

# The Voice of NATIONS NEWSLETTER

Celebrating Thirty Years of Excellence in Education



1st Quarter 2026 | Number 124 | NationsUniversity® | nationsu.edu | elearning.nationsu.edu

## NationsUniversity® Alumni of the Year, 2025

*Stories of global impact, perseverance & faith*

### Graduate Alumnus of the Year

Michael Kofi Agbegbor,



NationsUniversity is pleased to announce Michael Kofi Agbegbor as the recipient of the Graduate Alumnus of the Year Award, recognizing a life of faithful ministry, global impact, and dedication to disciple-making.

Michael serves as Associate Pastor and Head of the Missions Department at Liberty Centre Assemblies of God in Ghana, where his ministry is marked by a deep commitment to leading people into a relationship

with Jesus Christ and equipping them to grow as disciples. Alongside his wife, Jennifer, and their three children—two sons and a daughter—Michael exemplifies a life shaped by service, sacrifice, and gospel mission.

Over the course of his ministry, Michael has been directly involved in more than seventy church plantings and missionary initiatives across multiple regions of Ghana and select neighboring countries. His mission work has been carried out through several respected organizations, including the Assemblies of God Campus Ministry (AGCM), Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC), the Great Commission Movement, and A Smile in Someone's Life (ASISOL). Through these efforts, countless individuals and communities have been reached with the message of Christ.

Michael is also a regular speaker on discipleship platforms such as Strategic Disciple-Makers, where he challenges believers to live intentionally and invest deeply in the spiritual growth of others. His ability to combine theological depth with practical

### Undergraduate Alumnus of the Year

Sylvester Kennedy Omondi, Kenya



NationsUniversity is honored to announce Sylvester Omondi of Kenya as the recipient of the Undergraduate Alumnus of the Year Award, recognizing a journey marked by perseverance, faith, and transformation through biblical education.

Sylvester was admitted to NationsUniversity in 2012 after being introduced to the university by a fellow minister who was an alumnus. For Sylvester, this opportunity arrived at a crucial moment. After completing high school, financial constraints prevented him from pursuing further formal education for many years. Aside from an introductory accounting course and a few basic Bible certificate programs, he found himself unable to reach his long-held educational goal of earning a bachelor's degree. During that season, Sylvester prayed earnestly for God's direction, trusting that the Lord would open a door at the right time.

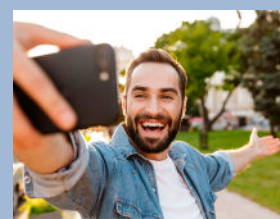
When he learned about NationsUniversity, Sylvester immediately recognized it as an answer to prayer. Yet the road ahead was not easy. His academic journey was marked by significant challenges. Access to reliable internet was often difficult, navigating lengthy course outlines required persistence, and balancing study time with ministry responsibilities and monthly financial obligations was

*Stories continued on page*

### We want to hear from you!

Your story matters, and your journey can inspire others just as these alumni have inspired us. Whether you have a testimony of how NationsUniversity has impacted your life, a story of transformation, or a calling you're pursuing, we invite you to share it with us. Your voice could encourage fellow students, future graduates, and the broader NU community. You may submit your story on our website.

Follow this link to make your submission! <https://nationsu.edu/nu-videos/>



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 WORLD**

*Agbegbor, continued from page 1*

application has made him a trusted voice among pastors, students, and ministry leaders.

Before entering full-time ministry, Michael built a strong academic foundation. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Cape Coast and a Diploma in Theology from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Kronmantse-Saltpond. He also taught science and mathematics-related courses and served as Head of Academics at Premier View Institute, experiences that continue to inform his disciplined and thoughtful approach to ministry.

Since enrolling at NationsUniversity in 2020, Michael has grown significantly in theological understanding and ministerial effectiveness. His studies have strengthened his writing skills, enabling him to author disciple-making resources such as Building Lasting Relationships and Purposeful Evangelism, which are now used to equip believers for intentional gospel engagement.

NationsUniversity proudly honors Michael Kofi Agbegbor for his exemplary faith, leadership, and global impact. His life and ministry reflect the very mission of NationsUniversity—to equip servant leaders for effective service in God's kingdom around the world.

**NationsUniversity proudly celebrates Michael Kofi Agbegbor as the 2025 Graduate Alumnus of the Year.**

*Omondi, continued from page 1*

demanding. Progress was sometimes slow, and the weight of these pressures tested his resolve.

