

PURSUIT

A man's face is the central focus, wearing glasses and a plaid shirt. Overlaid on his face and the background is a cityscape with tall buildings and a highway with cars, suggesting a theme of urban life or technology.

Pursuit Magazine / Fall 2013

**BECOMING
YOU**

ACT SIX

**ESCAPE TO
FREEDOM**

**WIN AN
IPAD MINI**

See Back Cover for Details

**Northwest
UNIVERSITY**

BECOMING YOU

As you think about college, realize that you aren't merely choosing a school. You are choosing an institution that will shape you. Each university has a different culture in which you'll live and grow and become. Over the 4 years you attend, you'll begin to take on the qualities of the school you choose. The classes you take, the professors who teach you, and the friends you make will all leave impressions that will last the rest of your life.

As you consider your next school, don't simply ask the question, what will I learn? We'd encourage you to ask an even more important question:

What will I become?

At Northwest University, we can't tell exactly what you'll become. But we can tell you this: Here, you'll find a Christ-centered university that is uniquely dedicated to helping you to achieve all that God has planned for your life.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11



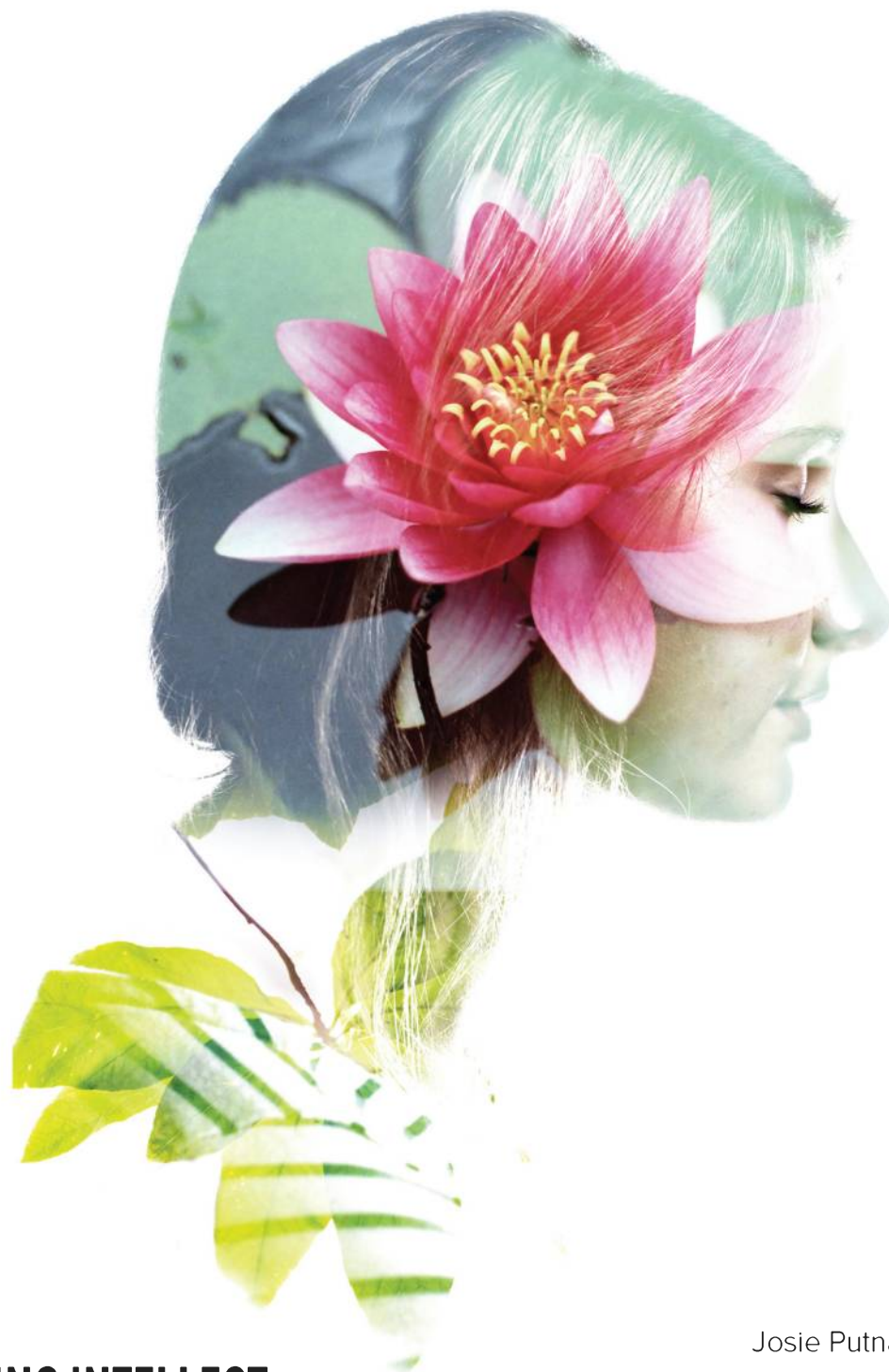
Brett Koga - Interdisciplinary Studies

THE POSSIBILITY OF YOU

The sun rises over the horizon each morning and declares, "This is the day that the Lord has made." The same is true of you. You are God's creation, full of promise and potential. He has given you certain gifts and abilities that are unique to you. No one else has them in quite the same way, or ever will.

As a distinctly Christian university, it is our honor to help you discover and develop into all that God intends for your life. To help you grow in intellect, in relationships, in confidence, and—above all— in Jesus Christ so that you will become a radiant source of His light in this world.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14



Josie Putnam - General Studies

BLOSSOMING INTELLECT

At Northwest University, we've been committed to academic excellence for over seven decades. During that time, we've learned a thing or two about creating an educational experience that is engaging, rigorous, and designed to help you integrate faith and learning with everyday life. Here, your intellect will blossom. You'll be well prepared for a career or for continuing your education. In fact, some of our graduates have been accepted to the most prestigious schools in the

