

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 2011

David L. Parkyn
President

During the past week I've been reading a book by N.T. Wright titled *Simply Christian*. He identifies five ways to celebrate and honor what it means to be a faith community (a church): tell stories, act out rituals, create beauty, work in community, and think out beliefs.

The same should be said of an educational community (a university). We understand our life together, we get a picture of it, as we tell stories (on the web home page, for example), observe certain rituals (such as commencement), create beauty (in recitals, in laboratories, and on athletic fields), work together (in classrooms and offices, and on each sidewalk), and think out beliefs (through academic papers, in chapel, and on service trips) . . . to mention only a few examples.

One place these five "acts" come together in a single event at North Park is Gathering Day, a "gathering" for all faculty and staff. Traditionally we've hosted Gathering Day at the start of the academic year as the fall semester begins. This year we chose to expand this traditional practice (our ritual) and gather again at the beginning of the spring semester. We've called this "Gathering Day 2.0." In this ritual gathering, on the first Monday of the new semester, we told stories (in reflective comments by several of our colleagues), created beauty (with the Gospel Choir's traveling ensemble), celebrated our work together (by introducing new colleagues), and thought out beliefs (in worship). We also ate together, which is story, ritual, beauty, work, and belief combined as one!

Might we look at the community of the Board of Trustees in this same way? We ritually gather three times a year. We tell stories...at least you hear from me stories about North Park students! Where and how do we create beauty? Certainly we work together in our committee meetings. Do we consider our conversation at these meetings as an opportunity to work out beliefs?

As we convene for the winter meeting I invite you to consider our gathering in this manner. In doing so may we discover anew why those who came before us at North Park chose this verse to guide their work: "In your light shall we see light."

HLC Accreditation Review

In mid-November we hosted the accreditation visiting team from the Higher Learning Commission.

In their exit interview the team was highly complementary in a number of ways. These specifically included (a) the commitment of the University's faculty and staff to our students, (b) the strong and clear sense of mission, the extent to which the mission is recognized and embraced by all who work here, and the manner it is embedded in our academic and co-curricular programs and in our print and electronic communication; (c) our engagement with the immediate community and the city at-large; (d) the beauty and functionality of our physical campus and facilities; and (e) the open challenges of communication between the administrative team and faculty and staff.

We have not yet received the committee's report, nor has action been taken by the Commission. These will be completed in the next few weeks. We're optimistic, however, that reaccreditation will be extended for another term, and I hope their report will also include comments and recommendations which can prompt us in ways which will serve to improve the effectiveness of our work together.

The ten-year accreditation review is a significant task requiring special attention for an 18-month period leading up to the campus visit. This was a team effort supported by many from every part of our campus community. Kudos and thanks to everyone, and especially to Provost Joe Jones who assumed primary leadership responsibility for this important institutional review.

Leadership Appointments

On December 1 we welcomed Mr. Nathan Mouttet as the University's new Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing. In this capacity he oversees our work in admissions/enrollment, external relations, and athletics. Mr. Mouttet (who goes by Nate) served most recently as Vice President and Senior Consultant with the Austen Group, a higher education consulting agency. Previously he was with the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities serving as Vice President for Communications. He began his career at John Brown University where he provided leadership in undergraduate admissions. He is a graduate of both John Brown and Asbury Theological Seminary.

Nate has been active in coming to know our campus community and has already demonstrated the very capable leadership he brings to his areas of responsibility. I will be delighted to introduce him to the Board of Trustees. Nate will also meet with the Student Recruitment and Retention Committee.

The Seminary Leadership Search Committee continues to be diligent in its work. This process of discernment requires careful attention and a deep commitment to the well-being of both the school and the church. Our trustee, Mr. Scott Bolinder, is serving very well as chair of the committee, and I'm delighted with the dedication of each member of this group. Scott will report further on our continuing work when the Board gathers.

I'm also pleased to report that the interim leadership structure for the seminary during the current year is working well. This is due in no small measure to the dedication of Linda Cannell, Tim Johnson, and Deb Auger to the responsibility entrusted in each of their assignments, and the success of the year also reflects the dedication of our faculty during this transitional season in our institutional life.

