This is an exciting time to be a part of the Evangel University family! During inauguration/homecoming weekend, Oct. 9-11, we heard from the heart of our president, Dr. Carol A. Taylor (see excerpts from her inaugural address below). We also gathered as a family to celebrate our homecoming, our heritage and our history. We hope this newly designed issue of Vision magazine will help you hold onto your memories of the weekend. If you weren’t able to join us, we hope it gives you a glimpse of the celebration. In coming issues, you will see some of your favorite news, alumni updates and sports columns return, so please keep sending in your info! And as always, please feel free to call my office any time to give feedback. We are “Called to Serve!”

Excerpts from the Inaugural Address of President Carol A. Taylor, Evangel University • October 10, 2014

Who are we? We are people of the Book who center our lives and pursuit of Truth in the One who is and has the words of life. We are people of the Spirit who have experienced God’s grace and admit our dependence on the Holy Spirit to empower us for service. We are people with a vocational call who embrace our calling to serve out of our profound gratitude and love of Christ. And, finally, we are people with a vision who live out our mission statement as Spirit-empowered servants who impact the church and society globally.

What is our vision? As the new Evangel University with an embedded seminary, we remain steadfast in our commitment to educate and equip students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the Church and society globally.
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Interim Athletic Director
CALLED TO SERVE

THE INAUGURATION OF A PRESIDENT

DR. CAROL A. TAYLOR

BY VALORIE COLEMAN
On October 10, 2014, Dr. Carol A. Taylor was inaugurated as the fourth president of Evangel University. It was an historic moment in the institution's history.

With a theme of “Celebrate: Called to Serve,” the weekend was a mix of ceremony and celebration. Paired with homecoming, the event brought together the many faces of Evangel. Students, staff and faculty; donors and friends of the university; and Taylor’s family, friends and colleagues were gathered to honor her and witness the moment when she publicly dedicated herself to upholding and protecting the mission of Evangel University.

When first asked if she would pray about returning to Evangel, Taylor was directed by a friend to the story of Christ’s healing of blind Bartimaeus. Christ asked him, “What do you want me to do for you.”

“Over the next several months, I journaled and reflected and listened,” Taylor said. “I wrote the dreams I have for Evangel University: I dream of a campus filled with faculty, staff and students who are passionately committed to Christ-centered integration of academic excellence with scholarship, living and service. I dream of a campus where our pursuit of knowledge is always about how we may serve effectively across the globe. I dream of a campus where we love God passionately with our minds and our hearts and with our hands extended in service.

“Then early one morning, I simply wrote ‘yes’ in my journal. Yes, I would be willing to serve, and the dream I wrote in my journal has become my prayer for Evangel.”

AN UNQUALIFIED “YES!”

Taylor is uniquely prepared for this role at this time in history. She is a graduate of Evangel University and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, and she also attended classes at Central Bible College. As these three institutions were coming together into one comprehensive university, she was selected to lead. Taylor arrived on campus in July 2013 and served as president-elect and CEO during that academic year. She assumed full responsibility as president on May 1, 2014.

Taylor’s early career helped shape her as the relational, visionary leader she would become.

“I was an elementary education major at Evangel University,” Taylor said. “My first teaching job was in a Greek Orthodox school in Chicago where I was the only non-Greek teacher. I stepped into a whole new world and was fascinated by it. That fueled my decision to go to the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary to pursue a master’s degree in cross-cultural communication.”

Her ability to teach and communicate in a cross-cultural environment set the stage for her time teaching English as a second language to international students at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She went on to earn a doctorate at Florida State University and taught one year at Eastern Michigan University.

“An inauguration is a sacred ceremony where the university community comes together, not just to observe a new president making a sacred commitment to serve the university, but to affirm anew its commitment to the mission.”
Then God saw fit to open a new chapter in her life. Taylor joined the staff of Educational Testing Service, headquartered in Princeton, New Jersey. She was director of the Test of Written English (TWE), an essay test that was administered as part of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the most widely accepted English-language test in the world. She also was director of the TOEFL Research Program. After eight years of directing these programs, she was invited to lead a major research and development project to redesign the TOEFL test.