world, such as Oxford. Others have gone on to great careers with amazing local brands, such as Microsoft, Boeing, Google, Amazon, Starbucks, Costco, and Nintendo. At NU, who knows where you'll grow.

To see a list of our majors, go to northwestu.edu/academics/programs/



HANDS THAT BLESS

Jesus Christ calls us to serve others. At NU, we take His calling seriously. In fact, over half of our students choose to study abroad. They've served in orphanages in China and Cambodia. They've worked in clinics in India. They've built homes in Guatemala and shared Christ in Uganda. Why do we go to all of this effort? Because we understand that

reading about other cultures can inform you. But being immersed in that culture will change you forever.

NU students have raised over \$200,000 to fight human trafficking. To find out more about ways we serve, visit northwestu.edu/numa/missions.



Christian Dawson - Pastoral Ministries

LIVING WATERS

Our campus is within walking distance to the shores of Lake Washington. Beyond it is the Puget Sound, gateway to a constellation of beautiful islands. Water is a way of life in the Pacific Northwest. But to the Christian, it is much more. As we draw from the living waters of Jesus Christ, we are sustained, transformed, and made new.

At NU, we don't simply fill your head with knowledge, we also nourish your soul. Here, you'll find lots of opportunities to deepen your spiritual life. Chapel, Bible studies, life groups, missions, friendships, and student-led worship are all ways to draw closer to your Heavenly Father.

To see the many ways we support your spiritual growth, go to northwestu.edu/numa/



Isaac Peabody - Communications

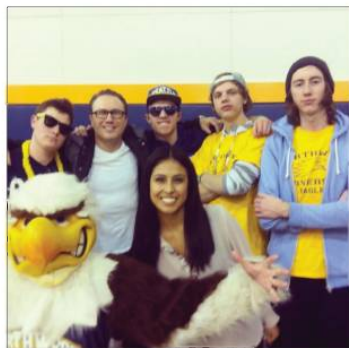
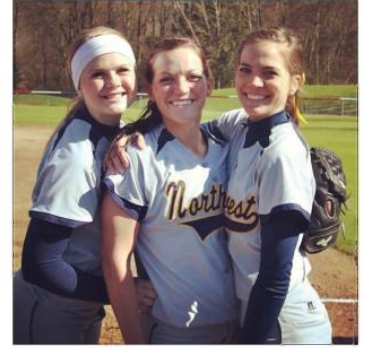
INSPIRED SURROUNDINGS

Our 56-acre campus is located in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, an area known for its stunning beauty. In a few minutes you can be in Seattle— people watching at a cafe, shopping at the flagship Nordstrom store, watching the Seahawks play, or discovering the latest bands. Seattle is a great city and was recently voted the 2nd best place to live in the U.S. Because of companies like Microsoft, Google,

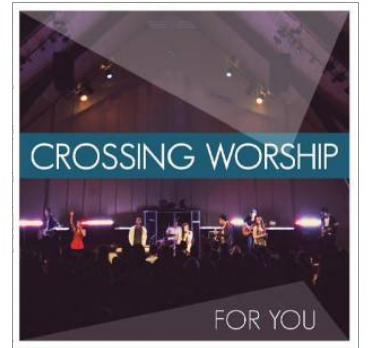
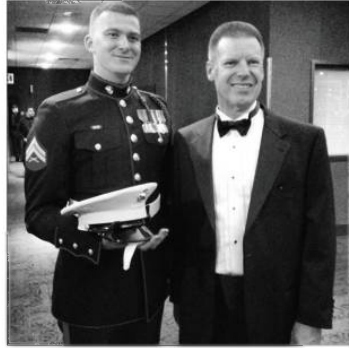
Amazon, Boeing, and Costco, this region is also considered one of the best places to find a good job. By choosing NU, you'll find all of this, plus an abundance of recreational activities, from snowboarding to watersports.

