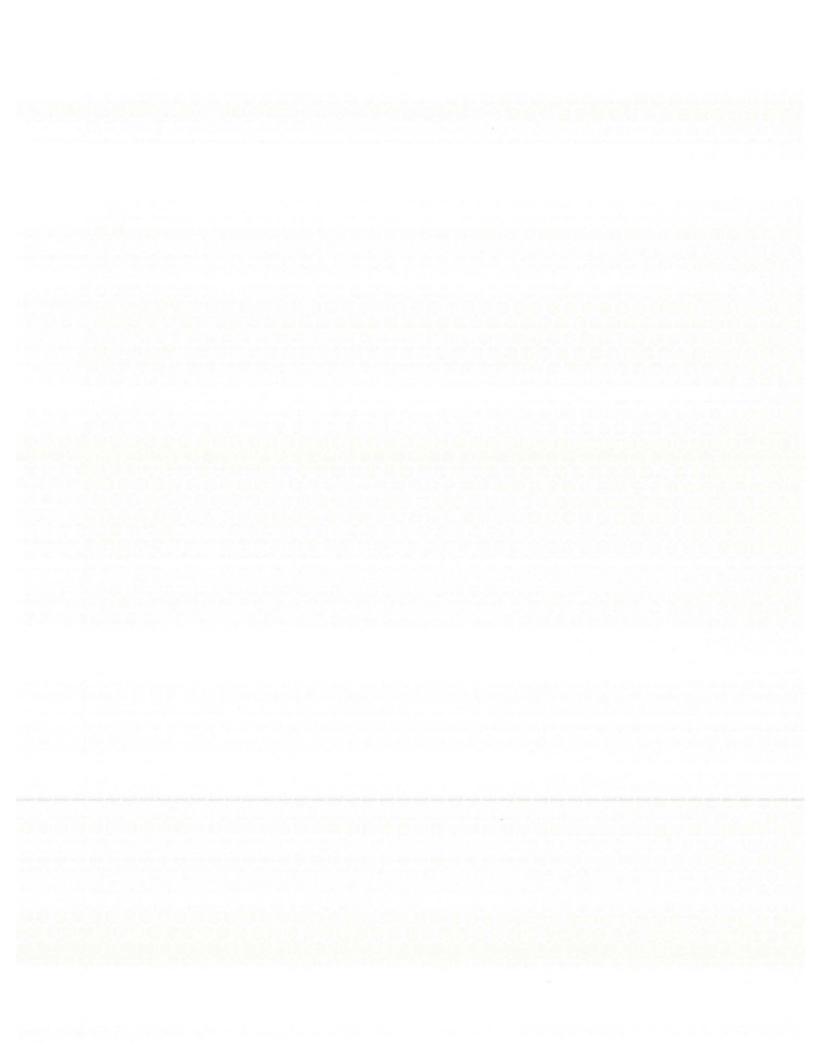
The people responsible for capturing this great year:

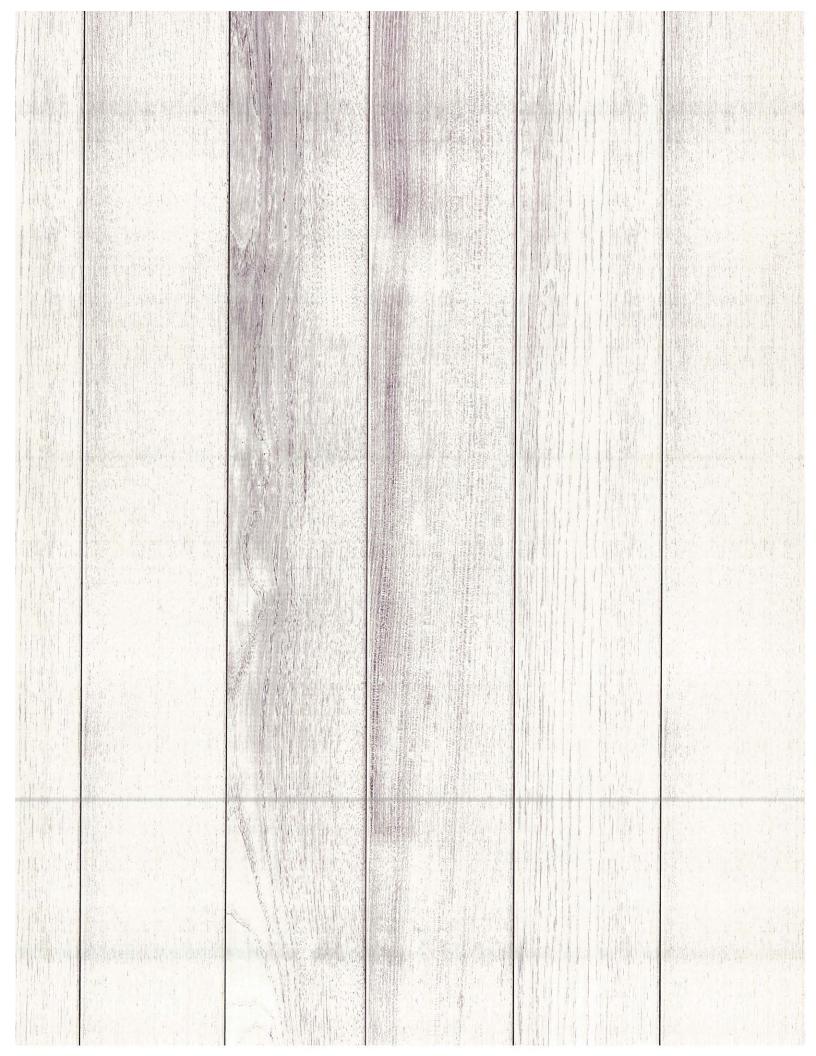
Katie Diep Richard Landauer Broc Mason Garrett McFarland Isaac Trosvig

Special thanks to Austin Thomas, Ken Pace, NNU Marketing and NNU Athletics for their contributions.



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## FACULTY AND STAFF

NNU is brought to you not only by the students who walk this campus, but also by the individuals who are ever so dedicated to the growth and well being of our university. Those who invest daily into our lives as students and who work hard to keep NNU thriving. Those leaders include President Pearsall, the Board of Trustees, Faculty and Staff.



President Pearsall



Board of Trustees



Admissions



Art and Design



Computer Science



Christian Ministry and Philosophy



Financial Aid



Music



Nursing



Physics and Engineering



Not Pictured: Technology and Media Resources, Wellness Center, Spiritual Formation, Marketing and Media, Education, Language Literature and Cultural Studies, Communication, History and Political Science, Social Work, Philosophy and Christian Ministry, Business, Campus Safety, Chemistry, Library, Math, Pre-Med, Registrar, University Advancement, Wesley Center, Bookstore

Physics

## SENIORS







Adrieanna Lynch Alaina Bredy Alex Reich

Alyssa Olson Amanda Willard AnnaMarie Forza













Anthony McDonald Ashley Wetzel Audra Jenson

Austin Beatty Austin Dakota Martin Austin Thomas













Bailey Christensen Becca Roberts Ben Atkin

Brent Conrad Brianna Walker Brittany Conklin













Carleigh Sturm Carli Shaul Carlie Hoerth

Carlyn Jones Cassidy Baller Danielle Miller













David
Waterman
Destiny
Roberts
E.J.
Leitzinger

Elayna Rice Elena Hardy Eric Stone













Erin Howe Erin Ratliff Gahwi Hong

Genesis Cruz Glenna Rose Hanson Grady Pearsall













Grant Miller Halie Carley Heather Neil

Jadyn Gourley Jane Zhang Janson Card







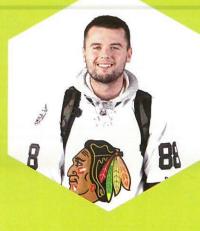






Jennifer Sunderlin Jessica Johns Jessica Johnson

John Eaton Jonathan Hamilton Jordan Nelson













Kara Fleming Kara Martinez Katie Swanson

Katrina Roys Kayla Davidson Kayla Siepmann -Hiatt













Kelly Nigro Kevin Laughlin Kimberly Arendt

Krayms Kyle McLaughlin Kyle Nogales













Laura Seymour Lauren Jaquess Leslie Gangwer

Lexi Sarver Lindee Triplett Linnea Phillips







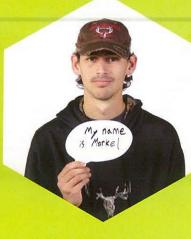






Logan Roller Mack Joseph Matthew Bonner

Michael Minjares Mikayla Walker Miles F Wilson













Natalee Dillard Nicole Lewis Olivia Reimer

Paul Zukowski Penny McClain Rachel Bryant













Sam Read Sarah Brown Shaina Lonai

Sierra Zuberer Stephanie Copenhaver Stephanie Davis













Stephen Bryant Sydney Bergen Tania Golo

Taylor Simmons Tiffany Wood Timothy McDonald













Tori Wilson Trevor Smith Tyler Slonaker

Toni Talbott Whitney Povlsen William Gniswell









William Rieke Zach Thompson Zhang Meng











Breahna Roberts Brenden O' Neill Brittany McCoffee

Cacey Hall Cassie Wade Charles Bauman













Charlotte
Coddington
Chloe
Ma-Honey
Cody Funk

Cole Logemann Collin Horwood Dakota Wiley













Dana Dekruyf Danielle Hestand Eric Ostyn













Mark Minjares Megan Verdi Melina Flynn















Michael Reimer Mike Bowerman Mohammed Alsharif

Monique
Jauregui
Nathan
Emerson
Nathan Horwood













Nicole Keller Olivia Ainsworth Pablo Ramirez





Wutong Ge Xander Mahaffy Zach Mason



Zach McClanahan

## SOPHOMORES



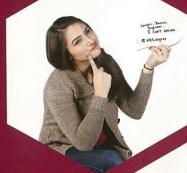
Aimee Hoerth Alexis Kingsley Amy Wheeler

Andi Zhang Andrew C. Mills Anna Doud













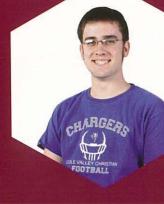
Annalise Dillon Anysja Manzer Ashlee Teeter

Ashleigh Oswalt Baylie Self Benjamin Mackey

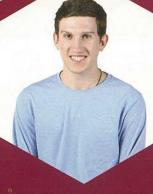












Branden Braun Brando Calrissian Brandon Pankey

















Cassidy Shaw Chelsey Knott CiCi Gossman













Claire Brutchley Cline York Colette Gall







Jordan Watkins Joshua Walters Kaitlyn Mernitt

Karen Pierce Katelyn Hazen Katie Diep











Katie Largent Katie Woolery Kayla Haight

Kendra Smith Kenzie Clark Kersey Hames













Korte Zickefoose Kory Gaona Kula Reed

























Sierra Sanchez Stephen Hall Sullivan Allen

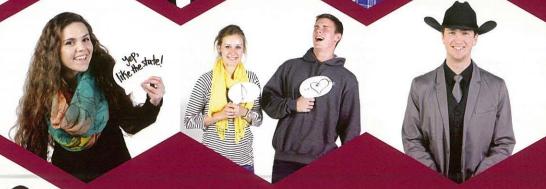
Suther-Bruthers Sydney Ames Sydney Phillips





