalism major and Marketing minor.

"My focus is to travel and to love the people I connect with the way Christ loves them," she said.

Producing students with hearts like that is a mission Evangel, and the Beards, can be comfortable with.



Grant Barnes (right) is a sophomore Biblical Studies major. As he prepares for seminary, his goal is to unite different denominations in more strategic efforts to care for urban neighborhoods.

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AGTS PRESIDENT BYRON KLAUS SET TO RETIRE

by Jennifer Hall



With the mind of a scholar, the passion of a visionary, the soul of a servant and the heart of an advocate for the marginalized, retiring president Byron D. Klaus has led the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary for 16 years.

AGTS celebrated his distinguished service alongside the 42nd annual graduation activities, which took place May 2. President Klaus will retire late this summer.

Klaus is the seminary's longest serving president. Under his leadership, AGTS has added three doctoral programs, a Master of Pastoral Leadership, a Master of Theology and 12 certificate programs.

His commitment to shaping servant leaders has empowered the ministry of AGTS alumni, who in turn, have influenced tens of thousands of people around the world.

"Dr. Klaus has been a tireless and visionary champion for seminary education and for the benefits of an embedded seminary where ministerial education can now be provided from baccalaureate through doctoral levels," said Evangel president Dr. Carol Taylor. "I have had the privilege of seeing Dr. Klaus's leadership and faith up close. One needs to look no further for an extraordinary example of sacrificial, servant leadership deeply rooted in the best of Pentecostal heritage of the Assemblies of God along with an inspiring vision for the future."

Klaus was named AGTS president in 1999, after serving as vice president of Latin America ChildCare (1990–1999) and on the faculty and administration at Vanguard University of Southern California (1980–1999). Prior to Vanguard, he served local churches in California, Texas and Illinois.

Dr. George Wood, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God and chair of the AGTS Board, shared his gratitude for Klaus's godly leadership over the past 16 years.

"Byron has a sure and steady compass and passion for graduate and undergraduate ministerial preparation and has set AGTS and Evangel's School of Theology and Church Ministries in a direction that will thoroughly prepare the next generation of ministers for effective Spirit-empowered service."

AGTS 2015 COMMENCEMENT



MUSIC PROFESSOR RECEIVES TEACHING HONOR

Dr. Larry Dissmore, professor of music, was recently named “Collegiate Educator of the Year” for 2015 by the Missouri Division of the American String Teachers Association (Mo-ASTA).

Dissmore has served as director of orchestral activities and professor of violin and viola since 1988.

While teaching at Evangel, Dissmore has also influenced hundreds of young people in Southwest Missouri through various lessons, and during his nine-year tenure as music director of the Springfield Youth Symphony from 2002 to 2011.

“I am deeply honored and humbled to receive this recognition from the top professional organization in my teaching area,” said Dissmore. “I have a passion for music making, a passion for teaching, and a passion for serving students.”

Each year, Mo-ASTA honors outstanding teachers at the elementary, secondary and collegiate levels.

The award was presented during the 2015 Missouri Music Educators Association Convention. Awardees are nominated by the membership and approved by the Mo-ASTA board.



VETERANS CENTER NAMED FOR ADMIRAL VERN CLARK ('67)

Evangel's Veterans Center opened its doors to students in the summer of 2014. During a ceremony on March 24, the center was named the Admiral Vern Clark Veterans Center at Evangel University.

Admiral Clark is the retired Chief of Naval Operations for the U.S. Navy, having served in that position and on the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 2000-2005. He is the second-longest serving CNO in history.

The center's efforts are coordinated by Stormy Davis, a 2009 graduate of Evangel and a 2014 graduate of AGTS.

AGTS has a long history of training military chaplains. Currently, more than 180 AGTS alumni are serving as chaplains in the Armed Forces and Veterans Administration, and about 30 students are preparing for chaplaincy.

Between EU and AGTS there are approximately 96 students and dependents who are using their veteran benefits.

A man with glasses and an orange shirt is smiling while holding a handful of dark soil in his hands. The background is a blurred outdoor setting. A green banner is overlaid on the image, containing the title and author information.