Student Accomplishments

In the winter issue of the *North Parker* I wrote of Skye Moe. I described her this way: "She is the daughter every parent is proud of, the student every faculty member is thrilled to teach, the graduating senior every university president admires." A biology major, she is on her way to graduating from North Park this May.

Late in the fall semester Skye received word she was named as one of the 10% of applicants chosen for this year's class with Teach for America! (She is the second North Park student in as many years to achieve this honor.) Skye has been assigned to pilot a pre-K program in the Las Vegas Valley, in a classroom populated with high need children. In Skye's words, "It's a way to give back."

And early in the current semester Aaron Nilsen received word of receipt of a Fulbright Award. Aaron is a December 2010 graduate, with a double major in Spanish and Global Studies. Aaron has been assigned to Brazil and during the coming year will serve in a small community in the central heartland of the country. Aaron is the fifth North Parker in four years to achieve this honor.

The fall semester was also a good time to cheer on our Viking athletes, and most prominent among them were members of our men's soccer team. Under the capable leadership of head coach John Born the soccer team captured the CCIW Conference Championship and played two games in the national championship tournament. The men's soccer team had previously achieved the conference championship three times but had never before advanced this far in the national tournament. Junior Kris Grahn was named CCIW Player of the Year, and John Born earned CCIW Coach of the Year honors for the third time in his twelve years at North Park.

Spring Semester Enrollment

Enrollment information for the spring semester is provided in two data tables at the end of this report. Overall the report is positive—retention of traditional undergraduate

eligible-to-return students increased modestly (to our delight!) and the number of new students enrolling for the spring semester is stable overall. When compared with the past couple of years enrollment of new traditional undergraduates has increased modestly, non-traditional undergraduate enrollment is steady, enrollment in most graduate programs is down slightly, and enrollment of new students in the seminary decreased modestly over last year but was stronger than the previous year.

Additionally, important efforts are underway to recruit the new class for fall 2011. We've introduced a number of new approaches this year, in addition to working closely with a consultant on undergraduate student recruitment. In his report to the Student Recruitment and Retention Committee Mark Olson provides an effective summary of these efforts, and outlines both the challenges and opportunities before us. All trustees should read this report carefully. The Student Recruitment and Retention Committee will have opportunity to discuss this ongoing work and the changes we've introduced to this effort this year.

Strategic Planning

We are approaching a point in our institutional journey where an intentional effort in strategic planning is necessary. This will be the focus of a year-end retreat for the senior leadership team in May, and we will engage the broader campus community in this task during the coming academic year. In the present semester, however, we'll set the stage for next year's task by initiating work in three areas:

- Enrollment Planning – we will draft enrollment expectations for the next five years for each part of our enrollment portfolio—traditional undergraduates, non-traditional undergraduates, graduates, and seminarians.
- Data Collection and Management – we will prepare an institutional “fact book” as a central collection point for key institutional data.
- Benchmark Group – we will consider the areas in which benchmark comparisons with institutional peers can be helpful to us, and we will affirm the composition of a benchmark comparison group.

Clearly, these three steps are only the beginning of our planning process but completing these well will serve us effectively in our more extended efforts during 2011-2012. We will provide an update on this work at the May meeting and complete these three projects during the summer months.

Campaign North Park

Our work on the fund raising campaign is ongoing. In recent months, in addition to cultivating and soliciting lead donors we have designed and produced a set of tools to support our work in the campaign. These tools include (a) a video which presents an overview of the campaign and articulates the pressing campus needs which the campaign supports; (b) a second video which features Dr. Timothy Johnson, one of our

campaign co-chairs, in a direct appeal to donors; (c) a printed brochure, which serves as the campaign's abbreviated case statement; and (d) a campaign web site. With these tools in place, and with pledges to the campaign reaching to two-thirds of the building goal and with a similar status for each of the other campaign components, we are prepared to shift from the "quiet" phase of the campaign into more public solicitation activity.

During the spring months we will advance the campaign on several levels even as we continue to emphasize solicitation of individual donors.

