

M O U N T V E R N O N

NOW



A Leader's Legacy

Dr. Fairbanks retires after
18 years as MVNU President.

From the Editor...

By Carrie A. Crouch, Director of Communications

Dr. and Mrs. Fairbanks,

I'm so happy I had the chance to know you—not only as a student, but also as a staff member at MVNU. I learned much from watching your example over the years and have truly gained an appreciation and admiration for you, especially after reading so many of your articles!



One memory that sticks out in my mind comes not as a student, but as a green-as-grass magazine editor for the University. We had just made the announcement in the magazine that MVNC would be transitioning to university status. In big, bold letters, I had inadvertently misspelled the word “university” in the headline. Boy, was that embarrassing—to both myself and the institution!

I was scared to death when I was called into your office because you wanted to “talk” with me. I thought to myself, “Ok, well you’ve done it this time. Prepare to pack up your office and leave.” Instead, to my surprise, your compassionate and gentle nature provided me with a caring grace to make my mistakes and learn from them. You smiled and told me it was alright. You don’t know what that meant to me. I remember this moment often when I must choose to be an example of grace to others, across campus and in the community.

Anne, I have appreciated so much getting to know you and observing your overflowing and genuine love for students. You’ll never know how many hearts you have warmed just when they needed it the most—your sense of perfect timing is uncanny. Just reading through the letters and e-mails submitted for this issue and for your scrapbook has nearly brought me to tears several times. The influence you’ve both had on thousands of students has been deeply felt, and will continue to be for a long time.

May God continue to richly bless you...as indeed He has already. Thank you for leading and serving with the hearts and minds of Christ.

Carrie A. Crouch ('98)
Director of Communications

MOUNT VERNON NOW

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COVER: Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks, MVNU President, pictured with the Gazebo, one of the campus's hallmark structures.

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Mount Vernon Nazarene University is a private, four-year, intentionally Christian teaching university for traditional age students, graduate students and working adults. U.S. News & World Report ranks MVNU in the Top 50 Best in the Midwest (Bachelor's) for the second year in a row. With a 401-acre main campus in Mount Vernon, Ohio, and seven satellite Adult and Graduate Studies campuses throughout the state, MVNU emphasizes academic excellence, spiritual growth and service to community and church. MVNU offers an affordable education to more than 2,540 students from 29 states and nine countries/U.S. territories.

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On Reflection...

By Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks, President

A number of years ago I heard this statement: “Every man’s life can be summarized by one sentence.” Parallel to this thought is the idea that every person will be remembered for one thing.

I think this is true of teachers. Who was the most significant teacher in your college/university years? What do you remember about him/her?

The same principle is likewise true for pastors. Name the pastor who has impacted you the most. Why do you remember him/her? The love and contributions of teachers, pastors, more likely than not, will be remembered and summarized by one sentence.

And again, the same can be said for a university president. Yes, I strive to be an efficient administrator. And I surely desire to be an effective fund-raiser. But I am *passionate* on wanting to be known as a man of God.

Recently, I read again the words of I Kings 17:24: “I perceived that he was a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth.” Whatever accomplishments I may have enjoyed at MVNU, whatever honors or recognition may have been extended to me, I desire that the first and foremost remembrance of me is that I was a man of God.

Two questions emerge for both you and me if we really want to be known as godly men and women:

- **What does it really mean to be a man or woman “after God’s own heart”?**
- **How do we become men and women of God?**

Lifelong questions to be sure for the growing and maturing Christian and leader of a faith community.

I recently reviewed the “Four Priorities” I established for myself in 1989 as the newly elected president of Mount Vernon Nazarene University. I committed myself to spending at least 80 percent of my time on the four following priorities:

- **Spiritual leadership to the University campus—staff, faculty, senior administration and students.**
- **University-wide strategic thinking, planning and leading.**
- **Christian leadership development locally, regionally and worldwide.**
- **Major donor cultivation, and gifting and endowment development.**

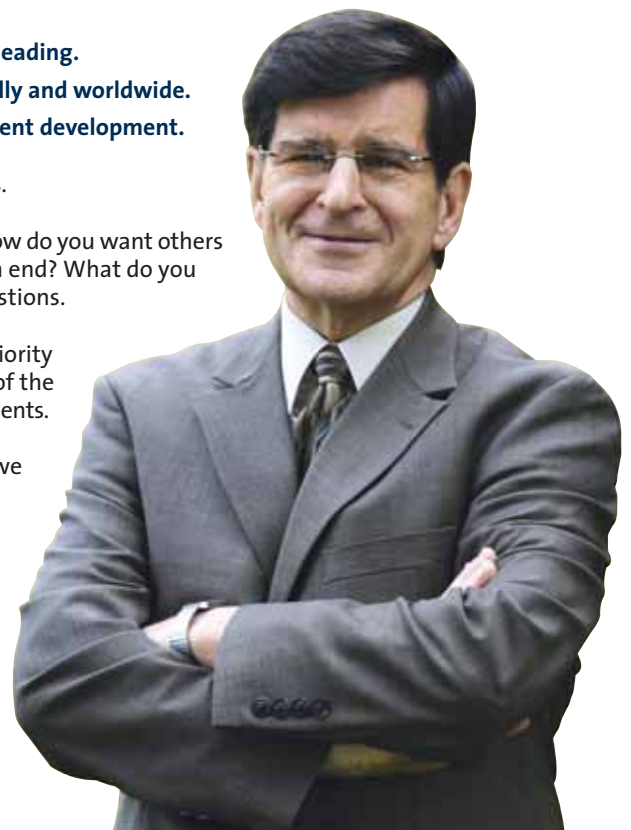
In retrospect, I have tried to be faithful to these priorities.

“Every man’s life can be summarized by one sentence.” How do you want others to remember you when your life on earth has come to an end? What do you want written on your tombstone? I ask myself these questions.

I want to be remembered as a man of God whose first priority as a university president was the spiritual development of the people for whom he was responsible: faculty, staff and students.

Anne and I thank you for the phenomenal faith journey we have traveled with you. The MVNU mission, vision and constituency will forever be with us.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.



Fairbanks' legacy: Dream big, and trust in the Lord

By Carrie A. Crouch, Director of Communications

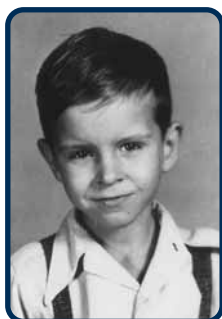


Who could have imagined that a boy from a broken home, with an alcoholic father for a role model, would someday become a college president? Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks, Mount Vernon Nazarene University's president for the past 18 years, would say it was only through God's grace, a special tenacity and the help of "guidepost" individuals along the road. Here, he reflects over his 18 years as MVNU's leader, what brought him to this point and what the future may hold.

A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Born in Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1942, LeBron is the eldest of three children. His childhood was not as easy or as pleasant as it should have been. "My mom was a saint and my dad was an alcoholic, so it did not make for the happiest of homes," he explained. But life improved when he, his mother and siblings moved to Florida to live with an aunt.

Responsibility came at an early age. After high school each day, Fairbanks could be found working at a local A&P grocery in order to help put food in the family's cupboards and to pay for schooling and other expenses. He willingly accepted this as a part of his duties.



In the summer of 1959, Fairbanks attended a summer church camp meeting. During a Saturday morning service, he responded to an invitation from the pastor and prayed, surrounded by friends. For him, this was a defining and clarifying moment that had obvious implications for the rest of his life. He commented, "I remember going back to my high school and telling my best friend at the

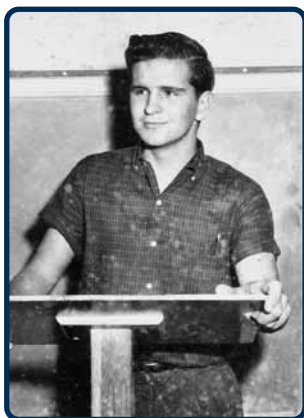
appointments, doctors informed Fairbanks that there was no evidence of illness whatsoever. "Because of this, there began a deep sense of stewardship on my life," he said. "I've tried to be a good steward of my days ever since."

THE PATHWAY TO LEADERSHIP

After graduating from Hialeah High School in northwest Miami, Fla., Fairbanks enrolled at Trevecca Nazarene University (then College) in the fall of 1960. It was here that he found his life deepening in many ways—spiritually, psychologically, emotionally and academically. "It wasn't in high school, but in college—a Christian college where people believed in me—that I became a good student. I didn't believe in myself, but they brought out the best in me," he said. "Spiritually, I became more focused, more committed, and that had a ripple effect on me academically. Of course, a certain education major named Anne had a positive influence on my studies as well..."



"I remember going back to my high school and telling my best friend at the time that something significant had just happened to me and I would not be doing the things and going to the places we used to. I really wanted to be a Christian."



time that something significant had just happened to me and I would not be doing the things and going to the places we used to. I really wanted to be a Christian."

Later that same year as a high school senior, Fairbanks became so ill, he was not expected to live. The diagnosis was leukemia. Though he's able to chuckle looking back, he reflected, "One night in the hospital, I remember receiving a call from an out-of-state friend who said, 'I heard you were very ill, and I wanted to talk to you before you died.' That was the worst night." However, after four years of regular



Anne and LeBron, who had met during their freshman year at Trevecca, were married in 1962. Following graduation, Fairbanks joined the staff of Nashville's Grace Church of the Nazarene. Simultaneously, he enrolled in Scarritt College, a Methodist graduate school, to complete a Master of Arts in Christian Education.