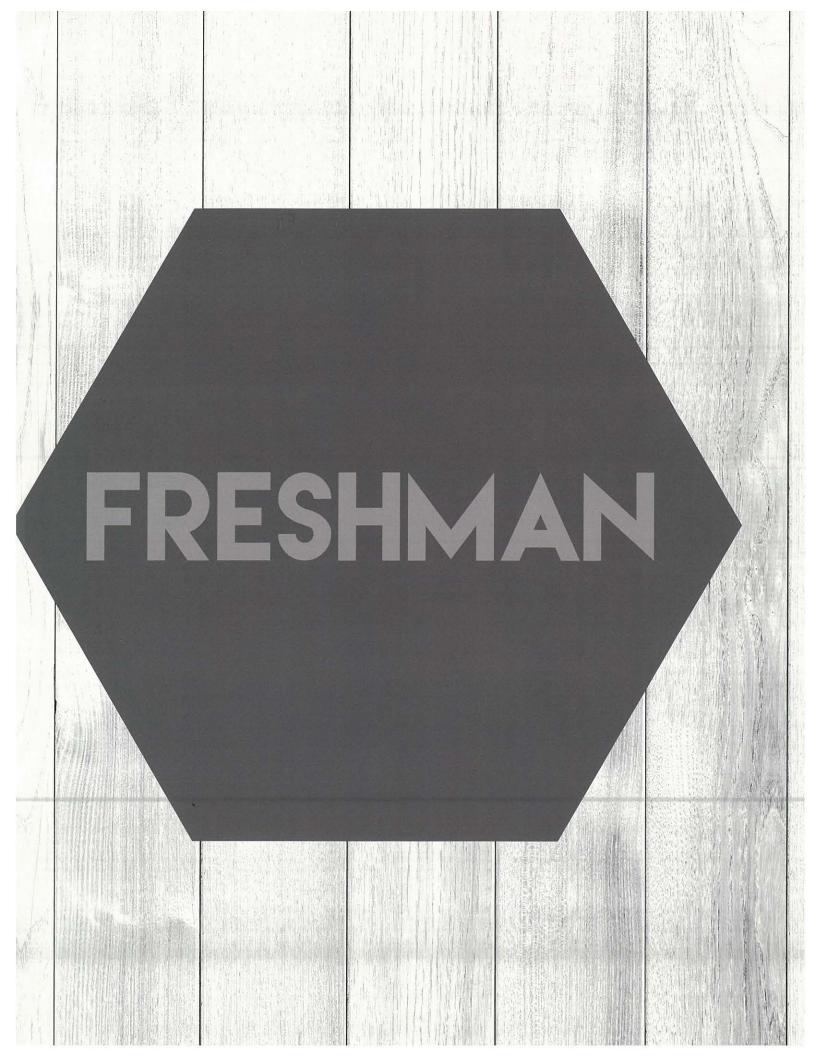
Taiwanjohn Talia Weaver Trevor Johnser

Virginia Tambe Wes Welch Wyatt Thanstrom





Zach Vlaanderen





Aaron Rogers Abril Bahena Adelaide Turnage

Alison Edwards Aubrey Mckenzie-Haze Austan Hemphill









Benjamin Arroyo Benjamin Meade Bradley Butler

Brendan Peltzer Brianna Jones Brianna Pappa





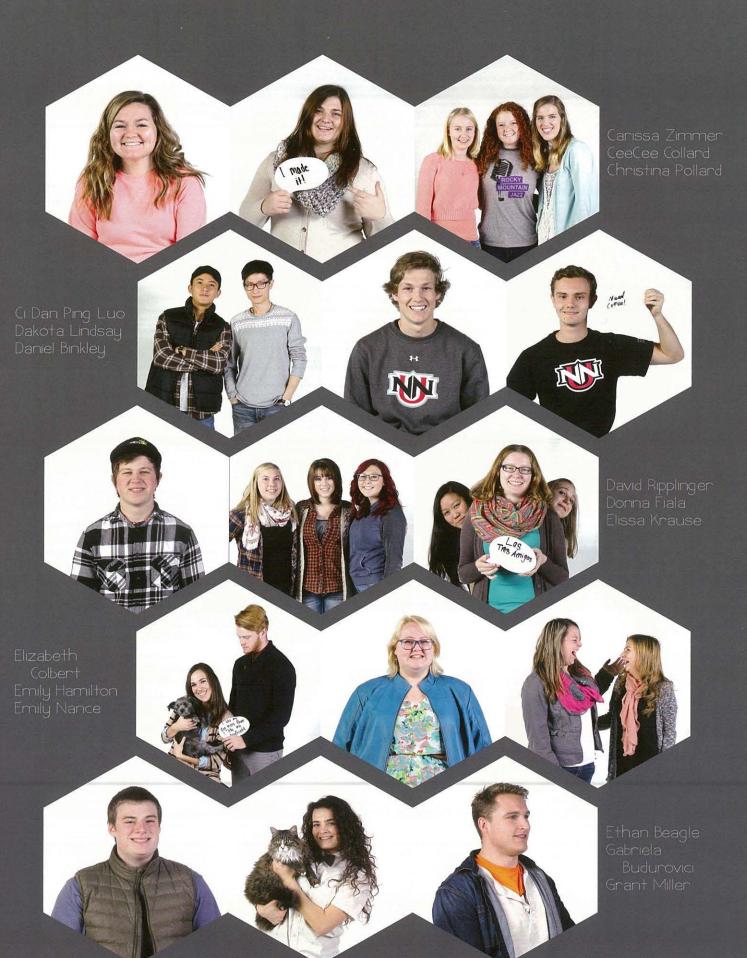








Caleb
Druckhammer
Cambree
Michelson
Camilla Mowry





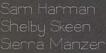




























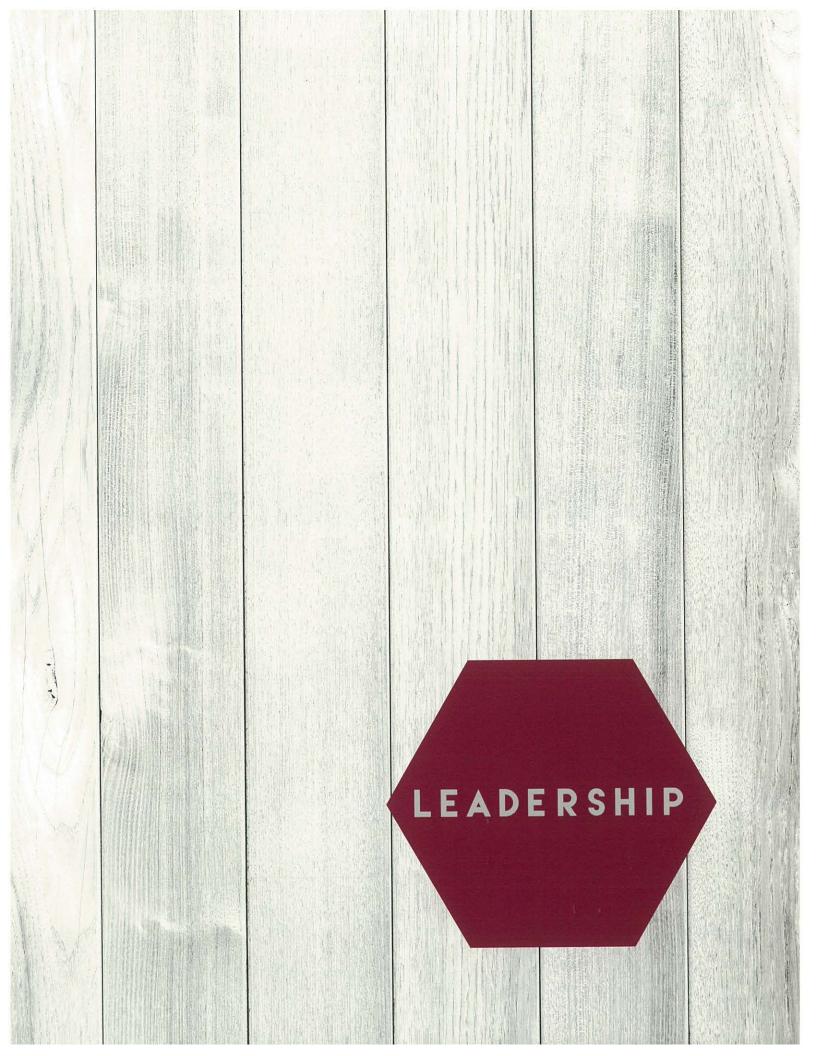








Whitney Schrader Xaanwei Jin Zach Blum



# SGA



















The 2015-2016 school year saw some amazing leadership from our Student Body President- Ross Martinson, Executive Vice President- Phil Haunschild, Social Vice President-Liberty Fleming, Secretary- Allie Kroeger, Publicity Director- Luke Zane, Community Relations Coordinator- Janson Card, Athletic Liaison- Cassidy Ball, Business Manager- Lindee Triplett, Oasis Editor-Brittany McCarty, Campus Ministries Coordinator- Becca Roberts



# RESIDENT

Ford and Culver are NNU's Freshman dorms run by Jessica Novello and Roman Lyon. Corlett and Sutherland are NNU's Sophomore dorms run by Stacy Freiburg haus and Robert Poe.

**FORD** 



CULVER



SUTHERLAND



## ASSISTANTS

Corlett is the Junior dorm run by Mark Baas and Kirkeide and Olsen are Senior housing run by Jeb Anderson. Each of these amazing leaders run a hard-working team of RA's that organize events and maintain a safe and secure environment for residents.



DOOLEY



**CORLETT** 



KIRKEIDE

#### SENATE









#### D-GROUP LEADERS



MULTI-CULTURAL MENTORS

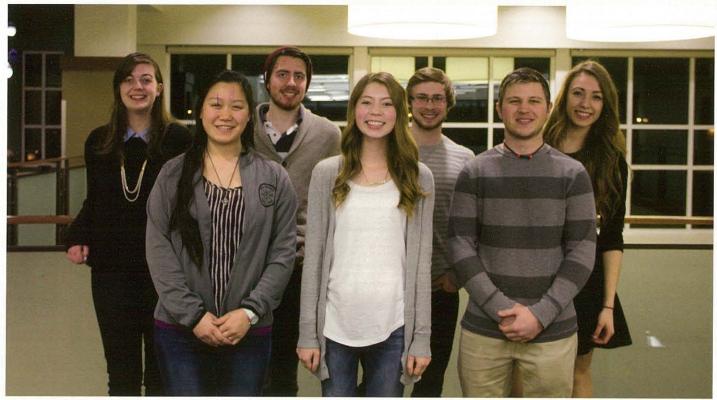


PEER MENTORS



PEER
HEALTH
EDUCATORS

### **CLASS COUNCIL**



Freshman



Sophomore

Class councils are an integral part of student life, putting on events such as class retreats. Fresheree Homecoming, Mr. NNU, among others. These hard working groups are part of the significant foundation that makes the community at NNU so wonderfull



Junior



Senior

### WITNESS

























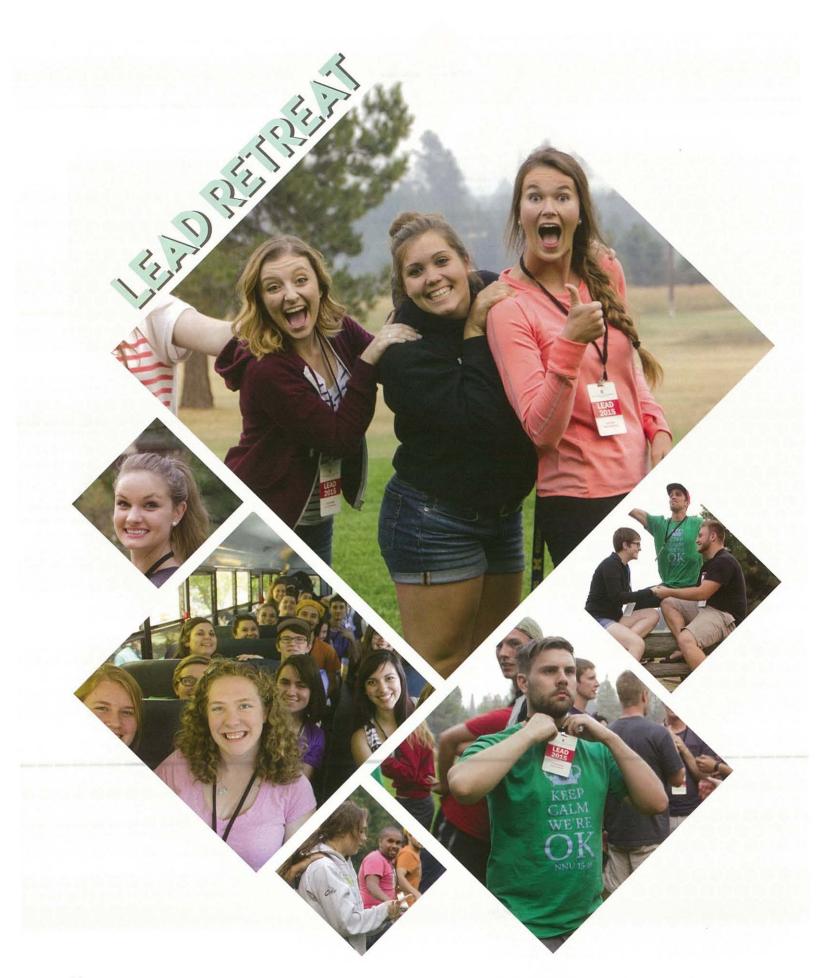


### COVENANT









In order to prepare for their positions during the semester, RA's, SGA, and other students taking on leadership roles gathered together for a weekend to bond, learn, and have some final summer fun.









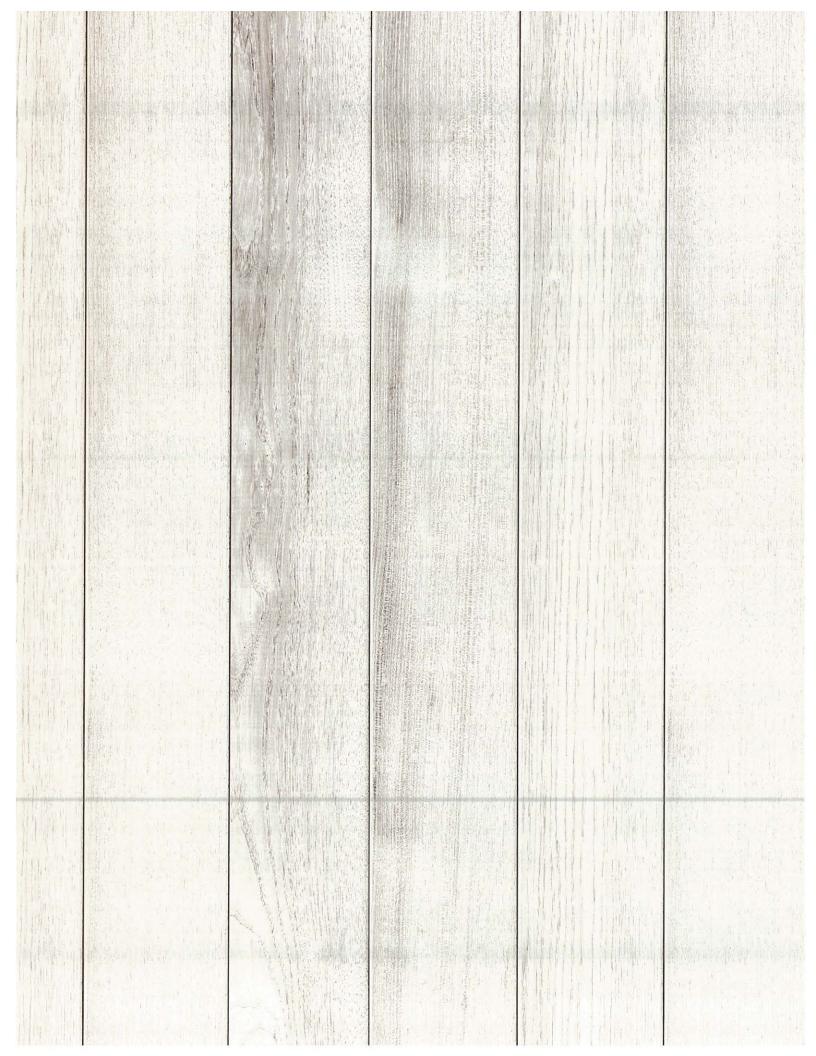


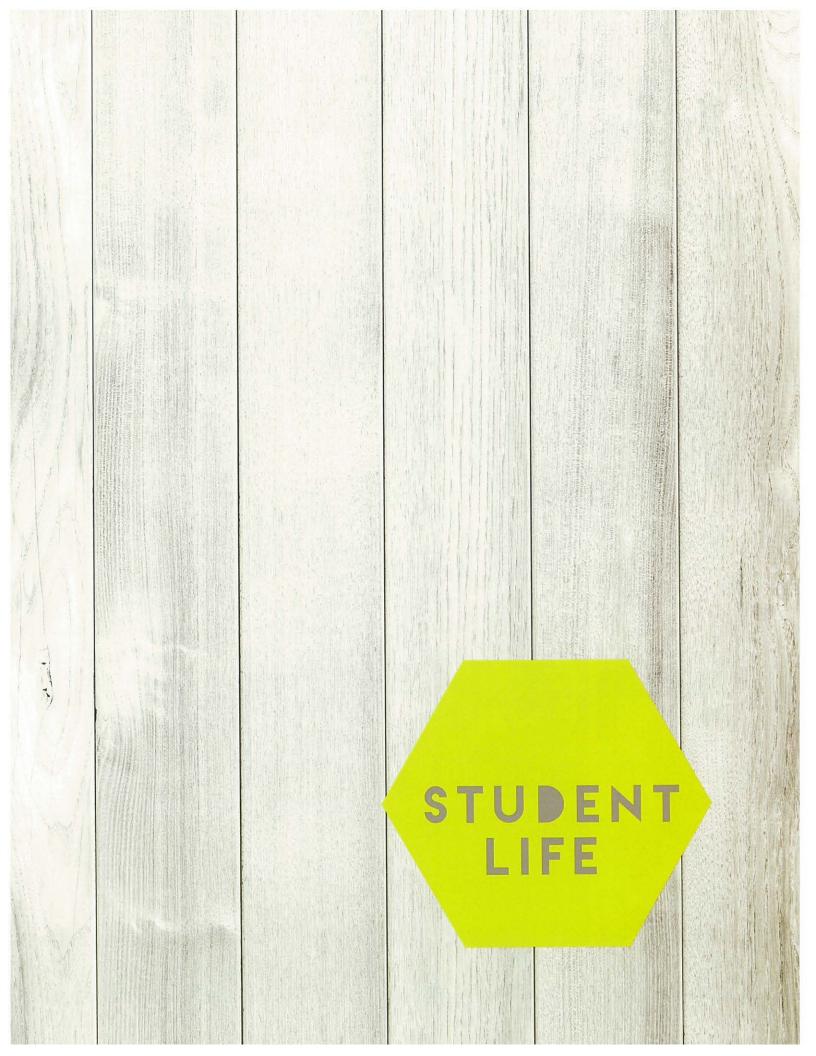












# MOVEINDAY



















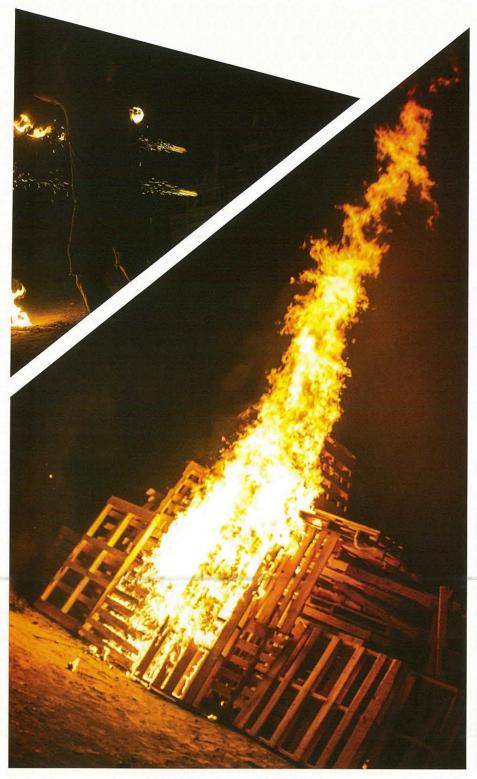
One of the most anticipated days, move-in day, was an absolute blast! Per tradition, student leaders from across campus helped the largest freshman class yet move into their dorms, Ford Hall and Culver Hall. Hundreds of students moved into their new homes and prepared for their new adventure at NNU.