- We held our first "public" presentation of the campaign at the stewardship dinner held annually following the December Christmas concert. At this time the new campaign video was previewed and I spoke with donors gathered at this event regarding the pressing needs of the campaign.
- On Gathering Day 2.0, early in the spring semester, we introduced the campaign to the University faculty and staff. Throughout the spring semester we will solicit members of the faculty and staff through a mini-campaign which features this audience.
- Over four months, beginning in February, we will host a number of regional momentum building donor events which feature the campaign. These will be held in Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, California, and Washington. Additionally, our annual spring women's brunch in the Chicagoland area will feature the campaign. Smaller private dinner events, often sponsored by members of the Board of Trustees and/or members of the Campaign Executive Committee, will be hosted in numerous locations.
- The spring events will build toward the largest of these public events scheduled for June 4 and held on the campus. At this event we will again promote the significant campus needs supported by the campaign and we will introduce the lead gifts committed to the campaign to date. It will be important for as many trustees as possible to attend this event.
- During the spring semester we will re-activate the building design process in collaboration with the project architects. One of the first steps toward this will be a set of design charrettes with the campus community as an early component in building design. Additionally, as schematic design is completed we will be able to identify key naming opportunities in the new building and discuss these with interested donors.

As we gather for the Board's winter meeting we will discuss these activities more fully. Our campaign consultants, who have been very faithful and helpful in our work to date, will join us for parts of this discussion and will provide the Board with their expert perspective on the status of the campaign. We look forward to this conversation with you.

Voices of Faith

An important aspect of our institutional identity is the commitment to be “distinctively Christian.” This perspective on campus life is expressed in myriad ways, with most of these directed to students through curricular requirements and co-curricular activities and support programs. However, our “distinctively Christian” identity is also a public statement and a number of these public expressions are notable this year.

- In December we provided members of the Board of Trustees with a copy of Scot McKnight’s most recent book, *One Life: Jesus Calls, We Follow*, published by Zondervan. Dr. McKnight is Karl A. Olsson Professor of Religious Studies in North Park’s undergraduate Department of Biblical and Theological Studies. His books are read widely within the church community across America and abroad, and Professor McKnight is internationally recognized as a dynamic speaker to church audiences. Through his ministry of teaching and writing Professor McKnight has discovered Jesus’ call, as he described it in a recent blog, “to be the sort of professor who walks the bridge from the academy to the church on a constant basis.” He further notes, “In some ways this book is the result of 27 years of teaching students in academic settings, but in other ways it’s the result of speaking in churches and listening to the heartbeat of lay folks and pastors.” Jesus called; Professor McKnight has followed.
- One of the projects supported over the past 24 months by the Lilly Foundation Making Connections Initiative has been the writing and publication of a new book by select members of the seminary faculty. *Living Faith: Reflections on Covenant Affirmations* was distributed to all attending the Mid-Winter Conference for ECC pastors in early February here in Chicago. This volume provides reflections and commentary by our seminary faculty on the central affirmations of the Evangelical Covenant Church. This gift of scholarship, offered by North Park to the Church, will be a good resource for both the clergy and lay communities within the church, supporting and promoting a widespread understanding and embrace of the central commitments of the church even in the midst of the wonderful growing “mosaic” which is the Covenant Church.
- Guest “voices of faith” are also frequent at North Park. This semester these extend from Metropolitan Bishop Kallistos Ware of the Greek Orthodox Church to theologian Miroslav Volf of Yale University, from Al Tizon of Evangelicals for Social Action in Philadelphia to Ray Johnston of Bayside Church in Sacramento to Alize Berrymore and Darrell Griffin as pastors from Chicago. Additionally our campus pastor Judy Peterson is tremendously effective in guiding and advancing the faith of students, faculty, and staff through her public ministry among us.

The first of our seven educational ideals (which frame the education we provide through each academic program—undergraduate, graduate, and seminary) notes that at North Park we provide an education that “is rooted in and committed to the Christian faith and its sacred text, the Bible.” These ‘voices of faith’ are numbered among the many

expressions of this ideal throughout the University's curricular and co-curricular programs. We remain faithful—and faith-filled.