DR. DIRT

Life Through the Eyes of One of
Evangel's Resident World Changers

by Dr. Jason Streubel

As a young boy, springtime was one of my favorite times of the year. On any given Saturday you could find me wandering through an orchard of cherry trees in the farthest corner of Northwest Washington State.

This particular orchard belonged to my grandpa, who was lovingly known as “Bomps.” Often, I sat on the base of the wellhead with my BB gun resting on my knee looking for the sure sign of attack: falling blossoms. I would lose track of time waiting for the first blossom to fall to the ground.

Then it would begin — the quest to protect the orchard.

You see, birds migrated through the area just in time for spring blossom, and as the only orchard on that side of the state, our blossoms were prime targets for the nectar inside. Every time those birds knocked a blossom free, it meant no cherry would grow that season.

The despair in the pit of my stomach when making the discovery of white blossoms piled like a fresh snow at the base of a tree was unbearable. The burden was heavy. The responsibility to protect the orchard so the fruit could grow became an obsession.

Bomps would sit next to me and

share what each blossom represented — fruit that could be ripe for harvest. God used my Bomps, and those days in his orchard, to fuel my desire to give hope a chance to grow.

Fast forward more than 30 years and I'm sitting in front of a native indigenous tribal group in Mexico. I'm helping them solve nutritional security problems because the eight known Christians in the region are asking how they can grow things for themselves. They are asking me, a grown-up boy from a small orchard, for hope. I am confident that with God's help, hope has a chance to grow and this tribe

will no longer be counted among the unreached.

My passport has been stamped 45 times in the past three and a half years. From East Africa to Central America, I've been working with Convoy of Hope's Agriculture Initiative. Really, to be precise, I have been playing in the dirt and manure all over the world.

As I teach the basics of soil texture, solve bug infestation problems, and put education in the hands of those who need it the most, my obsession for giving hope and protecting the harvest comes full circle. I am reminded that hope changes everything.

Walking through fields, I see pitfalls that deny seeds their chance to grow all the way to harvest. I am truly blessed to have a network of scientists and friends I can call to problem solve, but not everyone believes hope for the harvest is both spiritual and physical. Personally, I can't separate the two — they work in tandem.

In my days as a Missions major at Northwest University, I remember my lovely (now wife) Mary and I feeding tilapia in the aquaponics greenhouse and dreaming of ways to bring hope around the world as a couple. Those days taught me the core of my personal mission, which is what I call "any way, anywhere, anyone."

This is my driving belief: God can use any way possible, anywhere on the planet to bring anyone a step closer to a relationship with Him.

This mission is why I believe in working with students from Evangel and other like-minded universities. The next generation of George Washington Carvers are sitting in our classrooms right now, and they need to know that their love for science and academics is a worthy call. When that love for science collides with a call to ministry, protecting the harvest and giving hope becomes a reality that the world is desperately seeking!

Our students and faculty are passionately seeking out answers for

I have been playing in the dirt and manure all over the world

those who are suffering with need. Basic needs like food and nutrient security, clean and safe water, energy security and environmental remediation are being addressed because our world is in need of solutions. These challenges are not going away, and the world needs answers, both spiritual and physical.

The solutions to our world's grand challenges can be found in our quest of discovery. That's why Evangel and Convoy of Hope have partnered to come up with programs that will reach the hopeless.

We hope for a plant variety able to withstand even the highest salinity. We hope for a water filtration method so inexpensive that everyone has access to clean and safe water. We hope for a new energy source that is yet to be invented, and all of these are within the reach of those who lay their heart and soul in the hands of the most creative Mind.

I dream of the day when people from all over the world come to Evangel to find answers, research, collaboration,

training and expertise because we are known for how our scientific rigor blends perfectly with the hope and faith we possess.

As each orchard day would come to a close, Bomps and I would make a final check of every tree hoping I had not missed the enemy coming to take away the harvest. I wish I could take my students, Evangel's alumni and others back to the orchard of my youth to feel what it was like to see a pile of blossoms on the ground.

It's the same feeling I get when I look at a disease-ravaged field that will not see a harvest. It's those memories that help drive my obsession for the lost, my love for dirt, Convoy of Hope and Evangel. Anywhere, any way, anyone — this is why we must train and educate the next generation.

