



*Building faith and training Christian leaders around the world through affordable, accessible higher education*

## Running the Race, Running to Win

Running a race is something everyone does at some point in life. Professional runners spend many hours training and preparing for race day. The runner must practice for the competition. Often times practice can be grueling and difficult. The runner has to overcome many distractions and stumbling blocks. The runner may develop an injury, or experience interruptions that make practicing difficult. Often doing pleasurable things tempt us not to practice. Fear and lack of confidence can also stand in the way of the most experienced runner. Even on competition day runners can run into “the wall,” that physical feeling that the runner feels when he/she thinks they just can’t go on. The mind has to fight the body to continue the race. Yet, for the great runners, running is an obsession that allows them to overcome all obstacles.



*“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” 1 Corinthians 9:24-25*

In many ways, the experience of faith is like running a race. Daily we face many challenges to our faith. Sickness, injury, and calamity are the big distractions experienced by everyone and so we must pray, trust, and endure. Yet, we often let the stumbling blocks and small distractions trip us up and keep us out of the race. So

what must we do to run the race with endurance? Proverbs 24:16 tells us, “Though a righteous man falls seven times, he will get up, but the wicked will stumble into ruin.” If we fall, that is not the end, we get up and keep going. We can take courage from being in Christ because we are set free.

Paul, in Galatians 5:7, asked why the Galatians had stopped running their race. Unfortunately, they fell into the trap of trying to earn God’s favor. They had lost the joy and peace that they had received through the simple belief and trust in Jesus. For us, it is also tempting to be performance driven, to be “good enough” for God’s pleasure and that he is only pleased with me when I am achieving or doing things just right. This is the burden of slavery, that we think we can do it ourselves. We are saved by grace, and we are changed by His spirit. It is not something we do alone; it is something He alone can do for us. But we still must practice and train to run the race set before us. Proverbs 2:1 tells us to store up His commands. We must dive into His word so that our lives can be governed by truth and motivated by love. We, like the runner, must be disciplined in everything. Remember, studying is our training, it gives us discipline, it trains us to run His race.

*Jon-Roy Sloan  
Director of Communications*

**NATIONSUNIVERSITY®**  
*We are pleased to announce the  
winner of the NU Video Contest!*  
**Effiong Oku, Nigeria!**



## Current Enrollment

Current through 6/1/13

**Total Students:** 3,338

Male - 2,789

Female - 549

Undergraduate - 2,795

Graduate - 543

**Total Countries:** 136

### Top Ten Countries

United States	1,270
South Africa	251
Ethiopia	233
Nigeria	202
Kenya	126
Iran	96
Cameroon	74
Egypt	72
Ghana	67
Turkey	58

## The Voice of Nations

A Publication of  
**NATIONSUNIVERSITY®**

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## Top 10 Best Ways to Pass a NationsUniversity Exam

*Mary Virginia Mabery, Registrar*

**10. Apply the material as you go.** Read the material and especially the Bible verses for formation and not just for information. The more you can apply to your life, the more you will be able to recall it. Take notes and reviewing your notes helps you to recall important information.

**9. Take one module at a time and do core courses in sequence.** Many students try to skip around or read ahead. And for some students who live far away from a computer it may be necessary to take more than one exam at once. However, the Bible itself is full of endless spiritual lessons and life applications. Each course and each module is designed to help students explore God's Word in a new way and at a deeper level. Each course in the core curriculum builds upon another.

**8. Do not take your studies for granted.** The longer you are away from your studies, the harder it is to get back into it. Try not to pause your studies in the middle of a course as typically each module in a course relates to the other.

**7. Use your time wisely. Independent study takes discipline.** Be generous with your time for God and your family. Train yourself to be efficient with the rest of your time and learn your limits in work and ministry.

**6. Often, multi-tasking is helpful.** Many students are now using audio helps on the Internet to listen to Scripture and to NU course material while they drive or walk or clean the house, etc.

**5. Read exam questions carefully.** Some exam questions require the student to "Choose the Incorrect answer." This requires careful deliberation and focus in order to succeed. For this reason, it is best to utilize the full time period allowed for each exam.

**4. Study to succeed on the first attempt.** Having three attempts at each exam is a good thing but do not use it as a crutch to lean on. The first two attempts are NOT practice tests. If you do need other attempts, use those 5 days in between for more careful and deliberate study.

**3. Ask questions.** When it is convenient, form a study group and ask each other questions. Use the student forums or the NU Facebook page to encourage and challenge each other. Contact your advisor for additional help and encouragement. If you need help with a particular module, contact your advisor BEFORE you use your third attempt. He or she can offer advice to help you prepare.

**2. Be healthy.** Get a good night's sleep before taking an exam! Taking care of yourself physically also helps with your spiritual and mental states. Eating a good breakfast and exercising the morning of an exam can help get your blood flowing and your brain working at a more optimum level.

**1. Pray.** God is with us always and especially wants us to communicate with Him while we are studying His Word. Pray for clarity, a sharp mind and a ready recollection before each exam. It is our prayer for all our NU students that you allow God to reveal Himself to you in new ways each day, not just exam day. May He bless you with Wisdom and Truth in your academic AND spiritual endeavors.

# Joyful in Malaysia

Catheryn worked diligently to complete the Bachelor of Religious Studies Degree in 2012 with a grade point average of 3.48. When she was informed of her successful completion, her immediate reaction was one of thanksgiving. She wrote to us recently:



"Thank you for taking time to write me and may you also rejoice with me as I have accomplished the B.R.S. I could never thank NationsU and all the faculty enough for all their labor of hard work and service done in the name of Christ and for all His precious children.

