

THE GIFT OF GIVING

By: Emily Burford, 2015 NKU Graduate

On November 2, 2015 I had the opportunity to save the life of my best friend. Four years earlier in November 2011 my father, Mark Burford, was diagnosed with end stage renal kidney failure and began dialysis. I was 18 at the time and had no real idea what this would mean for my dad and the affect it would have on my family as a whole. He chose to do hemodialysis, so that he could continue working fulltime, and therefore had to go to a dialysis center three days a week, four hours each session. Understandably, this took its toll on Dad mentally and physically, which in turn took its toll on Mom and me. While dialysis is technically considered lifesaving, it is not the best long-term option. Dialysis, among other side effects, causes fatigue, muscle cramping and can lower blood pressure. For those who are eligible, transplant is the best option.

I transferred to NKU and moved back in with my parents to help around the house. During the summer of 2012, I contacted Christ Hospital of Cincinnati to complete testing to see if I was a candidate for donation. After months of testing, we had a date set for late January 2013. However, two weeks before that date, I failed a glucose tolerance test and was deemed "borderline pre-diabetic" and "too risky for transplant".

I felt that I had let my dad down, but he convinced me that everything does happen for a reason. For the first time in my life, I took my health seriously and lost 15 pounds. I decided to try again. The hospitals in Cincinnati and Louisville showed no interest in letting me test again. In May of this year, I reached out to St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis and was graciously accepted for testing. Months of testing and a few health scares later, Dad and I were both approved for transplant. We'd made it, the moment we'd been waiting for since 2011.

The surgery went exceptionally well and we are both on the road to recovery. Both of my parents have been there through the emotional ups and downs of raising a daughter, and I've finally been able to give back in my own small way to improve my dad's quality of life.



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Important Dates:

Sporting Events

Volleyball, Basketball—
[Click here to see the full NKU Athletics schedule](#)

Nov. 25-29—University Closed, Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 3—Feast for Finals

Dec. 4—Last Day of Classes

Dec. 5—11—Final Exams

Dec. 12—Commencement

Dec. 19-Jan 3— University Closed, Holiday Break

Jan. 11—Classes Begin, Tuition and Fees Due

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

By Serena Owen, NKU Parent Advisory Board,
Multicultural Representative

As an individual with a spirit of advocacy and being a resourceful Diversity Educator with a culturally diverse background (*African American & Native American, First Generation College Graduate, Middle Class Economic Status, an Educator, Youth & Community Ministry worker, wife of a US Marine Veteran, an Individual with a Disability, and a Parent of a student with a disability etc*), I have a lot of personal experience and background knowledge of how to educate and help others have a voice while being inclusive as we find and share resources that will help educate and benefit all parents and their students. I enjoyed my years as an involved NKU Undergraduate student, Student Worker, NKU Graduate Student, NKU Greek Advisor, as well as a Middle & High School College Prep Instructor at NKU and I'm excited to use my campus connections, resources, and knowledge to help others as the Parent Advisory Board Multicultural Representative! In the spirit of being inclusive, I plan to have an open committee so we can easily share ideas and resources, collaborate with various diverse departments on campus like the Office of Multicultural and Latino Affairs, International Student Affairs, Student Disability Services, Military & Veteran Services, Alumni Services, Community Connections etc.

I'm honored and excited to partner with you as your Multicultural Representative on our Parent Advisory Board and invite you to become a part of the NKU Parent Advisory Board family and join our Multicultural Committee . Through open communication and collaboration, our team will work together to represent the unique perspective of under-represented cultural groups on campus. Please email [me](#) to join and be added to our email list. You can find the link on our NKU Parents Association Facebook page and join our Multicultural Committee Group. Below is a list of resources and upcoming outreach initiatives that we encourage you to take advantage. I hope this will help you, someone you know, or assist you in your efforts to serve others.

International Student Friends and Family Program:

Be a "Home Away from Home" by sponsoring an International Student to spend time with you and your family while they're studying away from home at NKU. Share your culture, your love, and a good home cooked meal. Let's reach out and be there for them like we'd want a family to be there for our student! Please contact NKU's International Student Scholar Services at [859-572-6517](tel:859-572-6517) to learn how you can help.

Happy Holidays to you and your family! Thank you for your interest and participation, and I look forward to our partnership as parents/guardians!



PAB Ambassador Program

Do you know parents of incoming students in the following areas who may have questions? Encourage them to reach out to an ambassador from the Parent Advisory Board who has first-hand knowledge in that area. The ambassadors listed below are available to answer questions to help ease the transition from high school to college.

Homeschool

[Billy and Kim Styles](#)

[Gina Schmitt](#)

[Bobby and Sherry Love](#)

International Students

[Gina Schmitt](#)

Science Majors

[Rich and Toni West](#)

Music Majors

[Rich and Toni West](#)

Theatre Majors

[Jeanne Schindler](#)

[Dana and Rebecka Adams](#)

Commuter Students

[Bobby and Sherry Love](#)

Honors Students

[Bobby and Sherry Love](#)

SSS Students

[Bobby and Sherry Love](#)

Student Athletes

[Shawn and Quana Curtis](#)

Thank you to our ambassadors
for volunteering their time!

Congratulations, December Graduates!

Commencement is scheduled for Saturday, December 12, 2015.

The morning ceremony celebrates graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences, and Haile/US Bank College of Business. This ceremony takes place at 10 a.m.

The afternoon ceremony celebrates graduates from the College of Education and Human Services, College of Health Professions, and College of Informatics. This ceremony takes place at 3 p.m.

Both ceremonies will be held in the BBT Arena. For more information, [click here!](#)

Student Conduct, Rights and Advocacy

The Office of Student Conduct, Rights and Advocacy serves as an advocate for students in all matters relating to the University. The office coordinates the resolution of issues that arise between or among faculty, staff and students through the administration of the student discipline and student grievance process.

The Office of Student Conduct, Rights, and Advocacy also provides leadership and direction for several programs and service areas. These areas promote the learning and personal development of students through an array of supportive services, programs, activities, and facilities designed to promote active student involvement in the life of the institution, and responsible citizenship in the campus and surrounding community.

Featured Resource

Inclement Weather Policy

It's almost time for snow boots and ice scrapers, which makes this a great time to review the inclement weather policy!

Adverse weather, especially during the winter months, will not affect University operations and classes scheduled unless one or more of the following additional conditions occur:

- Campus facilities are damaged and determined unsafe.
- Essential utilities, such as heat and electrical service, are lost.
- Extremely hazardous travel conditions exist.

There is much discussion that goes on about these three conditions between the decision makers prior to making the call. But ultimately, the safety of our students, faculty, and staff is always the top priority. The university will make the best decision at that time given the best information available at the moment. Typically NKU will follow Campbell County's advisories when it comes to closings/delays.



Contact Us:

Office of New Student Orientation and Parent Programs

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Nunn Drive
Highland Heights, KY 41099
Telephone: (859) 572-7625
Fax: (859) 572-1960
parents@nku.edu
parents.nku.edu

Mark Your Calendars!

Parent Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, January 22nd
6pm-
8pm



[Connect with us on Facebook!](#)

Need to unsubscribe?
Email parents@nku.edu