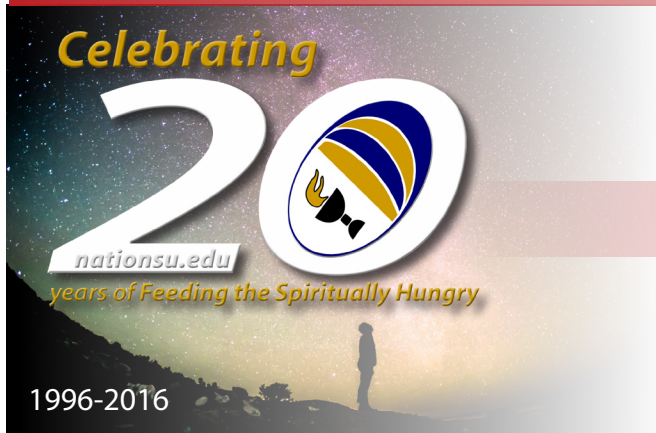


Building faith and training Christian leaders around the world through affordable, accessible higher education utilizing distance learning.

NATIONSUNIVERSITY®
www.nationsu.edu



From “Made Man” to New Creation in Christ

“I would tell people that there was no God, that I was god...”

My name is Joe and I am a “made man” in a notorious crime family. I would tell people that there was no God, that I was god, because I could do whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted, to whomever I wanted. After our crime boss went to prison I went independent, operating numerous crews and had subsequently been arrested thirty-five times; but never spent more than an hour in jail because of my political and judicial connections. They would have me bailed out will all charges dismissed; except

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

II Corinthians 5:17

for federal and state tax evasion for which I only received three years probation.

In 2009 I was arrested by law enforcement for murder for hire, home invasion, armed robberies, burglaries, and assaulting a police officer. I was confined to a maximum security federal holding facility and sentenced to a combined thirty-five years.

My first Sunday at USP Leavenworth I went to church and did not go back for almost a year, because I could not worship God in a church that had bars on the windows. During that time I rolled with racist whites, played up my mafia background and being a martial arts expert—while working on my prison reputation.

continued on page 4

Grace in Graceville

“Incarceration can be difficult for many inmates...”

Friday mornings at Graceville Correctional Facility in Graceville, Florida begin with prayer in the Canine Performance Services classroom—but it is not for dog training. It is for the fifteen to eighteen students who attend weekly classes for NationsUniversity. The class is proctored by Mr. Charles Linderman, Director of Secondary Education. Graceville has been blessed by having two proctors, the second being Mrs. Jill Parker, Assistant to the Chaplain.

NationsU at Graceville was founded in 2012 and has grown rapidly in the past two years to over sixty registered students.

Friday mornings can get very busy as the students begin filling up the classroom. All the students are assigned to different dorms and must be placed on a call-out in order to attend class. After the students have assembled and prayer is concluded, the inmates take a seat either to test on a module, have quiet time for study and reflection, or just to fellowship with one another. On many occasions there will be a Bible study going on as the students discuss topics they are working on in their lessons. The students are constantly encouraging one another when their studies seem too difficult and with no end in sight.

continued on page 2

Attention: Changes to Course Numbering

NU is working to make your educational experience even better! In compliance with demands of the accrediting commission, all 5-credit courses are being reconfigured into 3-credit courses. You may have already seen, for example, that BRS 2 has been replaced with BRS 122. The transition will be gradual, so bear with us. When a replacement is made, a note will appear at the top of the replacement course. If you have already completed the 5-credit course, you will receive full credit and may proceed. If you have any questions about which course to take, contact your advisor and he/she will be happy to point the way for you.

Current Enrollment

Current through 7/1/16

Total Students: 2,133

Male - 1,822
Female - 311
Undergraduate - 1,743
Graduate - 390

Total Countries: 120

Top Ten Countries

United States	759
South Africa	263
Ethiopia	130
Nigeria	122
Kenya	97
Ghana	80
Turkey	35
Canada	34
Zambia	32
Cameroon	27

Graceville, continued from page 1

Incarceration can be difficult for many inmates as they are away from their families, so having something to do can help them during this time. Fortunately, some have chosen to study for their degree. The students here have anywhere from three months left to life on their sentences. Our goal is to help them in religious studies so that when they do go home they take Christ with them and they never return.

We also have a special call-out on Wednesday mornings for counseling, academic support or for comprehensive testing. We currently have three students who will be completing the certificate program and will begin work in the bachelor program. We also have one student who will be completing his bachelors and will apply to the graduate program. Over 28 students are actively pursuing NU's rigorous program.

When a student goes home, we do offer them home support until they are well underway or they may continue through the support of John Casteel at NU. We do not abandon anyone, if it can be helped.