"The journey of study was indeed a combination of joy and struggles. By the grace of God and many words of encouragement from student services, this journey has been made travelable and possible.

"The high marks I received in some courses served to embolden me in other courses. Many times I came before the exams with a prayer from the Book of Esther — *If I*

*perish, I perish*. Yet, God's help was always there for me.

"Through the journey of B.R.S., I have learned the importance of patience, perseverance and discipline; besides the knowledge of God.

"May the gracious hand of God be upon you and His grace continue to pour out on you and through you and reward you as tirelessly serve His precious children.

"I take joy in letting you know that I have entered into the M.R.S. program now. It is altogether a new journey and I prepare to embark with a heart of discovery, and going to see God create the universe all over again; to dwell in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve; to encounter flood with Noah; go camping with Abraham; part the Red Sea with Moses; worship in the wilderness with Israelites; count numbers that look like telephone directories and recite the laws with Moses. It is an entirely new journey again for all things.

May God grant me wisdom and understanding and help me to do well in all that is required of me."

*Catheryn  
Malaysia*

## Graduates Since the Last Newsletter



### Certificate In Religious Studies

Akoh Isaac Tabi, Cameroon  
Nicolaus Hakusembe, Namibia  
Osemwenkhae R. Osemwengie, Nigeria  
Samuel Pessima, Sierra Leone  
Vuyolwethu Celvian Africa, South Africa  
Joseph Mbulelo Africa, South Africa  
Bartholomew Nguluwe, South Africa  
Matthew Onyeizu, South Africa  
Mampuru J. Ratau, South Africa  
Bongani A. Shabangu, South Africa  
Gwazumndeni Shabalala, South Africa  
William J. Geiger, United States  
Kenneth Johnson, United States  
Mark J. Kajdi, United States  
Clarence L. McCoy, United States  
John W. Parsons, United States  
Jay M. Phillips, United States  
Mark Roberts, United States  
Robert A. Stires, United States

### Associate of Religious Studies

Daniel Bogale, Ethiopia  
Basil Esebamen, Nigeria  
Emmanuel Uzor, Nigeria  
Joseph Mnisi, South Africa  
Paul P. Dlamini, Swaziland

### Bachelor of Religious Studies

Alex Woledesenbet Tadesse, Ethiopia  
Alexander Ikobe, Kenya  
Catheryn Tan Tai Mei, Malaysia  
Simon Philip Akpan, Nigeria  
Charles Che Kianmpi, United Kingdom  
Arthur Torrence McIlwaine, United States  
Derek R. Erskin, United States  
John Wayne Parsons, United States  
Nancy Lynn Short, United States  
Raphael Atangana, United States  
Richard M. Perry, United States  
Raymond Mayes, United States

### Master of Religious Studies

Addis Getachew  
*B.Th., Evangelical Theological College,  
Ethiopia*

Adeleye Adetunji  
*B.R.S., NationsUniversity, Nigeria*

David Menendez  
*M.A., University of Central Florida,  
United States*

Kendal K. Sander  
*Gobal University, United States*

Leon Peters  
*Universite des Antilles et de la Guyane,  
French Guadeloupe*

Virginia Repka-Franco  
*B.S., Charter Oak State College,  
United States*

Bradley Lynn Adams  
*B.R.S., NationsUniversity, United States*



# Accreditation Update & Other Important News

Dear Student,

I know you have been awaiting news on accreditation. We should like to say the deed was done. However, there seems to be an endless list of do's before it can happen. The last delay had to do with state registration. The States in the U.S. have a certain measure of self-determination. We thought everything was in order until May, when it was deemed we should make some adjustments. Consequently, we missed the opportunity to be considered for accreditation in June. We hope to be on the table for January, but it would be premature to predict that at this point. We are unaware of other obstacles, but who knows what may come up between now and then?

Our official mailing address has been changed. If you need to send a transcript, please mail to:

**NationsUniversity**  
**650 Poydras St. Suite 1400**  
**PMB 133**  
**New Orleans, LA 70130**

For prison students who interact with NU through postal mail, we have contracted with Amreeka Development Corporation to print and mail syllabi and exams to and from them. Please continue to address your questions about the program to John Casteel. But from this point forward, exams should be addressed to:

**Exam Services**  
**Amreeka**  
**P.O. Box 3342**  
**Brentwood, TN 37024**

You should experience no difference in service.

The thirteen-member Board of Regents who own and control NationsUniversity are a dedicated group of Christian men and women. Recently, in a move to reaffirm the institutions's direction, all thirteen voted to continue the degree program and expand non-credit options as opportunity and budget allow. The vote assures the student of the future direction of the school. The Board always has you, a current student, and others who may be attracted to the school in mind. We want to serve the largest number of students as possible with a quality program allowable on a limited budget and keep the cost low for you. The challenges are great.

*Mac Lynn, Chancellor*



Like us on Facebook!

# Announcing Video Contest Winners

We are pleased to announce the winners of our 1st Annual NationsUniversity® Video Contest! Each contestant was asked to send in a short video clip creatively telling their story as a student with NU. They were allowed complete creative license to choose information that he or she would think a future student or donor might want to know about NU before getting involved.

The runner-up was Moses Liyayi of Kenya and honorable mention, Eric George of New Zealand.

Thank you to all who participated and look for our announcement on the Second Annual Art Contest!



*The winner of the  
1st Annual  
NATIONSUNIVERSITY®  
Video Contest*



**1<sup>st</sup> Place**



**Effiong Oku of Nigeria!**

Mr. Oku lives in Nigeria and has been a student at NU since 2008. He earned his B.R.S. in 2011 and is working towards his Master's degree with NU.

He states in the video "I am very excited...I don't lack in terms of knowledge the word of God."



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