Interested in learning more about what to do in the greater Seattle area? Go to [Tripadvisor.com](https://www.tripadvisor.com) and search "Seattle."

THE NU COMMUNITY ON INSTAGRAM



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ACT SIX

BECOMING LEADERS

by NU student Wilson Pruiett '15



Four years ago, Northwest University began participating with Act Six, a program whose name harkens back to chapter six in the book of Acts. There, the church sets apart a “cadre” of leaders from a marginalized group as part of growing a dynamic and healthy Christian community. Described as a “Leadership and Scholarship Initiative,” Act Six seeks to increase diversity, train leaders, and generate positive change for communities.

NU’s Act Six coordinator, Juan Esparza, defines the composition of Act Six as “not simply multi-ethnic, but rather,

multi-cultural.” The program empowers students to enhance their campus and community intentionally, through the mixing of rich, diverse backgrounds and cultures. The aspiration stems from a desire to inspire and train individuals to create positive change in their communities, especially in urban areas. These scholars receive most of the same leadership training that RAs and student government officials do. They meet with their cadre once a week and grow to become like a second family—supporting, encouraging, and loving one another.

Act Six is not merely another scholarship program with



typical institutional objectives; its scholars' combined dreams go beyond just producing college-educated individuals. They carry passionate, God-given calls to express their faith through practical, powerful action. Supporting the next generation of students is one expression of the greater goal—restoring broken communities, which doesn't simply translate to "low-income" neighborhoods. Instead, it refers to the "poor in spirit," those who need hopes nurtured and dreams kindled. Each Act Six scholar joined the program to provide practical help for a world in need, whether through classroom teaching,

vocational ministry, or medical school.

The inaugural group of NU Act Six students will graduate this spring, rejoining the "real world" to ignite positive change. Their chosen paths are diverse—youth ministry, worship ministry, graduate school, law school, teaching, and corporate business. But, their imparted mission is the same—Christian leaders bringing God's heart to their neighbors, their communities, and their world.

To learn more about the Act Six program, visit actsix.org.

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER

At Northwest University, we believe in winning on and off of the field. Our coaches understand that—long after a student's athletic career is over—it is lessons of character that will shape these men and women throughout their lives.

The women's soccer team endured all kinds of challenges and roadblocks during the 2012 season. They began the year with 8 straight losses and knew that they were capable of much more. Team members held a meeting and asked themselves what they were playing for. It was here they decided that the rest of the season would be different—they would play for each other and for God.

The next day, they tied SOU and went on to win the rest of their regular season games and became champions of their division. In the playoffs, they lost in a close overtime match to the defending champions and rivals Concordia University. The loss was difficult, but through it all, these women learned what it means to be a champion of character.

To see their inspiring video "A Season of Determination," visit youtube.com/northwestuniversity.

Sports Offered at Northwest

- Men's & Women's Soccer
- Men's & Women's Basketball
- Women's Volleyball
- Men's & Women's Track and Field
- Men's & Women's Cross Country
- Women's Softball
- Men's & Women's Intramurals (football, basketball, volleyball)



CHOOSE SMALL. LEARN LARGE.

Attending a smaller university has distinct advantages. For instance, our average class size is 17 to 1. That means you won't become lost in an anonymous sea of faces. At NU, you'll find professors who know more than your name. They know your strengths, understand your challenges, and will create a learning experience that can only come from a more personal approach to academics. Instead of one-size-fits-all, you'll discover learning that fits you. So consider Northwest University. We can make a huge difference in your college experience.





ESCAPE

to

FREEDOM



NU professors are passionate about what they teach. Each one has a story. In this issue we highlight Ben Sterciuc, an instructor in the school of nursing who has overcome considerable obstacles to get here.

Ben Sterciuc ran with all his might through a field of sunflowers while bullets tore through the stalks around him. He was running away from a life of prisons, and beatings, and oppression. He was running from a Romanian government that did not recognize his right to worship. He was running towards a life of freedom that he had dreamt of even as a little boy. It was a future that lay just beyond a field of sunflowers—100 yards away—in the darkened woods across the Hungarian border.

