

Welcoming the New President

By: Sam Henthorn

Mount Vernon Nazarene University has its traditions that it holds; however, one of the most notable recent ones is the mark of a new era for MVNU with the inauguration of a new president. On April 3, the welcoming of Dr. Carson Castleman was celebrated with his inauguration into the role of MVNU President. In the chapel, students and faculty alike joined together to give this warm welcome to Castleman. His wife, Dr. Angela Castleman, was present, as well as David Mills, the vice president of spiritual life.

Faculty and staff came from all over campus and beyond to celebrate this special moment. Laurie Cellar, senior human resource specialist at MVNU said that apart from the music and ceremony, she enjoyed hearing encouraging statements about the new president, "Those who spoke offered confirmation of his character and enthusiasm for the vision he has for MVNU in the days ahead," she said.

It was all a part of honoring Castleman, who stated, "As I designed the inauguration and had a phenomenal team that came to my side to help me, my number one goal was to make sure that Christ was edified and at the epicenter of it. I feel that happened. It was a holy time, in my opinion," when he was interviewed by the campus radio station, WNZR. Castleman made one of the historic moments of MVNU a sight to behold.

With this new job comes responsibility for Castleman, who has a goal in mind for MVNU moving forward. Castleman stated, "Mount Vernon is a great place for people to come and be a part of a community of faith that is committed to changing the world through the love of Christ," adding this was his statement for his upcoming time as president. He wants to make the people who come, go, and are at MVNU to reflect God's love on the world. That is his vision of how he is going to run this campus.

Sarah Scott, associate director of admission events, said that she was overjoyed by the inauguration.



Photo from: mvnu.edu

"The [inauguration] ceremony was beautiful, wonderful, spirit filled, and it really just gave me a good sense that we were in good hands," said Scott. "Dr. Castleman is very excited to be here and to lead Mount Vernon." Scott echoes this excitement to have Dr. Castleman back on campus with the rest of the community.

The inauguration was only the beginning of what Castleman wants to bring to the table. "I could sense the presence of Christ in that room," Castleman stated, feeling that this was God's plan for him.

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The Inauguration of Dr. Castleman

Also in this issue:
MVNU Honors Retiring Faculty
Lifetime: Behind the Scenes

Photo by MVNU



Dr. Robert Tocheff

By Zach Baur

Doctor Robert Tocheff, often known by the nickname “Doctor Bob,” has had a prolific career teaching music at Mount Vernon Nazarene University since 1981.

After 43 years, Tocheff has recently announced that he will be retiring from full-time work.

“There are many reasons that have led to my retirement, but I am grateful that I have been given the privilege of continuing to direct Collegians and Handel’s Messiah for the foreseeable future,” said Tocheff.

Tocheff has always had a passion for music. When asked about his motivation for pursuing a teaching career, he stated, “I’ve always enjoyed the classroom but especially the rehearsal classroom atmosphere, where incredible music making happens.” After graduating high school, Tocheff, “was faced with the choice of pursuing an engineering degree in my father’s footsteps, or to follow my heart and pursue music. When I entered MVNC, it was a natural fit to choose the music education track.” Back then, what is now MVNU, it was a two-year institution named Mount Vernon Nazarene College. He finished his bachelor’s degree in music education at Olivet Nazarene University. He would later go on to gain a master’s degree at Wright State and finally a PhD at The Ohio State University, all with a choral emphasis.

Tocheff has described choral conducting as his “first love,” and this passion still shows. When asked of his fondest memories at MVNU, he replied that, “Fully answering this question would fill an entire book for sure.” One can see this in a very literal sense in his office, with shelves that are home to numerous thick scrapbooks filled with photos capturing memories of various choral trips throughout the years, of which there are “several hundred.”

One of his favorite memories being his conducting and directorship of the Treble Singers Women’s Choir from 1981-1991 and then Collegians Chorale from 1991 and onward. Both choirs were accepted to perform at the Ohio Music Education Annual under his leadership and toured throughout Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

“These tour concerts were not only meaningful musically, but we got to meet and minister to so many churches, getting to know many pastors and leaders all over the region.” Shortly after beginning to direct the Collegians Chorale, MVNC’s then chaplain Gary Sivewright invited them to travel abroad to Hungary as part of an initiative that was very significant to the startup of the Nazarene Church in Hungary. “This involvement is one of my most cherished endeavors. Then I caught the travel abroad ministry ‘bug’ and began to plan and execute mission trips on my own with Collegians Chorale. I’ve done nine of these, most recently in May 2023.”

Tocheff and the Collegians Chorale have also toured in France, Portugal, Austria, Germany, Italy, Croatia, Spain, the Czech Republic, and The Netherlands. He has also directed the Collegians as they sang the National Anthem at MLB games for the Cleveland Guardians and the Cincinnati Reds. “Also very meaningful to me was the 12 years that I chaired the music department and led it through the first accreditation process with NASM (National Association of Schools of Music).”

