



Church Relations

GOOD NEWS

By Lars Coburn, Director of University Relations

As Easter season approaches we are resurrecting the tradition of a Church Relations newsletter. Stories of transformed students, campus events, resources we can provide, and ways for you to partner with us in fostering wisdom, faith, and service within a Christ-centered community. Questions email or call me: **541-684-7320**

lacoburn@bushnell.edu

Bushnell Beacons Serving Churches

The Grove Collective: our two student bands who serve the Bushnell community through chapel worship and travel performing at churches, schools, and special events.

Jan 20 & Feb 24 CCF (First Baptist College Min.)

Jan 23 Norkenzie Christian Church

Feb 13 North Park Community Church

Feb 20 Friendly Streed Church of God

Feb 27 First Christian Church of Roseburg

Mar 6 First Baptist Church of Eugene

April 3 Santa Clara Church

If you are interested in having The Grove Collective visit your church, school or event, please email music@bushnell.edu.

Keith Potter, *Vice President for Advancement*

February Keith spoke at First Baptist Church of Eugene on transition the first Sunday after Ben Cross' retirement.

March Keith spoke at Men's Advance for **Exodus Christian Fellowship** at Rockaway Beach, OR and with Lars Coburn at the **Grove Christian Camp** Men's Retreat on the subject of integrity.

Keith spoke at **Emerald Bible Fellowship** in Eugene in March on the subject of transition during a season of pastoral change.

A.J. Swoboda, *Professor of Biblical Studies & World Christianity*

- **First Baptist Church**, Eugene

- **AlphaCrucis University** in Adelaide Australia on his book *After Doubt*.
- **Imago Dei Church**, Portland
- **Faith Center Church**, Eugene
- For a group of leaders at **Kings University**
- **Reach Church**, Seattle

Melisa Ortiz Berry, *Professor of History & World Christianity*

Dr. Berry recently served as interim pastor for **Twin Oaks Christian Church** for several months. In February she spoke at the **Harrisburg Christian Church** Women's Ministry Winter Gathering.

Agam Iheanyi-Igwe, *Dean of Bible & World Christianity*

Dr. Iheanyi-Igwe speaks frequently at Mission conferences. In March, he spoke at **First Baptist Church**, Eugene.

Troy Dean, *Campus Pastor & Professor of Christian Ministry*

Pastor Troy serves on the advisory board for the Christian Evangelistic Association church planting initiatives in Eugene/Lane County area. He is involved in renewal work, coaching, and interim ministry.

Lars Coburn, *Director of University Relations & Adjunct Professor*

Lars preached in February at **Dayspring Fellowship Church**, **Twin Oaks Christian Church**, and **Alvadore Christian Church**. In March, Lars co-presented with Keith Potter at **Grove Christian Camp's** Man Camp.

Kelly Ballard, *Dean of Music & Performing Arts*

Dr. Ballard provided choral clinics at **North Clackamas Christian High School**, **Oregon City High School**, and **Sherwood High School**.

How can we serve you and your church?

BEACON *Church Newsletter*

SPRING 2022

NIGHT CHAPEL IMPACTS STUDENTS BY ENRICHING THEIR SPIRITUAL LIVES

By Matt Geronimo, Coordinator for Campus Ministry

Offered on Wednesday evenings at 8pm, Night Chapel is a time of gathering that may be more accessible and fitting to the student schedule since it takes place after classes and practice. But it is much more than a chance to pass CM-100!

What goes on at Night Chapel?

Students gather to participate in reflective and intimate worship that connects them with God and with others. From the Scriptures, they discuss the teachings of Jesus and deepen their understanding of how they are to implement his words and actions into their daily living. They hear from each other by talking about their relationship with God and testifying how God is present in their lives. Through singing and praying together, students worship God in one voice of devotion and adoration for God. Fellowship and community are formed by bearing one another's burdens, often sharing the struggles and stress that is present in their lives and offering them to the Father on behalf of one another in prayer. Students are reminded of their oneness with each other through the Holy Spirit and partake in the Lord's Supper as one family of believers who gather on Wednesday evenings.

What makes Night Chapel, Night Chapel?