Learning Exchange – China and North Park

During the third week of January President Hu Jintao of China visited Chicago, the only stop outside of Washington, D.C. in his trip to the United States. I was especially interested in this because I traveled to China, with a small delegation from North Park, during the winter break. Our goal was to identify and expand resources for collaborative cross-cultural learning and research for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty by establishing formal relationships with a small number of universities in China. The initial parameters of the relationships have been identified through a Memo of Understanding signed with each university during the trip.

The initiative for this trip has been building over a couple of years. Dr. Timothy Lin (biology) who came to work at North Park in 2007 has been instrumental in initiating contact with several Chinese schools. Additionally, a number of exchange opportunities have been introduced and/or completed in recent months, especially for faculty, including the following:

- In summer 2010 a group of 18 faculty members from Leshan Normal University enrolled in NPU's summer ESL Program directed by Dennis Bricault.
- In summer 2010 Dr. Wesley Lindahl (SBNM) served for four weeks as a visiting faculty member at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies.
- In fall 2010 Dr. Ruth Sun, a biologist from Beijing Union University, was a visiting professor with NPU's department of biology.
- During the spring 2011 Dr. Becky Nelson (education) will visit Leshan Normal University, Jianwen College of Yantai University, and the Tian Rong charity, each of which has established Early Childhood Learning Centers in the Guongdong Province.
- In spring 2011 two faculty members from Anhui University of Finance and Economics will be hosted as visiting faculty at NPU with SBNM.
- In summer 2011 Dr. Al Kamienski (SBNM) will be a visiting faculty member at Anhui University of Finance and Economics.
- Dr. Jeff Nelson (biology) has been invited to provide a series of lectures at Leshan Normal University in summer 2012.

Each of these represents an active contact between our schools, and each offers exceptionally rich learning opportunities for both the individual faculty members and the many students they teach.

Initially I was quite skeptical about an initiative which linked NPU with universities in China. But my skepticism was deeply misinformed—I've been asleep for the past 30 years when it comes to China. This is now the second of the world's largest economies and the country's universities have developed just as fast as its economic, financial, and corporate sectors. English is studied by every student beginning in kindergarten and

continuing for many years through university study. Increasingly Chinese students study on a short-term basis in the United States (including 81,000 this year).

And American students are beginning to reciprocate. Chinese is now the second most popular language for study in middle schools, high schools, and colleges across America. And China is the 5th most popular country for American students abroad, with 11,000 U.S. university students studying there this year.

Beyond this, our location in Chicago supports this initiative. During our visit Provost Jones and I had opportunity to give lectures to nearly 1,000 undergraduates. Following each lecture many students drew close to us for additional conversation, very impressed that in the past two years Foreign Policy Magazine has placed Chicago as number 6 in a ranking of “global cities” and number 2 in a ranking of the best cities worldwide in which to earn a college degree. We can host students and faculty from China because our home is in Chicago!

Just two weeks ago the Wall Street Journal reported that demand in U.S. businesses for employees who speak foreign languages—especially Spanish and Chinese—will increase over the next decade. The article indicated that “42% of employers expect business proficiency in Chinese to be in moderate or high demand in a decade” with employers placing “a premium on bilingual job candidates.” Perhaps it’s time for us to introduce courses in Chinese language at North Park.

Additionally, NPU has a good tradition in ESL instruction and we can build on this. Professor Linda Parkyn met with the English language faculty at each of the universities we visited and witnessed a substantial interest in hosting our students as well as coming to North Park for summer-session faculty development opportunities.

There’s much more to report, and for this reason Provost Jones and I prepared a full report on our visit and on this NPU initiative. This report was written primarily for our campus community but we will distribute it as well to the Board of Trustees with our meeting materials. North Park is strategically positioned to feature programs of study in collaboration with Chinese universities. Such programs will enhance the learning opportunities available to our students and prepare these graduates for a world in which dialogue and exchange are required and valued ideals.