MVNU AND WORLD TIMELINE

E. LeBron Fairbanks elected as MVNU's fifth president.

1989

Berlin wall falls, uniting East and West Germany.
Exxon Valdez dumps more than 20 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound.

President Fairbanks' inauguration ceremony.
MVNU dedicates the Free Enterprise Business Center.

1990

Public debut of the World Wide Web.
Nelson Mandela freed from prison.



Gymnasium/MPB, Lakeholm Administration Building, and Founders Hall renovated.

1991

Collapse of the Soviet Union.

Alumni say a fond farewell

The following stories, memories and wishes are excerpted from alumni letters to Dr. and Mrs. Fairbanks. A complete scrapbook of these letters, pictures and other mementos from MVNU alumni was presented to the Fairbanks at MVNU's Farewell Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 2.

You have both demonstrated the knack of individually caring about the hearts and needs of each one of the thousands of students who have passed through MVNU's halls so that we all have felt uniquely and individually loved.

James McCament ('95)



You have been an amazing president to this institution. I really enjoyed my four years at MVNU and it is because of your leadership and vision to make it what it is today. I remember thinking you wouldn't know who I was, but every time I'd say hi to you on campus, you would know my name and talk to me a little. You may not have thought that it was a big deal, but it was to me. I recall that you loved "Redeemed" and always wanted to sing with us every time you had the chance. I hope that we made you proud. You are a great man of God and an inspiration to many.

Adam Etris ('03)

A move in 1967 brought Fairbanks to Kansas City, Mo., where he became a member of the editorial staff of the Department of Church Schools at the International Headquarters of the Church of the Nazarene. There he worked closely with the late Dr. A.F. Harper and Dr. Kenneth Rice. It was also in Kansas City where he completed a Master of Divinity at Nazarene Theological Seminary (NTS). "As a teaching assistant to Dr. Chet Galloway, NTS's first professor of Christian education, I taught my first class—Christian Education of Children. I had a personal and professional interest in the subject and came close to pursuing a doctoral degree in it before moving to Kansas City," Fairbanks explained.

He enrolled and graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary with a Master of Theology, where he served as teaching assistant to Dr. D. Campbell Wyckoff, the premier Christian education theorist in the United States during the '60s to '80s. Fairbanks' passion for education began to grow as he looked toward a doctoral degree. He was admitted to Princeton's first Doctor of Ministry program and completed his coursework in pastoral theology with Dr. Wyckoff and Dr. Seward Hiltner.

However, upon taking a pastorate in Norristown, Pa., Fairbanks became quickly engrossed in pastoral ministry. Correspondingly, he became discouraged with the doctoral program at Princeton and eventually withdrew, despite receiving the Fellow in Pastoral Leadership Education. "In 1975, I attended the Continental Congress in St. Louis on the Family. At that meeting, I talked about my experiences at Princeton with Dr. James Hamilton, professor of pastoral care and counseling at NTS. He encouraged me to enroll in NTS's first Doctor of Ministry class and I heeded his advice," said Fairbanks. "It was one of the best decisions I've made in life." Another life-changing event came that same year: Anne and LeBron adopted their son, Stephen, from Korea.



EDUCATION WITH A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

LeBron Fairbanks has had the unique and valuable opportunity to teach and serve at Nazarene institutions around the world. In 1978, he joined the faculty at European Nazarene Bible College (EuNC) in Büsingen, Germany, of which he later became academic dean. Here, he worked to implement a special relationship with MidAmerica Nazarene University both to share faculty and to allow selected EuNC students to graduate with baccalaureate degrees accredited through the U.S.'s North Central Association. "A number of today's Church of the Nazarene leaders throughout Europe were students there at time," Fairbanks commented. "In fact, EuNC's current rector, Klaus Arnold, was one of my students."



The Fairbanks returned to the U.S. in 1982, where LeBron served as professor of education and lay ministry development at Southern Nazarene University (then Bethany Nazarene College) shaping and coordinating this new program. Less than two years later, however, the Fairbanks were off to a new international destination. This time, to be president of Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary in Manila, The Philippines. "What a great and fulfilling experience those five years were," Fairbanks recalled. On July 27, 1989, which also happens to be LeBron's

Art Studio, Central Complex, and Maintenance Complex renovated.

1992

William Clinton elected 42nd U.S. president.
Jay Leno debuts as host of The Tonight Show.

MVNU launches Adult and Graduate Studies programs (formerly EXCELL).



Cougar softball wins NCCAA national invitational title.

1993

Waco, Texas, cult compound stormed by FBI.

Visual Arts Center completed.
Women's basketball and men's golf win NCCAA national invitational titles.

1994

O.J. Simpson arrested for alleged murder of wife, friend.
Long-running sitcom Friends premieres on NBC.

birthday, he received the call from MVNU's Board Chair Dr. Harold Graves, informing him of his election as the University's fifth president. Fairbanks recalled, "It was quite a surprise." Ready or not, he was about to begin the assignment of a lifetime.

AN ANCHOR THROUGH CHANGE

"My inauguration at MVNU was one of the first events to be held in the newly constructed R.R. Hodges Chapel," said Fairbanks. "I remember the subject I spoke on—'Education for a Lifestyle of Service'—where I asked faculty and staff to consider expanding the sphere of influence and impact of the MVNU education." Already, Fairbanks had a dream to provide working adults with the opportunity to attend MVNU.

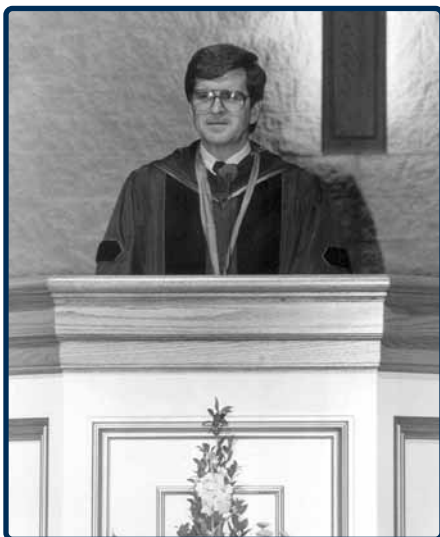
With the excitement of a new task also came apprehensions. "I was a 'Southern' boy," said Fairbanks, "and I didn't know how I would fit into this region or the campus. On a personal note, we were also concerned about Stephen. Because he is Korean, we knew he would definitely be a minority in Mount Vernon's community." But they pressed on, remaining at MVNU out of a deep sense of a great calling in their lives.



I am so thankful that I went to a college that had an approachable and loving president. When I look back and think about how available and caring you and Anne were, I recognize that we were spoiled. We share memories of you sitting with us in the cafeteria, stopping us on the sidewalks for a brief chat, giving us a hug in the chapel foyer, inviting us over to your home and cheering with us at basketball games, not to mention countless more.

James Smith ('99)

In his first article in The Communicator, MVNU's alumni and friends publication, Fairbanks laid out the four goals he brought to the school: enabling the campus community to think more globally, live more simply, love more deeply and to give more generously.



Throughout his entire administration, these have always been a priority and have been accomplished in numerous ways. Fairbanks has served as the model for each of these and through his strategic initiatives has changed the face of MVNU.

Five more specific goals included:

- Developing a strategic plan for the decade of the 1990s.
- Expanding and improving the library facility.
- Creating a nontraditional program for working adults.
- Surpassing the 1,100-student enrollment barrier for traditional undergraduates.
- Implementing a Division of Campus Ministries.

You were extremely influential in our lives as we spent our years at MVNU. We will never forget your asking, "How are you doing?" (We knew you truly meant this.) "Is there anything we can do for you?" You have had and continue to have an enormous impact on the lives of so many students, their families, and the community of MVNU. It's amazing how God will put wonderful people like you into the lives of others.

Dwayne ('97), Bethany (Reams '96), Ethan, and Evan Mills



First, thank you for your spiritual leadership and the example that both of you have set for all of the students, past and present, at MVNU! Second, thank you for allowing me to be a part of not only MVNU as a whole, but for allowing me to be a part of WNZR! My time at WNZR is filled with so many memories, many of which include both of you!

David "Emerson" Leist ('06)



Cougar baseball wins NCCAA national title.
Adult and Graduate Studies opens Polaris campus.

1995

Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building (Oklahoma City) bombed.

Thorne Library/Learning Resource Center dedicated.
Hyson Campus Center is refurbished.

1996

Summer Olympic games held in Atlanta.

Multicultural Affairs begins;
Eric Ely serves as first director.

1997

Princess Diana and Mother Teresa die.
DVD players available in the U.S.

Anne made my experience at Mount Vernon so special. My father was ill with cancer and passed away while I was in school. Not only did she spend time on the phone with me, she also made a special trip during calling hours. I can't tell you how much that has meant to me. At any other college, I would have gone unnoticed, but she made my family's situation her own.