Curated by the Campus Ministry team, students being led by students is main contributor to what makes Night Chapel dynamic in its intimacy and depth. Made up of senior Carina Haas, juniors Tyler King and Jenna Ulery, and sophomore Bryn Taylor, they meet weekly to discern how God is leading students. Some themes that Campus Ministry team has led Night Chapel through are community, prayer for one another, and lament. Through prayer and deliberation, the team seeks out students and empower them



to serve on Wednesday evening whether it is sharing their story, leading music, or delivering a message. Giving the opportunity to lead is key to enriching the spiritual lives of students because they learn to foster an environment of discipleship and spiritual development while participating in pastoring a group of those desiring to follow Jesus. Furthermore, the experience of being led by students creates a strong connection between those who serve and those who attend and participate.

The intimacy and depth that result from the student leadership of this worship gathering is enacted through creative practices and pathways of communion with God. Night Chapel takes on a personal and candid tone that is refreshing for students who often engage in theological writings and Scripture within the structure and demand of academic rigor. A few examples of this refreshing tone are students have expressed their grief on a communal board for people to read, been given journal prompts and provided time and space to answer the prompts privately, and have answered the question, “God is _____ and I know this because _____” and exchanged it for others to read them out loud. By engaging in these kinds of creative activities, students cultivate individual and corporate communion with God in a formative and tactile way of practicing their faith.

The impact Night Chapel has on students is enriching to their spiritual lives because of its intimacy and depth. That spiritual and worshipful environment is built by students discerning God’s message, inviting others to serve and lead, creativity in our practice and communion with God, and gathering as one body to share in this relationship with God.

“Night Chapel takes on a personal and candid tone that is refreshing for students who often engage in theological writings and Scripture within the structure and demand of academic rigor.”



NERF CLUB

Isaac Johnston

Bushnell Nerf Club was born out of a love for the game. When the school would throw its annual Nerf battle, students would get excited. There’d be talk about it days before, people would wonder what game mode was going to be played, and best of all students would go out together beforehand and browse all the different Nerf guns trying to figure out which one was the best to buy. There was much anticipation. The event itself was always filled with action and sweat as students enjoyed every second of the game. People shouting and



NERF CLUB EVENT

running, foam bullets flying, teams trying their hardest to win, it was a riot. Even afterward, people over the next week would tell stories and laugh about that night. But usually a week or two later, the hype would slowly deplete, and people would put away their guns until next year's event.

It was obvious people loved this activity. It was an action-packed game that was both fun and nostalgic, the perfect combination for college students. Yet, the coolest part about it all is how it brought people together: The dart-gun

“The coolest part about it all is how it brought people together.”

shopping, the teamwork, the storytelling after, people really came together for this game. All they needed was

an opportunity to come and participate. This is how Nerf Club was born. Our old mission statement for the club was “Nerf Club looks to creating an opportunity for students to have fun, destress, and grow in community by participating in the popular activity of Nerf,” and we pursued doing just that.

The club was very successful when it came into being. We became one of the biggest clubs on campus quickly, giving the club much-needed momentum as we started to move forward. Before the first event even happened, we were donated nerf guns and nerf bullets as people came behind the club to support and help it grow. We had

a couple of successful events by the end of the semester and even hosted the school in a Nerf Club Beacon Night. The semester was a perfect kick start to the club.

As awesome as all of that was, however, that was just the beginning. Before this semester started, we decided to go in a new direction as a club. Inspired by Bushnell's core beliefs of wisdom, faith, and service, we decided to use Nerf Club to serve, not just the Bushnell community, but also the surrounding community in our city. More specifically, we wanted this club to be used as a youth outreach. Our new mission statement says, “Nerf Club pours into students through creating an opportunity to have fun, destress, and grow with each other, while also facilitating a pouring out into the community through Christ-centered outreach and connection.” The idea is that through loving Christ-centered interaction with kids, we would be able to point them to Christ. So far, we have approached doing this by reaching out to local churches in the area and working with their youth groups to throw epic large-scale Nerf battles. It has been very successful, super fun, and has blessed everyone in the club as we bless kids in our community. The plan is to continue taking the club in this direction, and we are excited to see what God does with it during this semester, and in the years to come.

SPRING SPORTS REPORT: BASEBALL BUILDS CULTURE

By Nick Askew, Assistant Athletic Director for Communications

With over 30 men taking the field for the first time together this fall, the Bushnell baseball team has certainly had their work cut out for them in building a successful team, and more importantly, a successful culture.