“For 12 years I lived in the world of large-scale assessment,” Taylor said. “I have a high appreciation for and deep commitment to using good assessment and data to inform decision-making. It informs the way I approach my work.”

The knowledge and experience Taylor gained at ETS

“...If we live each day in obedience to God, everything else takes care of itself. Our job is to say yes!”
allowed her success in the next chapter of her career, which expanded to include higher education administration. She came to Evangel from Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, Calif., where she served as its ninth president from 2009-2013. Prior to that, she served as provost and vice president of academic affairs at Vanguard.

Before joining the Vanguard administration, Taylor had served for seven years as the vice provost for undergraduate education at Biola University in La Mirada, Calif.

Her roles in the arena of higher education have been marked by high achievements, tough decisions and strenuous schedules.

In 2009, Vanguard was facing financial difficulties, an enrollment crisis and their accreditation was in jeopardy. Taylor was asked to take the reigns as president in order to help the university through those difficult times.

During her presidential term, Vanguard was able to see the turnaround of its university. Taylor recounts many times throughout her professional career of simply saying “yes” to the challenges in front of her, challenges which have turned into opportunities to lead.

“Let your career pursue you,” Taylor said. “If you had told me when I was a student at Evangel that I was going to be president of a university someday, I could not have even imagined it. I am convinced that if we live each day in obedience to God, everything else takes care of itself. Our job is to say yes!”

**AFFIRMING THE CALL**

Taylor now brings her unqualified “yes” to serve as Evangel’s president, and the university family Hebrews her heart. Since returning to Evangel a little more than a year
ago, she has seen that the staff and faculty of EU are just as committed to the development of students as ever.

“Last spring, a major study surveyed 30,000 college graduates to explore those experiences in college that contributed most to their success after graduation,” Taylor said. “One of the top success contributors was whether or not the graduate had a professor during college who cared about them, made them excited about learning, and encouraged them to pursue their dreams.

“This is what Evangel does best,” Taylor said. “I look back at my own experience at EU and AGTS and can name not one, but several faculty who encouraged me and made me excited about learning and discovering my vocational calling. I haven’t met a single alumnus or student who couldn’t say the same thing.”

At Evangel, the call to serve permeates everything. From Taylor’s viewpoint, an inauguration is another place to affirm that calling.

“For Christ-centered institutions like Evangel, an inauguration is a sacred ceremony where the university community comes together, not just to observe a new president making a sacred commitment to serve the university, but to affirm anew its commitment to the mission, acknowledge God’s faithfulness in our rich heritage, celebrate our rich legacy, and declare our continued trust and confidence that He who began this good work will continue it in this new season.”

EMBRACING THE VISION

Taylor definitely has a hope and a vision for Evangel University in this new season. In her inaugural address, she spoke about the word “truth,” which is prominently placed in the center of the Evangel seal.

“We pursue truth and scholarship out of our identity as those who bear the name of Christ,” she said. “We love God with our minds, which makes our classrooms and labs and practice rooms and athletic fields and stages and editing bays and computer labs and libraries and crowded desks sacred spaces.

“We remain committed to nurturing both the intellectual and spiritual lives of our students and community,” she said. “At the center of our academic pursuits is a desire for our work to be of service and to edify others. This theme, ‘Called to Serve,’ resonated with what I see as a part of the deepest DNA of Evangel. At our center is this abiding commitment to infuse all we do with a focus on vocational calling. I am reflecting on what this means for us today as we continue to embrace our mission to educate and equip students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the church and society globally.”

Valorie Coleman is a 1993 Evangel graduate and now serves the university as assistant public relations director.

The student body celebrated with President Carol A. Taylor in Riggs Hall on Friday night. Music from the EU Jazz Ensemble drifted down from the veranda above. Students mingled, ate cupcakes and packed out the house for selfies with their new president.

“We are grateful for the way President Taylor esteems students,” said Hannah Beers, organizer of the event. “She makes everyone feel important. I don’t think she even got a bite to eat. She was content interacting with students!”
CALLED TO SERVE

MEET THE CABINET

IT’S ALL ABOUT TEAM
The 2013-2014 academic year was an historic time of transition for Evangel University as Dr. Carol A. Taylor returned to her alma mater to serve as president-elect/CEO. It was also a year of transition in her leadership team, the cabinet. Three of the five new vice presidents are Evangel alumni; two were promoted from within. The president of AGTS at Evangel and the newly created position of chief information officer have been added to the core leadership team.