It is the stuff of movies. But Ben Sterciuc is no actor. He is a man whose story shows what can happen when you place all of your faith in the God of the Universe.

“I grew up in a small village in Romania in a Pentecostal family. As a boy, I would read about America—how everyone had an equal chance to go to school and practice their faith. I yearned for that kind of freedom, but it didn’t seem possible.”

Ben grew up and eventually married. As a Christian in Romania, he refused to join the communist party. Consequently, he was denied the basics of life—school, good jobs, and opportunity. One day, his wife revealed the joyful news that she

was pregnant with their first child. For Ben, the news was bittersweet. How could he raise a child amidst this oppression? It was in that moment that all of Ben’s dreams for freedom crystallized. He knew what he had to do.

Ben’s first attempt to escape in 1988 landed him in prison. He was placed with twelve other people in a cell that was intended to hold four. There was no light. He was denied water for three days, food for seven days, and was routinely beaten during interrogations. “It was a low point for any human being. To be put in prison and beaten into obedience for simply wanting to be free, for wanting a better life for your family. It was very hard to take.”

Ben was moved to a federal prison. Here, he found time to reflect, pray, and fast. “The fasting was not always by choice,” laughs Ben. “But that was the time when I really deepened my relationship with Christ. It was there that I knew, whatever happens—whether I live or die—I’m going to follow Jesus Christ.”

Eventually Ben was released from prison, but found himself continuously followed and harassed by the police.



His apartment was under constant surveillance and they interrogated him at will. “They wanted to make a case out of me to show that a Pentecostal Christian would become an atheist.” It didn’t work. Ben made plans for a second escape.

It was during this attempt that Ben ran through that field of sunflowers, towards freedom just beyond the Hungarian border. “In this moment, you see your life either ending or not. At this point, I was relying on God for my very existence. For my next breath.” Ben made it to those woods and was eventually found and released by Hungarian police. He was finally free. But what would become of his family? How would he be reunited with them?

After making his way to Austria, Ben immediately began plans to get his wife and child to join him. During that time, Eastern Europe was undergoing a political change. Romanian streets filled with people marching for freedom. And then,

in December of 1989, something unimaginable happened—the walls of communism crumbled and the Romanian government was overthrown. Ben reflects, “Forty-five years of communism. Thousands killed by the government. People unable to leave freely. And suddenly they are being issued passports. I watched all of this unfold in a matter of weeks. It was unbelievable.”

One day, Ben stood at the train station in Vienna, flowers in hand. After all of his trials—prison, interrogations, beatings, hunger—his wife and son stepped off of the train and they embraced. Finally, they were all free. Together at last. “I cannot express in words what that moment meant to us. It was like we were given a chance to live again. It was a rebirth.”

Since coming to the United States in 1990, Ben has made the most of his freedom. He started his own business



The first correspondence that Ben sends to his wife while he is in prison. It is through this letter she learns her husband is alive.



A legal document that Ben receives upon leaving prison. The green color lets others know he was a political prisoner.

by opening a care facility for senior citizens. He's earned several degrees—two in nursing (RN and Master in Nursing), one in music (B.A. in Music Ministry), and is working on another in ministry (Master in Theology and Culture). Ben was so appreciative of the quality of the education he received at NU, he became an adjunct professor for the Buntain School of Nursing. His son, Flavius, graduated from NU with a degree in business management. If all that weren't enough, Ben is also the full-time pastor of Elevation Church in Kirkland.

While most of us would feel a little tired just thinking about how to manage such a schedule, Ben's perspective is remarkably different. Where others see burden, he sees blessing. What others view as difficulty, he sees as opportunity—the very things he risked his life to find. "The life that God gave us here is so much more than I even knew

how to dream. All we wanted was to live in a country where we could be free, where we could worship and not worry about being put in prison. But God has been so gracious in the way he molded us through this process. He gave us favor when we needed it. He gave us life. He has been so faithful to us. There are not words to describe our gratitude."

Looking back, Ben can see how God's provision was with him even as he ran through a field for his very life. It took the form of splendid yellow flowers, reaching for the Creator and shielding a beloved son who yearned for and found freedom. Life is very often like that. We cannot always see evidence of God's presence in the midst of our difficulties. But our Heavenly Father is always beside us—shielding, providing, and loving. And, ultimately, restoring us to a life with Him that has no end.