“Study hard; become excellent in your discipline, while all the time keeping Christ at the center of your goals and dreams.”

Dr. Tocheff is not only passionate about music but also incredibly passionate about the MVNU community and his faith. He declared, “To hone my choral conducting craft in an atmosphere that celebrates my faith in Jesus Christ is the highest privilege I can think of. I am so glad that MVNU is not merely “affiliated” with the Nazarene Church but integrally connected as a valued arm of the denomination. This community has been incredible for me professionally and with my family.” With such a storied and prolific career, Tocheff has a vast amount of wisdom, experience, and love for his students. The message he would like to leave for the many students he has mentored throughout the years is this: “Study hard; become excellent in your discipline, while all the time keeping Christ at the center of your goals and dreams. ‘In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will direct your paths.”

Lifeline Behind the Scenes

By Nathan Sharpes

Lifeline was in full swing here at MVNU back in March! WNZR’s annual fundraiser, ran by Marcy and Joe Reinhart, lifeline has always been a great experience for all the staff and students here at MVNU. Lifeline involves several separate days starting with a day of prayer in praise and a matching challenge day. This experience has had quite a positive response from the students involved.

The lifeline fundraiser continues to give hope to the WNZR station in showing the love from listeners. Senior Mike



Dr. Lynn Shoemaker

By Morgan Mills

Dr. Lynn Shoemaker, assistant professor of education, is now in a transitioning season as she retires from the Jetter School of Professional Studies here at MVNU. What first

drew Shoemaker to MVNU after her 11 years in public school administration was the quality of work that MVNU students would procure. Shoemaker supervised budding teachers from other schools and consistently noticed exemplary vocational skills from MVNU students.

Shoemaker has worked tirelessly in her 13 years at MVNU to mold students into excellent teachers and individuals and has succeeded greatly. She is beloved in the education department and has shown superb knowledge and skills in nurturing lifelong learners.

When asked about her achievements, she praises her students and for the role that she gets to play in their lives. “I think it makes it easier to retire when you see the joy in their faces,” Shoemaker said. She gushed over the satisfaction that setting up her students for success brings her. It is a bittersweet goodbye for a professor who cares deeply about her community and pupils. She’s moved by the mark students have made on her as well as the faculty she works with.

While Shoemaker continues her goal of publishing her book, she also plans to start her season of stillness. “I feel that something has been laid on my heart to be still,” she said. Shoemaker shares plans of taking dips in her pool, working on her novel and continuing to take her rich personal life one day at a time.

Shoemaker urges readers to find moments to be still as she takes time to rest and reflect on her fruitful journey through her career and life. The Lakeholm Viewer salutes these professors.

Basko with the student leadership team stated “Lifeline is awesome because you really get to be involved in something bigger than yourself. It’s amazing to hear what the listeners have to say about the encouragement they have received from listening to the station. It’s a testament that the listeners believe in the ministry of WNZR.” Lifeline’s theme for this year was “I believe it” inspired by Jon Reddick’s song as a declaration of faith and trust in God’s power to work miracles and fulfill his promises. Mike stated, “this year’s theme really made me realize how not only we believe in the life of Jesus, but we also believe in the ministry and impact of Christian radio.”

MVNU Honors Retiring Faculty

For more stories about retiring faculty members, go to lakeholmviewer.com.



Dr. Stephen Metcalfe

By Allison Prouty

Dr. Stephen Metcalfe has been at MVNU since 2006. When Dr. Metcalfe first visited MVNU for a job interview to be a professor, he said, “It really feels like [working at MVNU] is kind

of a calling.” After being hired, he was one of six full-time graduate program professors hired to teach courses for MVNU’s Graduate and Professional Studies cohorts, as MVNU was one of the only universities in Central Ohio that offered education degrees with licensure.

When Ohio State University began offering the degrees with licensure, Dr. Metcalfe moved to teach undergrad education classes at MVNU. As a professor, he said he “targets what still is somewhat like grad material for people who are two or three semesters out of high school and try to help them integrate that into becoming practitioners in three or four semesters, hoping that I’m planting seeds.”

Dr. Metcalfe will be retiring at the end of this semester. He said that he plans on taking care of his own health while taking care of his family. Looking back on his time at MVNU, he said, “It’s just been that kind of a sense of calling to a missional kind of experience with this particular population.” He said his family doesn’t plan on moving anywhere after he retires and said he will come back to visit with Duncan, Murphy, and Autumn, Dr. Metcalfe’s golden retrievers. “My department has demanded visitation rights,” he said.

Students also expressed how much fun they had working behind the scenes in lifeline and how Joe and Marcy Reinhart have made this such an enjoyable experience for them. Senior, Colin Ashworth expressed how this experience has given him more insight into the program, “Marcy and Joe make this fundraiser a fun thing, but it also really helps you see what goes into raising money in a ministry the means so much to our community and listeners”. Lifeline’s current total is at \$81,349 and climbing!

You can donate online at wnzr.fm.