TILAHUN ADERA
Tilahun Adera serves Evangel as the provost/vice president for academic affairs. A native of Ethiopia, he has a compelling life story and is featured on pages 14 and 15 of this issue of Vision. Prior to joining EU, he served as dean of the College of Health and Social Services at New Mexico State University.

LINDA ALLEN
Linda Allen, C.P.A., M.B.A., serves as vice president for business and finance. A 1983 Evangel graduate, Allen had been a member of the Evangel board of directors since 2008 and served as chair of its finance committee. Her career has included serving as director of finance for Northwest Airlines, chief accounting officer with Nextel Partners, vice president of finance for Sprint-Nextel and CFO for Telesphere Networks.

Allen feels that the Lord has prepared her for this crucial time of transition at Evangel, explaining, “Even though my career has been in the corporate world, in both private and public companies, small and large, they have all been through some form of change from either a consolidation, or being a start-up, restart or turn-around.”

HERALD JOHNSON
Herald Johnson served for eight months as interim vice president of enrollment management. He is a consultant with Hardwick Day, a leading higher education enrollment management consulting firm. Johnson served in the college financial aid field for 38 years prior to becoming a consultant.

“The growing potential for positive, powerful impact on the church and on our culture for the Kingdom of God is the most exciting gift Evangel will give to the future,” Johnson said.

MICHAEL KOLSTAD
Michael Kolstad serves as vice president for university advancement. A 1988 Evangel graduate, Kolstad holds a D.M.A. from the University of North Carolina, and served as chair of the department of music at Evangel 2007-2014. Working in collaboration with the advancement division, Kolstad was an active partner in fundraising and alumni relations. The music endowment more than doubled in the past five years, with the largest financial gift during that time in excess of $1 million.

“My calling is to develop the resources so the faculty and students at Evangel can impact the world. What Evangel has produced is exciting, but I believe that our greatest successes will be in our future,” he said.

SHERI PHILLIPS
Sheri Phillips serves as vice president for student development. She is a 1981 Evangel graduate and holds a Ph.D. in higher education leadership with an emphasis in student development from Azusa Pacific University. Phillips joined the Evangel staff as a residence director in 1985. Since then, she has served in areas of student and community life, counseling, academic support, career services, program development, and teaching in undergraduate, graduate and adult studies.

“My philosophy of student development centers on the belief that students come to college at a critical juncture in their identity formation, and that our privilege, as Christian educators and developers, is to intentionally and compassionately help them grow into who they are created to be,” she said.

BYRON KLAUS
Byron Klaus has served as president of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary since 1999. He holds a D.Min. from Fuller Theological Seminary. Prior to AGTS, his career included 20 years on the faculty and administration at Vanguard University and service as vice president for Latin America ChildCare. He has announced his retirement for the summer of 2015.

“Because of solid foundations that have been laid in the decades preceding the leadership of Dr. Taylor, this University, under her leadership, has an incredible opportunity to soar as a truly comprehensive university that has nothing but blue sky ahead,” said Klaus.

GARY BLACKARD
Gary Blackard joins Evangel as its first chief information officer. He holds a B.B.A. from Vanguard University and is a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt leader. Blackard has extensive global operational experience, having served most recently as vice president for client operations and strategic services delivery for Xerox Corp.

“The skills and experience the Lord enabled me to receive throughout my career have allowed me to use benchmark operational and performance improvement tools, methodologies and concepts to position information technology for sustainable, scaleable growth,” he said.

CHRIS BELCHER
Joined Evangel as vice president for enrollment management as this special issue of Vision was going to press. He holds a master of business administration from Oral Roberts University. Belcher served 22 years at ORU, working with financial aid, as seminary registrar, in adult learning and as senior director of undergraduate admissions and recruitment.

