So much pressure is put on today’s young minds to do greater and perform higher in order to obtain jobs following college graduation. The competition for these entry-level jobs is tough and more emphasis is placed on the undergraduate degree in order to place the applicant steps ahead of the competition.

As president of this great institution, I am mindful of the challenges and disruptive factors confronting all of higher education today. We know that students and their parents, still affected by the economic downturn, are struggling to afford college, understandably questioning the value of a degree and rightfully expecting that an education will result in a good job.

I can assure you that SNU is a place like no other. Our distinguished teaching faculty, close-knit learning communities and challenging academic programs combine to prepare our students for their future careers and our graduates for immediate job placement. Our alumni are leaders across the globe in local and federal government, large corporations, and ministries.

Our campus community continues to make strides that allow future students to step onto our campus knowing that they can “Dream with Confidence” before they ever they enter the workforce. The following stories are just snapshots of our over 22,000 successful graduates. These individuals have taken the opportunities through the University and maximized their potential for the greater good.

Without your continued commitment to the University we would not be able to take these students from all walks of life and prepare them to ‘think with clarity, act with integrity and serve with purpose’. Thank you for being part of our mission of ‘transforming lives through higher education in Christ-centered community’.

Dr. Loren Gresham
President
It was this ability to define a need and then create a model to fill that need that I have applied in my career after SNU.

Life is full of many twists and turns, and the path you intend to take can sometimes change and land you in a different, yet just as rewarding direction. This is the type of journey Rod Riley, Class of 1991, began when he and his wife Susan moved to Nashville, Tennessee upon graduating from Southern Nazarene University. They dreamed of owning their own business in the form of a Krispy Kreme donut shop.

“My ties to SNU run deep with many, many family members having attended the school,” said Rod, who originally set out to be physician like his grandfather. “I was raised in Bethany and both of my parents attended Southern Nazarene University.”

During his senior year at SNU, Rod and Susan became engaged and decided that being a first-year med student and a first-year husband might not be the best combination as they embarked on their new life together. After a considerable amount of time and prayer, Rod and Susan made the decision to pursue their passion of starting their own company, which brought them to Nashville.

“We moved to Nashville to open a Krispy Kreme donut shop and got distracted by the music business along the way,” explained Rod.

That “distraction” led to a big career change for Rod as he and Susan started their own Christian music record label, Fervent Records. Rod described Fervent Records as his greatest achievement since graduating from SNU. Rod and Susan said they created the record label to be a home for artists, songwriters, and employees.

“We were blessed to be part of some fantastic artist’s ministries and honored to catch a glimpse of how God used their music to impact the word,” he said.

Rod’s exceptional work with Fervent Records led him into his current role as President and CEO of Word Entertainment, which is the Christian entertainment arm of Warner Music Group. He explained that Word is involved in multiple facets of faith-based entertainment including music, publishing, merchandising, church resources, live events, and films. Rod’s company works with such well-known artists as Francesca Battistelli, Sidewalk Prophets, Chris August, Big Daddy Weave, Group 1 Crew, and For King and Country.

Rod and Susan currently live in Brentwood, Tennessee with their two children Anna, who is six, and Jack, who is two.

Even though Rod didn’t attend SNU with the goal of becoming a music executive, he still credits so much of what he learned during his time there as being instrumental in helping him dream with confidence in all he has achieved thus far.

“Student government was the area of SNU that most prepared me for my current position,” Rod added. “My wife and I worked together in Student Government and that started a desire for us to work together in life. The experiences from this area gave us the confidence to start our own company shortly after leaving college.”

Rod explained that in his leadership role in student government at SNU, he was driven to innovate new ideas and events that would benefit the students and build community. He said they were always trying new ideas and tweaking them when needed so that they remained relevant to the student body.

“It was this ability to define a need and then create a model to fill that need that I have applied in my career after SNU,” said Rod. “The music business model is constantly changing, but I see this as an advantage not a disadvantage as we live in a state of innovation to deepen the engagement of fans with our artists and their ministries.”

Furthermore, Rod said being a leader at SNU allowed him to be actively involved in many different levels of the campus experience, and have meaningful interactions with a broader cross-section of students and professors.

“I am extremely grateful that SGA pushed me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to have a rich, diverse campus experience,” he added.

The leadership skills he developed while at SNU, coupled with the investment in his life by teachers such as Professor Marcia Feisal, continue to have a profound effect in Rod’s life to this day. No matter what path might be in store for Rod, he knows he has the skills to dream big for the next stages of his life and career.
Headcount:

Overall, Fall 2012 headcount – 2,184
Professional & Graduate Studies – 1,088
Traditional Students – 1,096

Gender:

For traditional student enrollment
Full-time men – 49%
Full-time women – 51%

By Class:

Fall 2012 Freshmen – 320
Church Affiliations:

Nazarene traditional students now make up 45% of total count.

41 Denominations represented

Location of Origin:

States are represented – 34

Countries are represented – 30

Majors:

Kinesiology – 175

Business – 133

Nursing – 111

Biology – 93
"Without a doubt, my experience at SNU led me to First Indian Church and allowed me to embark on this incredible journey in urban ministry."