Lori (Kincaid '01) Denney



One of the greatest memories I have of Dr. Fairbanks was at graduation. He spoke about Christian contentment and said, "If you're not content with what you have, you'll never be content with what you want." Dr. Fairbanks always spoke from his heart and was genuinely concerned for the spiritual growth of those he encountered.

Ryan ('05) and Renee (Blake '04) Avery



I will miss the Fairbanks! LeBron has taught me to always dream big and seek God's will in all that I do. Some of

my fondest memories will be the phone calls he made to WNZR. He would call to say hi, ask for a song title, or encourage a new DJ. It has been so encouraging to know that our president and his wife were listening to us and supporting us with their prayers.

Marcy (Street '91) Rinehart

Each one of these goals has been fully completed over the course of these 18 years—not without many risks and much rejoicing though. Fairbanks remembers one risk he's glad he took: "In the mid 1990s, I began to realize that a building expansion plan was necessary to accommodate the continuing growth of MVNU. As a campus community and as a board, we had determined the best site for the new library; however, on this site was the 'Ed Shed,' the art annex and our Counseling and Career Center," he explained. "I challenged our traditionally debt-averse board to assume financial debt on an expansion of the dining commons with a second floor, a new visual arts center and three student residence facilities. It was a risk for them to take and for me to recommend it. Fortunately, they embraced the vision and the rest is history."



The Thorne Library/Learning Resource Center was a part of Fairbanks' academic vision for MVNU.

Holding firm in both vision and values, Fairbanks is most proud of staying with his God-given assignment for an impressive 17 years amidst massive growth and change. "Just not giving up—the tenacity—has been the thing. The temptations to move along the way were there, but the release was not," he commented. "I've tried to be an anchor for the School as we've experienced profound change together. I wanted to be a steadying influence. That's my leadership style—to turn the ship slowly. I just wish I could start all over again with the knowledge I've gained since."

STRUGGLES AND SURPRISES

Fairbanks' tenure at MVNU has been filled with personal and professional growth. When he was elected president, one board member mentioned a fellow board member's concern: "He's detail-oriented," Fairbanks remembered. "This is usually a good thing, but as the institution has grown, I've increasingly recognized that I must infuse the attention to details into my senior administrators. I know I cannot be involved in as many of the details as I would like to be."



Fairbanks presenting at a conference in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Communication skills have been a tremendous area of growth for Fairbanks. The naturally introverted LeBron explained, "I knew I was following a 'prince' among communicators [Dr. William Prince], so I knew I had to work hard at improving my communications to the various constituency groups." With over 1,000 speaking engagements, chapel services, classroom presentations, church and district gatherings and more under his belt, he's had plenty of practice.

Emphasis on missions and international studies: Dr. Fairbanks, other administrators and faculty participate in International Studies Romania Semester Abroad; Dr. Fairbanks visits a Romanian orphanage.

1998

John Glenn becomes oldest astronaut.
Google is first established.

4041st MVNU diploma awarded by Dr. Fairbanks on May 22, 1999.
Hyson Campus Center receives addition/renovation.

1999

Student gunmen open fire at Columbine High School.

MVNU enrollment pushes past 2,000.



Jennie K. Moore Family and Consumer Science Center dedicated.

2000

George W. Bush elected 43rd U.S. president.
Scientists successfully clone a sheep.

"I've had to increase my financial analysis skills and understanding of legal and compliance issues as they related to higher education," he continued. In 1989, MVNU did not have legal counsel. Of course, this is one area of education that has changed greatly. "I discovered shortly after arriving at MVNU that we were engaged in a small lawsuit. This was enough to remind me that I needed to stay close to legal counsel."

Surprises, both positive and negative, have been a way of life through 18 years at MVNU. "I've been surprised from the beginning by the warm embrace of the Mount Vernon/Knox County community to this institution," said Fairbanks. "At first I was offended by the phrase 'The Naz,' but I quickly learned that this truly was a term of great endearment."

He added, "I should not have been surprised, though I was, by the intense commitment of the board to this institution. The board has been a strong part of MVNU from its beginning and through my administration ... and will be for the next president as well." Fairbanks is also appreciative of the positive overall response of faculty, staff and the greater constituency to his leadership of MVNU.



Fairbanks with Dr. Jim Couchenour, former Board of Trustees chair.

Anyone associated with MVNU during Dr. Fairbanks' presidency has been amazed at the fruit of his leadership. His political skills are truly a gift to the church. However, the thing that has most impressed me is his continual path of learning. When he arrived at MVNU, he had large shoes to fill in replacing Dr. William Prince. One of Dr. Prince's strengths is preaching. One of Dr. Fairbanks' admitted weaknesses, at the time, was preaching. I know that because he showed up in a few of my preaching classes and shared this with the class. One day after class, Dr. Fairbanks asked me what a few of the most recent books on preaching I had read were. That impressed me. And his preaching began to change dramatically.

His humble pursuit of learning and service has been a pristine example of the old motto, "To Seek To Learn Is To Seek To Serve." His service to MVNU has been a blessing in every sense of the word and his wife Anne, a treasured gift.

Rev. Larry Dunlap ('92)



What a blessing you have been to the community of MVNU. I was a student when you came to us. I'm sure your vision for the young school was met with opposition and lack of faith. Thank you for believing in what the Lord was showing you, and for not giving in. Thank you for exercising faith—believing in what was not visible to the naked eye. Look at what the Lord has done!

Kevin Angel ('91)

REFLECTIONS ON EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

When asked what it means to truly be a leader, Fairbanks replied, "I've given the last 27 years of my life to exploring this question." In truth, his quest for leadership probably began even earlier than that. "I once wrote a definition of Christian leadership that has guided me fundamentally to this very day:

"Christian leadership is humble service to others in a community of faith for the purpose of enabling them through visioning, collaboration, and teaching to live their lives on the lordship of Christ, and to understand, accept, and fulfill—both individually and corporately—their ministry to each other, to their vocational choices, and to the world."

Adult and Graduate Studies opens Lima and Newark campuses.
Women's basketball wins NCCAA national title.

2001

More than 3,000 die in the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States.
Apple introduces the iPod.



MOUNT VERNON
NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
Life Changing

MVNC transitions to university status.
Men's basketball wins NCCAA national title.

2002

U.S. government establishes Department of Homeland Security.

Adult and Graduate Studies opens Gahanna campus.
Women's soccer wins NCCAA national title.

2003

U.S. invades Iraq.
Space shuttle Columbia explodes; seven astronauts killed.

I learned more about leadership watching the way you led our University than from the many books I've read on the subject. Thanks for your years of dedication to MVNU and the Church of the Nazarene! You've made a difference that will last for generations! God Bless you and your wife as you retire!

Rob Paugh ('90)

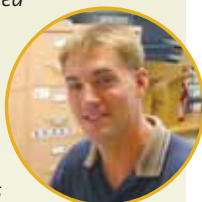


Dr. Fairbanks, you have been a wise and dedicated leader and you have helped to make MVNU more than just a place to get a degree—a place where people like me grow into a relationship with God that I didn't know was possible before college. Mrs. Fairbanks, you were the very first person I met on my first day at MVNU. You were so kind to me and my parents. I've never forgotten that.

Angela Tanner ('97)



I have really appreciated the leadership and, even more important, the friendship and support of Dr. and Mrs. Fairbanks. Dr. Fairbanks has always gone out of his way to chat with me when our paths crossed on campus or through e-mail, and Anne is one of the most precious and caring ladies whom I have ever met. As they prepare to finish their time at MVNU, they can walk away knowing they have left a tremendous legacy on our campus and around the world. They were the right people at the right time and with the Lord's help, they took MVNU to new heights.



Dave Parsons ('94)

Fairbanks also concurs with Dr. John Stott's summary of Christian leadership. Stott breaks the definition into five ingredients: clear vision, hard work, dogged perseverance, humble service and iron discipline.

Have students and education changed in the past two decades? "Yes and no. Anne and I love students and, fundamentally, I don't see big changes. Though some of their characteristics may change from generation to generation, we embrace them for who they are and what they bring to this campus, both strengths and limitations," Fairbanks added. "We try to nurture them and push them as far as we can in the time we have with them."

Some things don't and shouldn't change, however, such as the liberal arts core at MVNU. A Christian liberal arts education provides a foundation—a biblical, theological foundation—for the exploration and development of ways of thinking and ways of doing, in graduate school, in an occupation, at home, in the church and in the community. "That integration of faith and learning is not brought to completion in an undergraduate education," said Fairbanks, "but hopefully a way of thinking has emerged that will stay with the student and inform and guide him as he grows and matures for the rest of his life."



LOOKING BACK GRATEFULLY, LOOKING AHEAD EXPECTANTLY

It's next to impossible to sum up nearly two decades of a university presidential experience neatly, but LeBron made the attempt in just three words:

REWARDING:

- Development of academic programs for both traditional and adult/graduate students.
- Establishment of multiple satellite campus locations.
- Expansion of campus property with the 121-acre Pinecrest Farm and 5-acre Kinney property.
- Creation of the Campus Ministries Division.

GROWING:

- Experiencing a phenomenal journey of faith, both for Fairbanks and for MVNU.
- Pushing beyond what most people thought was possible.
- Accomplishing God's word and will collectively, as a campus community.