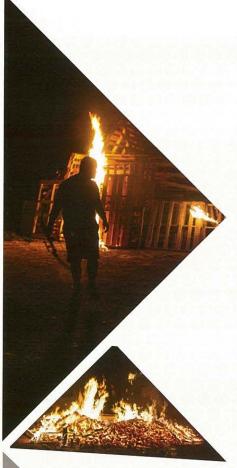




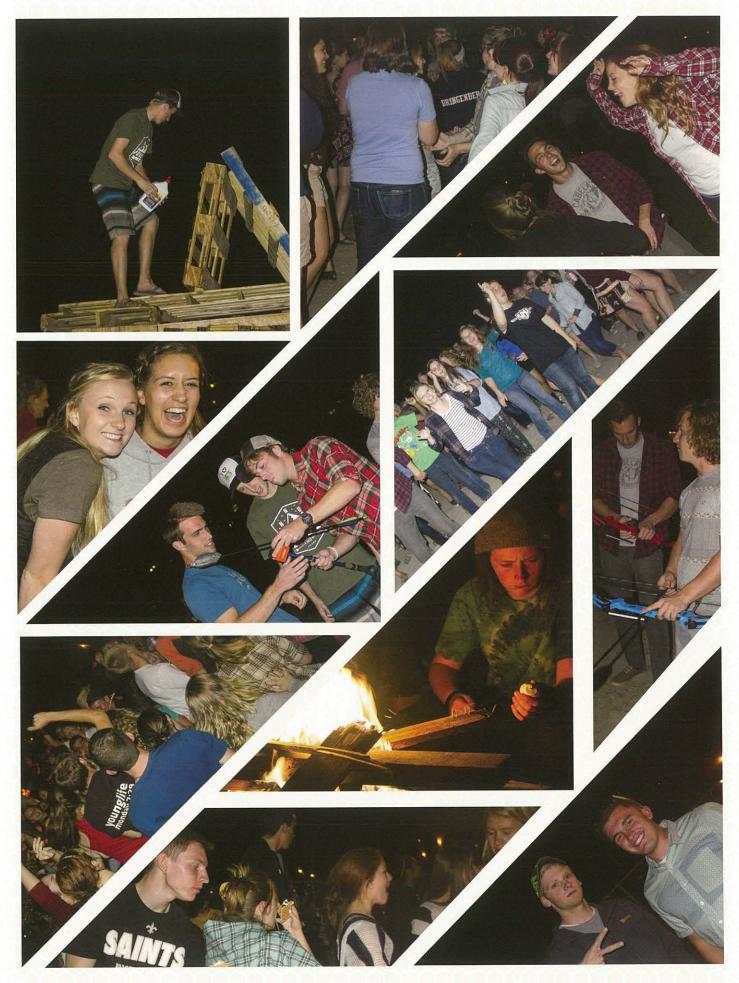


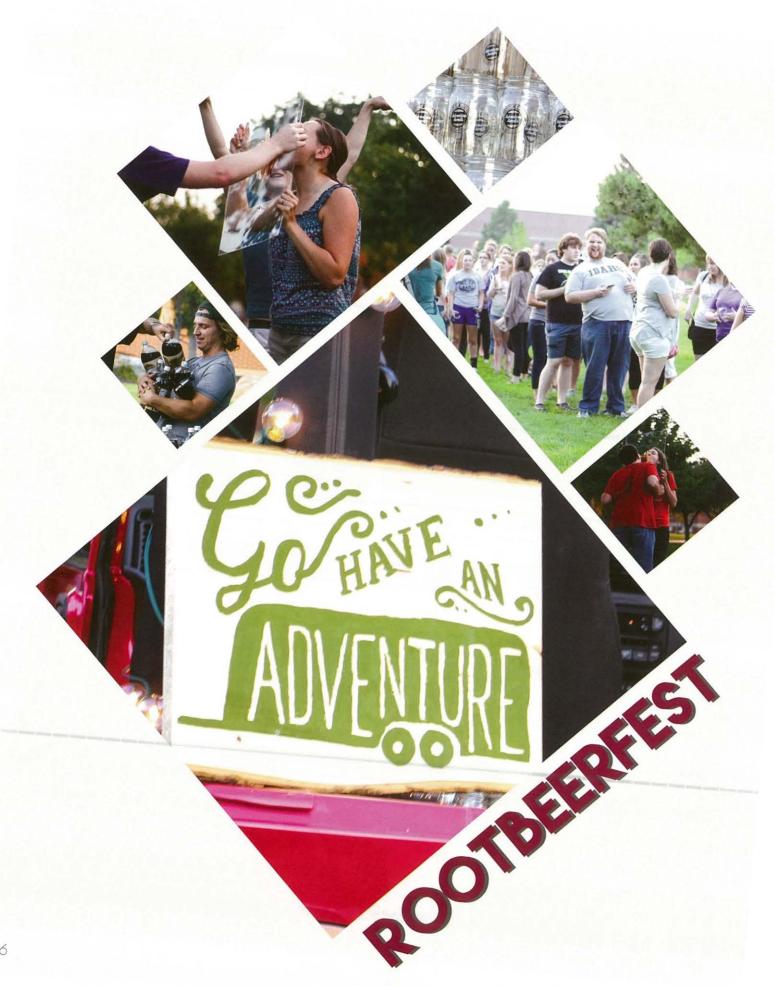
# BONFIRE





According
to tradition,
NNU SGA put
on the beginningof-the-year bonfire.
While it didn't get lit the
first night, due to county
fire regulations, it was held later
once the bonfire could
actually be lit. Both
nights were great times
for old friends to see
each other again
and to meet
incoming
students.

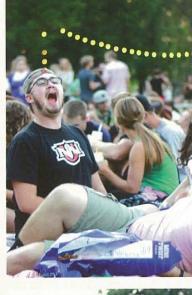






















On the night before the first day
of classes, students
gathered on the
Brandt Center lawn
for the annual Root
Beer Fest. Complete
with a buffet of
candy, root beer
floats, games and a
dance competition
between the classes. This event was
a fun way to kick
off the new school
year!



#### FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS





























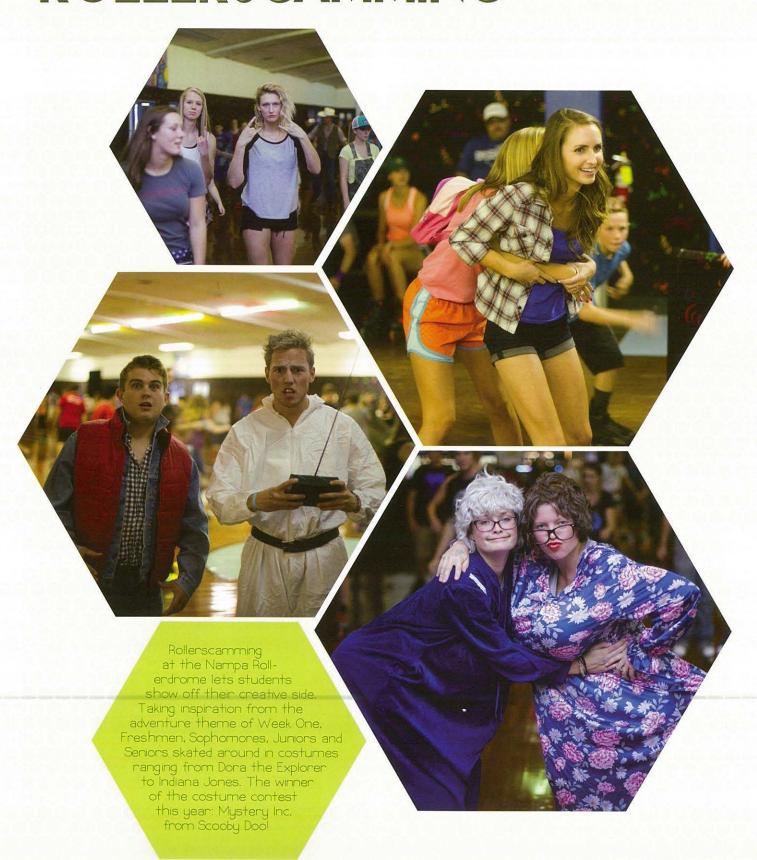




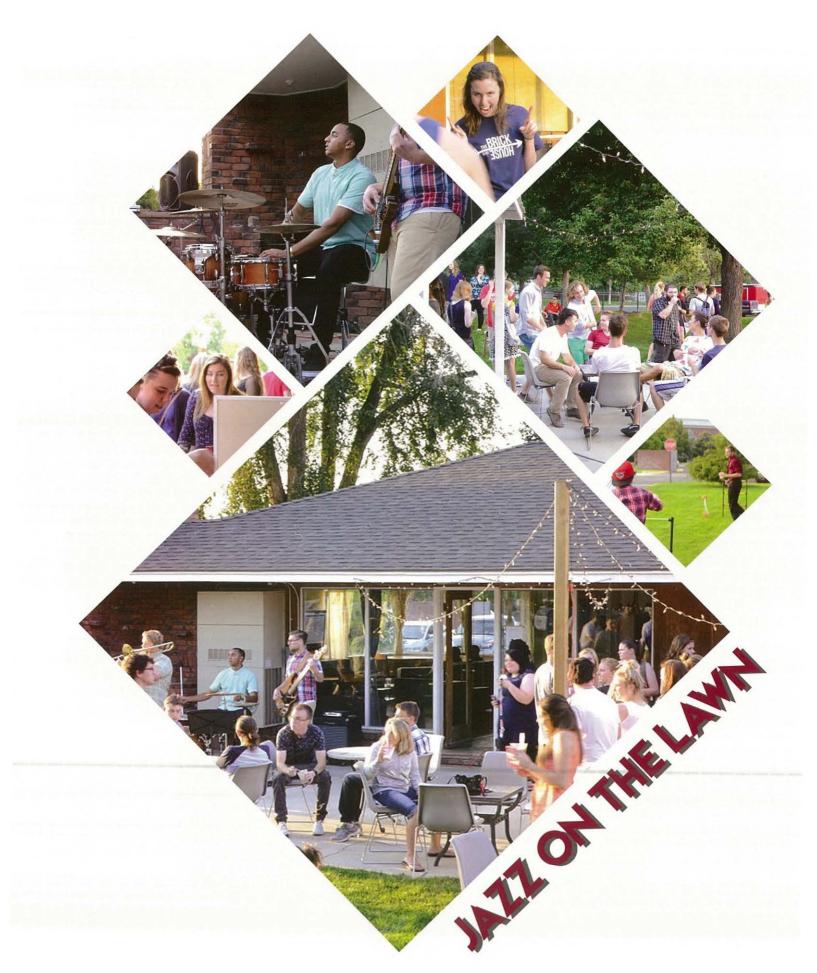
After completing the first week of classes, students get to unwind a bit by playing some games at Friday Night Lights. There were three activities to choose from on the Corlett lawn: volleyball, bubble soccer, and slip n' slide kickball. There isn't anything much better than a little friendly competition and seeing your classmates bounce around in giant plastic balls!



#### ROLLERSCAMMING







This year for Jazz on the Lawn, students enjoyed a layed back evening of jazz, lawn games and good company. The Brick House served the well renowned Brick along with an array of flavored Italian sodas.





















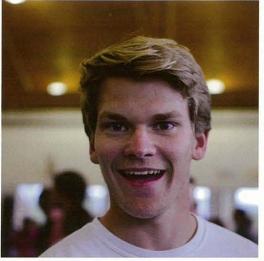




## FRESHMAN RETREAT



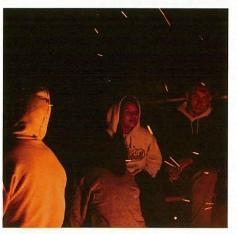










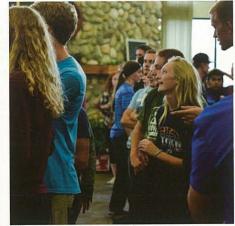




The Freshman class went to Trinity Pines campground for a weekend away and for the chance to get to know each other a little better.







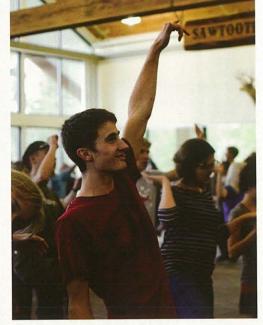






















Each class was assigned an NNU color to represent and headed to Idaho IceWorld for a night of games on the ice. It was every class for itself, as freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors competed in broom hockey, dodgeball, sharks and minnows, tag and red-light-greenlight. Although the senior class was underrepresented, they proved to be victorious in the final event of human curling!

## FRESHEREE





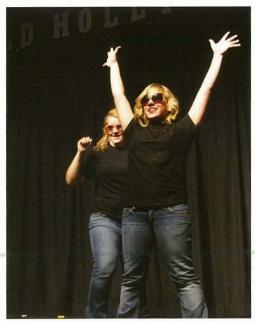




NNU's got talent! The Sophomore Class Council put on this year's Fresheree talent show with the theme of Old Hollywood. Our lovely hosts, Luke Zane and Ross Martinson, made sure the audience kept laughing throughout the night. The line-up included a showcase of incredible yo-yo skills, hilarious reenactments of SNL skits, and plenty of homegrown humor.



