SBNM ANNUAL REPORT 18–19

NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO
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Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is my honor to address you in my new role as Dean of the School of Business and Nonprofit Management. While I have served the school as professor of accounting for seventeen years, it is a new and exciting opportunity for me to serve in this role. This past year has been filled with changes but, as usual, SBNM faculty and staff rose to the challenges with flying colors.

In September of 2018, SBNM hosted two peer reviewers from the International Assembly of Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) for the required site visit for our reaccreditation. A great deal of work went into the preparation for this visit. A committee, consisting of Gianfranco Farruggia, Mark Gavoor, Wes Lindahl, Rochelle Robinson-Levant, Lee Sundholm and me, was formed early in 2018 to prepare for the site visit. Meghan Weber, with the assistance of this committee, worked throughout the next several months to complete our self-study. Wes Lindahl returned from his semester in Sweden to meet with the reviewers. Thanks to everyone’s hard work, SBNM was granted reaccreditation!

We operated this year quite short-staffed on the faculty due to three resignations. Kristina Kauffman, Marketing, and Pam Schilling, Finance and Strategy, resigned prior to the beginning of the 2018-19 academic year. Chris Hubbard, Management, resigned at the end of the fall semester of the 2018-19 academic year. As a result, all faculty taught overloads and the advising loads for each faculty member were at an all-time high.

However, as expected, our faculty and staff performed these extra duties with grace and competence, always putting the needs of the students first.

We were fortunate to fill the Finance and Strategy position with the hiring of Paul Hawkinson beginning in August 2019. Additionally, Wes Lindahl, has transitioned from Dean to a full-time faculty member and will be teaching nonprofit and management courses, as well as advising students. Welcome to both Paul and Wes in these new roles. We have been given approval to fill the marketing position with a start date of August 2020 and that search will begin with the onset of the 2019-20 academic year.

The 2019-20 academic year will bring two new shortages in faculty due to changes in positions. In my new role as Dean, I will continue teaching a few accounting courses. However, we are still left without a full-time accounting professor. We have been given approval to fill that position and will be actively searching during Fall 2019. Finally, John Born, Sport Management, was promoted to Assistant Vice President and Athletic Director for the University. While we are incredibly proud of John, this leaves us without a sport management professor. For now, John will continue to teach the upper level sport management courses in addition to his new duties.

Our undergraduate enrollment continues to be at an all-time high. While graduate enrollment has been down, we are working closely with the graduate admissions team to identify ways to increase enrollment in both degree and certificate programs.

May God continue to bless us as we face new challenges, but also new opportunities, to continue to prepare students for lives of significance and service.
Axelson Center

Conferences
The Axelson Center successfully executed two sold-out conferences in an eight-month period, with its October 2018, “Embracing Inclusive Leadership: Uncommon Conversations about Diversity” conference, followed by its 20th anniversary conference in May 2019, “The Arc of Innovation: Timeless Lessons from Thriving Nonprofits”. That was a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, but it was completed due to phenomenal staff and volunteer support. The October conference featured keynote speakers presenting on the “Race to Lead” study; and a luncheon keynote from the founder of Fund the People. The May conference keynote, Vu Le, a nationally recognized nonprofit blogger, received a standing ovation for his tongue-in-cheek observations about the joys and challenges of work in the nonprofit/social sector.

Continuing Programs
The August 2018 “BootCamp for New Nonprofit CEOs” was sold out again with 40 new leaders gaining knowledge and insights from nonprofit experts in various leadership and management topics. The program netted close to $15K, which was a 79% increase over projections. The Spring 2019 cycle of workshops continued a trend of increasing registrations (up to 220 from 183 in 2018) and increases in net revenue (up to $3,000 in 2019 from $1,200 in 2018).

New Programs
As part of the 2019 celebration of the Axelson Center’s 20th anniversary, a “20 Years/20 Leaders” award program was rolled out. The Axelson Center conducted a poll of Chicago area nonprofit leaders, asking them about organizations and individuals who have exhibited excellence – through struggle and success – in how they have operated. Through this survey and further conversations, the Axelson Center selected 20 leaders who have had an undeniable impact on their sector and community and hold the respect of their colleagues. Coming from a wide variety of backgrounds and sectors, the Axelson Center was excited to recognize these 20 leaders at the 20th anniversary conference in May 2019.
Nonprofit Leadership Club
The Nonprofit Leadership Club (NLC) has maintained its fostering of future nonprofit leaders through weekly meetings, fundraising and community outreach. NLC students learned about fundraising through various activities and guest speakers from the nonprofit sector. Students collaborated with our Career Development and Internships Office and hosted their annual nonprofit career fair for their fellow students. Nonprofits including Argentium, By the Hand Club, UCAN, and Center for Urban Teaching, participated in the Nonprofit Career Fair. Students put their skills to work making calls to the Axelosn Center Advisory Board and other friends of NLC. These experiences opened the students’ eyes to the types of activities that raise funds for a nonprofit. Their focus was admirable; and their small group had respectable fundraising results.
Freedom Forum
For the 2018–19 academic year, the Freedom Forum once again raised $45,000 and set the stage to garner a $70,000 grant for the 2019–20 academic year. This expansion was fostered by results which included sending 25 students to academic conferences and immersion experiences in New York City, twice to Washington DC, and Silicon Valley. Students were able to expand their understanding of the benefits of liberty through speakers including the President of the United States, executives from Google and LinkedIn, and networking with entrepreneurial North Park alumni.
Student Activities