Not all missionaries are called to go and serve God overseas. In fact, some of the most important and challenging missions work being done is at the local level in local communities throughout the U.S. Kristen (Pickard) Donovan, Class of 2007, is one of those faithful missionaries who has dedicated her life to sharing the love of Christ to “the least of these” in her local community.

Kristen is an urban missionary for the Southwest Oklahoma District of the Church of the Nazarene and is the founder and director of Jubilee Partners, based in Oklahoma City. This non-profit organization is dedicated to the support of urban youth, by providing them with opportunities to further their education, develop healthy relationships, and build life skills. Jubilee provides programs such as mentoring, student leadership, after school programs, and equine therapy.

“I decided to create Jubilee Partners after working for years in the community around First Indian Church of the Nazarene in Oklahoma City and seeing the deep need of urban children and youth to have a safe and formative environment during out of school hours,” said Kristen.

Kristen said her time at Southern Nazarene University inspired her to dream with confidence, that she could make a difference in the lives of children that are so often overlooked.

“Without a doubt, my experience at SNU led me to First Indian Church and allowed me to embark on this incredible journey in urban ministry,” she explained. “Jubilee Partners would not have been a reality outside of SNU, especially the intern program, which encouraged me to participate in ministry on a regular basis.”

Not only were the opportunities afforded by SNU vital in helping her form her ministry, they also shaped Kristen’s theology, inspiring her to love the children she works with on a daily basis. She credits two of her religion professors in particular who had a profound effect on her: Dr. Steve Green and Dr. Marty Michelson.

“Dr. Green’s directness in teaching on the lifestyle of Jesus and the call of Scripture for the people of God to be actively engaged in ministry to the poor was incredibly significant for me,” said Kristen. “While working toward my Masters in Theology degree, Dr. Marty Michelson had the greatest impact as I continued to engage issues surrounding the poor and daily was seeking guidance and wisdom from Scripture in doing so. His classes invited me to engage Scripture in such a way that it shaped my theology as Jubilee Partners was formed.”

Kristen explained that her calling into ministry came well before she attended SNU. It was while attending Enid First Church of the Nazarene in Enid, Oklahoma as a teenager that Kristen began her relationship with Christ. As a high school student, she received her call into ministry, which is what led her to attend SNU and major in Theology and Ministry.

In looking back, Kristen is encouraged by how much the organization has accomplished thus far. She said one of her favorite experiences came from witnessing a student’s true understanding of God’s love for the very first time.

“One memory that sticks out is hearing a student’s remark on his experience of the love of God and his awareness of the reality of God’s love as it has been extended through the volunteers of Jubilee Partners,” recalled Kristen.

Kristen’s vision for Jubilee Partners is just beginning as she continues to dream with confidence towards the organization’s future growth, and expanding the many ways Jubilee will meet the needs of Oklahoma City urban children for years to come. Kristen is not only accomplishing her dreams and God—given vision for her life, but she also keeping the dreams of the less fortunate alive and helping them make those dreams a reality in Jesus’ name.
To what degree is studying and spending time on academic work emphasized?

88% of first-year students felt that SNU placed substantial emphasis on academics.

18 is the average class size at SNU.

Are students satisfied with their overall educational experience?

90% of first-year students reported a favorable image of SNU.

88% of seniors would have chosen SNU again if they could start their career over.

Do students participate in activities that enhance their spirituality?

81% of first-year students frequently engage in spiritually enhancing activities such as worship, meditation or prayer.
83% of faculty and staff feel that their jobs are important because of the mission and goals of Southern Nazarene University.

Are faculty members accessible and supportive?

92% of senior students said their faculty were available, helpful and sympathetic.

Does SNU prepare students for future careers?

94% of seniors reported acquiring jobs or career-related skills.
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Overview

The University’s overall financial position has slightly improved over that of the previous year. Net assets increased by 2.3% to $64.2 million. The University ended the year with an excess of revenue over expenses by $1.4 million. Strong enrollments in PGS and net revenues from Southern Plaza were the key driver’s to the improvement of the overall financial position.

Net Assets

The balance sheet of Southern Nazarene University as of June 30, 2012, is nearly the same when compared to the end of the previous year, with total assets increasing $424,682 to $98.1 million. Total Liabilities decreased 2.9% primarily due to a decrease in debt service balances. See chart for history of Net Assets as of June 30, 2006 through 2012.
Revenues & Expenses

The University’s revenues totaled $42.1 million and exceeded expenses by $1.4 million. The largest category of revenues is Tuition and Fees which netted $26.0 million (62% of our total revenues). The second largest is Auxiliary/Sales and Service/Other revenues of $7.6 million, or 18%. The third largest is Gifts and Grants totaling $5.6 million or 13% of total revenues. Included in this category is the Education Budgets paid by churches in the South Central Region, which totaled $1.7 million. Investment income represented $2.9 million, or 7%.

The University’s expenses totaled $40.7 million and were 3.0% higher than the previous year. Our largest category of expenses is Instruction and Academic Support, which represents 48% of our total expenses. Auxiliary expenses represent 24% and are the second largest category. Student Services and Institutional Support expenses represent 18% and 10%. The chart below shows the University’s expenses by program.