Taking the practice field this fall for the first time in over 50 years, Head Coach Tommy Richards wanted to quickly establish a team that values feedback, optimism, collective responsibility, and discipline. “Winning starts in the locker room and is player-driven,” he said. “Our job as coaches is to make sure the right people are on the bus and fully equipped for a successful journey, but ultimately the players drive the thing.”

Creating that culture would be a challenge for a seasoned program, but a monumental task when there is no immediate history to draw upon.

Richards said, “In normal circumstance you have a core of returning players who understand the team dynamic and can help impart the daily rhythms to the newcomers. We didn’t have that luxury, but our guys have done a great job of getting on the same page. We ask a lot of them on the field, in the weight room, and in the classroom and through those daily efforts and struggles is

where I think the culture is fostered.”

Internally dubbed the “Founding Fathers” launching the NAIA-era baseball program, the players are filled with a sense of pride to be part of something unique. According to Jacob Richardson, a freshman outfielder from Auburn, California, “This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Not many people get to say they were the inaugural team of a sport.

“The ‘Founding Fathers’ is more than just a fresh team of players, though. It is the beginning of a culture and setting standards that will be maintained throughout the lifetime of the program. In order for a program to be successful, it must have a foundation of integrity and hard work. That is something I believe every guy on our team brings to the table.”

Freshman Catcher Brandon Reed, from Salem, said, “Though it may be challenging, it is also a wonderful experience that we are all taking in stride, we are coming together as a team more each and every day.”

“It has been a humbling learning experience for all of us,” according to Junior Catcher and





PHOTO BY MIKE EYSTER

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FRESHMAN
JACOB RICHARDSON



PHOTO BY MIKE EYSTER

Olympia, Washington native Kyle Casperson. “We have great leaders on the team on each side of the ball. There are guys from all over, all ages, and all experience levels. It is awesome to watch all of us bounce ideas off each other and get better day in and day out.”

The team is also quick to recognize the hard work, passion, and dedication of the coaching staff that has assembled for the inaugural run. The coaches have established a player-first focus and are praised for sticking to that philosophy.

Ethan Paulson, a junior pitcher from Encinitas, California said, “The coaching staff is so focused and dedicated to our development and this is the first time in a long time where I am genuinely excited to go to practice every day. It is rare to find such an invested group of coaches.

“The coaches have been nothing short of amazing,” said junior first baseman Jeff Fripp, a native of Orange Park, Florida. “These guys are out there every day, rain or shine, trying to push us to be the best men on and off the field. They are great leaders and if we continue to learn and grow together then this group will be hard to beat.”

Peyton Hino, a freshman outfielder from Honolulu, Hawaii added, “This has been some of the best coaching I have had in my entire baseball career. The staff has been extremely supportive and disciplined when it comes to their player’s goals and how to achieve them.”

Junior pitcher Daniel Furman said, “I love the new-team feeling. We come in with a clean slate and get to create a program and a culture from the ground up. We get to create the foundation for years to come and I am excited to get on the field and get some wins.”

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JUNIOR
ETHAN PAULSON



BEACON VOLLEYBALL SEES UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS

*By Nick Askew
Assistant Athletic Director for Communications*

This fall, the Bushnell volleyball team experienced an historic year, breaking numerous records on their way to a second straight appearance in the NAIA National Championship Tournament.

Bushnell finished the season with a record of 21-8, and claimed a fourth-place finish in the Cascade Collegiate Conference. There were selected as one of 12 at-large bids for the national tournament and competed in the opening round, traveling to Butte, Montana to face Montana Tech.

The season ended with a tough five-set loss to the Orediggers, but that did not detract from a stellar season. The Beacons set a new single-season school record for overall wins (21) and conference wins (16). Their seven-match winning streak in September and October tied for the largest ever, and the team set a new record for team offense, earning an attack percentage of .212.

One of the many highlights for the season came in mid-October. Bouncing back from their first home loss of the season to Eastern Oregon, Bushnell faced undefeated Corban University at home on October 12. The Warriors came into the Morse Center ranked No. 6 in the NAIA, and left with

“Their seven-match winning streak in September and October tied for the largest ever.”



their first loss of the season, a dominant 25-23, 26-24, 27-25 sweep by the Beacons.

