

# Dr. Carson Castleman Begins Tenure as MVNU's Eighth President

by Jonathon Langdon

The Mount Vernon Nazarene University Board of Trustees faced a significant task following the announcement of former president Dr. Henry Spaulding's retirement in February — finding a new president for the following academic year. Thus, a strenuous nationwide search commenced while Dr. David Wilson Sr. gracefully accepted the role as the transitional leader for MVNU.

"We give thanks to God for his leadership in the search process," Dr. Wilson said in a statement to the MVNU community. "Many people have spent countless hours fasting and praying that God would lead us – and he has!" In early August, God opened the eyes of the search committee and focused them on Dr. Carson Castleman. Soon after, on Aug. 11, Mount Vernon Nazarene University announced the election of Dr. Castleman as the University's eighth president.

Nearly two months later, on Oct. 1, President Castleman's time began at MVNU. Dr. Castleman's education experience spans over 26 years, recently serving as Indiana Wesleyan University's Vice president of Student Experience and External Relations. Castleman served at Indiana Wesleyan for the last 20 years, but he got his start with MVNU as an admissions counselor and later as associate director of admissions.

During his first week in office, President Castleman joined WNZR, MVNU's community radio station, for their monthly university update. "Mount Vernon Nazarene University is a Christian University first and foremost," Castleman said. "We are an academic, Christ-centered community, and that is what I want people to focus on." President Castleman has quickly adopted a new identity for MVNU in his short time on campus. In fact, the home page of MVNU's website already reads this:

## SEEK. LEARN. SERVE.

As President Castleman settles into his role, he sends this message to the student body: "You are not here by coincidence. You are here for an ordained reason, and I believe that the education you receive here will change [your] life. As I have started this, I have prayed Habakkuk 1:5 for every student: 'Look among the nations and be utterly amazed because in your day I am going to do a work in your life, even if I whispered it to you.' What that tells me is that God is going to do something miraculous in these students' lives. They are going to change the world, and they truly are world-changers. I want them to know that they are enough and they are loved and cared about and that we believe in them."

President Castleman also asks the MVNU community for prayer through this transition. "For me as a leader, [I ask] that you would pray that God would continue to give me the wisdom, the knowledge and the humility to do what He has called me to do with grace, purpose and passion."

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

There have been 8 presidents in the history of MNVU/MVNC. Find each of their last names to fill out the crossword puzzle. When complete, DM a picture to @mvnuviewer on Instagram for a chance to win a \$10 B-Dubs gift certificate!

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# THE VIEWER

MVNU'S STUDENT NEWS SOURCE

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## Updates to the SGA Constitution

By Dylan Elliott

Some things get overlooked from time to time. One of the things that MVNU students might not be aware of is the change to the Student Government Association's constitution.

One of these changes involves how the term limits have been extended. In the original constitution, the term limits ended 28 days before the end of the academic year. The revisions make it so the terms are extended until the next academic year. Logan Kazelman, the student body president, explained how this has been in the works for about a year. "A lot of this work was done last year," said Kazelman. "We just went through and formalized it all. This has been something that has needed to be done for a while now."

Kazelman then mentioned how rare it is to change the constitution. "This doesn't happen very often," he said. "It's not an every-year thing [to change the constitution]."

One change to the constitution is that candidates who apply to SGA must submit a resume in addition to two references. Before this revision, all that candidates had to do was get two references to run for SGA. Kazelman explained the value of why a resume is needed. "This is a very formal position," he explained. "We don't want people who don't care about the position to run just for the social status of it." "We want people

who are going to put forth the effort to do the job they've been elected to do." The class presidents also must turn in a resume. This is something that wasn't required in the previous constitution. Kazelman explained why this is also important. "[We hold them] to the same expectations as the vice presidents."

Another change to the constitution is an overhaul of section VII, Campus Organizations. One of the sections specifically is how the process of starting a club works. Kazelman explained how the process works. "When a student fills out a thing to want to start a club, it then gets brought up in a meeting by our VP of community life (Alex Hayden). He will then present what they want. Then we will take a vote under my direction. Then from there, if it is a 2/3 majority vote, it can go on to student life for the final approval."

Also, the position of vice president of marketing has been terminated. The new position is now called marketing chairperson. "The vice president of marketing is an appointed position, not an elected position," he said. "This position is a specialty position. This position requires a certain skill set. We don't want anybody to take on that position that is not qualified for it."

Kazelman also mentioned why they changed the name to marketing chairperson. "We changed the name to make it a little more consistent," he said. "We want to make sure that people know that any chairperson position is appointed, and any VP positions are elected."

## Another Successful Festival Latino

By Zach Baur

MVNU conducted its annual Festival Latino on Sept. 27 which is a celebration of Latin American culture. Food, music, fashion and history from several Latin American cultures are displayed at the event. The REC was decorated with displays showcasing the rich culture of these countries, complemented by trays and cups full of food and drinks originating from them.

Lively music played through the speakers. Next to the REC and cafeteria entrances was a display for Brazil, with a container of Pacoca, a candy made of sugar and salt mixed with ground peanuts. The Mexico display was the largest and quite a sight, decorated with multiple jerseys and hats. A huge tray full of fruit cups sat alongside the fashion pieces. Students lined up and happily conversed with those hosting the display, trying the nearby Aguas Frescas.

In the cafeteria, a stage was set up with large curtains covering the main entrance to the dining commons. A show began at 6 p.m. where people dressed in traditional Latin American dancewear took the stage. This is Ohio State University's "Folclor Hispano" dance group. A lively and enthusiastic performance was given for each dance showcased with many students staying long after finishing their food to appreciate the show, often rhythmically clapping to the music. At one point towards the end, the performers invite the audience to participate. About a dozen or more students joined in, having a blast as they learned how to perform a merengue dance. At one point during this, the crowd formed a conga line circling around the dining room.

Festival Latino is a staple of MVNU that is both important and exciting. It gives students the opportunity to show pride for their cultural heritage and learn about other cultures. In addition to that, it gives them a chance to experience lively entertainment, try new food and drinks and have a great time with their friends.