VISIONING:

- Creation of two strategic planning documents.
- Journeying through the year-long process of revising the MVNU vision statement.
- Sustaining the dream for the next steps of MVNU's impact and influence.

Prince Student Union dedicated.
Adult and Graduate Studies opens
Cincinnati campus.

2004

Tsunami hits Indonesia and Thailand;
228,000 missing and dead.

Christopher Reeve dies.



Second floor added to Jennie K.
Moore Family and Consumer
Sciences Center.

Couchenour House
(former president's home) dedicated.

2005

Hurricane Katrina hits Gulf Coast;
1,000 dead, millions homeless.

Crash awarded Best Motion Picture.



MVNU surpasses 2,600 in enrollment.

Dr. Daniel J. Martin announced as
MVNU's sixth president.

2006

Winter Olympics held
in Turin, Italy.



The years ahead will have its share of challenges as well. Fairbanks expressed that some of these may include:

- **Access for students.** MVNU is a tuition-driven institution, so as salaries increase, as new programs are needed, new technology and equipment are required, new facilities are necessary—financial demands increase and student charges increase. “I don’t want to see an MVNU education that is unattainable, especially for Nazarene students,” he said.
- **Diversity.** Because Mount Vernon is a fairly rural community, there is a lack of diversity, and multicultural students are not initially drawn to MVNU. Yet we need to provide opportunities for our students to appreciate and experience cultural diversity in order to realize the whole world is the arena of God’s concern.
- **The relationship with the Church of the Nazarene:** “There is an intensely strong relationship presently,” said Fairbanks, “but it is a challenge to keep that relationship dynamic, vibrant and before us as a campus community, while seeking to invite faculty and students from a broad array of denominations.”

“My biggest hope and dream for MVNU is that it will be an institution that continues to embrace and fulfill the vision of shaping Christ-like leaders for lifelong service and global impact. I also want to see the University continue to increase in its academic standing and quality.”

“My love and desire to serve emerging Christian leaders is still strong, particularly in the two-thirds world. And I believe in some way I will give more attention to that in the days to come,” said Fairbanks.

To Dr. Fairbanks and Anne—may God watch over your future days and continue to bless you with the desires of your hearts as you carry out your purpose for Christ. MVNU is greatly indebted to you both, and we will never forget the great love, leadership, compassion and grace that you have poured out for this campus. MVNU will never be the same.

I did not know Dr. Fairbanks on a real personal level, and my one-on-one encounters with him over the course of four years at MVNU were few. I can remember one time when he prayed with me at the altar after a Wednesday evening service concerning my future after college. He told me that sometimes you have to use your “sanctified common sense” when it comes to taking the next step. That has stuck with me. Dr. Fairbanks exuded love. I believe that he truly loves MVNU and each and every student there.

Liz Young ('03)



Although I didn’t have many opportunities to interact with Dr. and Mrs. Fairbanks, I fondly recall that Mrs. Fairbanks saved clippings from my volleyball games and sent them to me at my apartment. The fact that she would care enough to take notice of these events and remind me that she and Dr. Fairbanks were supporting me was a huge boost. They are a couple who cares deeply about each and every student at the school.

Courtney (Testa '97) Aljancic





MVNU is a family affair: Memories with Anne and Stephen Fairbanks

Compiled by Anne and Stephen Fairbanks



For the last 18 years, Mount Vernon Nazarene University has been our home. We are grateful to the MVNU community for welcoming us into their hearts and lives. Through the years, we have grown close to many students, staff and faculty members. These relationships have resulted in our sharing many special memories with the MVNU community—memories of joy, happiness, laughter, and yes, sometimes sadness. Allow us to relive some of them with you...

We enjoyed students' visits at the president's home on Glen Road to play games or challenge us in ping pong. Our pool table was a real focal point of fun! And discussions with students were always spirited! Especially memorable were the Christmas Open Houses when faculty, staff, students and community friends spent time with us in our home, singing carols in the spirit of the Season. Once, during a February ice storm, near midnight, they serenaded us with still-reverberating Christmas carols and other beautiful music.

And then there were "Girls Only" evenings! We baked cookies and talked non-stop. We also had "Men's Night Out" when several male students asked our permission to cook a meal in our home, followed by three hours of serious discussions about Henri Nouwen.

But not all interactions were serious. In the early years, there were many "TP" jobs performed on our home. But I had several

"confidential informants" on campus who could usually tell me the names of the students involved. We would then collect the TP from the many trees, package it in a box and return it to the students for recycling. I always "graded" the quality of their work in the letter I would include with the box. It was great fun!

We were blessed to enjoy many delightful opportunities to welcome and serve faculty, staff, students, community and international friends in our home. One year, the women's basketball team had a fund-raising auction. We donated a

candlelight dinner for four to be served in our home. A male student bought this special auction item as a surprise for his girlfriend. He wanted my husband and me to be the other couple. What a memorable evening!

We are so honored to hold dear many wonderful memories visiting with alumni throughout the region and the world. When we moved to Mount Vernon in 1989, there was little cultural diversity on campus or in the community. It's been a joy for me (Stephen) to "come home" to Mount Vernon to an increasingly diverse campus community. Todd Gallup and the other kitchen workers remain my friends to this day, after having spent five years (high school and college) as a Pioneer dish washer!

We have cherished worshipping together as a community during various chapel services. The songs and messages during these times have been inspirational and encouraging. Thank you for all the memories. The "Naz" has been a part of our lives and will continue to be in the future. You will be in our prayers.

Please pray for us as we move on to God's next assignment.

Anne Fairbanks is heavily involved in students' lives at MVNU. Sometimes directly, but often as a behind-the-scenes encourager and prayer warrior. She has also been an active supporter and council member with Women's Auxiliary, raising scholarship funds for students. She is looking forward to having more time for her secret joy upon departure from MVNU—art, sketching and painting.

Stephen is currently employed as the International Relations Coordinator at Korea Nazarene University and enjoys working with faculty and student exchanges both to and from Korea.



Stephen and Dr. Fairbanks share a special moment when father hands son his bachelor's degree at MVNU in 1998.



Fun with Fairbanks

Take our Mount Vernon NOW quiz to discover what you do and don't know about President Fairbanks and his family. Answers appear on page 21.



1. **In what state was LeBron born?**
 - a. Alabama
 - b. Florida
 - c. Kentucky
 - d. Tennessee
2. **What did LeBron want to be when he grew up?**
 - a. Dentist
 - b. Airplane mechanic
 - c. Grocer
 - d. Dairy farmer
3. **What does the "E" in E. LeBron Fairbanks stand for?**
 - a. Edward
 - b. Elwood
 - c. Eugene
 - d. Elvis
4. **How many siblings does LeBron have?**
 - a. 2 sisters, 1 brother
 - b. 1 sister, 2 brothers
 - c. 1 sister, 1 brother
 - d. 2 sisters, 2 brothers
5. **As a boy, what household chores were LeBron's responsibility?**
 - a. Mowing the lawn, trimming the hedges
 - b. Taking out the trash, cooking dinner
 - c. Making sure his siblings got onto the school bus
 - d. Cleaning the bathroom, washing dishes
6. **What was LeBron's first car?**
 - a. 1948 Chevy pickup
 - b. 1949 Ford 2-door
 - c. 1950 Nash Ambassador
 - d. 1951 Studebaker Champion 4-door
7. **What was Anne Fairbanks' maiden name?**
 - a. Jensen
 - b. Jones
 - c. Joseph
 - d. James
8. **In what state was Anne born?**
 - a. Georgia
 - b. Mississippi
 - c. Alabama
 - d. South Carolina



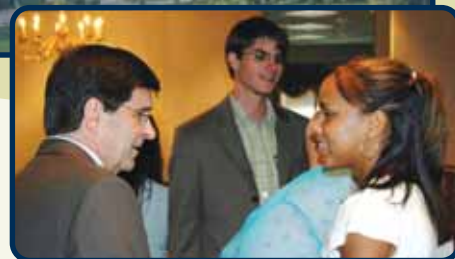
9. **What was one of LeBron's jobs as a college student?**
 - a. Cafeteria dish washer
 - b. Restaurant waiter
 - c. Grocery stock boy
 - d. Campus tour guide
10. **What is LeBron's favorite game?**
 - a. Rook
 - b. Euchre
 - c. Dominoes
 - d. Uno
11. **What is LeBron's favorite meal?**
 - a. Spaghetti with meatballs
 - b. Chili and cornbread
 - c. Stuffed green peppers
 - d. Beef stroganoff
12. **What is LeBron's favorite athletic team?**
 - a. The OSU Buckeyes
 - b. MVNU Cougars
 - c. Cleveland Indians
 - d. Cincinnati Bengals
13. **Who is LeBron's favorite author?**
 - a. Thomas L. Friedman
 - b. Francis A. Schaeffer
 - c. Brennan Manning
 - d. Henri J. M. Nouwen
14. **What is LeBron's favorite country to visit?**
 - a. Italy
 - b. Germany
 - c. The Philippines
 - d. France
15. **What is LeBron's favorite hobby?**
 - a. Traveling
 - b. Writing
 - c. Singing
 - d. Reading
16. **How many master's degrees does LeBron have?**
 - a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4
17. **What is the first class LeBron ever taught?**
 - a. Introduction to Philosophy
 - b. Christian Education of Children
 - c. Pastoral Care and Counseling
 - d. Introduction to Psychology

18. **Which actors/comedians has LeBron met in person?**
 - a. Jay Leno and David Letterman
 - b. Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz
 - c. Bill Cosby and Eddie Murphy
 - d. Steve Martin and Chevy Chase
19. **What is LeBron's favorite book of the Bible?**
 - a. Psalms
 - b. John
 - c. Ephesians
 - d. Romans
20. **What is LeBron's favorite traditional hymn?**
 - a. Be Thou My Vision
 - b. How Great Thou Art
 - c. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
 - d. Great is Thy Faithfulness
21. **What percentage of all MVNU graduates have graduated during LeBron's presidency?**
 - a. Nearly 80%
 - b. Nearly 70%
 - c. Nearly 60%
 - d. Nearly 50%



Making dreams a reality

By Dr. David Wilson, Board of Trustees Chair



The first time I met E. LeBron Fairbanks, I was pastoring in Orlando, Fla. Several members of his family were part of the congregation I served. He visited them and preached in our church when he was on furlough from his assignment at European Nazarene College. We entertained the family in our home after the service and began a friendship that has spanned more than 25 years. It has been a distinct privilege to work with him while I was a pastor on the region, as his district superintendent and now as chair of the Mount Vernon Nazarene University Board of Trustees.