For Bushnell, it was the first-ever victory over an NAIA Top-10 ranked team. Head Coach Jason Corwin said at the time, “There is no such thing as a perfect match, but we got all phases of the game going tonight. We did such a good job of managing the opportunities in front of us and attacking with confidence. It put a lot of pressure on Corban to make plays and tonight they made more errors than they are used to.”

The Beacons were led on offense by junior Shay Coons, hitting .342 with 15 kills. Senior libero Callie Wilkins led all players with 14 digs and junior setter Makenna Northern ran the court with aplomb, collecting 40 assists, two kills and two blocks.

Those three athletes, along with Halle Neumann, proved to be the heart and soul of the program all season and they were honored at the end of the year as members of the All-CCC Team.

Coons was also named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-Northwest Region team. She ended the year fifth in the conference, averaging 3.36 kills per set and her 316 total kills were the most by a Bushnell player in nine years and the second-highest total in school history.

Wilkins was named the CCC and AVCA-Northwest Region Defensive Player of the Year. She finished the season ranked second in the CCC in digs, averaging 4.56 per set and was sixth in service aces with 34 (0.39 per set).

Northern completed a historic junior season as the CCC Setter of the Year, a first-team All-Northwest Region team member, and for the third time an NAIA All-American honorable mention. She led the conference with 10.44 assists per set and became the Beacon’s all-time leader for assists with 3226. She became just the third athlete from a team-sport to earn at least three All-American honors in her career, joining men’s basketball players Jon Willis (4, 1983-1986) and Ty Lockard (3, 1994-1996).

The future is bright for the Beacons, who will return most of the core of the team next season, including all four All-CCC players.



Church Relations

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Jaron Carter

Hi, my name is Jaron Carter, and I am a junior here at Bushnell University and here I will describe a sliver of my life.

One of my favorite things about being a student at Bushnell is that life is always exciting, and you can always find something to do. I am a bit of a busy body and love to get involved with as many activities as possible. Currently I am involved with leading a small group, working in the admissions office as a tour guide, working on the student programs team, starting the art club, and sprinting and jumping for the track and field team. Because I am involved in so many activities, my schedule is full most weeks. But worry not, I always find rest throughout my day. I love getting to know all types of people and being a member of so many groups has expanded my horizons with the people I am around. My closest friends all live around me, and I am rarely alone for extended periods of time. We are often together playing board games, discussing our lives, and poking fun at each other every single day.

Since I do so much around campus, I tend to get overwhelmed. At times, my stress and anxiety get the best of me, but when that happens, I have learned to refocus. I do this by trusting God, getting rest, and I am always doing something



around campus to bring joy to my day. Joy is a feeling that I strive for daily. I receive joy by shouting songs of worship, belly laughing with my friends, power napping before practice, and my favorite: spreading joy to others.

I have so much life to live and so much to learn. One important thing that I have learned is that I have a lifetime to grow, learn, and experience everyday as a new adventure. I have constant support from all the different avenues of my life. My family reminds me how much they love me, my coach and teammates give me encouraging support, The offices I work in check up on me and make sure I am doing great. My friends ask me what I need prayer for. I feel love and encouragement every day and it energizes me to hit the ground running and strive to live a life for Christ.

I am a young man trying to find his place in the world, being able to live and learn in such a supportive, loving environment has given me peace and clarity during this phase in my life, and I am so grateful and blessed for this community and school.



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After Doubt Conference

Led by Dr. AJ Swoboda

November 18, 2021

From the generosity of those who care deeply for pastors, Bushnell University hosted After Doubt: A special event for pastors and ministry leaders with Dr. AJ Swoboda.

This was a collaboration between the Center for Leadership & Ethics and the School of Bible & World Christianity. This event was free and all in attendance received a complimentary copy of Dr. Swoboda's book, *After Doubt: How to Question Your Faith without Losing It*.

The event started at 10:30am with a One Hope Pastors prayer gathering. There was an invitation to join for chapel at 11:00am in the Morse gymnasium before reconvening in the Ross Evans Chapel for a free lunch and to hear a presentation by Dr. Swoboda.

In his invitation to local pastors, Dr. Swoboda writes "There is a unique story behind this book. Before serving in academic life as a professor of Bible and theology at Bushnell University, I served in the local church. For the better part of a decade I served in college-age ministry to students at the University of Oregon. Then, for the better part of another

decade, I planted a church with my wife Quinn in the heart of the Hawthorne district of Portland. The church was called Theophilus. I, like you, watched what kinds of cultural challenges and theological pressure the people we serve now face in an increasingly post-Christian, secular environment.