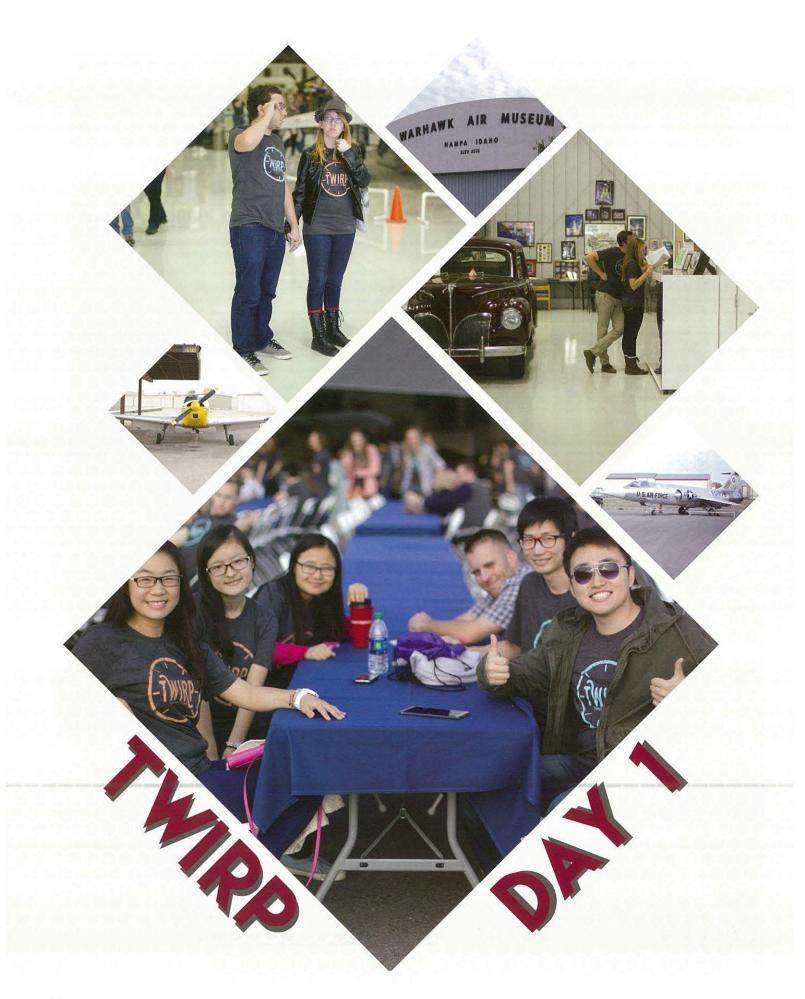










































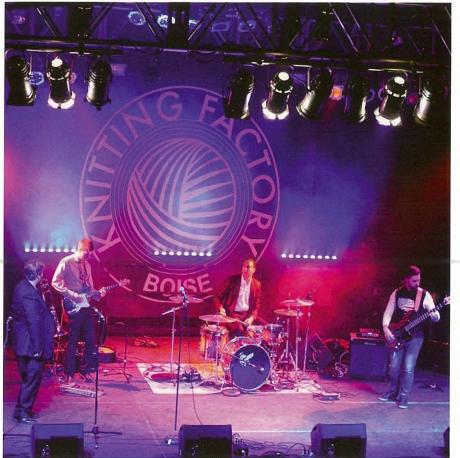


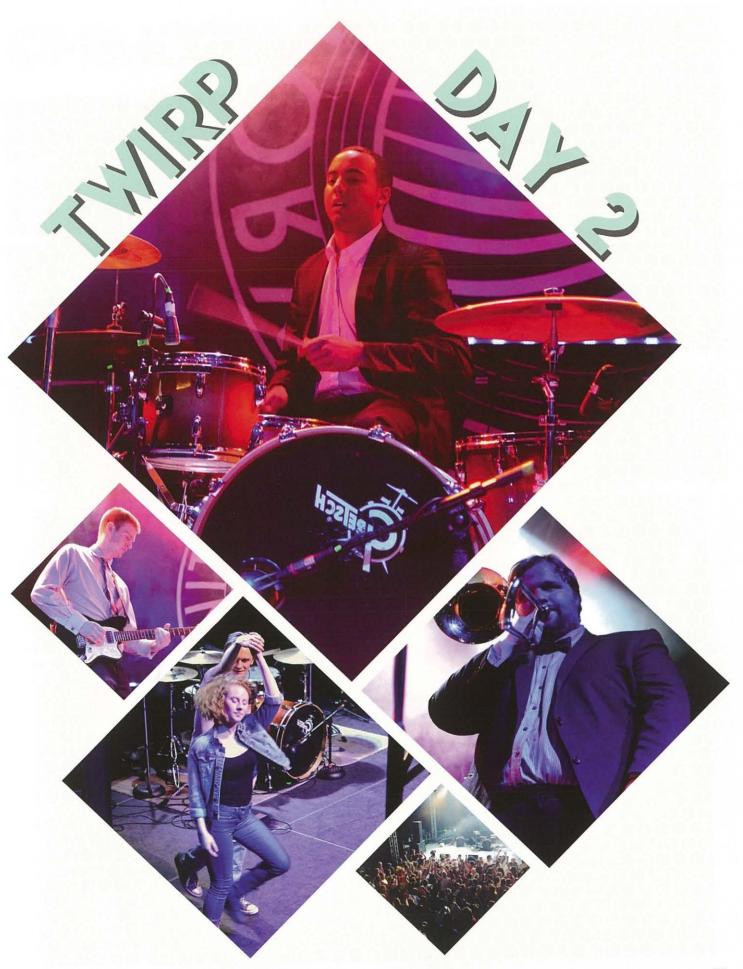






'TWIRP through Time' was the theme of this year's 2-day social event put on by SGA! Day One started out with dinner on the Warhawk Museum airfield and discounted Dutch Bros. Next on the schedule, the Farmstead Corn Maze. Day Two: Costumes! Students pulled ideas from the past, present, and future for their creative ensembles. The night consisted of an improv show, 'potato' ice-cream, and dance lessons at the Knitting Factory!







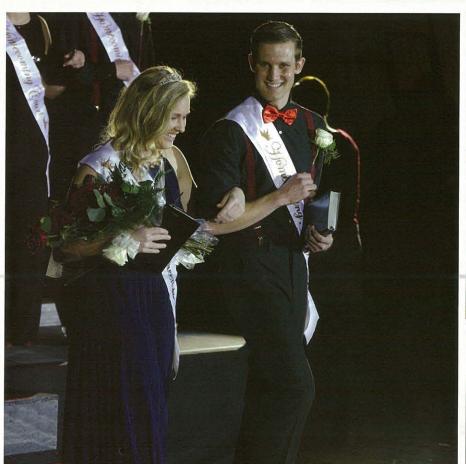
### HOMECOMING















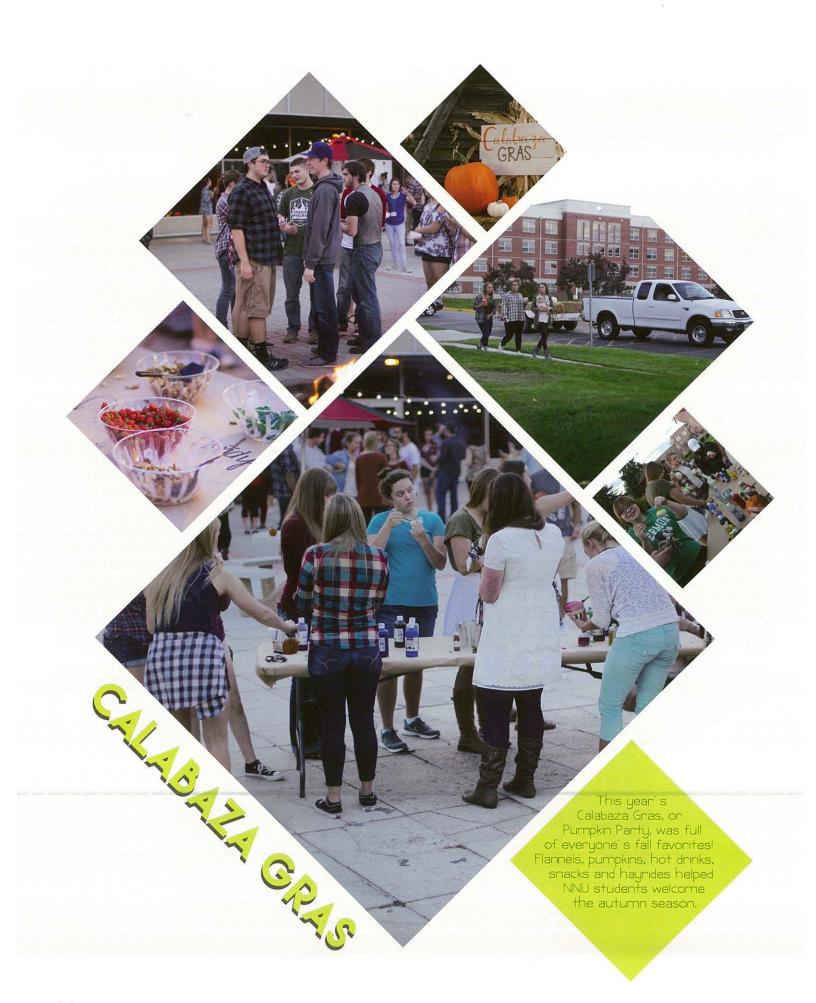


































## WEEK OF CHEER





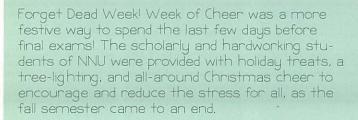






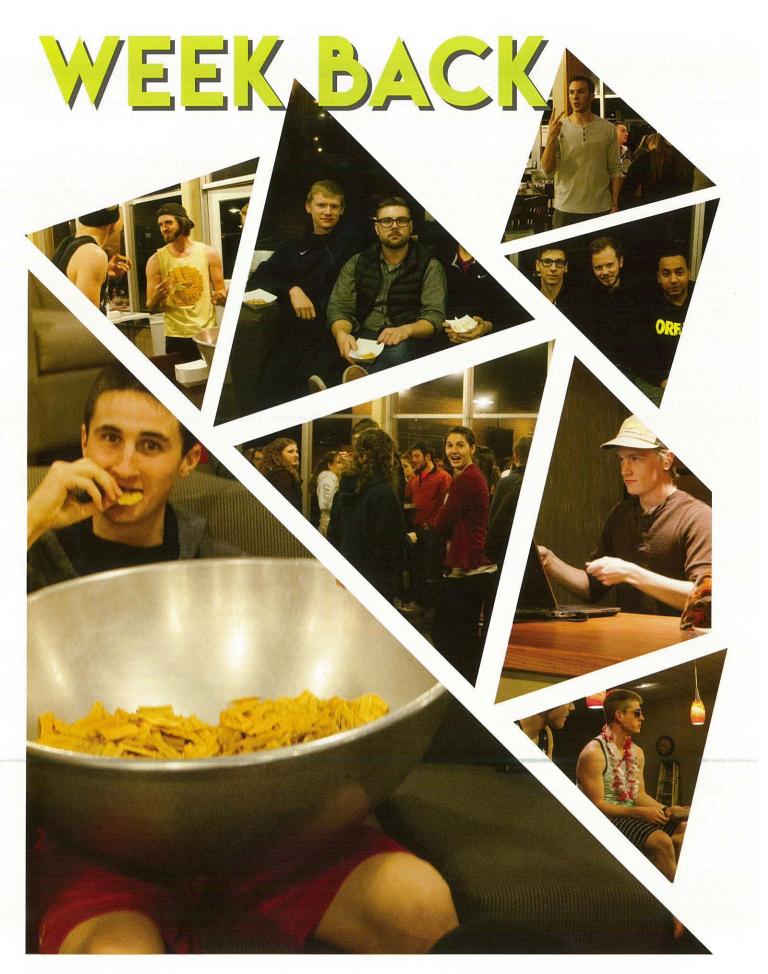




















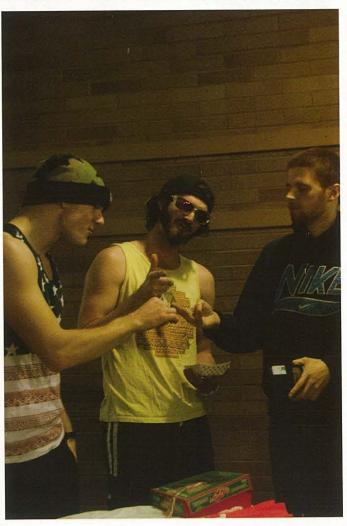
This Week Back theme was 'Here Comes the Sun' including a nice low-key evening with games and snacks at the Student Center. SGA also rented out the Nampa Rec Center after hours for an all-NNU event. Students enjoyed the night playing volleyball, basketball, rock climbing and even some swimming! The week's celebrations were a great introduction to a great Spring semester!









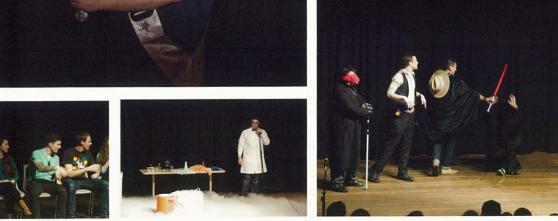




# MR. NNU









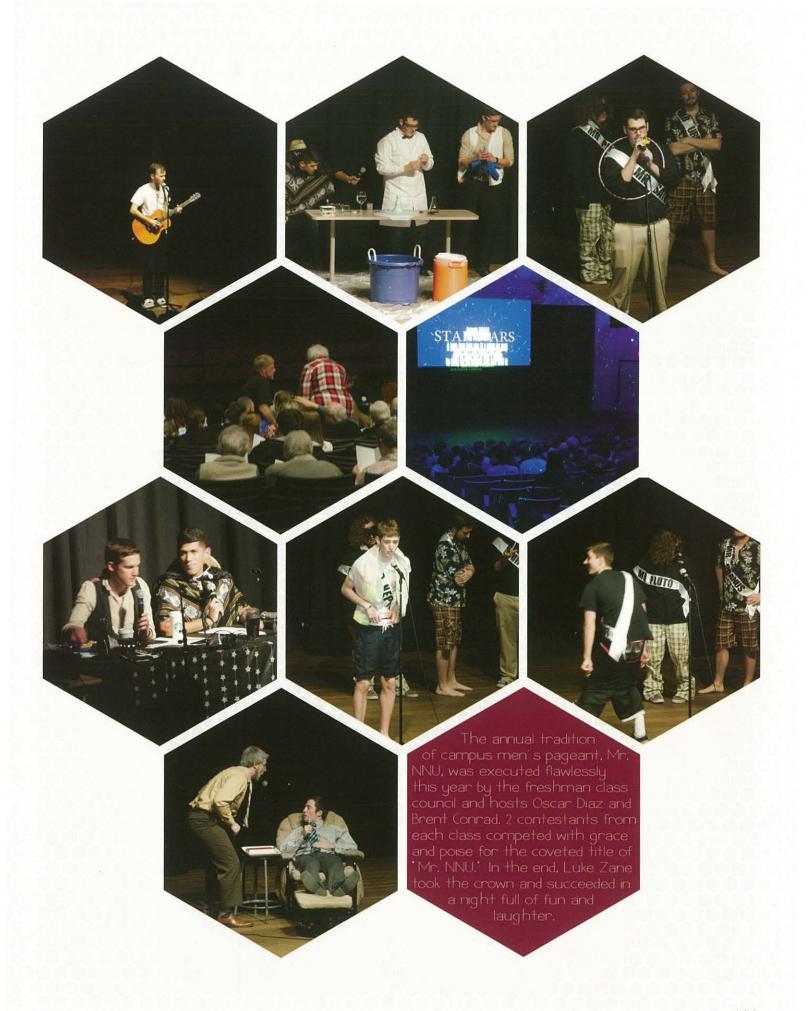












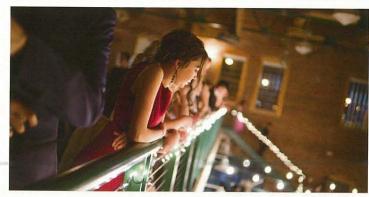












### BLACK TIE







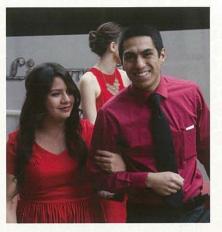






















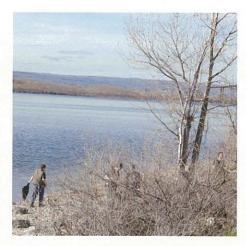


This year's Black Tie was an Oscars-thermed evening including dinner at the Rose Room and dancing, desserts, awards, and pictures at the Power-house. The night was full of laughter and fun and proved a successful event!

## SERVE DAY





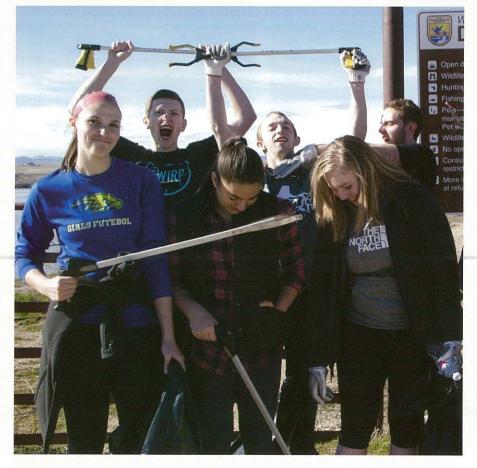








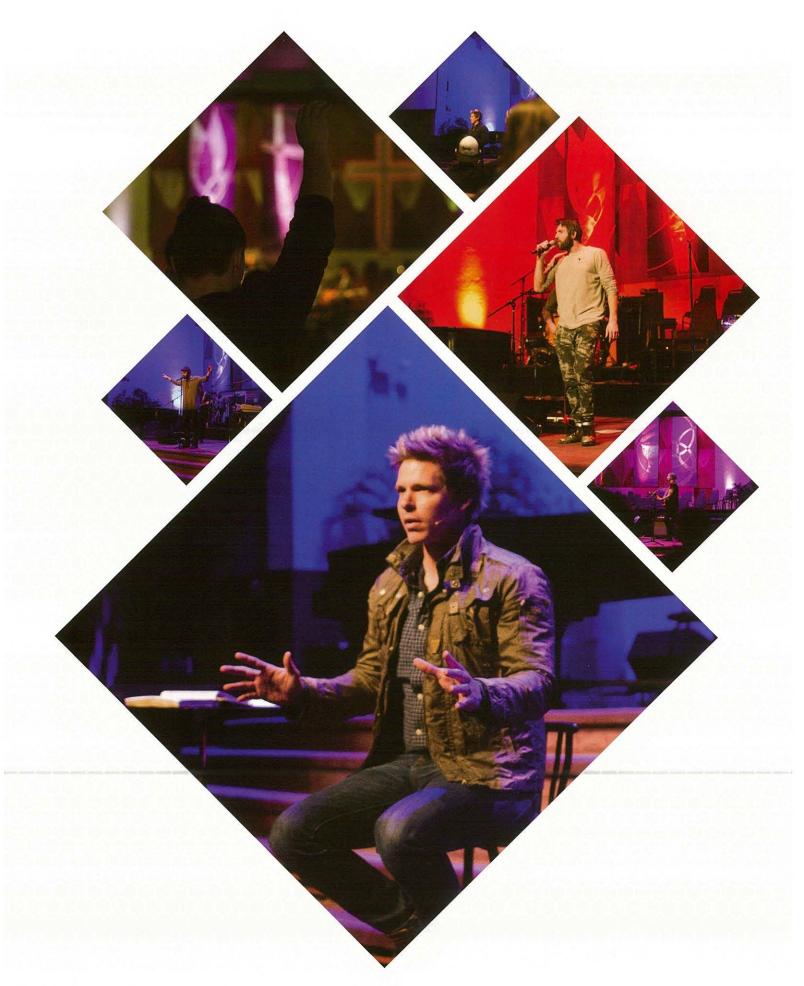






Students were able to participate in Serve Day both semesters, working in teams with local charities and organizations. By helping others and forming relationships, students put one of NNU's core values, Service, into practice.