“Evangel is poised for growth and ready for the next new thing that God has for the university. The Lord has put together a great leadership team, and I am excited to be a part of it,” Belcher said.

For full stories on each cabinet member, visit evangel.edu.
Called to Serve

Q&A

with

Carol A. Taylor

The Heart of a President

Dr. Carol A. Taylor
WHY IS IT GREAT TO BE CAROL TAYLOR RIGHT NOW? WHEN YOU LOOK BACK OVER YOUR CAREER, WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR?

I think at any time it is a gift to be comfortable with who we are. There is a deep joy in a life of obedience and being where I believe God has called me for this season.

I was preparing a tribute to my father for his memorial service in April 2012. When I opened his Bible, I found that he had written a verse on a small sticky note. It reflected who my father was at the deepest level.

18 This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. (Ecclesiastes 5:18 NIV)

I am most thankful that God has allowed me to be “happy in my toil.” I realize that this is a great gift and on most days has kept me occupied with a gladness of heart.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LIFE LESSON YOU HAVE LEARNED? THE MOST IMPORTANT CAREER LESSON?

Each season of life and career yields different lessons that accumulate over the years. I think for both life and career, it is again my father’s wisdom in approaching life from the perspective of working hard, praying hard, and trusting in a very big God – that our work and prayers can be offered as worship.

WHAT IS ONE THING, A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT OR KERNEL OF WISDOM, YOU WOULD SHARE WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR EVANGEL FAMILY?

Students - Be fully here. Your life and calling don’t begin when we hand you your diploma.

Alumni - He who began His good work in you is committed to completing it. Perhaps life is actually not all that complicated if we remember the words of the prophet Micah:

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8 NIV)

I think if we can get that right, everything else falls into place.

Staff & Faculty - We can’t give students what we do not have ourselves. If we want to cultivate passionate, Spirit-empowered learners who will live out Evangel’s mission in the world, then we must cultivate lives that pursue excellence and spiritual vitality and model Spirit-empowered service.

WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM YOUR TIME AS AN EVANGEL STUDENT?

It was a brief conversation in Dr. Thurman Vanzant’s office. I asked him why he left the ministry to teach at Evangel College. He replied, “Oh Carol, I never left the ministry. God just changed the shape of my pulpit.” It was in that moment that my view of vocational calling began to expand and really take shape.

IF YOU HAD A FREE MOMENT TODAY TO SIT DOWN IN A COFFEE SHOP, WHAT BOOK WOULD YOU READ AND WHAT COFFEE WOULD YOU DRINK?

While in Estes Park recently, I visited a local coffee shop and then sat outside by Fall River with my iPad Kindle. I was reading Ortberg’s Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You and McChesney, Covey & Huling’s The 4 Disciplines of Execution: Achieving Your Wildly Important Goals.

And my coffee of choice was a simple latte.
In many ways, Dr. Tilahun Adera is a picture of what Evangel students train to be — professionals who integrate their Christian faith and service into their vocational calling.

God’s perfect timing has brought Adera to Evangel University to serve as provost at this specific point in its history.

As a pharmacist and public health expert, Adera has been instrumental in the treatment and prevention of many diseases and the education of hundreds of university students in health promotion and disease prevention, both in Ethiopia and in several public universities across the United States.

As a preacher and teacher of the Bible, he’s professed his faith among everyone from the intellectuals at Johns Hopkins University to the street vendors of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Prior to joining Evangel in the summer of 2014, Adera served as dean of the College of Health and Social Services at New Mexico State University. As provost and vice president for academic affairs at Evangel, he will now play a vital role in ensuring that programs and faculty are focused on training students to become servant leaders who impact the Church and society globally.

After years of sensing God was preparing him for a full-time role in Christian ministry, Adera emerged from the
pool of candidates to succeed Dr. Glenn Bernet, Evangel’s long-time provost who served from 1985 to 2014. Adera’s road to Evangel has been marked with impressive accomplishments, perhaps none more so than the overwhelming odds he overcame to achieve them.

AN INSPIRING RISE

Adera grew up in a desolate farming community in rural Ethiopia. The only residents who could read or write were the priests of the orthodox churches. School was not even available for Adera and his siblings, but when their father joined the Ethiopian Army, the family moved to a town with organized education.