The School of Business and Nonprofit Management
Outstanding Senior Award Elom & Vera Nelson Prize

Madeline Barry (December 2018)  Brandon Giacomino (May 2019)
Student Activities

**Jimmie Alford Scholarship**
Given to students pursuing a degree or certificate in Nonprofit Management who have demonstrated academic excellence.

**Mark Farano Memorial Scholarship**
Given to an MBA student who demonstrates strong academic performance and leadership capability.

Caryn Henning, Lisa Aiken, Kristina Wilson, Abigail McNear

Anna Herrera, MBA
The SBNM Advisory Board met in October and in April. The October meeting included a presentation by the new president, President Mary Surridge, in which she shared some of her vision for North Park. Additionally, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Marketing, Anthony Scola, and his team, made a presentation outlining their 2018-19 action plan for increasing enrollment. Catherine Marsh presented a summary of her research on ethical leaders. The April meeting consisted of an update from Anthony Scola and his team. In addition, Wes Lindahl gave a reflection on his seventeen years as SBNM Dean. The Board continued to support SBNM and North Park University financially with 100% giving participation, totaling over $20,000.
Personnel

We are thrilled to announce that Paul Hawkinson is joining the School of Business and Nonprofit Management (SBNM) faculty as Associate Professor of Business Strategy and Finance. Paul has a rich background in investment banking, most recently having served as Executive Director of Finance, Treasurer and Director of Pensions for the Evangelical Covenant Church. Over his career, Paul has worked with the Investment Banking Divisions of Deutsche Bank, Bank of America and BMO Harris. Additionally, he was involved in the leadership of a start-up socially responsible hedge fund in the distressed real estate sector. In this role, not only did he create a financial return for the fund, but he also provided assistance to those who were negatively impacted by the downturn in the sector. He started his professional career with Deloitte and Touche in their Audit practice. Paul is a North Park alum, having received his BA in Accounting from North Park College. Additionally, Paul earned a master degree in finance from the Kellogg Graduate School of Northwestern University. Paul is not a newcomer to SBNM as he has taught as adjunct faculty on several occasions. In describing his decision to move into full-time academia at North Park, Paul said, “Having experienced the North Park community as a resident, student, board member, visiting professional, and adjunct professor, I have been consistently amazed at the quality and dedication of the faculty in serving our students. My own professional (and broader life) journey has been deeply impacted by Faculty relationships that have now extended for decades. I count it a great privilege to now join the NPU community as a full-time member of this faculty I so admire.” We look forward to working with Paul to prepare students for lives of significance and service.

Océane Boudreaux joined the administrative team in February as our Operations Associate. Océane is a December 2018 graduate of North Park, with a double major in Business and Economics and Communication. She was not new to the team, as she had been our student worker for several months before she graduated. Océane is from Les Ulis, France and is working with us under the Optional Practical Training (OPT) opportunity available for F-1 students. This allows her to remain in the United States for twelve months after completion of her degree. Unfortunately, this means that we will have to bid farewell to her in February 2020 when she will return to France. In the meantime, we are benefiting from the creativity and commitment to SBNM that she brings to the team.

Finally, on the promotion front! We are so excited to announce that Brian Vollmert, Marketing, was promoted to Associate Professor effective with the 2019-2020 academic year. Brian has been a valued member of the SBNM faculty since 2015. He brings a level of commitment to the education and development of our students that is unparalleled and is a caring and supportive colleague. He is committed to the mission of North Park and SBNM and brings to the table a deep understanding of education and the needs of our students. Welcome to Paul and Océane! Congratulations to Brian!
Facts at a Glance

94% of our graduate students would enroll in the program again*.

97% of our graduate students agree that SBNM coursework is preparing them to be successful in their career*.