### WINTER AWAKENING





















The Holy Spirit was at work this year during Winter Awakening, led by special guest Travis Whittaker, who challenged and pushed NNU students to go deeper with their faith. The band Truslow also visited to lead worship. The week focused on the Lord's Prayer and breaking it down to get deeper.

















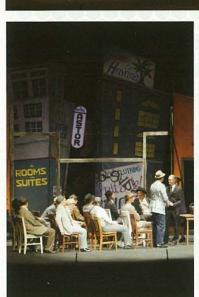
#### THE ODD COUPLE

This fall, NNU's talented acting community put on an amazing production! Actually, you could say that they put on two amazing productions. Both a male and a female version of this 1965 Neil Simon play were performed by dedicated NNU students who were able to confront difficult relationship issues in a humorous way. After months of rehearsing, their hard work successfully paid off.













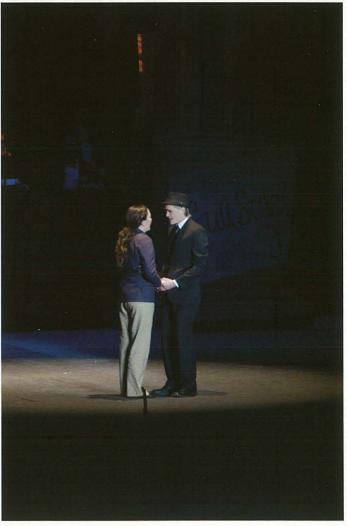


This year's spring musical was Guys and Dolls, a musical comedy by Frank Loesser. Directed by Rick Strader and featuring a full pit orchestra on stage, Guys and Dolls proved to be a memorable evening, full of enjoyment and laughter. The actors were amazing and music was superb.









#### CLUBS 3 ORGANIZATIONS





















#### THE HERD















The Herd, led by senior and Athletic Liaison, Cassidy Ball, is a group of students filled with pep and ready to cheer on our Crusader sports teams. This year, a new symbol of spirit, Howard the Elk, made an appearance at games bringing along refreshing enthusiasm and excitement for NNU athletics!















### CONCERT BAND JAZZ REVIVAL CRUSADER CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA











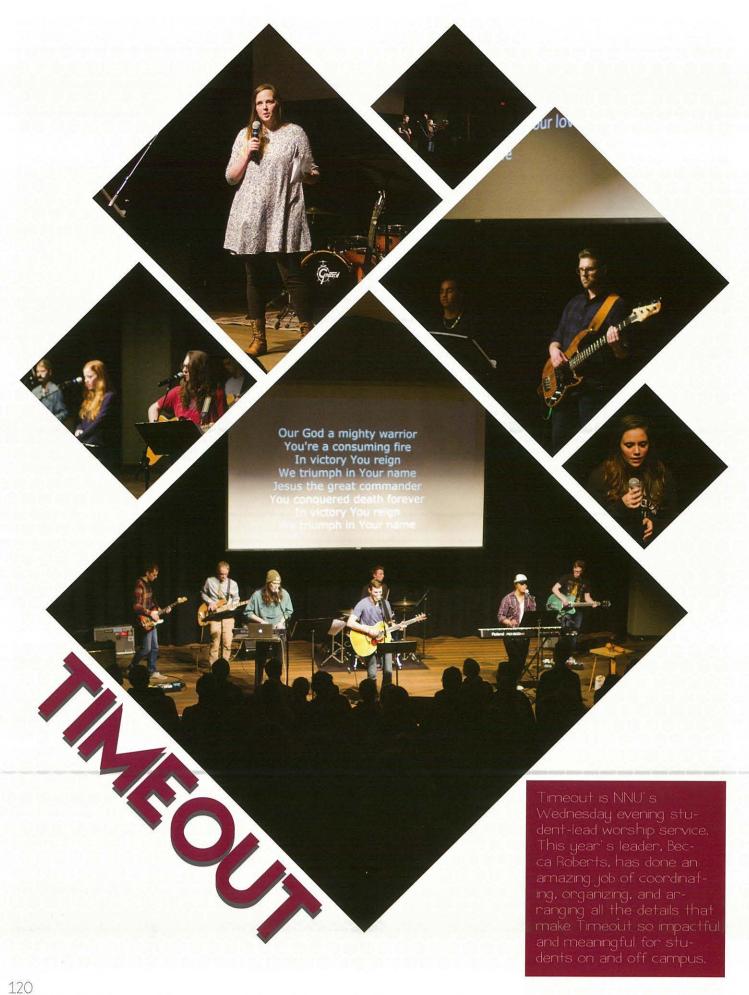






## BELLA VOCE NORTHWESTERNERS



















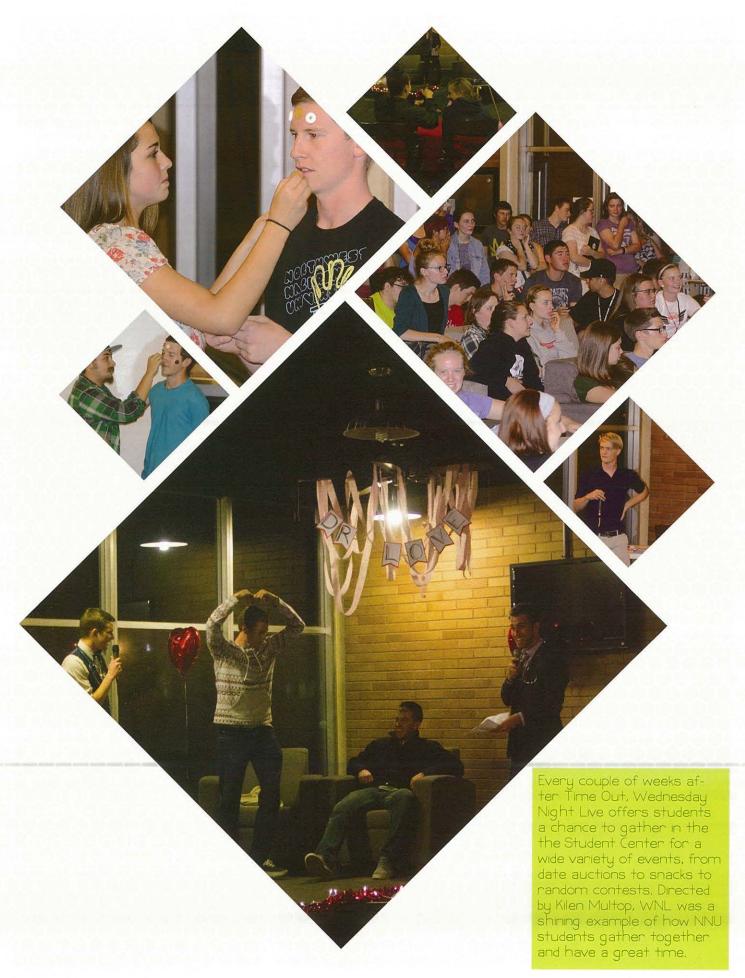


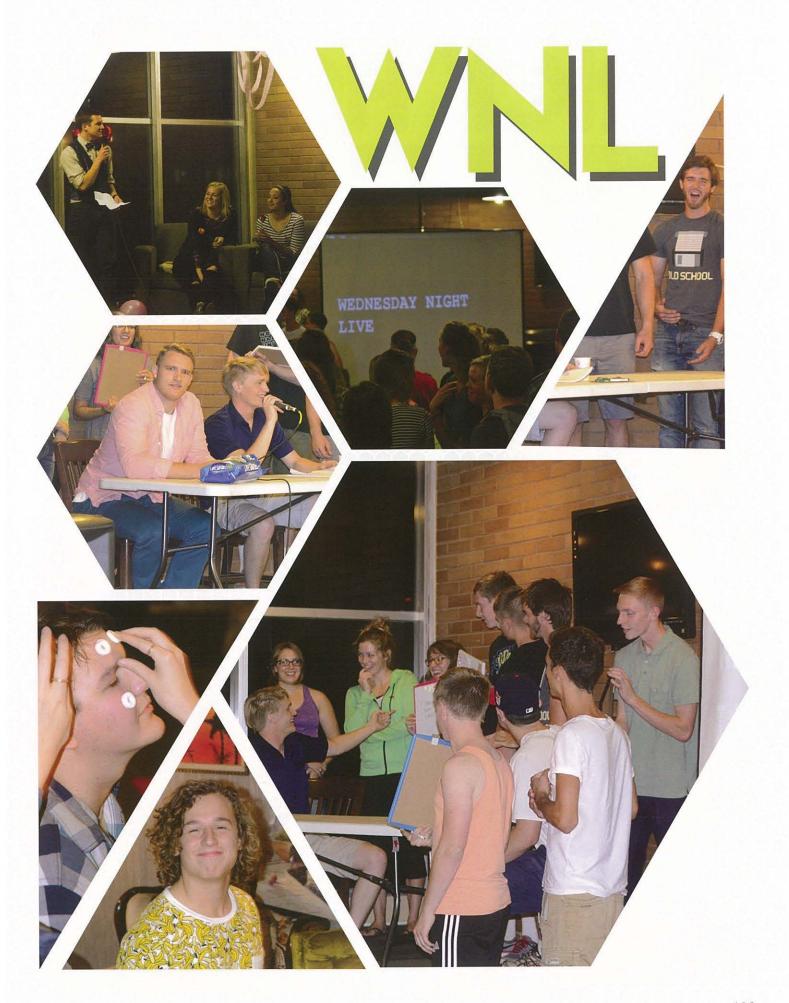












# BRICK HOUSE





















Lead by fearless leaders. Shaun Hall, Josh Mast, and Miles Wilson, the brick house team has hosted many successful nights this year, helping to create a strong sense of community and a nice little study distraction every Thursday night. Some of their funnest nights include Family Feud night and Pudding Night.

























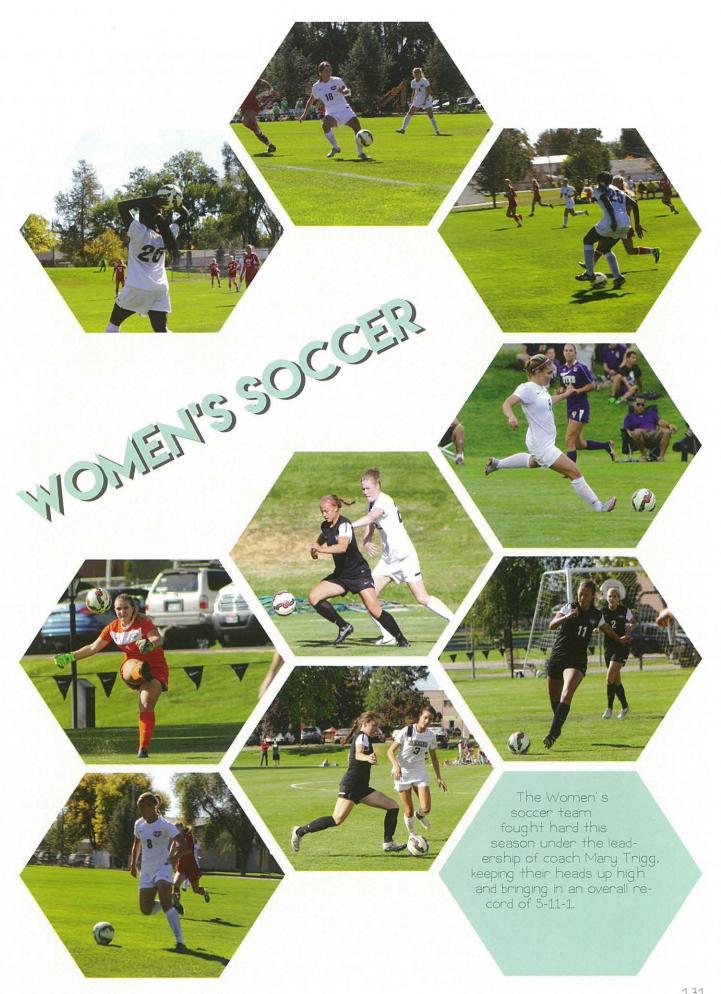
Campus League is an intramural sports program designed to allow the students of NNU to participate in the competitive thrill of sports without needing to join an official team. Lead by Intramural Overlord, Sheldon Field, events included soccer, football, and basketball among others. This season's games were a blast proving a successful year!