Dr. Fairbanks has served MVNU faithfully for over 18 years—the longest tenure of any president in MVNU history. A brief glance at statistics will quickly show the growth that has taken place—numerically, physically and fiscally. The numbers, however, do not frame the entire picture.

“My prayer is to see those who graduate from Mount Vernon Nazarene University distinguished as servant leaders who give of themselves to help others and who make a difference in the 21st century. To this end, I am committed.”

He has provided a vision: An academic community of faith shaping Christ-like leaders for lifelong service and global impact. He has given the leadership necessary to fulfill that vision. Dr. Fairbanks has worked diligently to be a fair and trustworthy president. He speaks from his heart and shares his passion for Christ with those around him. His character is evidenced through his personal testimony. He is truly called to higher education with a deep passion for teaching and reaching students around the world for Christ.

Many lives have been changed at MVNU as a result of his direction and his desire to serve Christ in his role as university president. Parents and students alike share stories of his support, friendship and words of encouragement. He will be missed by students, the campus community and the many friends of MVNU as he transitions.

Throughout the selection process of a new president, it has been stated many times and in many ways that we are an institution on the brink of greatness. We are not in crisis mode; we are poised to move forward. I’m not sure that those who looked at the cornfields of the Lakeholm Farm nearly 40 years ago could have dreamed of the 406-acre campus with state-of-the-art facilities and a student body of over 2,600 that we have today. In an alumni focus group, the comment was made, “We are in the middle of someone else’s dream.” I am grateful to Dr. Fairbanks for his role in making so many people’s dreams become reality.

Dr. Fairbanks has said, “My prayer is to see those who graduate from Mount Vernon Nazarene University distinguished as servant leaders who give of themselves to help others and who make a difference in the 21st century. To this end, I am committed.” Those are not just words, but the very heart of a man committed to Mount Vernon Nazarene University and Christian higher education. I am proud to call him president, friend and brother in Christ.

By the numbers

Facts and figures from the Fairbanks administration:

	1989	2006
Total Enrollment	1,061	2,670
Traditional undergraduates	1,061	1,349
Adult students	0	822
Graduate students	0	449
Graduates	1,719	7,758
Tuition	\$5,050	\$16,876
Room and board	\$2,900	\$5,090
University budget	\$11 million	\$44 million
Students from outside of Ohio	188 (18%)	178 (7%)
Multicultural/international students	1	178 (in all programs)
Students living on campus	739	1,046
Athletes	106	167
Average ACT score	19.5	22.4

	1989	2006
Academic programs	24	80
Most popular academic program	Business Administration	Business Administration
Endowments	\$2.7 million	\$10.8 million
Income from endowments	\$193,000	\$1.1 million
Library holdings	87,170	115,093
Internet traffic	0 visits/month	177,000 visits/month
Campus buildings	25	38
Satellite campuses	0	8
Faculty members	71	133 (full-time)
Staff members	80	257
Alumni	5,434	13,632

The global legacy of E. LeBron Fairbanks

By Dr. Jerry D. Lambert, Commissioner of Education for the Church of the Nazarene International Board of Education



Whether in Europe west or east, or Asia in the north, or the islands of the South Pacific, the Midwest or the Southeast of the United States, LeBron Fairbanks is a legend in his own time.

Gifted as an educator, preacher and administrator, he is known and loved globally for his distinctive style of servant leadership closely modeled after the life of Jesus.

It has been a great joy and privilege to be his colleague-friend, observing his transitions through multiple chapters and epics of an outstanding career. To know LeBron up-close-and-personal is to know an amazing leader who is complex, compelling and committed.

From a local church in South Florida to college at Trevecca, from Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City to graduate work at Scarritt, Princeton, Harvard and Yale, education and educators shaped and mentored his life.

LeBron was nurtured not only by the church, but by significant people of faith and experience who believed in him and influenced him in remarkable ways to become all he is today.

His mentors range from Homer Adams, Mark Moore, William Greathouse, Stephen Nease, Les Parrott and Millard Reed from earlier generations. LeBron also enjoyed warm and highly interactive relationships with Nazarene university, college and seminary professors and current presidents of today.

LeBron was not only mentored by others—he became a mentor himself to many students, faculty and administrators at European

Nazarene College in Europe, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary in Manila, Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma and Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Ohio.

An intense and compelling teacher, he has always been a student himself. While his feet were ever planted solidly in his current campus assignment, he always had an eye for seeing the educational needs of a global church, whether it was in Hungary, Albania, Holland or Russia.

His participation was significant in the Oxford Conference sponsored by the International Board of Education, the Johannesburg 2000 event, and the Lausanne Forum on World Evangelization. With a passion and penchant for details of implementation, he was able to keep primary the vision of the “big picture” of the mission of the Church in education.

Although he was eager to collaborate with others, he was never afraid to think or act on ideas “out of the box.” His thinking and his work are the fingerprints of his servant leadership. They will long be felt and appreciated by the Church. He will be remembered for a legacy of outstanding leadership in Nazarene higher education.



A historical look at MVNU's presidential philosophies of Christian education

Compiled by Walt Baughman, University Archivist and Evening Circulation Specialist

"With an eye singly to the Glory of God and as the avowed servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, we, the duly elected and constituted Board of Trustees of Mount Vernon Nazarene College, moved by the steadfast faith that all branches of education and instruction should be promoted with a firm Christian philosophy and perspective, do this day organize and set forth this corporation. It shall be the express purpose of this corporation to organize, foster and promote all the required branches of instruction, including courses in the Bible and theology, in harmony with the Articles of Faith and practices of the Church of the Nazarene as made public in the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene."



So stated the Preamble of the Charter of the university under founding president **Dr. Steven Nease** (pictured above) in 1968. Has MVNU remained true to its founders' ideals?

Strong Foundations

The 1969 *Status Study* stated that "a Christian value-system undergirds the college as a community. We hope to help each student to acquire a knowledge of the Bible...the foundation of Christian doctrine, experience and life; to seek a personal, life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ."

The first *Self Study* in 1971 stated, "The institutional objectives of Mount Vernon Nazarene College grow out of a philosophy of education that has its roots in a distinctively Christian understanding of life. Nurtured by the conviction that the revelation of Divine Love in Jesus Christ provides the most adequate basis for understanding the meaning of all events and facts, these objectives rest upon the claim that full-orbed truth involves a proper relationship of persons—vertically with God and horizontally with other men. The College endeavors to create the academic atmosphere for the students' continuing intellectual growth...and to nourish wholesome discipline necessary for moral development."

In the 1973 *Self Study*, we see that "this institution is not neutral in terms of religious belief styles of living, but, rather takes a stand for some things and against others."



The second president, **Dr. John Knight** (pictured left), stated the same year, "The spiritual climate of the college must continue to be wholesome and attractive. Students must be confronted with His living presence in order to establish properly the priorities of their life. MVNC strives for excellence, and extols the virtues of holy living."

Third president, **Dr. L. Guy Nees** (pictured right), declared at his 1975 inauguration that "to... search for an incarnation of truth (and we believe...this truth is spelled with a capital 'T') Mount Vernon Nazarene College is dedicated."



From Dr. Nees' scrapbook, we find these statements: "The slogan, 'Quality Education in a Christian Holiness Environment,' has been suggested as a guide...in deciding important issues of both academic and life-style patterns at MVNC....Ours is not only a 'skill' institution but a 'value' institution. We are dedicated to the training of 'a harmoniously developed person'....Every encouragement is given all students who enroll at our college to open their minds to truth and their hearts to spiritual reality."

Historically, MVNU has urged students to strive for attainment of the following goals:

- Acquire attitudes which stimulate awareness both of themselves and of their total environment, and which enable them to respond creatively.
- Learn to make positive social adjustments in ever-changing cultures and subcultures.
- Acquire a knowledge of the Bible, classical religious literature and an understanding of the nature of religion.

The 1978 *Self Study* again emphasized "fostering spiritual growth through a personal encounter and relationship with God in Christ." Through the 1970s, we find that the original ideal held true.