Despite these obstacles, Sylvester pressed on. As he advanced through his courses, his understanding deepened and his confidence grew. What once felt overwhelming gradually became a steady and meaningful learning journey; one he now describes as remarkable. Through disciplined study and God's faithfulness, Sylvester developed a stronger grasp of Scripture and theology that directly impacted his ministry.

Today, Sylvester testifies that his education at NationsUniversity has transformed the way he carries out his ministerial duties. Where he once felt inadequate, he now speaks and preaches with confidence. Addressing a congregation no longer brings fear, but assurance grounded in a deeper understanding of God's Word. This growth has also had practical implications. At his church, ministers are compensated according to their level of education. Previously limited to a certificate, Sylvester now anticipates a review of his allowance: an outcome for which he gratefully praises God.

Sylvester's prayer is that NationsUniversity will continue imparting biblical wisdom and knowledge to people around the world, equipping them to spread the Gospel with confidence and a profound understanding of Scripture. His story stands as a powerful testimony to the mission of NationsUniversity and the life-changing impact of affordable, accessible Christian higher education.

**NationsUniversity proudly celebrates Sylvester Omondi as the 2025 Undergraduate Alumnus of the Year.**

**NationsUniversity Announces the 2025 Alumni Award Winners**

**Overcomer**

*Elton Biriyadi*

**Heiderich Spiritual Formation**

*Juan Andres Romero, Jr.*

**Alumnus Undergraduate of the Year**

*Sylvester Kennedy Omondi*

**Alumnus Graduate of the Year**

*Michael Kofi Agbegbor & Johnny F. Verzola*

**Change Your World**

*Simeneh Yeshewalul Bekele, Albert Lutfi Çepi, & Josef V. Hodgkins*

**Sloan Lifetime of Kingdom**

*Moses Chimwaji, Danladi Chiroma Husaini, & Frances Mpande*

# Honoring a Faithful Servant

## Gail Heiderich Retires from NationsUniversity

After years of faithful service, encouragement, and quiet leadership, Gail Heiderich is retiring from her role as Director of Student Services at NationsUniversity.

For countless students around the world, Gail was often one of the first real human connections they experienced at NationsU. Whether guiding a prospective student through their first questions, walking alongside a struggling learner, or celebrating milestones that took years of perseverance to reach, Gail embodied the heart of NU's mission: education in service to Christ and His kingdom.

As Director of Student Services, Gail brought more than policies and procedures to her work. She brought compassion, patience, and a genuine concern for students as whole people. Many NU students balance ministry, family, financial challenges, and cross-cultural realities, and Gail consistently met them with empathy and wisdom. Her steady presence helped students stay the course when quitting would have been easier.

Beyond her work behind the scenes, Gail's heart for ministry has always extended far beyond the virtual campus. Before joining NationsU, Gail and her husband Jerry were missionaries in Sao Paulo, Brazil. There she hoaned the spirit that defined her advising work—listening well, serving humbly, and sharing the love of Christ in practical ways. Those experiences shaped her global perspective and deepened her passion for equipping students who feel called to serve in

diverse cultural contexts. For Gail, advising was never just academic; it was missional.

NU Staff know Gail as a trusted teammate, she was never afraid to ask difficult questions, and who never lost sight of why NationsU exists. Students know her as an advocate and as someone who believed in them even when they doubted themselves.

As Gail steps into retirement, she is looking forward to a season rich with family and joy. She is excited to spend more time with her husband, Jerry Heiderich, enjoying unhurried moments together and embracing the rhythms of a new chapter. She also looks forward to one of her most cherished roles—being a grandmother. Time with her grandchildren promises to be filled with laughter, stories, faith, and the same intentional love she has shared so freely with NU students over the years.

Today, we celebrate a legacy measured not in spreadsheets or reports, but in transformed lives. The impact of her work will continue through ministers, teachers, missionaries, and church leaders who were encouraged and supported because she replied to the email or offered one more word of reassurance.

We are deeply grateful for Gail Heiderich's years of service to NationsUniversity and the global church. We wish her joy, rest, and continued opportunities to serve as God leads her into this next season.

*Thank you, Gail. Your faithfulness has made a lasting difference.*

## Dr. Brick Cliff and Nation-2-Nation Christian University

### A Valuable Resource for NationsUniversity Students

NationsUniversity is committed to equipping students for ministry and service to others. Recently at ICOM, the International Conference on Missions, our President, Dr. John Baxter, met with Dr. Brick Cliff, President of N2NCU. We are excited to make you aware of some of the training offered through this university.