“That decision changed not only my life, but the lives of my children and my children’s children,” Adera said. “I am reminded regularly that the decisions I think I am making for myself truly have an impact on those around me.”

Adera committed himself to academics and graduated high school, but he never imagined going to college until his father encouraged him.

“He was a dreamer and a visionary,” Adera said. “He set high expectations, and that caused me to aspire higher in academics. So I applied to the university.”

At the time, Addis Ababa University was the only institution of higher learning in Ethiopia. Thousands of the country’s brightest students competed for limited access to its academic programs.

Adera earned entry to the School of Pharmacy and became the first college graduate in his family. His pharmaceutical career led to a life-changing opportunity in the midst of a national crisis.

A COURAGEOUS ESCAPE

Adera was serving as a professional and Christian leader in the 1970s when the Ethiopian government was overthrown by a communist regime.

Many Christians came under attack, and as many of his friends suffered, Adera feared for his safety. He prayed for God to provide a way out.

God answered through a letter from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (IPF).

Adera served as secretary of the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Association, and the IPF had invited a delegate from Ethiopia to attend a conference in the Netherlands.

The conference provided documentation for Adera to leave Ethiopia, and he fled the country. Following the conference, he settled in England and enrolled at Capernwray Bible School for a term. Then he made his way to Portland, Oregon, where he attended Multnomah Bible College with a specific prayer in mind.

“I had held various positions of Christian leadership in Ethiopia, but I always felt inadequate because I had never studied the Bible in a formal way except during my own devotions and Bible studies,” Adera said. “I prayed to the Lord, ‘If I’m really serious about You, give me one year to study nothing but the Bible.’ God granted my desire, and the year of study was a time that prepared me for what was ahead.”

AN ACADEMIC MISSION

Adera returned to the sciences for his graduate studies. He specialized in public health, earning a Master of Public Health from the University of Washington and both a Master of Arts and Ph.D. from the Department of Public Health at Oregon State University.

Before coming to Evangel, Adera had the opportunity to serve in five public universities at various academic ranks including instructor, assistant professor, tenured associate professor, full professor, department chair, associate dean of a medical school, and finally, dean of a major college of health.

“At each step, I knew there were many professors who would not go to church, but God had placed me there to reach them with the gospel,” he said. “Opportunities arose often in academic settings for me to live as a witness for the Lord.”

That sense of mission is what led Adera to Evangel.

“I am responsible for having the right combination of programs and faculty members that will yield strong, rigorous academic programs,” Adera said. “That combination of spiritual life and competence in academics is powerful. I pray this new role will allow me to impact the next generation of young men and women at Evangel.”
Homecoming weekend was packed with events centered around the theme, “Called to Serve.” The Thursday morning chapel service on Oct. 9 featured HeartSong and a message by Scotty Gibbons (CBC ’94) that cut straight to the heart of the matter. [01]

“Unless your pursuit of significance takes you down a path of service, you are off-track,” Gibbons said. “God is not going to say, ‘Well done, thou good and faithful leader.’ He is going to say, ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Thursday afternoon, students, alumni and faculty packed into Barnett Recital Hall to hear four alumni speak about how their own personal call to serve has impacted their lives and careers. [02]

“The best service is every day compassion and kindness,” said Steve Donaldson, senior director of Rural Compassion and co-founder of Convoy of Hope, during the panel discussion. “People talk about justice and social issues, but get involved! Poverty is complicated. If we’re going to make a difference, we must be educated.”

The other three panelists were Dr. Candace Wicke, founder and president of Continuo Arts Foundation in Westfield, N.J. and the first female conductor-in-residence at Carnegie Hall; Dr. Wayne Tesch, founder of Royal Family Kids Camps, Inc.; and Dr. Barry Corey, president of Biola University in La Mirada, Calif.

On Saturday, Oct. 11, alumni award winners Bobby Hawk and Jimmy Jack were honored, pictured here with Doug Jenkins, CBC alumni and church relations director. Read more about the honorees on page 20. [03]

Most notable from the weekend were events that brought students and alumni together. On Friday afternoon, everyone had an opportunity to relax and unwind at the EU County Fair. Everyone gathered in the Mabee Fitness Center, which had been transformed into a fall scene. There were gold fish games and cotton candy prizes, bluegrass music and cowboy boots, and plenty of smiles and EU-wear to go around.