Growing with God: The 1980s

The fourth president, **Dr. William Prince** (pictured below), made these statements about our Christian education: "Christ challenged His followers to know the truth and to be excellent in the knowledge of the truth. It is the desire and purpose of MVNC to provide excellence in education. MVNC continues in the dedicated tradition of holiness tradition."

"Inherent in our values are such things as honesty (personal and institutional), justice, morality, trust, academic integrity and Christian love. The call and provision of Christ for righteous living is also a basis of our values and community."



“MVNC is distinctly a Christian liberal arts college. Our faith, philosophy and practice are Christian and we are dedicated to this deep and abiding mission. Doctrine and theology are a part of our college because it is a vital part of the Church.”

“Our goal is not to preserve something, but to invade and alter the secular mindset—to give students the values and equipment to cope with and conquer the pagan presupposition of our non-Christian culture.”

In promoting the idea for constructing the R.R. Hodges Chapel, Prince wrote: “[It] will help each student to leave MVNC as an educated, capable Christian servant. Since each person—each student—is created with the godly capacities for love and holiness, it is essential that education teach students how to lead lives which maximize these capacities. MVNC exists to provide such an education.”

Terms used in the 1980s sounded similar to those of MVNU’s beginning, such as “holiness” and “lifestyle.” Some were new such as “equip” and “integration.” Same principles, but newly expressed.

The Fairbanks Years: 1990s to Today

From his inauguration speech titled “Education for a Lifestyle of Service,” **Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks** stated: “If our imperative is to shape servant leaders who will make a difference in the 21st century, then students who plan careers...must wrestle with the implications of Jesus’ statement, ‘I am among you as one who serves.’ The ethic of service must be reinforced by knowledge gained through the humanities. The business of MVNC is not primarily to grant degrees; rather, our responsibility is to shape leaders who serve from a rich theological and philosophical foundation.”

“I have a dream that MVNC will enter the 21st century as an outstanding liberal arts and professions-oriented higher educational institution within the Wesleyan tradition...with personal growth and Christian service...and a commitment to biblical principles, Christian values and our theological traditions.” Familiar words and thoughts. He continued, “Our task is to shape leaders who will make a difference in the 21st century.” Same idea as stated in 1969’s *Status Study*, but with updated language.

We see more about this horizontal servanthood in 1992: “MVNC challenges students to believe they can make a difference for Christ; to view themselves as world Christians with a global vision.” New terminology, but echoes of the 1971 *Self Study*.

In this last administration, faculty and staff supported MVNU’s educational philosophy as well. Dr. Ron Bolender, in a 1993 article

about Adult and Graduate Studies (then EXCELL), stated, “The texture and feel of MVNC will continue to change [the mix of traditional and non-traditional]. However, the focus of developing students via a curriculum based on biblical truths never has to change.”

Dr. Lincoln Stevens, at the 1997 dedication of Thorne Library, compared it with the Chapel. “*There*, we honor the creative and visionary elements of human existence made possible by the grace of God. *Here*, we honor the human discipline of research, study and discovery motivated by the love of God. *There*, we honor the mysteries of truth, beauty and divinity. *Here*, we honor the search to understand religion, nature and culture. *Here*, we honor the words, the stored insights. *There*, we honor the Word that makes these intelligible and their enrichment possible.” MVNU’s founders would have been pleased with this keen observation and comparison.

The 2002 publication *For This We Stand* reads: “In times like these, when Judeo-Christian values are no longer the moral centerpiece of our culture, MVNU needs to clarify and affirm even more strongly the values, behaviors and expectations that characterize our best as an academic community of faith, and convict us at our worst”—a call to stay true to our spiritual foundation.

What do MVNU alumni say?

“The most significant challenge is being a Christian in a non-Christian world. MVNU prepared me spiritually to set out into this world,” reflected **Tim Varughese** (’04).

Ken Youngman (’81) said that his education at Mount Vernon gave him “a strong foundation for understanding humanity from a Christian perspective.”

Todd Manion (’01) has a passion for his friends to know the great freedom found in Christ. “That’s the love that I gained at MVNC for a dying world,” he explained.

From the Preamble’s “It shall be the express purpose of this corporation to organize, foster and promote all the required branches of instruction,” we have moved to an “integration of faith and learning.”

The Next Chapter

Have we remained true to the founders’ vision? Yes. Has the expression of the perspective changed? Yes. The school’s motto is “To seek to learn is to seek to serve.” Every example is evidence to this.

In a 2006 news release regarding enrollment, Rev. J. Keith Newman described the fact that today’s students still seek out the MVNU education because of its spiritual emphasis. “Our commitment to the integration of faith and learning remains a priority and we are grateful that students continue to embrace MVNU’s life-changing experience.”

Founding president, Dr. Stephen Nease, in June of 1968, embodied the thought of “integration” without using the word. May we always rest in agreement with him: “Let it be unashamedly proclaimed that Nazarene education is holiness education! May MVNC’s purpose ever be clear...to establish a holiness college, openly proclaiming that academic excellence and spiritual vitality complement one another.”

To God be the glory.



Landmarc and landmarks

By Kim Rhyan ('00)

On September 28, 2005, I was in a mad rush to get to the Landmarc Restaurant in New York to meet Dr. and Mrs. LeBron Fairbanks for dinner. I took the Long Island Railroad and subway, and actually made it there on time! I was walking at a quick pace when I looked across the street and saw Anne. I can still remember the smile on her face—how it warmed my heart.



Kim Rhyan and Anne Fairbanks holding one of Kim's paintings that Anne purchased.

Due to an emergency, LeBron could not attend, but Anne assured me that he still wanted her to meet up with me, despite the circumstances. It was a special gift to be able to share the evening together; I felt tremendously blessed.

During that dinner, I realized why Anne is special to me: She really cares about me and has always made time for me. I was a little surprised when she asked me this poignant question, "How did you meet your foster parents, Merel and Linda Pickenpaugh?"

It had been a while since I shared the wonderful story of how my

walk with the Lord began and how I formed a relationship with the Pickenpaugh family. There are certain landmarks in my life that eloquently express the momentous milestones that connect me to the Lord. Meeting Merel and Linda at Newark (Ohio) Church of the Nazarene, and becoming a member of their family ultimately led me to MVNU.

Lately, this has caused me to ask myself another question: How did I meet LeBron and Anne Fairbanks?

It's very simple to express the love I feel for Anne and LeBron who have supported me continuously throughout the past 10 years. When I was a freshman in 1996, I heard LeBron speak in chapel about Anne with so much love in his voice. He told us that she had been diagnosed with cancer. I remember praying for her that morning and throughout my life since then. Though I cannot recall the first time I met her, I can remember so many wonderful moments I've spent with her over the years.

Somewhere in the middle of my MVNU experience, I found myself sitting on the chapel steps, feeling the weight of several decisions when, out of the blue, I felt someone's arms around me. I looked up, and it was Anne. She took time to pray with me, and that moment truly touched my heart and impacted the rest of my time at MVNU.

Anne has always exemplified compassion through her caring ways. She advised me when I was a student leader and president of Take

The Grape Vine

1970s

SAMUEL BASYE ('70) and his wife Nancy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September 2006. They reside in Chillicothe, Ohio.

JOYCE STEWART ('77) adopted Madison on July 18, 2006. Madison is 7 and is a first grader. Joyce serves as a paralegal for the firm Tobias, Kraus and Torchia in Cincinnati, Ohio.

student. She and her husband Todd lived in Mason, Ohio, with their two children Matt (20) and Emily (19).

IVAN ('88) and KIM (GRIBBEN '90) LEAVITT welcomed Lily Owens on March 18, 2006. She joins siblings Brianne (11), Kaitlin (9), David (8) and Hailey (6). Ivan is the band director at North Union Local Schools and Kim is a stay-at-home mom. The Leavitts live in Marion, Ohio, and attend the Delaware Highpoint Nazarene Church.

CHRISTY (BEARD '89) and David Phillips were married July 29, 2006, in Las Vegas. The traditional-style wedding took place at a chapel located on the famous Vegas strip. David and Christy are both 1985 graduates of Ironton High School and were reacquainted at their 20-year high school reunion. The couple now resides in Ironton, Ohio, where David is the owner of Phillips Funeral Homes, Inc. and Christy is currently searching for employment.

1980s

DARLA SPICER WATKINS ('82) passed away on July 18, 2006, after battling cancer for over five years. She attended MVNU as a commuter

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Heart, an SGA club. I can also remember a dinner that Anne and LeBron hosted for us. They both connected to us as a group and individually, which made the difference. This is the heart of the MVNU experience—developing relationships that shape student lives.

In May of 2000, Anne and LeBron attended my art show. I will never forget how they encouraged and embraced my creativity. When I became an alumna, they supported my ideas for “ARTalum,” an art alumni organization that hosts an art exhibit and silent auction at each Homecoming that raises funds for art scholarships.



I hope I’ve successfully given you a glimpse of why this couple is so special to me. And to think that I am just one of the thousands of lives they have touched! They inspire me to live and serve with compassion. I left MVNU with a philosophy to “camp out and dwell with others.” As the assistant director of Student Activities at Hofstra University, I find myself hoping that in 10 years, I will have the opportunity to be a blessing to others, as Anne and LeBron have been to me.