Alumni: If you want to talk about how you can be involved, learn more about Convoy of Hope, or just want to know what type of bird it was, email me at streubelj@evangel.edu.



Dr. Jason Streubel is an associate professor at Evangel and serves as director of agriculture at Convoy of Hope.



INNERVIEW

Community Life Director Gina Rentschler

by Bryce Wilks

What's a student to do when they move to Evangel's campus and, for perhaps the first time, feel disconnected from home? Gina Rentschler works to provide that connection. Her calling includes creating a loving environment where students are known, cared about, and actively participating in Evangel's community life.

As director of community life, Rentschler trains residence life staff members on how to connect with and inspire excellence in students from all backgrounds. And community life doesn't just mean those who live on campus. Evangel's commuter student group, 417 Hall, is included as well.

She meets twice a week with the community life staff and bi-weekly with the student-composed group of resident assistants. Rentschler's position is so impactful that some have come to call her their "EU mom."

Rentschler has a background in counseling, having majored in psychology as a student at Evangel. Faculty mentors like Dr. Thurman Vanzant instilled a special love for students that still exists today.

"At age 18, I was overwhelmed with the options of life and did not know how to describe my calling," Rentschler said. "After waitressing a year, I took a step by coming to Evangel, and that step led me to the people and experiences that shaped my future and continue to fulfill my life today."

While pursuing a master's degree at Missouri State,



.....

Rentschler worked as a guidance counselor in the public school system. Then she had the opportunity to return to campus and serve as a residence director in Spence Hall.

“I fell in love with working in higher education during those five years,” she said. “After serving three years as Dean of Women at Central Bible College, I was able to rejoin Evangel in my current role.”

Rentschler aims to cultivate meaningful relationships with every student on campus through the outreach of her staff.

“We train our staff to connect with each student beyond a surface level so they have the ability to speak into their lives. That means we’ll intervene in all types of situations to help students and to inspire them on a path of personal growth and success.”

Intentionality, according to Rentschler, is what sets EU’s community apart. Whether a student is spending too many hours gaming instead of studying, or becomes ill and falls behind in their classes, the community life staff is trained to take note and take action.

“Our staff seeks out opportunities to serve students in very intentional ways,” junior Izu Aginwa said. Aginwa serves as a resident assistant in Krause Hall.

Like those who have embraced community before her, personal connections keep Rentschler plugged in and excited to make a difference.

“I’ve heard professors describe ‘ah-hah’ moments, when things start to connect in students’ minds,” she said. “For me, that means watching students face real challenges, and in part because of the training and support we provide, having the confidence and skill to overcome them.”

STUDENT PROFILE: IZU AGINWA

Izu Aginwa comes from a family of missionaries, so it’s no surprise he imagines a future filled with traveling the world.

The junior Communication Studies major and Nonprofit Business & Social Enterprise minor experienced many cultures growing up, and his desire is to impact young people in many nations.

How is Evangel preparing you for the future?

More than ever, I feel like Evangel is a place to learn how to live in the world with a Christ-like mind. For me, I’m going to impact youth, but not necessarily in a church setting. I’m learning how to impact the world, no matter what setting.

What makes the environment at Evangel special?

It’s the relationships that are developed between leaders and students. Evangel is so community oriented, and it shows through the environment on campus. I’m grateful for leaders like Gina Rentschler who speak into my life and show me how to lead with words and actions.

What’s it like being a resident assistant in Krause Hall?

It’s a great experience because of the relationships I’ve formed. Being an R.A. has made me be more intentional about life and relationships. I make an effort to connect with and include everyone on the hall. It’s an all-around experience that includes spiritual, academic and social growth.

What’s your biggest goal between now and graduation in 2016?

I just want to learn as much as I can from the faculty and staff. That’s probably one of my favorite things about Evangel because they are truly committed to the development of every student here.

What are your goals after you graduate?

I have a heart for young people, and I want to help them realize that their circumstances and situations don’t have to define them. I can envision living somewhere abroad like Nigeria, but I could also see staying in Springfield to start a business here. I believe God made me versatile to reach a broad range of young people and impact their lives.



Dallas CEO honored with Evangel's Regius Award

by Paul K. Logsdon

Be the hardest worker you can be. Strive for perfection! You'll never achieve it, but strive for it."