Students gathered that evening for the traditional EU’s Got Talent and a pep rally in the chapel. President Taylor taught the fight song and the energy was thick. [04]
Trees of Honor awards were given during a luncheon on Oct. 11. Billie Davis, seen here with President Taylor, is the founder of Evangel’s Social Work Program. For more about all of the honorees, go to evangel.edu and search Trees of Honor.

Visitors included long-time friend of the university and former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and his wife, Janet.

Evangel Alumni Association presents awards during homecoming 2014

The university selected two Evangel graduates and two CBC graduates to receive alumni awards this year. They were recognized during homecoming at a luncheon on Saturday, Oct. 11.

**EU Distinguished Alumnus**  
Dr. Candace Wicke  
Dr. Candace Wicke is a 1983 Evangel graduate. She is the founder and president of Continuo Arts Foundation in Westfield, N.J. She was the first female conductor-in-residence at Carnegie Hall and has also had opportunities to conduct at Notre Dame Cathedral in France and the Sistine Chapel in Rome.

Wicke's roots are deep at Evangel. She grew up around campus, as her father, Jesse Peterson, served 11 years as the music department chairperson. She returned to Evangel as a student and graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. She also holds master's and doctoral degrees in conducting from the University of Miami.

**EU Outstanding Young Alumnus**  
Dr. John Clements  
Dr. John Clements graduated from Evangel in 2002 with a degree in biology and attended medical school at the University of Nebraska. He then completed his residency in ophthalmology at Loyola University in Chicago and a fellowship in cornea transplantation and refractive surgery at the Harvard School of Medicine.

Clements recently returned to the U.S. after serving for 18 months as a medical missions ophthalmologist in Angola, Africa. While there he established an ocular surgery training program for Angolan nationals, treated complex corneal disease, cataracts and ocular surface tumors, and performed over 9,000 ocular surgeries.

Upon returning to the U.S., he moved his family to Oregon, where he now serves as an assistant professor for Oregon Health Science University in Portland. John met his wife, Lori Dollar, at Evangel. They have three sons.

**CBC Distinguished Alumnus**  
Rev. Jimmy Jack  

Jack also founded the Long Island Teen Challenge, which now has five residential homes for men and women, as well as Teen Challenge centers in Albany, N.Y., and in Santiago, Dominican Republic. The Jacks have two daughters and a son. Dionnza graduated from CBC in 2014 and is on staff at Freedom Chapel. Dominique is a senior at Evangel.

**CBC Outstanding Young Alumnus**  
Rev. Bobby Hawk  
Rev. Bobby Hawk graduated from CBC in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in Bible and theology. That summer, he and his wife, Vanessa, embarked on their first church plant in Pontiac, Mich. Since then, Hawk has had the opportunity to travel and minister to seven countries on four different continents. Hawk is the founding and lead pastor of EPIC Church, a multi-site congregation with two locations in the Kansas City metro area. Since Hawk has been pastoring there, EPIC Church has grown to 400 people, two thirds of whom were not previously attending any other church.

“Church planting has taught me that people and resources follow faith and vision, not the other way around,” Hawk said. “If you’re waiting for the money and the people to come together before you are willing to step out in faith, then the church you dream about will continue to be a dream.”

For more on these Evangel and CBC alumni awardees, please visit evangel.edu/alumniawards

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Evangel donates 50,000 books to theological schools in Africa

An estimated 50,000 books were donated by Evangel recently for the West Africa Advanced School of Theology (WAAST) in Lomé, Togo, and the East Africa School of Theology (EAST) in Nairobi, Kenya.

A commemorative ceremony was held during the AG Centennial celebration, which took place in Springfield last August. Several key African leaders from a variety of countries were present, along with representatives from the AG World Missions national office.

Most of the volumes became available after a year-long inventory of the libraries of Evangel, Central Bible College and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, and duplicate book titles were discovered. “This will be an immense treasure for the continent. Having 50,000 titles to send to Africa will accomplish in one trip what we have tried to do for many years,” said John Easter, director of Africa’s Hope.