As we remain connected through the years, I want to especially thank them for their prayers, love and friendship. They have been a landmark in my life.

Mount Vernon Nazarene University has created an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed for up-to-the-minute news regarding the campus and its events. The feed is available for several different readers at www.mvnu.edu/news/rss.asp. This is an effort to provide better and faster coverage of MVNU happenings.

RSS is a free and easy way to receive specific news as soon as it is released. Even when a user is not on the MVNU web site, the news is updated as soon as a new story is posted. It is delivered through an RSS “reader” directly to the computer through e-mail or a Web site.

To use RSS, individuals need to use a reader or “aggregator”—a program which requires no special software application that provides a real-time interface to the feeds selected. News readers vary; many are Web-based; some send headlines to your e-mail or cell phone. MVNU’s RSS feeds should work with any reader using the standard XML-based format. Some common Web sites that offer free readers include MSNBC, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo.

On Web pages, RSS feeds are typically linked with the word “Subscribe,” an orange rectangle  or with the letters **XML** or **RSS**. Many news aggregators such as *My Yahoo!* publish subscription buttons () for use on Web pages to simplify the process of adding news feeds.

To subscribe to MVNU’s feed, add it directly to Yahoo!, Google or other reader by visiting MVNU’s RSS page at www.mvnu.edu/news/rss.html for options. If you need assistance, please contact (740) 392-6868, ext. 4342, or e-mail MVNU’s Web master at webmaster@mvnu.edu.

1990s

LEANNE (PAYNTER '90) CRUMLEY and her husband have been married for almost nine years and have a daughter, Sydney Rae (5). Leanne graduated with a master’s degree in substance abuse/mental health counseling from NOVA Southeastern University in Florida. The family resides in Sebring, Fla., where Leanne works as an outpatient mental health counselor.


SHELLEY (OOSTENBURG '93) and Kurt Scharte welcomed daughter Ashley on Feb. 12, 2006. Shelley works for DeVry University and Kurt is employed in the IT department for Alliance Data. The family attends the Vineyard Church of Columbus.

CYNTHIA (FERGUSON '93) WEST and her husband Joseph announce the birth of Georgia Skye West on July 9, 2006. Georgia weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz.

TABITHA GILROY ('95) married Matt Shaw of Lancaster, Ohio, on July 29, 2006, in Lander, Wyo. Tabitha works

with Indian Health Services on the Arapaho reservation near Riverton, Wyo. The couple makes their home in Lander, where Matt is a carpenter.


STEPHANIE (BOORD '96) and John Chandler welcomed their second daughter, Lauren Nicole, on Oct. 1, 2005. Lauren has one big sister, McKenna (2).


 **DARRYL DAY ('96)** has returned from his deployment to Iraq. He is preparing for a promotion board, training for follow-up missions, and taking leadership and combat lifesaver courses. He believes he will return to Iraq sometime in 2007. Darryl and his wife **BECKY (COLVIN '97)** reside in Fort Bragg, N.C.

JENNI (SNODGRASS '96) DRAMIS resides in Liberty Township, Ohio, with her husband Eric and son Evan (4). She completed her Master of Business Administration in May 2006, and is a senior human resources specialist for Union Central life in Cincinnati. Eric works in risk management for the Kroger Company.

GINGER (SNYDER '96) and Jon Hunt have moved to London, UK, with their two children: Jessica (6) and James (1). They are both working as special education teachers in Camden area schools.

JUSTYN ('97) and **VALERIE (BAYLES '97) HAYES** currently reside in Powell, Ohio. Justyn is an accountant at Ashland, Inc. and Valerie is a health/physical education teacher at Dublin Grizzell Middle School and jewelry representative for Silpada Designs. They are the proud parents of Ryan Matthew (3) and Kyle Owen (1).

 **JILL (CHAMBERLIN '97)** and Joshua Young announce the birth of son Owen Bradley on Sept. 7, 2005. He was welcomed by big sisters Jenna Brooke (6) and Carly Makenna (3). Jill is a stay-at-home mom and Joshua is employed by Coca-Cola Company. They also serve as youth leaders at Porter Free Will Baptist Church.

 **KELLY ('99)** and **AMY (JONES '98) HARVEY** welcomed Kyleigh Beatrice on July 4, 2005, weighing 6 lbs. 13 oz. Kelly continues to serve in the

U.S. Army and graduated from flight school in December 2005. He is a Blackhawk UH-60 pilot. Amy is a stay-at-home mom. The Harvey family is stationed at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga.

CARRIE BATHURST ('98) married Dean Hetsler at the Elyria Church of the Nazarene in August 2003. Their daughter, Sara, was born in April 2004 and weighed 4 lbs. Carrie works for Help Me Grow in Cuyahoga County.

COREY ('98) and **DARCEE (HOBERG '02) CLAXON** have three children: twins Graciana and Briana (2) and Isabella (1). Darcee is a stay-at-home mom and varsity volleyball coach. Corey teaches seventh- and eighth-grade science, is the varsity soccer coach and serves as youth pastor at their church.

PAMELA (CARR '98) QUIGLEY announces the birth of Maximus Paul on June 21, 2006, weighing 9 lbs. and measuring 21 inches long. Siblings include CJ (8) and Jocelyn (2).

A CELEBRATION OF *Leadership* Homecoming 2006



Alumni artwork by Tim Stern ('00).



L-R: Medallion recipients Scott Gray ('77) and Kevin Brunk ('88). Brunk's parents Violet and Alden received the award on his behalf.



Dr. David Cubie (left) was recognized with an dinner celebrating an endowment in his honor.

2006 Homecoming Queen Amber Tink (back, center) and her court.



Terri Robinson ('03) plays a clarinet solo during the Music Department concert.

Class of 1996.



Fairbanks with Cougar Wall of Fame inductees Jodi (Webb '96) Hall and Scott Dapprich ('98). Coach Paul Swanson was inducted earlier.



Almost 1,000 Cougar fans attended basketball games on Friday night.

MATT ('01) and **AMI (HENSON '99) HAMMOND** welcomed their second child, Emily Paige, on June 20, 2006. She weighed 9 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 21 inches. She joins big brother Jacob (3). Matt is employed with Ontario Systems in Berlin, Ohio, and Ami is a stay-at-home mom. The family is active with the Wooster Church of the Nazarene.

JASON ('99) and **JENELLE (GARBER '01) ROBERTSON** announce the birth of Zachary Bryant on March 30, 2006. He weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 21.5 inches long. Jason is an associate pastor at Beaver Creek Church of the Nazarene and Jenelle is a physical therapist at Miami Valley Special Education Regional Resource Center.

TAMMY (HILKERT '99) and Tyson Stoll announce the birth of Ava Lauren on Jan. 7, 2006. Tammy graduated from Medical University of Ohio in 2003 with a master's degree in biomedical science/physician assistant studies. She currently works as a physician assistant in

pediatric surgery and Tyson is a mechanical engineer. The family resides in Toledo, Ohio, where they are active volunteers with the youth group at Westgate Chapel.

2000s

JOSH ('00) and **DANICA (WANTY '00) ALLEN** recently moved to Martinsville, Ind., where Josh is the director of Student Ministries at Faith Church. Danica stays at home with their three children: Taylor (3), Jayden (2) and Eden (1).

HAYLEY (THOMPSON '00) and Mathew Neumeier announce the birth of Jake Mathew on Nov. 17, 2005, weighing 8 lbs. Hayley is an accountant with Limited Brands in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, and Mathew is employed by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. The couple resides in Plain City, Ohio.

TIM ('01) and **JEN (HART '01) LICHTLEY** adopted their foster daughter, Marci, on May 13, 2005. Their daughter Marissa was born on Oct. 26, 2005, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 20 inches. The family recently moved to Plymouth, N.C., where Tim serves as pastor at the Plymouth Church of the Nazarene.

RUSSELL ('01) and **ERIN (KNEALE '02) TENNEY** welcomed their first child, Abigail Rose, on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2006. She weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. and was 19.75 inches long. The family resides in Reading, Pa.

YVETTE WILLIAMS ('01) graduated with a Juris Doctor from West Virginia University College of Law. She served for two years as a clerk for Judge David Janes in Fairmont, W.Va. Now, after returning to the northern panhandle of West Virginia, she has joined the law firm of Bailey & Wyant, PLLC in Wheeling.

STEVE BANAY ('02) was recently hired as associate pastor and worship leader of a church in Mansfield, Ohio.

He also manages his own Web site: www.klimgod.com.

DR. TONYA JEWELL ('02) received her Doctor of Physical Therapy in December 2005 from Chatham College in Pittsburgh, Pa.

TERESA (MORDAN '02) and Jason Johnson welcomed daughter Brooke Nevaeh on May 6, 2006. She weighed 3 lbs. 4 oz. and was 16.25 inches in length. The Johnsons are both employed by Geisinger Healthsouth Rehab Hospital in Danville, Pa. To view family photos, visit www.brooke-nevaeh.blogspot.com.