*Based on the 2018-2019 annual SBNM graduate student survey.
The 2019 SBNM Annual Networking Dinner showed another year of continued growth and success along with networking, fabulous food and fellowship. Hosting over 200 guests, including SBNM Advisory Board Members, SBNM Faculty and Staff, SBNM alumni and a mix of both undergraduate and graduate students, everyone enjoyed the ambiance of Porretta’s Elegant Banquets while listening to notable keynote graduate alumnus, Jacqueline Rachev, MNA, Director of Communications for the Chicago Metropolitan Division of the Salvation Army. This was our first speaker representing a nonprofit organization, and as a way to give back in line with the University’s mission, there was a clothing drive fundraiser in conjunction with this event, benefiting the Chicago Salvation Army. This event was made possible by generous donations from many of our SBNM Faculty, as well as donations from The Betty Baker Memorial Fund and Alexander Macnab and Company.
This event was extra special with the honoring of the legacy and commitment of Dr. Wesley E. Lindahl, on his retirement from his role of Dean for the School of Business and Nonprofit Management. After 17 years of dedication and service to North Park University in this role, Dr. Wesley E. Lindahl will return to his research agenda and continue teaching nonprofit and higher education courses beginning Fall 2019. Additionally, Rochelle Robinson-Levant, Director of Operations for SBNM, presented fifteen adjunct faculty members with the Dedication and Service Award in gratitude for their exceptional contributions in the classrooms of both SBNM undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. Ann Ownby Hicks, Professor of Accounting, and Brian Vollmert, Associate Professor of Marketing, were the recipients of the exemplary 2019 Dedication and Service Award.
SBNM received a visiting professor, Ulan Sarbonav, from our partner school, The International University of Central Asia (IUCA) for the month of April 2019. IUCA is a Christian College in the Kyrgyz Republic. Professor Sarbonav had a long career in banking, but now teaches full-time at IUCA. He visited many different SBNM classes to observe and learn about American pedagogy. This visit was a part of SBNM’s goal of broadening our international relationships.
International Trip: Prague, Czech Republic

The past year’s international trip took us to Prague. Professor Mark Gavoor was the trip director. We were a small but hearty group of seven travelers that included four graduate students, one alumnus, and a friend of one of the graduate students. All of the graduate students were enrolled in the companion course, SBNM 5570 International Business Experience.

Prague is a gorgeous city. It is one of the oldest cities in Europe with a rich history. It is a compact, affordable, and easily navigable city to the point where we took tram and subway to most of our site visits. As it was not heavily bombed in World War II, Prague has some of the most impressive gothic architecture in all of Europe and is referred to as the “City of a Hundred Spires.” Everywhere we went, at every turn, there was history all around us.

On our first day, we had an overview of the history of the city and the country which highlighted the emergence from the Soviet Era and the subsequent social and economic changes and challenges since then. We toured two amazing production facilities: the Skoda (part of Volkswagen) engine and assembly plant and Crystal Bohemia which produces the hand-blown artisan crystal pieces that go into massive, artistic, chandeliers such as in Lincoln Center in New York. As beer is a major part of the Czech economy and history, we visited a start-up craft beer company to talk business plans and strategy and also toured one of the oldest breweries in the Czech Republic. We visited a start-up company, mydaytrip.com, which provides an Uber-like service for families and small business
International Trip: Prague, Czech Republic

groups traveling between cities in nicer, roomier, cars with engaging and knowledgeable drivers who know the interesting sites and restaurants to stop at along the way. One of the more interesting visits was to an NGO focused on immigration and migration that is an area of great concern in eastern Europe. The NGO was started by a US immigrant who came to Prague in the 1990s, fell in love with the city and culture, and never left.

Of course, we had time to explore this marvelous city and country. We took two guided walking tours of Prague and an excursion to Kutna Hora, the medieval center of silver mining, that is known for its magnificent gothic St. Barbara Church and the awe-inspiring Bone Church. On our free day, half the group followed Professor Gavoor to an Armenian Church service at the beautiful and historic Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit. We then spent time with the Deacon who is the orchestral conductor at Charles University and a scholar on ancient Armenian Church music. The other half of the group crossed the border to Germany to meet up with a classmate, a recent North Park MBA grad. All in all, it was a memorable and fascinating trip to an amazing city. The site visits and tours were most enriching as were the friendships forged in our group.

The 2020 trip? We are going to Lisbon! We would love to have students, alumni, and friends join us. Contact Professor Gavoor for more information.
As we conclude the 2018-2019 academic year, it is important to acknowledge many of the wonderful accomplishments of Dr. Wesley E. Lindahl (Wes) who has served as the founding Dean of the School of Business and Nonprofit Management (SBNM) for 17 years. We would like to thank Wes for his leadership, support and unwavering dedication to SBNM and to North Park University. His leadership brought significant growth to both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs and certificates, and strengthened international partnerships and scholarship opportunities for our students. We are so thankful for his dedication, legacy and commitment to furthering the lives of NPU students as he continues sharing and shaping our students as the Nils Axelson Professor of Nonprofit Management.