

# THE CROSS ROAD

Student Newsletter of American National University



## Honor Society Achievements

BY DR. CAROLYN SCOTT, CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

As we move through this quarter, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the dedication you show to your education every day. Whether you are currently balancing coursework with your professional life or applying the skills you gained at ANU as one of our valued alumni, your commitment to excellence is what defines our university community. I am incredibly proud of the steady progress and academic growth we see across all our programs this term.

I am also pleased to remind you of our efforts to recognize our highest-achieving students and recent graduates. Invitations for our honor societies are now being distributed. If you qualify for induction, please keep a close eye on your inbox for a personal invitation from me. To qualify for the Delta Epsilon Tau honor society, which is available to students at our Salem and Nashville campuses, you must have a 3.5 GPA or higher and be a recent graduate or in your last term of enrollment. To qualify for the National Technical Honor Society, you must be a current student or recent alumnus of any ANU campus with a 3.0 GPA and satisfactory academic progress.

Current students will receive their invitations via their ANU student email, while recent alumni will receive them at the email address we have on file. I have already begun sending these out, and all remaining invitations will be delivered no later than March 1. I look forward to celebrating your outstanding academic achievements with you!



## Staying On Track With Your Student Loans After Graduation

BY BETH OVERBEY

As you transition from enrollment to repayment, understanding your federal student loan options is key to staying on track and avoiding unnecessary stress. Many borrowers have access to flexible repayment plans, loan consolidation options, and potential forgiveness pathways depending on their situation.

American National University has partnered with a third-party student loan support service to provide alumni with access to personalized repayment guidance, tools to review loan details, and assistance navigating federal loan programs. This service is available at no cost to you and is designed to support you throughout repayment, not just at the point of exit.

As graduates, we encourage you to take time to review your loans, confirm your repayment status, and explore options that align with your financial goals. Proactive steps now can make a meaningful difference long-term.

Additional details and access information will be shared directly with eligible alumni.

# A Note From Student Services

BY JESSICA WILLIAMS

As we reach the final weeks of the term, we want to take a moment to recognize the hard work, persistence, and dedication you've shown. Whether this term felt smooth or challenging, making it to the finish line is an accomplishment—and you should be proud of yourself.

With a new term just around the corner, now is the perfect time to reflect, reset, and refocus. A fresh term means fresh opportunities: new goals, new courses, and another step closer to graduation. Small actions—logging into your courses early, reviewing syllabi, and planning your weekly schedule—can make a big difference in setting yourself up for success.

**Student Tip:** Students who preview their courses and assignments before the term begins often report feeling more confident and less overwhelmed once classes start. Remember, you are not alone on this journey. Your Student Services team is here to support you every step of the way—from academic planning and registration to helping you navigate challenges that come up along the way. If you have questions, concerns, or just need guidance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

As you wrap up this term, we encourage you to:

- Finish strong and submit outstanding assignments
- Check your student portal for updates and important dates
- Prepare early for the upcoming term

Thank you for being part of our university community. We look forward to supporting you in the new term and celebrating your continued progress toward your goals.

You've got this—and we're cheering you on!

— Student Services Team



## 2026 Commencement Ceremony

AMERICAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Please plan to join the graduation celebration of American National University on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at 12:00 PM EST. For additional information, please visit our Graduation 2026 micro page:

<https://www.eventcombo.com/ms/ev/76322/american-national-university--university-of-fairfax-2026-com/home>



## In Memoriam

With deep respect and gratitude, we honor the lives of our students and staff who have passed away. Their contributions to our university community and the impact they made in their personal and professional lives will not be forgotten. As we remember them, we extend our heartfelt condolences to their families, friends, and loved ones.

### PEGGY GAIL ORR ALOUF, 1937-2025

Gail was a graduate of Andrew Lewis High School and National Business College. Gail and her husband were involved in numerous entrepreneurial ventures, including the Candlelight Club, the Ray Phil Swim Club, Regency House Furniture, and several real estate endeavors.

### DONN WALDRON BRANCH, 1932-2025

Donn graduated from Welch High School in 1950 then attended Concord College for one year before enlisting in the United States Navy. He later earned his accounting degree from National Business College.

### ALMA HILL, 1945-2026

Alma attended school at Dunbar Elementary which later became J.H. Easley Tabernacle. She also took college courses at National Business College. She enjoyed being on the usher board and senior choir and would help in the church whenever needed.

### JAMES HOWARD PALMER, 1945-2026

Jim attended National Business College and received two associates degrees, Industrial Supervision and Business Management from New River Community College. Jim worked for American Electric Power for 39 1/2 years where he was known for his commitment and strong work ethic. He was also a proud member of the National Guard, serving his community and country with pride.

### LOUISE MCNEIL SHANK, 1926-2026

Louise grew up at her beloved homeplace in Check, Va., and graduated in a class of 11 students. She attended National Business College, studying the early IBM punched card computer programming system.

### CHARLES REGINALD WALDRON, 1944-2025

Reggie graduated from Jefferson High School in Roanoke, Va., in 1964 and went on to earn a Business Certification from National Business College. He retired with Norfolk Southern Corporation after 31 years in the position of Marketing Product Manager.

### LINDA BROWNING WALTZ, 1949-2025

Linda attended Patrick Henry High School and earned a degree in secretarial science from National Business College. She was a devout member of her church, serving as the kid's choir director and pianist.

### KAY FRANCES WILKE, 1943-2025

Kay was schooled in Henry County, Virginia and after graduating from Bassett High School and attending the National Business College in Roanoke she accepted a secretarial position at DuPont's Martinsville nylon plant.

### DOSHIA MAE LANE WILSON, 1932-2025

Doshia Mae was a graduate of Loudon High School and National Business College. She was a charter member of First Assembly of God in Sweetwater where she was church secretary and bookkeeper for many years.