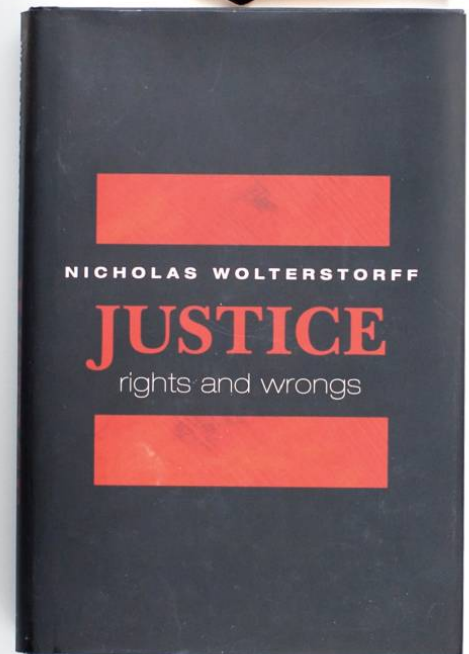
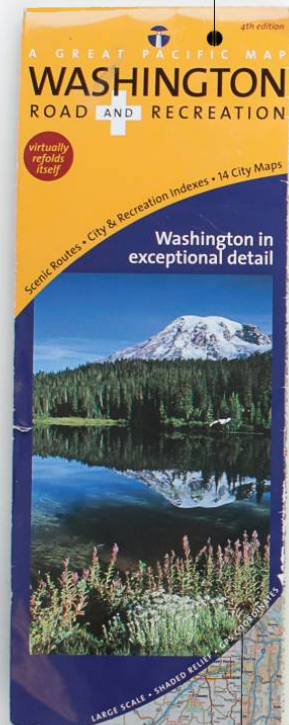
BECOME ALL YOU CAN AT NU

DISTINCTLY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

- **Pursue** God with your classmates and professors in a deeply spiritual environment.
- **Grow** spiritually in chapel, Bible studies, life groups, Pursuit, and worship ministries.
- **Build** friendships with classmates and professors that will last a lifetime.

BEAUTIFUL LOCATION

- **Explore** the many amenities that Kirkland and Seattle have to offer—outdoor recreation, shopping, concerts, sports venues, and much more.
- **Network** with incredible brands like Amazon, Microsoft, Starbucks, Costco, Boeing, and Google—all just minutes away from campus.
- **Enjoy** the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest.



For more information, visit www.northwestu.edu/admissions or look at the back cover of this magazine for more contact information.

GLOBALLY MINDED

- **Study abroad** as part of your degree or on your own. Learn from other cultures.
- **Serve others** with missions and outreach programs that will change you forever.
- **Make a difference** in the lives of others and go beyond your on-campus experience.



SO,

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NORTHWESTU.EDU/APPLY

AREAS OF STUDY

Majors & Concentrations

- Audio Production*
- Biblical Languages*
- Biblical Literature
- Biology
- Business Administration
- Chemistry*
- Children and Family Ministries
- Communication
 - Communication & Preaching
 - Drama
 - Film Studies
 - Media Studies
 - Organizational Communication
 - Public Affairs
 - Rhetoric & Public Affairs
- Contemporary Music Industry
 - Producer Track
 - Recording Arts Technology
 - Performance Track
- Elementary Education
 - Humanities
 - Mathematics
 - Science
- English
 - Literature
 - TESOL
 - Writing
- Environmental Science
- Finance & Accounting
- General Ministry
- General Studies
- Health Science
- History
- Interdisciplinary Studies
 - Single Area
 - Multiple-Area
 - Legal Studies
 - Political Science
- Intercultural Studies
 - African Studies
 - Asia Studies
- Cross-Cultural Studies
- First Nations Ministry
- Latin American Studies
- Linguistic Studies
- Middle East Studies
- University Ministry
- Urban Ministries
- Mathematics
- Management
- Marketing
- Media Ministry*
- Military Science & Leadership*
- Music
 - Music Education
 - Music Industry Business
 - Music Ministry
- Nursing
- Pastoral Care*
- Pastoral Ministry
- Political Science
- Psychology
 - Cultural Psychology
 - Counseling Psychology
 - General Psychology
- Psychology
 - Marriage & Family Studies
 - Organizational Behavior
- Religion & Philosophy
- Secondary Education
 - Biology
 - English & Language Arts
 - English Language Learners (ELL)
 - Health & Fitness
 - Mathematics
 - Social Studies
 - Theatre Arts
- Youth and Family Ministries

For a complete list of majors, minors, and concentrations, visit northwestu.edu/programs.



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Your Opinion Could Win You An iPad Mini.

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WE DON'T WANT JUST ANY OPINION.
WE WANT YOURS.

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