SCOT ('02) and **LINDSAY (DALTON '02) SINES** announce the birth of son Reagan Scot on Feb. 2, 2006. He weighed 7 lbs., .02 oz. and measured 19 inches in length. Scot is an insurance adjuster with State Auto Mutual Insurance Company and Lindsay is a stay-at-home mom. The family resides in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

Building the Legacy: 2006 MVNU Legacy students

Each year on Move-In Day, MVNU alumni and their incoming freshmen children meet at the Eternal Flame for the Legacy photograph. This year, there are 53 children of alumni with parents from both the traditional and/or Adult and Graduate Studies programs, compiling the largest group thus far! We are building a legacy of second generation students. MVNU is proud to help guide these young lives and give them the opportunity to have the same life-changing experiences as their parents.



A gracious goodbye



More than 500 people gathered to wish Dr. and Mrs. Fairbanks a fond farewell at MVNU's Farewell Celebration and reception on Saturday, Dec. 2. Special guests included Dr. Jerry Lambert, MVNU Board of Trustees, Mount Vernon Mayor Richard Mavis, community members and higher education leaders.

LeBron and Anne were presented with many tributes and gifts. Among them were two media presentations, a proclamation of "Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks Day" in the city of Mount Vernon, a key to the

city, a proclamation by Ohio Governor Bob Taft, a special "Cougar Crazies" t-shirt signed by Student Government members, and numerous memories shared and loving words read.



One of Fairbanks' most joyous moments came when he had the opportunity to guest-conduct Collegians Chorale—something he has wanted to do for years. Choir members and audience alike sang a teary-eyed "Grace to You" to the Fairbanks, representing the legacy of grace and love they have lived and left to all at MVNU.


HEATHER (HOSKINSON '02) VANALSTINE graduated from Otterbein College with a Master of Arts in Education in May. She is currently teaching U.S. history and freshman English at Tree of Life Christian School in Columbus, Ohio.


CRISPIN WEBB ('02) passed away suddenly on the morning of Nov. 24 at his mother's home in Charleston, W.Va. He received an MFA from Bard College in New York and was nearing completion of a second MFA at The Ohio State University. He had recently exhibited his artwork for MVNU's ARTalum Homecoming show and auction. MVNU has established a scholarship fund in Webb's memory. To contribute, contact 1-800-367-9294.

MIKE CRIDER ('03) married Holly Farmer on June 17, 2006. Mike is a middle school social studies teacher and Holly, a 2004 graduate of Western Caroline University, is a high school English teacher. The couple resides in Eden, N.C.

JESSICA POPE ('03) graduated from Nazarene Theological Seminary in May with an M.A. in Christian Education (diploma in youth ministry). She has accepted a promotion to manager at TLC for Children and Families, Inc. in Olathe, Kan., a residential treatment facility for adolescents.

JAIME SEAMAN ('03) and SEAN BUXTON ('05) were married on July 8, 2006.

 **AMY (DIXON '03) and TONY STEMEN ('06)** announce the birth of William Anthony on Sept. 1, 2006. He weighed 8 lbs. 13 oz. and was 21 inches long.


 **ABBY TAKALA ('03)** is working at Nazarene Publishing House as an assistant editor for pre-K through early-elementary Sunday school curriculum. She will soon finish her Master of Divinity degree at Nazarene Theological Seminary.

DANNY ('04) and EVANGELINE (JOHNSON '03) TAYLOR welcomed Nathan Daniel on June 20, 2006, at 10:03 p.m. He was 7 lbs. 11 oz. and 20.5 inches long.

ABBY (BOLTON '04) and Matt Albright bought a new home in Euclid, Ohio. She is a sixth-grade teacher at Willo-Hill Christian School, her first full-time teaching position.

NATHANIEL REISS ('04) and RENEE SHEA ('04) were married on May 27, 2006, in Vicksburg, Mich. Nathaniel is teaching at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Ill., and Renee is a case manager at Good Shepherd Manor in Mokenca, Ill. The couple resides in Bourbonnais.

APRIL WALKER ('04) married Ryan Milby on Oct. 23, 2004. They currently reside in Thornville, Ohio, where Ryan is a diesel technician and April is head teller at Fairfield National Bank.

 **MOLLY KNIGHT ('05) and CHRIS MCKINNEY ('06)** were married in Columbus, Ohio, on Sept. 24, 2006. Molly works as an executive assistant at an engineering firm and Chris will either pursue employment or further his education with a master's degree.



Entries with a camera icon () have a photo available online.

To view these photos, visit grapevine.mvnu.edu

Please feel free to submit photos of weddings, babies, etc. to Mount Vernon NOW, 800 Martinsburg Rd., Mount Vernon, OH 43050, or by e-mail to alumni@mvnu.edu, or online at grapevine.mvnu.edu.

Interested and involved: Fairbanks takes leadership into the community

By Austin Swallow, Executive Director of Development

Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks will be remembered for many accomplishments during his tenure at MVNU, but perhaps one of the most significant is how he successfully integrated the School into the fabric of community life in Mount Vernon. Leading by example, he has been a member of the YMCA Board, the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon and Knox County, the Mount Vernon Rotary Club, and was an honorary chair of Knox Community Hospital's recent capital campaign for a new medical pavilion.



Sam Barone, executive director of the Community Foundation, framed it this way, "Institutions of higher learning need only look at Mount Vernon Nazarene University to find a model for productive 'town-gown' relations. When the president of a university engages the surrounding community as has LeBron Fairbanks, it is a given that the university's faculty, staff and student body will follow. No matter what his schedule, LeBron always found time for community leadership roles, to the mutual benefit of the university and Knox County."

Mount Vernon Mayor Richard Mavis cites the changed image of MVNU under Fairbanks's leadership.

"I always like to look at where high school seniors want to continue their education," Mavis commented. In the 1970s and '80s, he saw that most looked at institutions outside Knox County, but recently he has noticed that many students choose to remain locally and attend MVNU, as evidenced by 47 from Knox County this year—more than 10 percent of the total freshman class. "Dr. Fairbanks, through his visibility and involvement, has changed that perception. Knox Countains have



Dr. Fairbanks at a Community Foundation meeting with local leaders Joan Jones of Peoples Bank and Dennis Snyder of Snyder Funeral Homes.

embraced the opportunities available at MVNU and understand the education provided at MVNU is just as good as, if not better than, somewhere else." Mavis notes that a recent study showed over 1,000 alumni have remained in Knox County after attending MVNU. "Growth at MVNU has gone hand-in-hand with growth in Knox County. I credit Dr. Fairbanks for that," he concluded.

Jeff Maley, superintendent of the Mount Vernon City Schools commented recently that a town is somewhat like a shopping center. Each has certain "anchor stores" or industries that serve to stimulate and support the local economy. Maley credits Fairbanks' leadership and personal commitment to the community in helping MVNU to be one of Mount Vernon's "anchor stores."



Thoughtful, considerate, dedicated, insightful and respected are all adjectives used by Community Foundation Board Chair Mark Ramer to describe Fairbanks. "He is a big-picture thinker and leader by example," he added. "His gentle soul, positive attitude and sensitivity always shine, yet

he has a way of asking penetrating questions to get people to think through the implications of their decisions. His contributions have made us a better board. When I think of LeBron and his departure from MVNU, I think of the Bible verse that says, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

Fun with Fairbanks quiz answers:
1 D, 2 B, 3 A, 4 C, 5 B, 6 B, 7 D, 8 A, 9 C, 10 A, 11 D, 12 B, 13 D, 14 A, 15 D, 16 C, 17 B, 18 A (though he did meet Bill Cosby as well), 19 C, 20 D, 21 A.

Martin to serve as MVNU's sixth president

Mount Vernon Nazarene University's Board of Trustees has announced Dr. Daniel J. Martin as the sixth president of the institution, to follow Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks. Martin is currently the vice president for University Advancement at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, Calif.

After an intensive search process, including development of a timeline and leadership profile, focus groups, collection of recommendations and applications, and intensive interviews, presidential candidates were narrowed to two in October with a recommendation to the full board during their fall meetings. The announcement came at the close of meetings on Thursday, Nov. 2. Martin has accepted the position and will officially begin presidential duties in February 2007.

Fairbanks, current MVNU president, will begin a sabbatical in the spring, finishing out his MVNU career.

Dr. Daniel Martin has served in a number of roles in Nazarene higher education. Prior to going to Point Loma in 2000, he served at MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, Kan., in various roles such as the vice president for Finance, vice president for Enrollment Development and executive assistant to the president. Martin has two earned



doctorate degrees in education from the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Kansas. He also has a juris doctorate from the University of Kansas and a license with the Kansas Bar Association.

MVNU Board Chair Dr. David P. Wilson shared, "I am looking forward to a bright future for MVNU under the leadership of Dr. Dan Martin. He is a passionate, skilled and well respected professional, uniquely qualified to lead MVNU into the 21st century with energy and vision."

Martin was presented to the MVNU Board of Trustees and campus community on Friday, Nov. 3, in chapel. After thanking to the Church of the Nazarene, Dr. David Wilson and the presidential search committee, he commented, "I hope to engage you in the conversation about the future of this university and how I might play a role in that. I'm grateful for honor of this role and the responsibility that I know comes with it. But I commit to this role and to this university, to do all that I can to fulfill its mission in a vibrant, purposeful and passionate way."

Martin and his wife, Pam, and two sons, Jake and Josh, will move to the Mount Vernon area after the first of the year.





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