Our program here is continuing to grow and God is blessing all of us daily. We could not have a successful program without Him. Please keep us in prayer as we pray for all those enrolled in NationsU around the world, for the proctors helping other inmates, and especially for the volunteers who have been willing to work so hard for our students.

NationsU study group in Graceville Correction Facility, Florida



 **NATIONSUNIVERSITY®**
650 Poydras St., Suite 1400, PMB 133
New Orleans, LA 70130
www.nationsu.edu

Mac Lynn
Chancellor
macl@nationsu.edu

Herman Alexander
Vice Chancellor
hermana@nationsu.edu

Marty Lynn
Director, Student Services
martyl@nationsu.edu

Jon-Roy Sloan
Director of Communications
jonroy@nationsu.edu

Mary Virginia Mabery
Registrar
registrar@nationsu.edu

John Casteel
Director of Prison Enrollment
jac@nationsu.edu

Awny Jadon
IT Administrator
awny@nationsu.edu

Gail Heiderich
Director, Student Advisors
gailh@nationsu.edu

Ingemar "Lloyd" Woods
Vice Chancellor-Strategic Initiatives
ingemar@nationsu.edu

Jan Evett
Student Records Officer
student.services@nationsu.edu

Allen Thyssen
Chaplain
chaplain@nationsu.edu

Out of the Inbox



I am a Christian and I am accepting my calling. I don't have much money, I study my Bible but I feel like I need more in-depth teaching. Currently I am a minister in training at my church in our outreach ministry. —student from Illinois

I have taken other distance education courses and NU's were far better organized and accessible than any I previously experienced. I received continuous support from the staff and great feedback from the professors. This has been a remarkable and immensely rewarding educational experience. Thank you so much for such a wonderful program. —student in Virginia

I want to say thank you for NationsUniversity and especially Dr. and Mrs. Lynn who came on a trip to Dubai and we discussed NationsU. God bless them. Mrs. Marty Lynn was a great encouragement throughout the time and patient with me. I nearly gave up but she persisted and gave reasons to continue. Also, I love the students forums. —student in Dubai

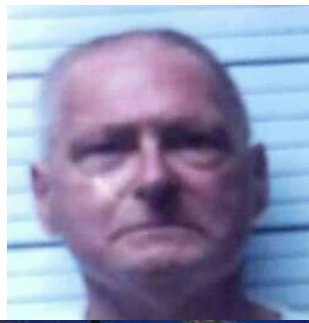
Voices From NU

I just wanted to write a brief note to let you know that one of the students of NationsUniversity and an inmate housed here in Oakdale Louisiana passed away. David Allen Lewis (US 101168) was a student of NationsUniversity and he was a very good friend of mine. I had the privilege of knowing him for 6 years and attended a Bible study with him 7 nights a week for 6 years. He loved the Lord and he was so thankful for NationsUniversity and the opportunity that you all afforded him to study and learn more about God's Word.

David was transferred from this facility on March 23rd, two days before his 62nd birthday, and he passed away on March 29th at Buttner, North Carolina. David was diagnosed with small cell lung cancer just months prior to his passing. There are many of us here that will miss our dear brother in Christ, however, we know that we will see him again because of the great promises we have from the great God that we serve.

I wanted to share his accomplishments with NationsUniversity and his gratitude to all of you for helping him to find God's Word again where he found eternal life because he truly searched the scriptures which testify of Christ (Matthew 5:39).

NationsUniversity has reached out to Mr. Lewis' daughter and she is pleased to learn that her father is being awarded the Bachelor of Religious Studies degree posthumously. All the faculty and staff would like to extend their deepest sympathies to his family and friends.



Photos courtesy of Mr. Lewis' daughter.

Meet Clay & Beverly Whidden

In April, the Distinguished Christian Service Award was given by the University to prison proctors Clay and Beverly Whidden in appreciation for their tireless efforts to spread the Gospel in Russia and for their work with our incarcerated students in Texas. The Whiddens have a long relationship with NU going back to their mission work in Russia.

Clay Whidden was born in Kissimmee, Florida and graduated from high school in 1962 in Texas. Clay is a U.S. Air Force and Army veteran. He worked as a Russian linguist and served tours in Japan, Germany, Alaska, Turkey, USSR, Honduras and the U.S.

On his retirement from the Army in 1987, Clay and his family (wife Beverly, daughters Lucie and Katie) moved to Abilene, Texas to attend Abilene Christian University. After graduating from ACU in 1990, Clay began teaching Russian in the

Foreign Languages Department at ACU while he was pursuing a Master's Degree in History at Hardin-Simmons University. A certified English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) instructor, Clay has achieved native fluency ratings in both Spanish and Russian.