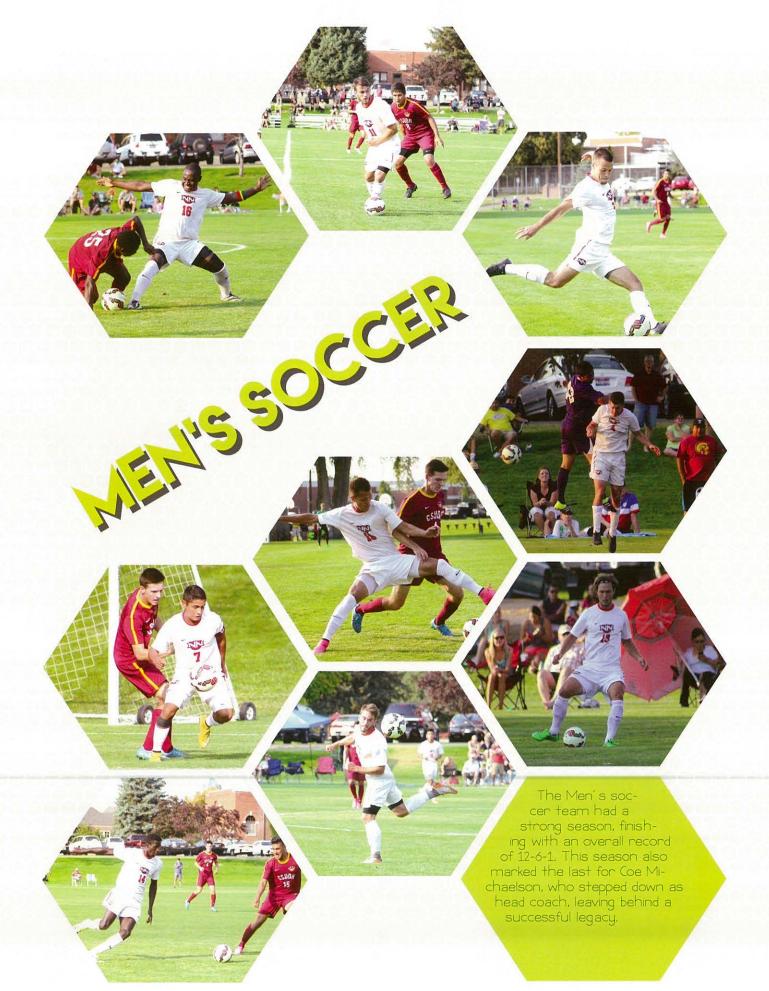
#### INTRAMURALS

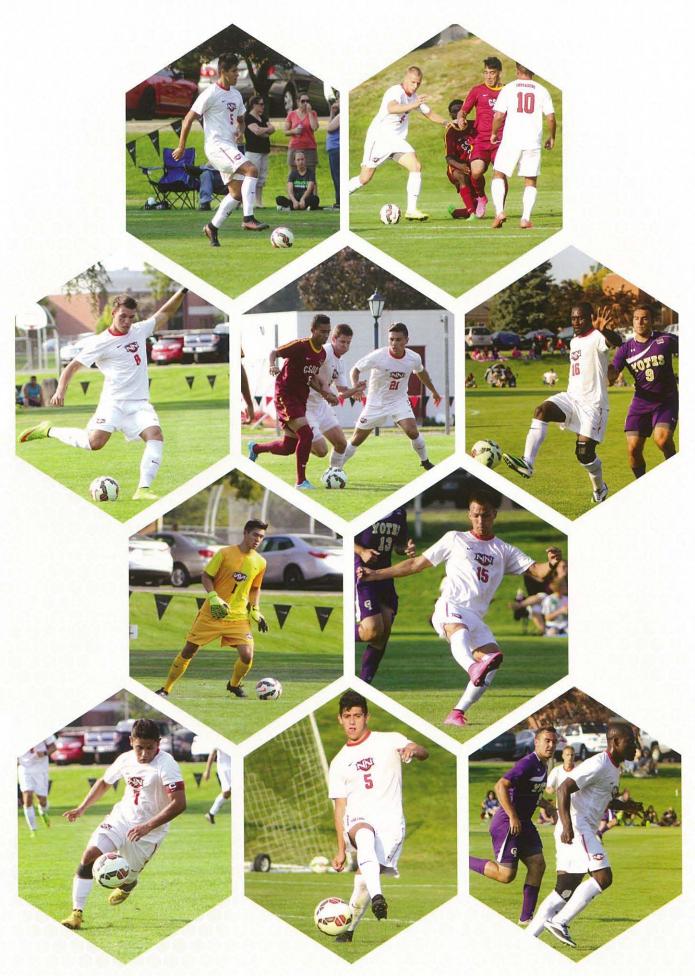


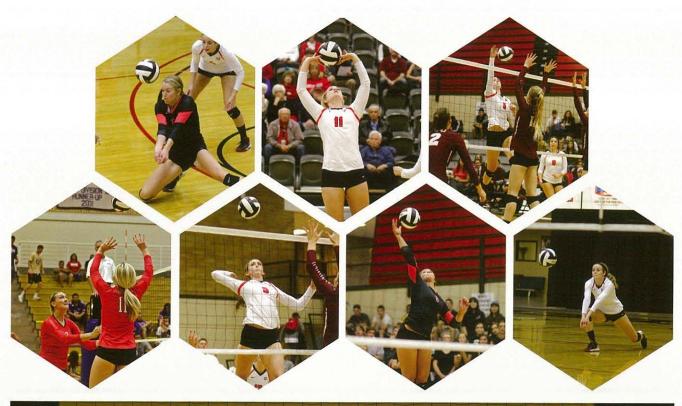
SPORTS



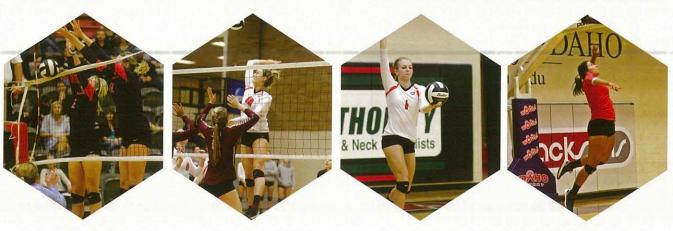


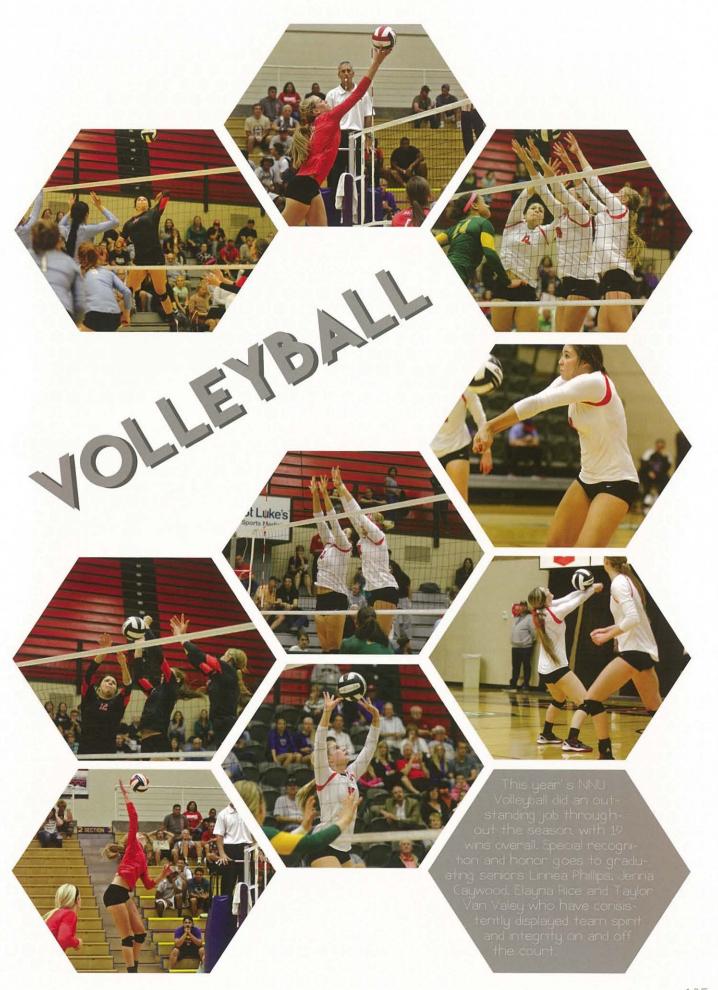


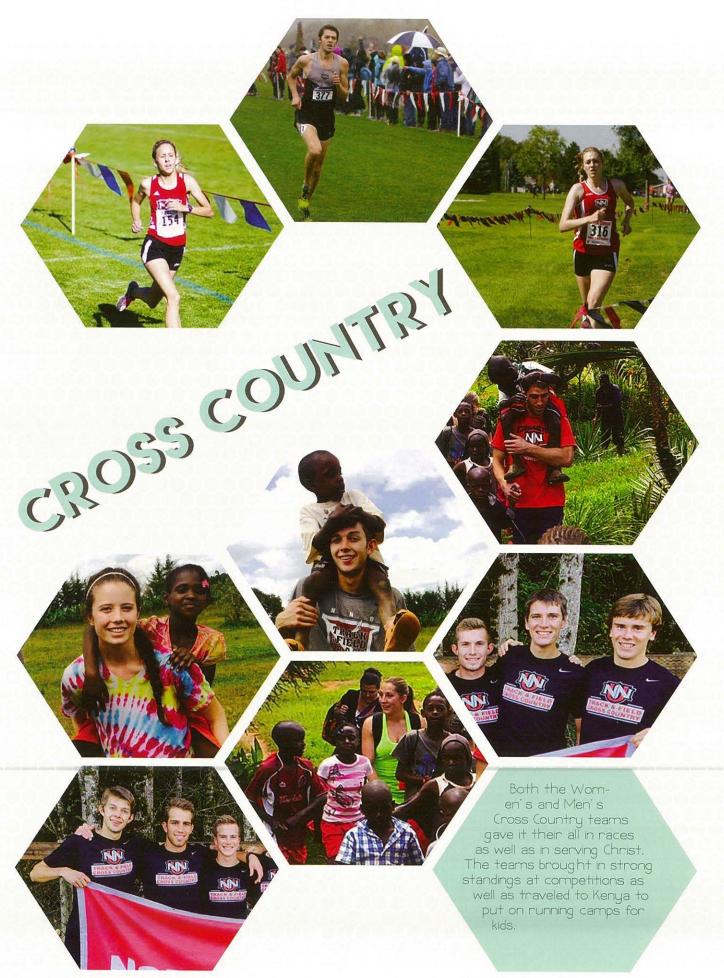


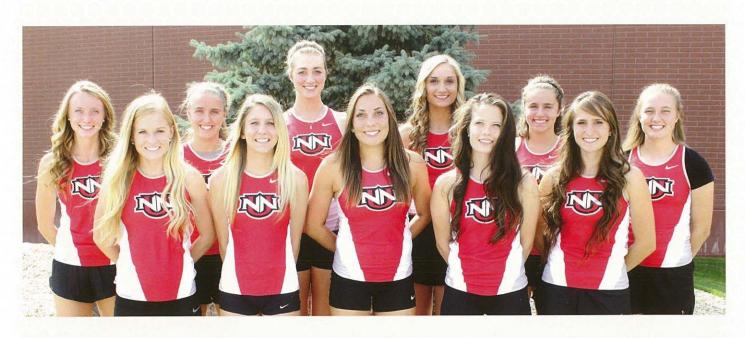




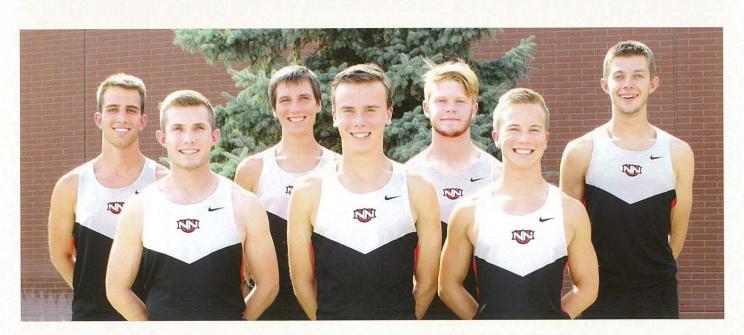


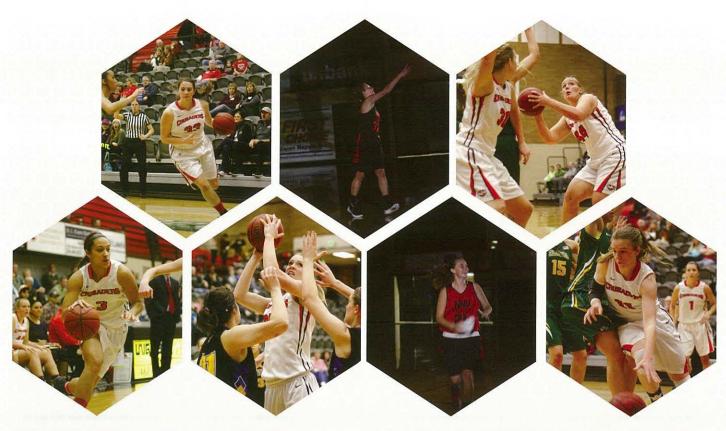






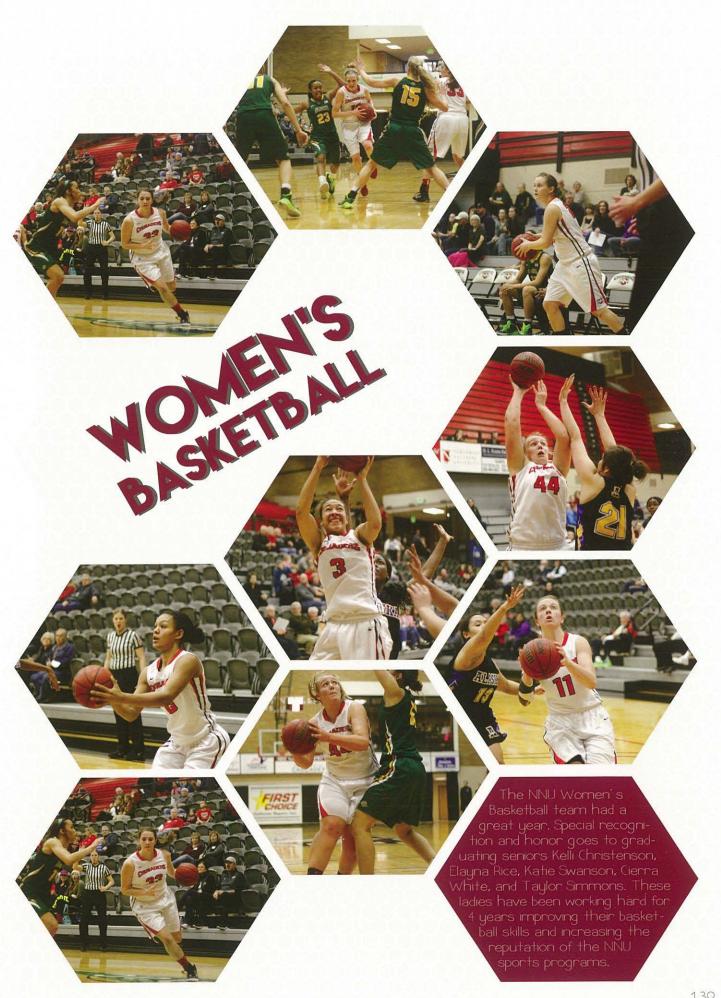


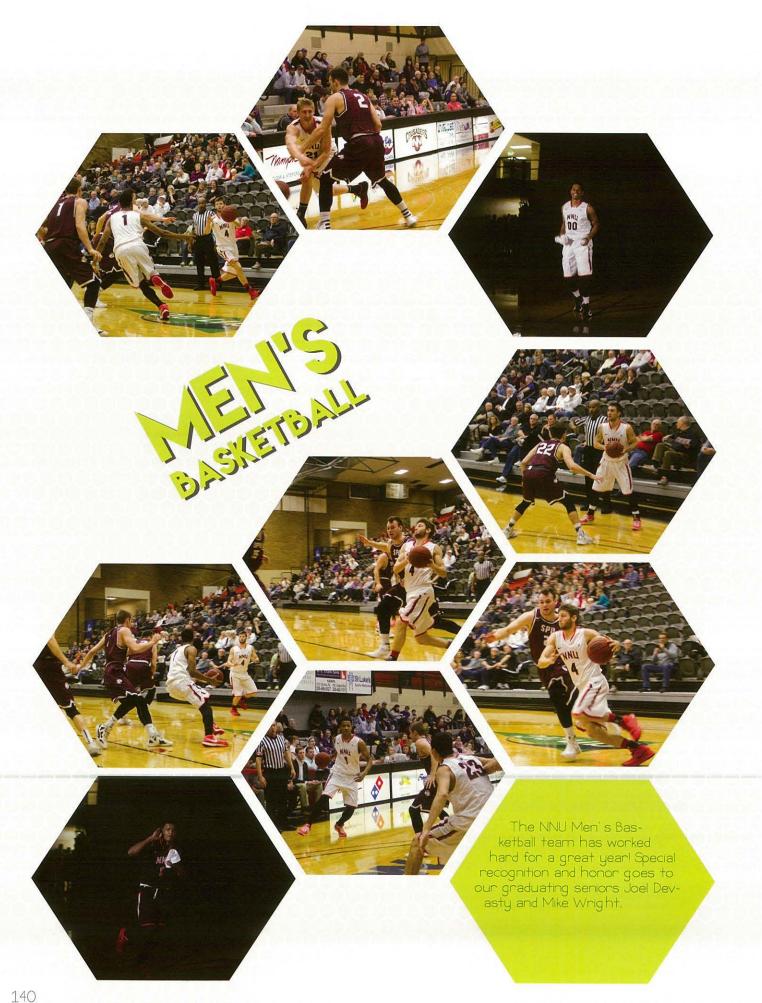


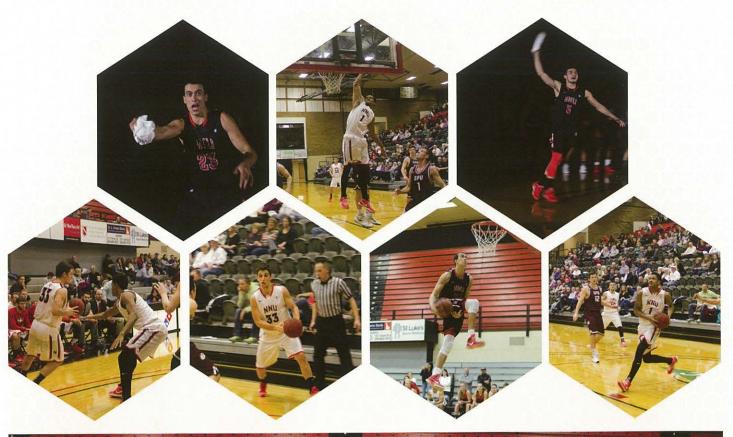


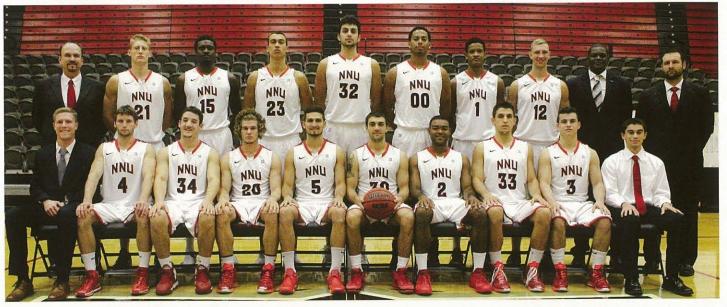




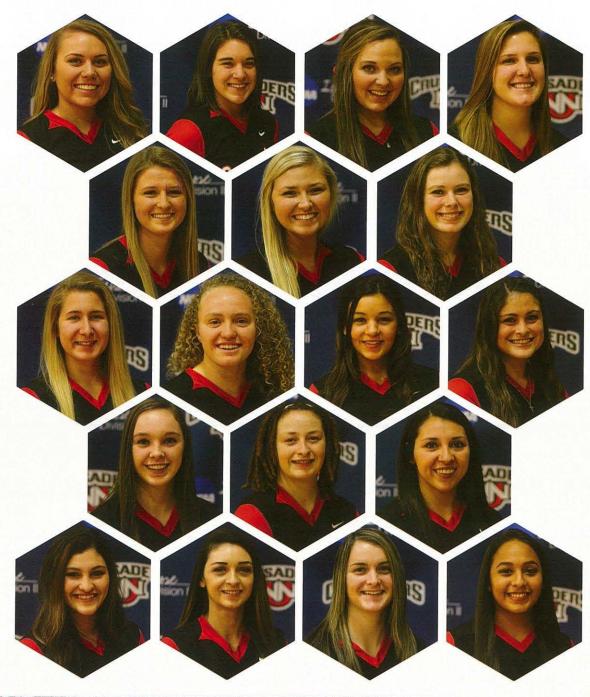


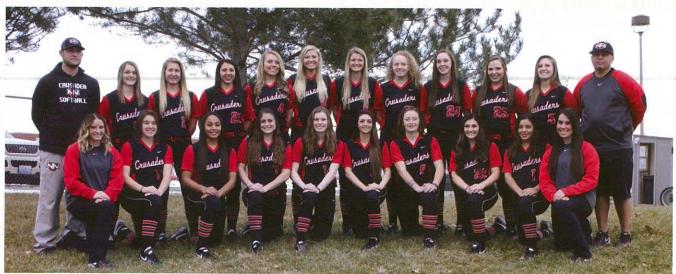




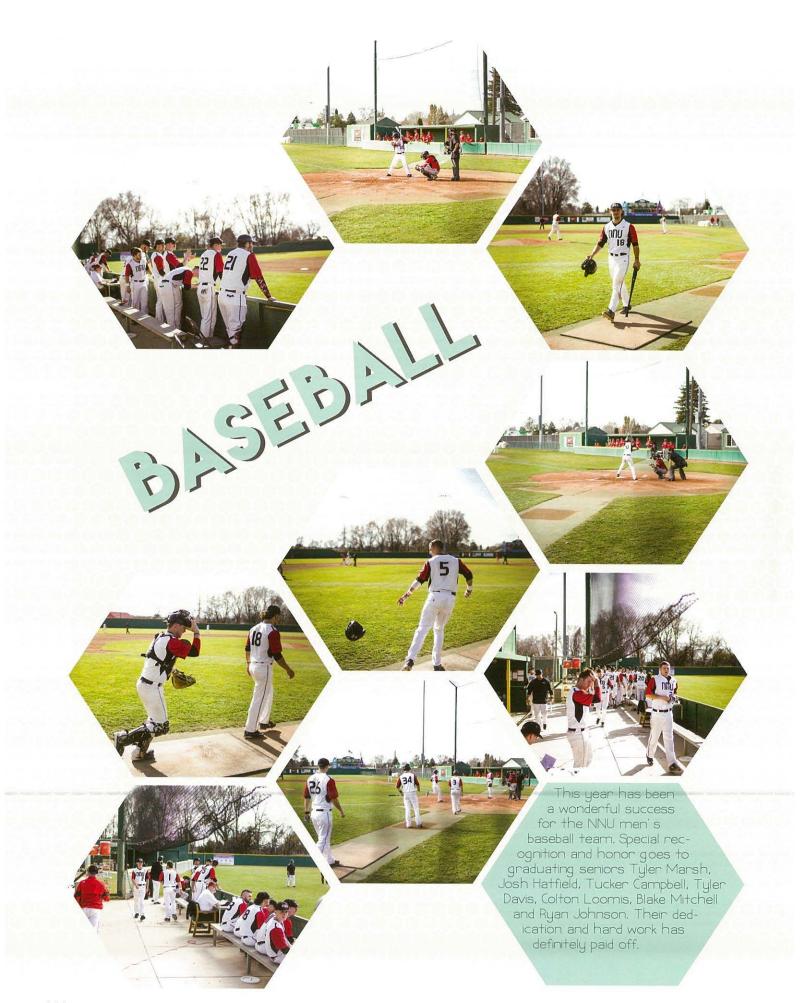














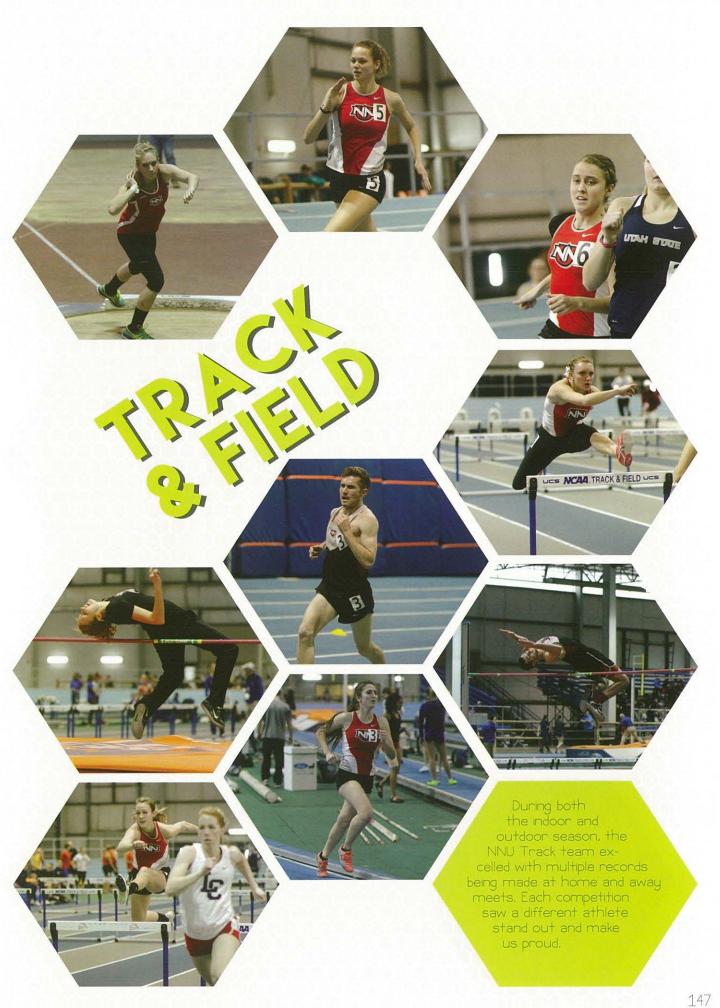








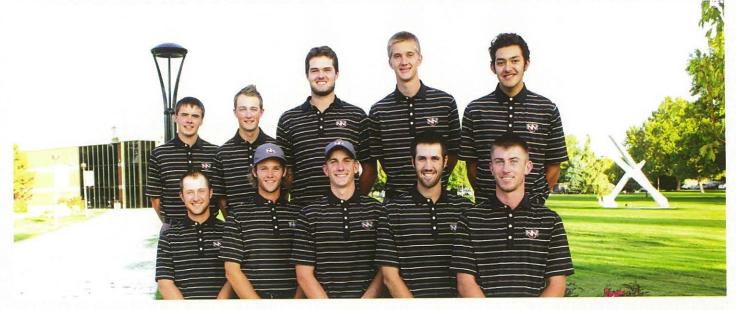


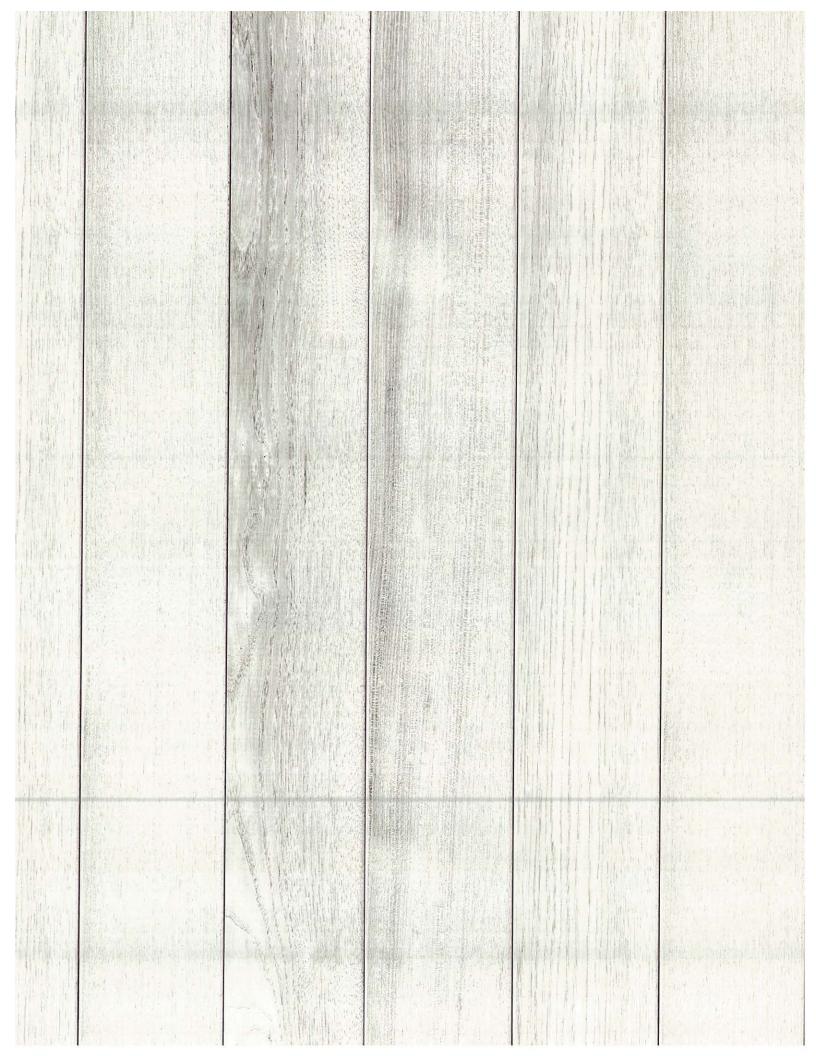












NEWS

## MISSIONS

Last summer, Northwest Nazarene University sent out four teams to foreign countries in an effort to make a difference and exemplify what it means to serve. Groups of students traveled to Haiti, Colombia, Poland and Argentina. This coming summer, groups will be traveling to Colombia, Haiti, Liberia, Poland and Kenya.



















### THE CRUSADER



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PRESIDENT PEARSALL: FRIEND TO ALL

By Eric Ostyn

. Coming to college can be a difficult transition whether you're a senior coming into your last year or a freshman who is just starting your first semester. President Pearsall faced a similar challenge earlier this summer when he was suddenly promoted from Vice President of University Advancement to President of the university.

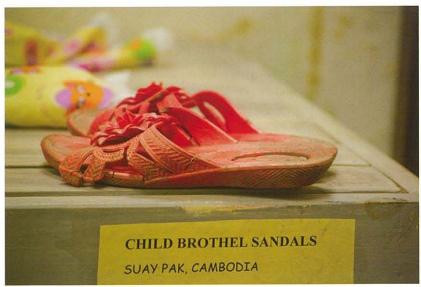
Pearsall describes his new position as 'challenging and weighty.' Everyone is looking to him to lead the university in the best way possible, which is no small feat for anyone. The faculty and staff have made it easier on him by coming alongside him and helping him with his new set of duties. 'Moving into this office is a whole new level of responsibility,' Pearsall says.

"No two days are the same," Pearsall says in regards to his new job. Everyday is a fresh adventure that must be faced head-on. He's still working on finding a rhythm in his new position, but is

willing to take the time to find just the right way to do what he needs for the betterment of the university. The majority of his work requires him to have meetings with people inside and outside of the school. He meets with the president's cabinet weekly and serves as a representative of NNU to all potential donors, just to name a few examples of the kind of meetings he takes part in.