Dates to Note

As you mark your spring calendars please include the following as you have interest in them:

- February 9 – The Westerdahl Lectures with Peter Scazzero
- February 22 and 23 – The Zarley Lectures with Metropolitan Bishop Kallistos Ware
- March 2 – The Lund Lectures with Michael Gorman
- April 14 – The Nyvall Lectures with Miroslav Volf

- April 19 – Downtown Business Breakfast at the University Club
- May 13 – Baccalaureate Service at Fourth Presbyterian Church on Michigan Avenue
- May 14 – Three Commencement Convocations on campus throughout the day
- May 17 – The annual Axelson Center Symposium, held this year at the Holiday Inn in downtown Chicago

Above all, plan to join the North Park community on the evening of June 4 for the largest of our spring campaign events. This will be a grand event, certain to be marked as a very special moment in North Park's history.

As We Gather

May God grant us the grace and wisdom to know what path we ought to follow, that in this path we may see God's light and journey with confidence into the future of North Park University.

New Student Enrollment Summary
Spring Semester – Annual Census Data
 IN PROCESS – 1/28/2011

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<i>Undergraduate (traditional)</i>							
First-Year	14	12	16	10	7	17	16
Transfer	45	57	92	59	54	67	80
Special		2					
Readmits	1						
Visiting			7	3	2	9	5
TOTAL	60	71	115	72	63	93	101
<i>Undergraduate (non-traditional)</i>							
College Bridge	9	2	5	1	1		
ESL	31	23	14	21	10	7	7
RN Completion	6	5	18	19	15	7	11
School of Adult Learning	30	58	39	38	26	41	39
Education Certification	5		14	8	6	9	2
Special (Students at Large)	12	5					
TOTAL	93	93	90	87	58	64	59
<i>Graduate</i>							
SBNM	54	65	63	54	71	63	52
MS Nursing	22	10	24	27	24	30	24
Adult Nurse Practitioner	4	7	2		5		1
MA Education (all sites)	9	5	12	13	20	20	19
MA Community Development	6	7	3				
Master of Music		1	1				
TOTAL	95	95	105	94	120	113	96
<i>Seminary</i>							
Traditional	24	24	21	17	17	45	6
Cross Registered		11	12	9	5	10	9
Credential							2
Non-Degree Seeking							21
TOTAL	24	35	33	26	22	52	38
GRAND TOTAL New Students	304	318	343	279	263	325	294
International Exchange (non-revenue)	32	24	16	20	26	28	30

Headcount Report (Total Enrollment)
Spring Semester – Annual Census Data
 IN PROCESS – 1/28/2011

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<i>Undergraduate (traditional)</i>							
Returning	1300	1450	1565	1633	1646	1603	1626
New First-Year	14	12	16	10	7	17	16
New Transfer	45	57	92	59	54	67	80
New Visiting	1	2	7	8	7	14	5
Returning Visiting							6
TOTAL	1360	1521	1682	1710	1714	1701	1733
<i>Undergraduate (non-traditional)</i>							
College Bridge	9	2	5	1	2	0	0
ESL	43	43	26	28	19	7	12
RN Completion	45	50	57	87	77	76	69
GOAL	217	231	218	209	222	225	242
Education Certification	38	29	87	58	49	47	37
Special (students-at-large)	15	8					
TOTAL	367	363	363	342	369	355	360
<i>Graduate</i>							
SBNM	263	312	331	351	350	353	366
MS Nursing	138	122	140	139	149	163	164
Adult Nurse Practitioner	14	14	13	17	25	16	10
MA Education (all sites)	107	107	132	134	162	162	134
MA Community Development	46	29	24	23	11	4	0
Master of Music	7	11	13	13	12	9	9
TOTAL	575	595	653	677	709	707	683
<i>Seminary</i>							
Traditional	414	273	245	238	219	293	201
Cross Registered		14	15	12	5	12	10
Credential							6
Non-Degree Seeking							71
TOTAL	414	287	260	250	224	305	288
GRAND TOTAL Headcount	2751	2794	2958	2979	3016	3068	3064
International Exchange (non-revenue)	35	24	10	22	34	28	37