Clay's wife, Beverly graduated from ACU in May, 1993, just before the family moved to Rostov-on-Don, Russia, where they served as missionaries from June 1993 to June 1999. While in Russia, Clay completed his Master's Degree in Russian

continued on page 4



Graduates

Since the Last Newsletter

Certificate In Religious Studies

Ng'eno Kibet Micky, Kenya
Morteza Gharaei, Trinidad
Bobby Biffel, United States
Henry Chavez, United States
Jeremy Clark, United States
James Messmer, United States
Ciro Ruelas, United States

Bachelor of Religious Studies

Daryl McCullough, Australia
Pauli Samuel Silvola, Finland
Bernard Joshua Kirabira, Uganda
David Alan Lewis*, United States
Andrew Banda, Zambia
Edmore Gundani, Zimbabwe

Master of Theological Studies

Marc David Simon
B.A., Psychology, Brandman University
United States
Prince Green
B.R.S., NationsUniversity
United States



**Posthumously*

Tell Us Your Story

NationsUniversity® wants to know your story. If you would like to tell your story, write to *The Voice of Nations*, at info@nationsu.org and keep the story to 500 words or less.

Have a Slow Computer?

If you are often frustrated with slow loading times, screen freezes or crashing programs, your computer may be in desperate need of a tune-up or even an upgrade. Here are some simple tips that may help.

What's Slowing Your Computer Down?

Most computers and networks slow down as they age. Here's why:

- Spyware, viruses, and other stealth programs can be secretly hiding in your machine. Today's sophisticated malware is more elusive than ever. Most users will never know what hit them until it is too late. The biggest sign that your computer is infected is when it starts slowing down. These nasty bugs attach themselves to all sorts of programs and work in the background undetected.
- Your machine may be overdue for replacement. Most manufacturers build PCs to last less than five years. When things start slowing down, or you cannot install the latest software, or plug in some of the newer cables then it is time to start shopping for a new machine.
- It may be time for a tune-up. Just like a car, your computer could use routine maintenance to help it run at top speed and performance. To keep it running smoothly, there are over 100 checks and updates that need to be completed on a regular basis. These include disk defragmentation, patch management, and the removal of unnecessary files and programs—just to name a few.

Other things that can save you some aggravation include updating your anti-virus software, reviewing your firewall settings, and never opening any email from anyone or any source you do not know. If you are afraid you may miss an important email then pickup the phone and call the person. You can visit dmsys.com to get more free tips and ideas to keep your computer running smoothly.



Made Man, continued from page 1

Then one day everything started to change, when a former crime family member released on parole came back to the chapel to speak. He told us how he no longer took orders from the godfather, because he now took his orders from God. Listening to this man tell how God had changed his entire life made me wonder if it was not too late for me.

At the conclusion of his testimony, I approached our prison chaplain and he assigned me a spiritual advisor. Soon I was going to Bible studies, attending church every Sunday, and taking numerous Bible correspondence courses where I found NationsUniversity.

The restlessness that I felt my entire life is gone and I have never felt so free. My happiness is not from my circumstances, but from Jesus who blesses me with His joy and peace. Everyday I come to my Creator, Lord, and Savior as the penitent sinner that I am, in true contrition, laying all my burdens at the foot of the cross. The Lord has revealed to me my "expected end."

Today, I am no longer a warrior for Satan. I am Pastor Joe, a warrior for Jesus Christ! I teach Bible studies, lead a prayer group, and give sermons in the religious services department here at Cumberland FCI.

Thank you NationsUniversity for the opportunity to study and learn more about the word of God.

Clay & Beverly, continued from page 3

at Rostov State Pedagogical University. His mission work was as a volunteer instructor in a Russian business school that allowed him to teach the history of Christianity. In this capacity, he became active in setting up seminars in Christian business practices, inviting instructors through NU to participate. Each program was met with great enthusiasm and appreciation by both students and staff of the school.

In June 1999, Clay returned to ACU as a Missions Coordinator in the College of Biblical Studies with responsibilities relating to the Former Soviet Republics and Eastern Europe. When he was unable to renew his visa to Russia, Clay resigned from ACU and began teaching public school. Since he was no longer able to work with the churches in Russia, Clay began working in prison ministry at the French M. Robertson Unit in Abilene, Texas.

In 2006, Clay began enrolling students in NU. Slow at first, the program began to pick up steam in 2012. The program at the prison now has its own library for the students to assist students in their studies. Clay and Jim Cutbirth serve as proctors to make the program available to the students at Robertson and currently have about 75 active students. The senior warden at Robertson, Ron Fox, is very supportive of NU and its efforts to provide an inexpensive yet quality program to the inmates of the prison.

Since the program began in 2006 at Robertson, NU has awarded one M.R.S. degree, two B.R.S. degrees, and eleven certificates. Graduation ceremonies are held in May and December of each year for formal recognition of the achievements of NU students.



The Voice
of Nations
A Publication of

NATIONSUNIVERSITY®
650 Poydras St. Suite 1400
PMB 133
New Orleans, LA 70130