N2NCU provides non-accredited practical ministry and service training. Some of their training programs focus on Community Development – “Building Others through Knowledge and Service” (BOKS). The BOKS program was developed to help in international Christian ministry outreach. It may be of special interest to some of our students and alumni who are working in areas of the world where the church and its community can benefit from economic growth.

Topics in the BOKS program include microeconomics, agriculture and farming, basic hygiene and health, medical

prevention and care, pregnancy and childbirth, and child development.

Christ commissioned His disciples to make more disciples. He also showed concern for the most basic needs of others. Meeting the needs of others underscores the truthfulness of God's message and His compassion, and it helps create a favorable reception for the Gospel.

Follow this link to learn more:  
<https://n2ncu.org/international/community-development-courses.php>



# NationsUniversity Graduates December 2025

## Certificate In Biblical Studies

Viktorii Ivanova, *Belarus*  
Jean Michelet Derisme, *Haiti*  
Stephen Rukwaro Kuira, *Kenya*  
Mehdi Azizi, *Thailand*  
Kondwani Raphael Gwayi, *South Africa*

## Bachelor of Religious Studies

Gustavo Bolengue Massacrsto, *Angola*  
Peter Kahindi Nzai, *Kenya*  
Christopher W. Cluff, *United States*

## Graduate Certificate in Biblical Studies

Guy Bertrand Djiozang Fopa, *Cameroon*  
Brandon Michael Cook, *China*  
Awany Seif Wahib, *Egypt*  
Fikre Fikadu Fufa, *Ethiopia*  
Pius Baristo Chepsergon, *Kenya*  
Samson Nyangi Gitwekere, *Kenya*  
Haswell Banda, *Malawi*  
Scott Allen Watson, *Papua New Guinea*  
Luís Miguel Salvado Rodrigues, *Portugal*  
Daniel Michael Cerrito, *United States*  
Maryam Ghobadzadeh, *United States*  
Amy L. Selle, *United States*  
Ashley Gavin Frank, *Zambia*



## Master of Theological Studies

Albert Lutfi Çepi, *Albania*  
*M.S.W., University of Tirana*  
Widens Pierre, *Indonesia*  
*Bachelor of Christian Leadership, Christian Leaders Institute*  
Harizone Robertas Odongo, *Kenya*  
*B.R.S., NationsUniversity*  
Alfred Makunamu Shimekha, *Kenya*  
*B.R.S., NationsUniversity*  
Elton Biriyadi Namibia  
*B.Com., Zimbabwe Open University*  
Enoc Elías Siria, *Nicaragua*  
*Bachelor's Degree, Baxter Institute*  
Francis Mpande, *Uganda*  
*B.Div., Christian Leaders Institute*  
Kieu Cong Hien, *Vietnam*  
*B.Th., South African Theological Seminary*  
George Mwape Musendeka, *Zambia*  
*B.T.S., Vision International University*

## Upcoming Calendar Events!

- **February 13 - M.A.P.S. Meeting-** Monthly Ambassador Prayer with Students
- **February 16 – President's Day, Offices Closed**
- **March 9-13 – NationsU Spring Break (Dates Vary Annually)**
- **March 13 – M.A.P.S. Meeting-** Monthly Ambassador Prayer with Students
- **March 15 – Good Friday, Offices Closed**
- **April 3, Memorial Day, Offices Closed**
- **April 10 – M.A.P.S. Meeting-** Monthly Ambassador Prayer with Students
- **April 15 - Deadline for Completing Academic Graduation Requirements & Paying Grad Fee**
- **April 28 – NationsUniversity Spring Benefit Dinner**
- **May 1 - NationsUniversity Spring Graduation Day**
- **May 8 - M.A.P.S. Meeting-** Monthly Ambassador Prayer with Students
- **May 25 – Memorial Day, Offices Closed**

## Nations University Alumni Association

CHANGE YOUR WORLD



If you have completed even one course at NationsU, you are already considered part of the NUAA.

We urge all members to get involved today.

Go to the homepage and click on Alumni in the top menu or go to <https://nationsu.edu/nationsuniversity-alumni-association/>

## The Voice of Nations

A Publication of  
**NATIONSUNIVERSITY®**  
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