What I saw has haunted me. It provoked me. It pushed me. It made me want to quit the ministry. And at times, made me want to give up my faith. Time and again, however, I watched as those going through those doubt experiences found them not know how to walk toward these experiences faithfully.

In the midst of that, I began working on this project, asking: is there a way to walk through doubt faithfully with Jesus?

The answer, I contend, is "yes"! It is not an easy road. These paths come with difficulty, heartache, honesty, and real truthfulness. But Jesus meets us in the middle of it. Bushnell University is hosting this event in hopes that it serves your work as a pastor and a leader."

“. . .I began working on this project, asking: Is there a way to walk through doubt faithfully with Jesus?"



Upcoming Events

2022

bushnell.edu/event

April

Bushnell Speak: Preaching & Communication Event	4/5/2022
Athletics Hall of Fame Induction	4/24/22

May

Dr. Dennis Lindsay Retirement Celebration	5/5/2022
Commencement	5/7/2022

June - August

Northwest Christian Convention	6/21 - 6/26, 2022
Winema Week of Missions	6/31 - 7/6, 2022
New Student Orientation	8/25/2022

September

Beacon Classic Golf Tournament	9/9/2022
Church Fair	TBD

November

Fall Church Relations Signature Event	TBD
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SPEAK^{'22}

Preaching & Communication for the Church

the tools of communication are changing

the message of the church is unchanging

how should we communicate in a timely way

how should we speak a message so timeless

10:30 AM — 4:30 PM

Bushnell University Morse Center

APRIL 5



Event Details

Lunch tickets to local food trucks will be provided for those who register by March 31st

10:30 am — Welcome and Check-in

11:00 am — Keynote

11:50 am — Lunch

12:45 pm — Afternoon sessions begin

3:30 pm — Final session

4:30 pm — Event finished

Bushnell University Morse Center
828 E. 11th Ave | Eugene, OR 97401

*Limited free parking in Bushnell Lots

Online Registration Required
bushnell.edu/event/speak

Presented in partnership by Bushnell University's
Center for Leadership and Ethics
&
School for Bible and World Christianity



Folly and Shame

Dr. Doyle Srader is professor of Speech and Communication at Bushnell University. His favorite things to teach are Public Speaking, Communication Theory, and Vacation Bible School. Dr. Srader is a Fulbright Scholar and will be teaching in Japan for the 2022-2023 academic year as part of the U.S. Department of State Fulbright international exchange program.

Don't Pastor Alone

Wes Wright is the pastor of Santa Clara Church since 2008 and adjunct professor for Bushnell University since 2011. Pastor Wright has his D.Min., from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis. He is part of a collaborative preaching group which meets weekly in Eugene.



Lifelong Disciples

Dr. Melisa Ortiz Berry is the Assistant Professor of History and World Christianity at Bushnell University. She founded Crown of Life Discipleship Ministry, speaks and writes on social media for @DrBerryDaily, and was recently the Interim-Minister at Twin Oaks Christian Church.



The Power of Absurdity

Michael DiMarco is the author or co-author of over fifteen books including *God Guy*, *Die Young*, *House of Grace* and *the God Guy Bible*. His latest project from Harper Collins Christian Publishing is entitled *The Text*, a Bible for young adults releasing in August 2022. Michael recently moved back to his home state of Oregon after 18 years in Nashville, Tennessee where he was a lead teaching pastor. He currently serves as the Communications Pastor at First Baptist Church of Eugene.



Stop Preaching the Bible

Rev. Troy Dean is the Campus Pastor and Assistant Professor of Christian Ministry at Bushnell University since 2010. Pastor Troy loves helping students discover God's calling. He has led mission trips all over the world and is especially passionate about ending human trafficking in Cambodia.



What is the Christian Response to Social Media?

Lars Coburn is the Director of University Relations and coordinates the Church Relations efforts at Bushnell University. Lars was a youth and family pastor for eight years serving in Eugene, San Diego, and Burbank. Lars' studies at Fuller Theological Seminary were in Youth, Family, and Culture. Lars will moderate the final session consisting of a panel discussion with local Lane County media and communication church staff..