It is anticipated that the shipping containers will be ready to go during the first half of 2015, and it will cost approximately $10,000 to ship the two containers. To read more and to find out how to donate funds for shipping, go to evangel.edu/africashope
Evangel University is passionate about the call to serve. Our faculty and staff focus on educating and equipping students for their vocational callings. Students focus on preparing for service in their chosen fields.

We are not only about preparation, but we are about serving now! Read how these four students prepare and serve at evangel.edu.

To learn more about how you can make a difference at Evangel, visit EVANGEL.EDU/GIVE-ONLINE or call (417) 865.2811, ext. 7290.
Called to Serve

Q&A with Coach Brenton Illum

Interim Athletic Director
Coach Brenton Illum, a 1999 graduate, is passionate about Evangel athletics. He is in his fifth year as head football coach and has now added interim athletic director to his slate. The challenge is great, but the opportunities are even greater. He is serving Evangel at a time of change and expansion, and EU athletic programs will not be an exception. Men’s and women’s soccer will debut in fall 2015, and Illum also is planning for continued success of all Evangel teams. He has a clear focus on building his team members to be well-rounded servants of Christ. The editors of Vision sat down with Coach Illum during the fall semester to hear the latest on all things Evangel athletics and his insights regarding the theme, “Called to Serve.”

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE ASKED TO TAKE ON THE ROLE OF INTERIM ATHLETIC DIRECTOR?

I came here originally out of a sense of responsibility to serve Evangel athletics and the university as a whole. Now to be able to affect our department in a much more far-reaching way is a tremendous honor. Fifteen years ago when I was graduating from EU, I never would have imagined having the opportunity to lead on our campus in this way.

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THIS NEW ROLE? WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR EVANGEL ATHLETICS IN THE FUTURE?

This is my school. It’s not just a job for me. I want to make sure that we provide our student-athletes the type of learning experience they can look back on and confidently say they have become better in every way – physically, mentally, academically and spiritually. When they leave here, I want them to believe they could not have attended school anywhere else and become the people they are today.

We have some great opportunities ahead of us in athletics. We will always be a very visible aspect of Evangel in the local community, as well as across the country. When people look at Evangel through the gateway of athletics, I want that vision of our university to be so compelling that they want to be a part of it!

EVANGEL HAS ANNOUNCED THE ADDITION OF MEN’S AND WOMEN’S SOCCER, A RESURRECTION OF THAT PROGRAM FOR MEN. WHY IS SOCCER A GOOD FIT FOR EVANGEL?

Adding soccer to our offerings meets some really important needs in the Evangel community. Many people have been looking forward to this day for a long time, and I’m excited to see this sport contribute to our ever-growing campus life.

WHY IS THE THEME FOR INAUGURATION/HOMECOMING, “CALLED TO SERVE,” CLOSE TO YOUR HEART AND THE HEARTS OF OUR ATHLETES? HOW HAS SERVING IMPACTED THEM?

We realize that our student-athletes have an opportunity to lead because of the platform that athletics gives them. We invest so much of ourselves into them while they are here. They must use that investment upon leaving Evangel to serve in their vocations. The world needs Christian leaders with integrity who serve with tremendous work ethic. As an athletics department, we must develop this kind of person.

HOW DOES THE EVANGEL ATHLETICS PROGRAM ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF THE UNIVERSITY TO FULFILL ITS MISSION?

Our university is service-oriented, and for our athletes, the call to serve begins now. Our teams volunteer with organizations across Springfield including many elementary schools, Boys & Girls Club, the Springfield–Green County Park Board and the Salvation Army. They also travel to locations across the globe to serve others and connect through the universal language of sports. Last summer, the baseball team went to Mexico, and the track team went to Jamaica. These trips do not simply impact the people we meet overseas. They impact us. They change us, and they change the hearts of our young people. When these students leave Evangel, they will not settle for an ordinary life. They will strive to live lives of extraordinary service!
SAVE THE DATE

HOMECOMING

2015

OCTOBER 1-3