That wise counsel is from Phil Appenzeller, a seasoned trial attorney and CEO of one of the largest purely Texas law firms, Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr.

The 1988 Evangel graduate spoke at the Social Sciences Department's annual awards banquet in April, where he was honored to receive the 2015 Regius Award, the highest honor given by the department to alumni, in recognition of outstanding professional accomplishments and commitment to the ideals of service.

"Phil has a good handle on his priorities," said Dr. Bryan Sanders, professor emeritus and former chair of the department. "His life and career have been guided by decisions and actions that reflect well on his faith, his family, his profession and his standing as a graduate of our department."

Phil made the trip from Dallas with his wife, Rhonda (Brauchler '88). While on campus, he was pleased to be able to meet with president Dr. Carol Taylor and guest lecture in the department.

A LIFE OF SERVICE

As a student, Phil served on the activities board and was a class officer. In his role as student body vice president, he learned skills that translated to the career world, such as strategic planning.

"Eddie Jones was our student body president, and he came up with the idea for the 'Save for the Future Fund,'" said Phil. "It was my job to sell the student body on a self-imposed fee to fund a new student union that they would never use."

Phil prepared and presented his case and won. The students voted yes, and 10 years later, those funds were the seed money needed to build the Mabree Student Fitness Center.

His interest in service hasn't waned. Phil currently serves as president of the Mesquite Independent School District board of trustees, a district with 40,000 students and five high schools.

"The two most influential groups of people in your community are the school board members and the city council members," he said at the banquet.

"We need those of you with degrees in the social sciences in the church and the workplace," he said. "I challenge you to get out and work strategically with your pastors to reach people for Jesus Christ."

To the current students at Evangel, Phil added: "I would encourage students to strive for excellence in everything you do, and to take advantage of every resource Evangel University has to offer. Don't leave anything on the table when you walk out the door."



Read a full-length feature on Phil Appenzeller, including his time as a JAG Officer, at evangel.edu/appenzeller

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CLASS NOTES

THE LIVES OF EVANGEL ALUMNI

Stanley M. Horton went to be with the Lord July 12, 2014. Dr. Horton was 98 years old. He taught at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary from 1978-1991. Prior to that he was a faculty member at Central Bible College from 1948-1978. He wrote the Assemblies of God Adult Teacher Sunday school curriculum for over 25 years. He published more than 250 articles and book reviews. His life achievements brought him many awards. He is survived by sons, **Stan ('69)**, **Ed ('71)**, daughter, **Faith (Stilts) ('78)**, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Shonna Crawford ('00,'03) defended her dissertation and earned a Ph.D. in Literacy from the University of Missouri, Columbia. Shonna is assistant professor of education at Evangel. Her husband **Michael ('00)** is now owner of O.P. & L.

Tabitha Eutsler ('10) was named Springfield, Mo. "Teacher of the Year" for 2015-2016. Tabitha is a third-grade teacher at Jeffries Elementary School.

Dalie Hand ('12) joined the Chicago Cubs organization as integrated marketing manager.

NaTasha (Neal) Moore ('05) was inducted into Springfield Area Sports Hall of Fame in May, 2014

for her outstanding basketball career. She and husband **Anthony ('03)** have three sons and live in Fort Worth, Texas. Anthony serves as campus pastor at The Village Church, Fort Worth campus.

John Plake, coordinator of Global Connections at Evangel, received his Ph.D. from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.

Donna Washburn, associate professor of social work, earned her Doctor of Philosophy from Regent University.

Dr. Bryan Sanders, **Dr. Dennis Wubbena**, **Dr. Robert Turnbull**, **Sharon Wilkins** and **Bob Cirtin** each retired from Evangel and assumed the title of professor emeritus.

Dr. John Clements ('02) is assistant professor of ophthalmology at Oregon Health & Science University. John and **Lori (Dollar) ('02)** recently returned from serving three years in Benguela, Angola.

Bethany Bashioum ('09) was selected to receive the 2014 William E. James Missouri Outstanding Young Journalist award from Missouri Press Association. Bethany has worked for the *Harrisonville Weekly* since 2012 as a writer, photographer and web designer.

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