With Pearsall's newfound influence over the school, he has decided to keep the changes to an absolute minimum for the next nine months. If there is a strong consensus among the faculty that adjustments need to be made, immediate action will be taken. One such adjustment has already occurred in budgeting for the year. Pearsall and his cabinet decided to take a different approach: 'We engaged all budget managers on campus. Any employee who manages a budget was invited to come together and we took two sessions in the summer to process their requests.' After those sessions, a budget for the whole school was finalized. His reasoning behind this method is that "the people who are closest to the spending or the issues typically know more about them than those of us at an executive level."

This coming year is going to be an interesting endeavor for all of us, to say the least. Therefore, President Pearsall has this bit of advice: 'In many respects, this school year will be what we make it.' He went on to say that we should all strive to get the most out of our time on campus this year, it takes more than just showing up; it requires intentionality, engagement, and some effort.' His words are directed at all of us, students, faculty, and staff alike. We all need to put our best foot forward in order to show the world what we can do when we do our very best and work together.







### THE SOLD EXPERIENCE

By Kelsey Koberg and Austin Thomas

. Human trafficking, by definition, is the illegal movement of people - typically for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. It is a large and growing problem in the US and globally, and unfortunately it is not as distant as we may assume.

Often we think of trafficking as sex slaves: sixteen year old girls locked in brothels in Thailand or Cambodia. While this is one aspect of human trafficking, there is so much more going on. Trafficked victims include child soldiers, factory workers, unpaid house servants, forced beggars, and farm hands. It is difficult to establish a statistically accurate number of victims who are trafficked, but the International Labor Organization estimates that number is close to 20.9 million. Despite that fact that over 90% of countries globally have laws criminalizing forced enslavement of others, these laws are often hard to enforce.

Every year, the United Nations produces a report on human trafficking globally. Many of the results are surprising, disheartening, and depict the scale of injustice. In 2011, approximately 53% of trafficked victims were sexually exploited, and 40% were used for forced labor. Approximately 33% of those trafficked are children, 49% are women, and 18% are men.

These numbers are both staggering and disheartening, and it seems like an issue too large for individuals to make an impact. However, three girls in Washington state found a way to make a difference. They got together and began planning for what would eventually become the SOLD Experience. They thought up a way to advocate for victims of human trafficking, and give others an opportunity to join them in support. Through donations from Bethel Church and many others, their dreams became reality. On September 16th, the SOLD Experience arrived on campus at NNU, one of the many places it has traveled to since its birth. The SOLD Experience is a multimedia exhibit that allows people to step into the

shoes of human trafficking victims. For just short of an hour, participants walk from room to room, each one a different location where human trafficking occurs. As you walk, you are listening to the stories of actual victims, and learn information about human trafficking around the world.

The SOLD experience is not only eye-opening, but its unique medium allows for a powerful first-person view into human trafficking around the world. It provides many resources for learning and opportunities to get involved. For example, part-way through the experience you are given the opportunity to put a sticker on a bar of soap. The sticker has an emergency hot-line specifically for rescuing people who are being trafficked. Once you put the sticker on the soap bar, the soap is placed in a location somewhere around the country. The hope is that someone who is caught in human trafficking, someone who feels like there is no way out, would be able to call the number on the bar of soap and receive life-saving help.

As we talked with the volunteers who make the SOLD experience possible, several things became clear. First, you never know how much of an impact you can have on the world until you try. Many of The volunteers who travel with the SOLD Experience work other jobs and use their vacation time for this ministry. I also learned that you don't have to drop everything in your life and move across the world to help fight human trafficking. Doing something as small as putting a sticker on a bar of soap can be enough to save a life. Most importantly, it takes awareness and discipline to remember that human trafficking is a real thing, and it happens much more than we imagine. As our chaplains have been helping us journey through several themes this year. The SOLD Experience was just one of the opportunities available to students for involvement in combating social justice issues. Keep an eye out and pay attention in chapel for future ways to get involved and to learn about how simple it can be to make a difference.



### RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS: THE TITLE IX PARTIAL WAIVER

By Tyler Read

. On July 29th, 2014, former NNU President Dr. David Alexander submitted a request to the federal government to gain 'religious exemption' regarding specific requirements of 34 C.F.R. section 106. This request was granted in full by the U.S. Department of Education on August 18th, 2014. In this document, 'NNU specifically requests a religious exemption from the following requirements insofar as they prohibit discrimination based on gender identity. These requirements are those prohibit discrimination governing different rules of behaviors or sanctions, housing, comparable facilities such as restrooms and locker rooms, athletics, and employment. Also requested was 'a religious exemption from any regulation prohibiting discrimination against a student on account of termination of pregnancy." In other words, Dr. Alexander was requesting that NNU be exempt from providing certain kinds of accommodations that would be inconsistent with NNU's biblically-based beliefs." Such religious exemptions were asked for given the changing in interpretation of Title IX, which made discrimination based on gender identity reprehensible. NNU was granted all requests for religious exemptions to the extent that [the Title IX requirements] would require a recipient (NNU) to treat students consistent with their gender identity, but doing so would conflict with the controlling organization's religious tenets.' That is to say, NNU was exempt from providing specific accommodations to students upon the base of the student's gender identity since that would conflict with NNU's stated religious views as being part of the Church of the Nazarene.

Although these religious exemptions have been in officially granted for almost a year and a half, popular discussion of this waiver has only just re-

cently been getting progressively more heated. In an interview with Dr. Mollie Sweet, the NNU Title IX coordinator, she answered many questions that we had regarding both the waiver and the workings of Title IX on campus. According to Dr. Sweet, the Title IX partial waiver hasn't really changed the way that NNU operates. NNU has held for a very long time that certain types of conduct are permitted and certain types are not according to our association under the Church of the Nazarene. She says, 'Because of NNU being a religious institution, NNU is allowed to discriminate based on Nazarene religious views. We can require certain conduct . . . The partial waiver frees the University from providing certain kinds of accommodations such as transgender bathrooms, etc." According to Dr. Sweet, in order for NNU to operate under the religious principles, some of the administration decided to file this request to protect both the University as an institution as well as the campus as a whole, students, faculty, staff, and administration. She says, 'The issue with certain kinds of accommodation is that it can be seen as advocacy that the University does not intend to participate in, but more than that they allow for a lifestyle to be lived that the University sees as unacceptable."

The point of making this request was not to target anybody, says Sweet. The issue trying to be governed over in the waiver is about conduct, not about orientation or identification. 'I think of it much the same way as premarital sex. Premarital sex is not permitted while you attend NNU because that is what the school adheres to based on the principles of the Church of the Nazarene. In much the same way, NNU does not permit 'any sexual contact outside of heterosexual marriage or any actions that go against the 'living out and singularly promoting the God-given gift of gender identity," according to the Student Lifestyle Covenant. Dr. Sweet points out that, since NNU is an arm of the Nazarene Church, 'As a whole, the University has the right to say that you can't act in a certain lifestyle, much like with alcohol or premarital sex."

However, Dr. Sweet wants to make it very clear that much has not changed. Absolutely no sexual harassment or sexual misconduct is permitted here at NNU. In the granting of the religious exemptions requested by Dr. Alexander, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights wrote, 'Please note that this letter should not be construed to grant exemption from the requirements of Title IX and the regulation other than as stated above.' NNU is still held to Title IX in any way regarding the discrimination of persons, but NNU is freed from providing

certain kinds of accommodations that otherwise would be required if this was not a religious institution. Sweet elaborates, 'People hear the word 'discrimination' and think that they will be treated differently in the classroom, and that's not what it means. It doesn't matter how you identify, your dignity as a person is protected.'

At the end of our interview, Dr. Sweet posed an important question to me that ought now to be relayed back to you. 'What exactly does tolerance look like?' Where are the lines between accepting or denying orientation, identification, and lifestyle conduct? When decisions are to be made, in the end it comes down to the Nazarene Church's view on these things. If a change is to be made at NNU along these lines, a change in the Nazarene Church as a whole would have to occur.

If you would like more information regarding the Title IX waver, the request and response can be found in full here: http://thecolu.mn/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/NorthwestNazareneUniversity.pdf



WHO WILL REPLACE SCALIA?

By Kelsey Koberg

On Saturday, February 13th, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia died in Texas. Justice Scalia was nominated in 1986 by Ronald Reagan, and was one of the conservative members of the bench. With Scalia's death, the bench now has only eight members, and is split evenly between the Conservative and Liberal blocs. This means that in the upcoming months, and even into 2017 depending on the political climate, major decisions on abortion, labor unions, and immigration could end in a 4-4 decision.

Justice Scalia's death immediately triggered a political battle between Democrats and Republi-

cans on whether or not President Obama, a lame duck (in the final period of office) president, should nominate another Justice. Republicans argue that, because it is an election year, the voters should have a say in whether a conservative or liberal is nominated to the bench, and so President Obama should not nominate a replacement justice.

As a brief history lesson on how the process works, when a spot is open on the bench, a President nominates a replacement, who then must be confirmed by a simple majority (51%) in the Senate. Right now, there are 54 Republican members in the Senate, with the other 46 being Democrats or Independents who affiliate with the Democratic party. This means that in order for a new justice to be placed on the Bench, the predominantly conservative Senate must approve of President Obama's nominee. The seat will remain open until this happens.

About an hour after the news of Justice Scalia's death was released, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell released a statement saying that the Senate should not confirm a replacement for Justice Scalia while President Obama was in office. President Obama, in line with his party, has said that he plans to fulfill his constitutional responsibility and nominate a replacement justice. Whether his nomination makes it through a Republican controlled Senate is still to be seen.

The issue even made it to the stage of the Republican Primary Debate held the night of the 13th. Candidates seemed to be in agreeance that, while it was President Obama's right to nominate a replacement justice, it was also the Senate's right to refuse such a nominee.

Expectations are rising for if, when, and who President Obama will nominate to replace Justice Scalia's place on the Supreme Court, and anticipation is even hire of whether or not the nominee will be confirmed.



### EDITORIAL: IS PRIVATE EDUCATION WORTH THE MONEY?

By Tyler Read

According to the Project on Student Debt, the average amount of student debt in Idaho last year was \$26,000. The average for NNU students specifically was just above that number, and 76% of us Crusaders are graduating with some form of student debt. That being said, the College Board recorded the average cost of tuition and fees at private colleges in the US for this school year to be \$32,405. The average cost for state residents at public universities is \$9,410.

Many of us will graduate from NNU this Spring and begin to look for jobs or apply to graduate schools. We will move to new places, take on new responsibility, and settle into the next chapter of our lives. With us we bring the burden of student loans, some which have been accruing interest for the duration of those four wonderful years spent at NNU. Students moving onto doctoral programs will take on more debt, and US News claims grads will owe an average of \$57,600 by the time they're done.

. Seniors graduating high school can choose to attend a private or public 4-year university or pursue that same degree at a community college usually with a much smaller price tag. Many students are also choosing to enter the workforce or attend a trade school in order to pursue a specific occupation. The number of high school students moving onto college rose regularly for decades, but according to the NY Times, that figure is declining. A quick Google search will reflect prices for private school tuition pretty high. To name a few, tuition alone at NNU is listed at \$28k, Seattle Pacific is listed at \$36k, Azusa Pacific \$34k, and Point Loma at \$32k. Price tags at public uni-

versities are about half the price. It's not hard to believe that many students are saying No. Thanks! to a private education. Before we all transfer to BSU, consider that there might be an entire variable missing here. What is Google not telling us? Is there more to the picture than price tags and Fafsa applications?

While high tuition expenses are easily the biggest con to attending a private university, there are certainly many pros. In fact, you might find that in many cases, the benefits of private school are worth the extra dough. Private universities are each intensely unique, from their mission statements to their curriculum, to the carefully cultivated academic environment. First of all, private universities are usually more dedicated to academic excellence. Since students pay more to attend these schools, they tend to be more motivated to be successful in their academic pursuits. This truly lends itself to an ideal learning environment. Many private schools also require students to gain knowledge in areas that are supplemental to their classroom experiences. NNU, for example, requires students to explore cultures other than their own.

Close-knit communities also commonly characterize private universities. These schools generally have a higher percentage of students that participate in school activities and events, and they also see higher levels of student involvement in the classroom because class sizes tend to be so much smaller. With that smaller class size comes a smaller faculty-student ratio, which then lends itself back to the closeness of the community. Speaking of professors, Scholarships.

com echos what many other sources have suggested, which is that private school faculty tend to be more loyal to the school at which they teach, and are thus more dedicated to involving themselves and seeing their students succeed.

Lastly, though the price tag is intimidating at a school like NNU, most private schools offer these great little gifts called merit scholarships. When a student with a high GPA and excellent test scores shows interest in a private university, that university in turn becomes motivated to get that student to attend. The student is usually offered scholarship from that specific university based on a GPA and test score scale. These scholarships are not usually taken into consideration when looking into tuition costs. That is to say, even if the reasons listed above aren't enough to work in favor of a private education, private schools aren't as expensive as they appear if the applicant is a motivated student.

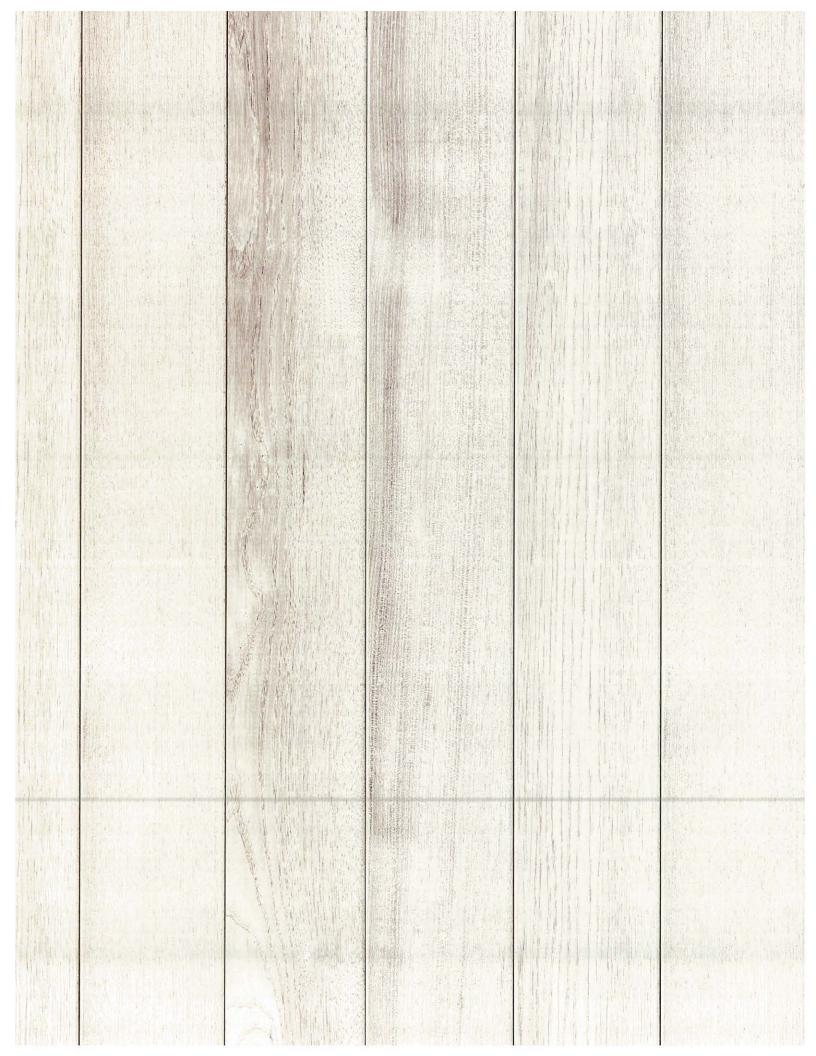
When all's said and done, there will always be two sides to the debate about whether or not private school is worth the money. As students that attend a private university, however, we get to enjoy the benefits of this community. As we soak up the opportunities available to us here at NNU, it's important that we remember just what we are paying for - and that's far more than just an undergraduate degree.

For more information visit these sites: ticas. org, collegedata.com, bigfuture.collegeboard.com

# THE OASIS









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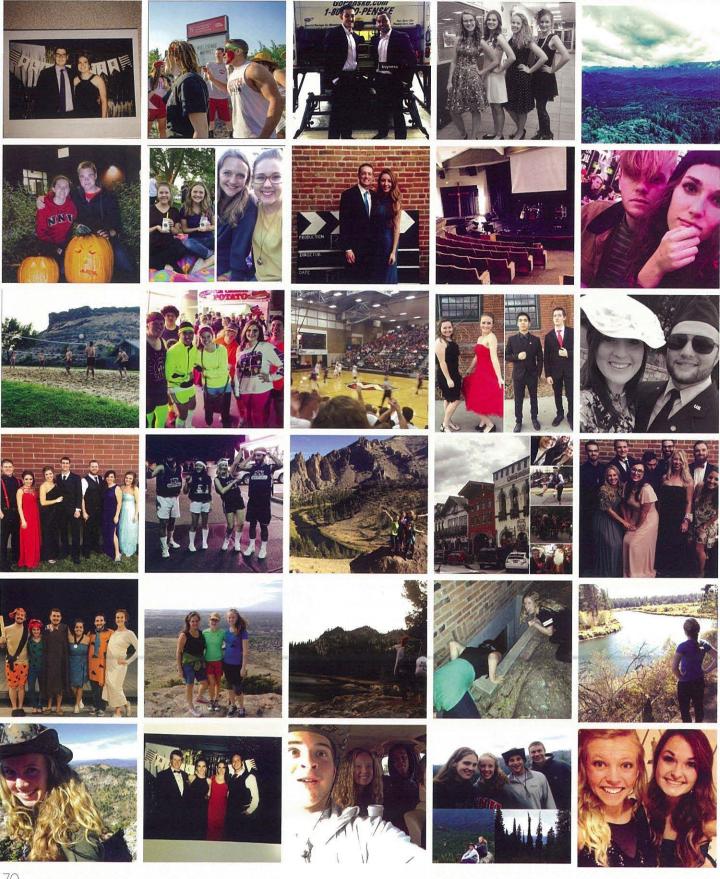
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