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The Talon

Northwest University's Student Magazine

October 2012 - Issue 1



NUSG

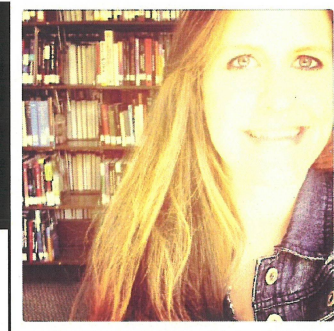
Meet the student government leaders and discover their vision to

exceed the ordinary

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| Interview with President Castleberry | Perspectives on Godly Relationships | Advice from Dr. Kowalski |

Editor's Letter



New Beginnings

You've probably noticed that *The Talon* looks very different this year. After conducting a campus-wide survey, we decided to update our format from a black-and-white newspaper to the full-color magazine you now hold in your hands! My staff and I have spent the summer and past month preparing for this change and we are excited to bring you the very first issue of *The Talon* as a magazine.

Having the opportunity to lead *The Talon* this year as Editor in Chief is a dream come true! I am incredibly honored to serve the wonderful community of Northwest University in this leadership position. My goal is to provide our school with an excellent publication that educates and encourages. Our vision as a magazine is to feature stories that share about all the amazing things happening at Northwest!

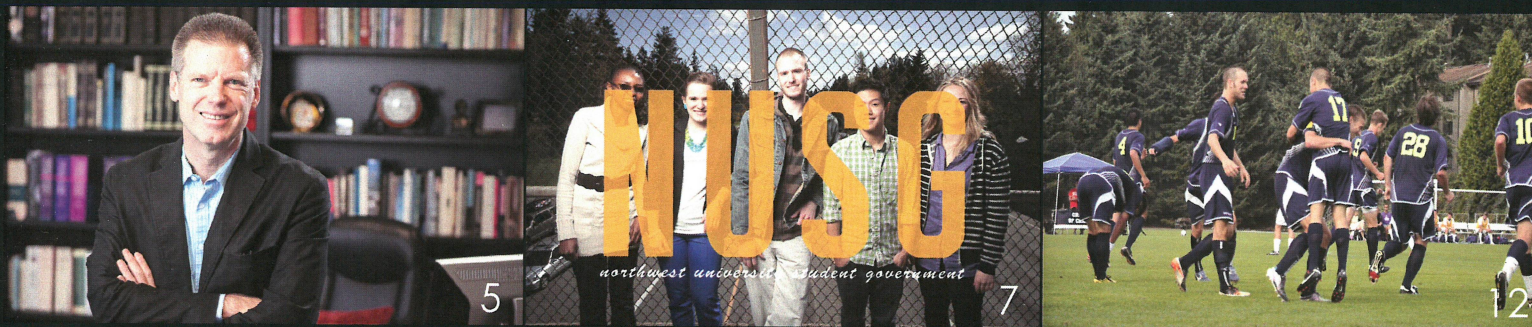
I would love to welcome more students to our team! If you would like to help with *The Talon* as a writer, photographer, or graphic designer, please email me at: Colleen.weimer10@northwestu.edu

Colleen Weimer

Colleen Weimer, *Editor in Chief*



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What does it mean to have a godly relationship?

Three of our writers discuss the question of the month

Single

Dakota Wise

To have God be the center of a romantic relationship is something that is very special and important to me. How I see a God-centered relationship is to have God be the foundation of what two people hold true to who they are.

Foundations can be made out of almost anything: common interest, goals, or an inside joke shared between two people and those all can work for some people. I have tried a few of these and they have crumbled underneath my feet.

To make a relationship last and have immeasurable depth, I feel God has to be the foundation of the relationship. When I see a God-centered relationship, I am inspired to seek that out for myself and to live in relationship with God and my future significant other. That is what I hope for in a future relationship.



Photo by Jill Riggie

Engaged

Kalynn Brown

Being engaged is a special place in a relationship. It's like the balance between taking the leap off the diving board and into a whole different atmosphere, and climbing the ladder to the diving board. Engagement is exhilarating and as different for every individual relationship as styles of diving from a diving board.

Because everyone is so different, it's important to know that what seems good for someone else's relationship is not always good for everyone else. Maybe a two-month engagement is healthy for some people. Or maybe a 19-month engagement is healthy, like it is for me and my fiancé. There is no right or wrong when it comes to your deciding what is best for your relationship as long as your relationship is centered on God.

Pray together—lean on God as questions arise about your relationship and your future. Even though the “honeymoon” dating period might be over, it's important to keep the relationship exciting in engagement and to not let the wedding stress overtake daily life. Pre-marital counseling can help immensely. NU offers pre-marital counseling in a faith-based atmosphere.

Hang in there and enjoy every minute!

Married

Peter McMurray

A godly relationship should consist of two people who model Christ's love and glorify Him better together than apart. A couple pursuing this kind of love would serve the other before serving themselves.

People often mistake loving someone with being “in love.” Being “in love” is just a feeling, and one that changes day to day. But to actually LOVE someone with all that you are is a verb. It's what you do.

When I say I love my wife, I am saying that I do the dishes when she has a lot of homework because I know she will be able to study better with a clean kitchen. When I say I love my wife, I'm saying that I will pick up a second job so that she doesn't have to work more. It's about selflessness and service. Godly love is about action, not about feeling.

Furthermore, in a godly relationship, the couple glorifies God better together than apart. Their relationship is a way of worshiping God; the two seek after Him together in prayer and devotion so that Jesus remains first in their lives. My wife and I are a team with different strengths and weaknesses that balance us out quite nicely. With her help, I can do more to further the Kingdom of God than I could ever do on my own, and vice versa. I believe that all godly relationships work that way, the two forming one strong team to glorify God together through their lives and their example of His amazing, selfless love for us.

If you have suggestions for our question of the month, email talonstaff@northwestu.edu



Photo by NU Marketing Department

Largest Traditional Undergraduate Class

If you are reading this, you are a part of Northwest University during its largest traditional undergraduate enrollment in its 78-year history. With 947 students, we just ousted the old record of 945. What was the secret for this year's growth? The Admissions Office diligently pursued potential students by "adding personal touches to our communication, getting to know the student and doing everything that we could to make the decision process as easy as possible," said Director of Admissions Jessica Velasco. The school's retention rate also added to this semester's record-breaking enrollment. Our traditional undergraduate student body is the biggest it has ever been and still expanding.

Hurst Library Remodel

Northwest University staff have been busy this summer refurbishing the library in order to be ready for an influx of students for the new school year. Perks of the renovation include new 24/7 hours for the computer lab, eight single and group occupancy study rooms, expanded study space on the main floor, additional places for quiet study on the top floor, fresh carpet, and updated furniture. The Writing Center has also moved from its former location in Williams Hall to the upstairs floor of the library. Come check it out!



Photo by Matthew Zwicker

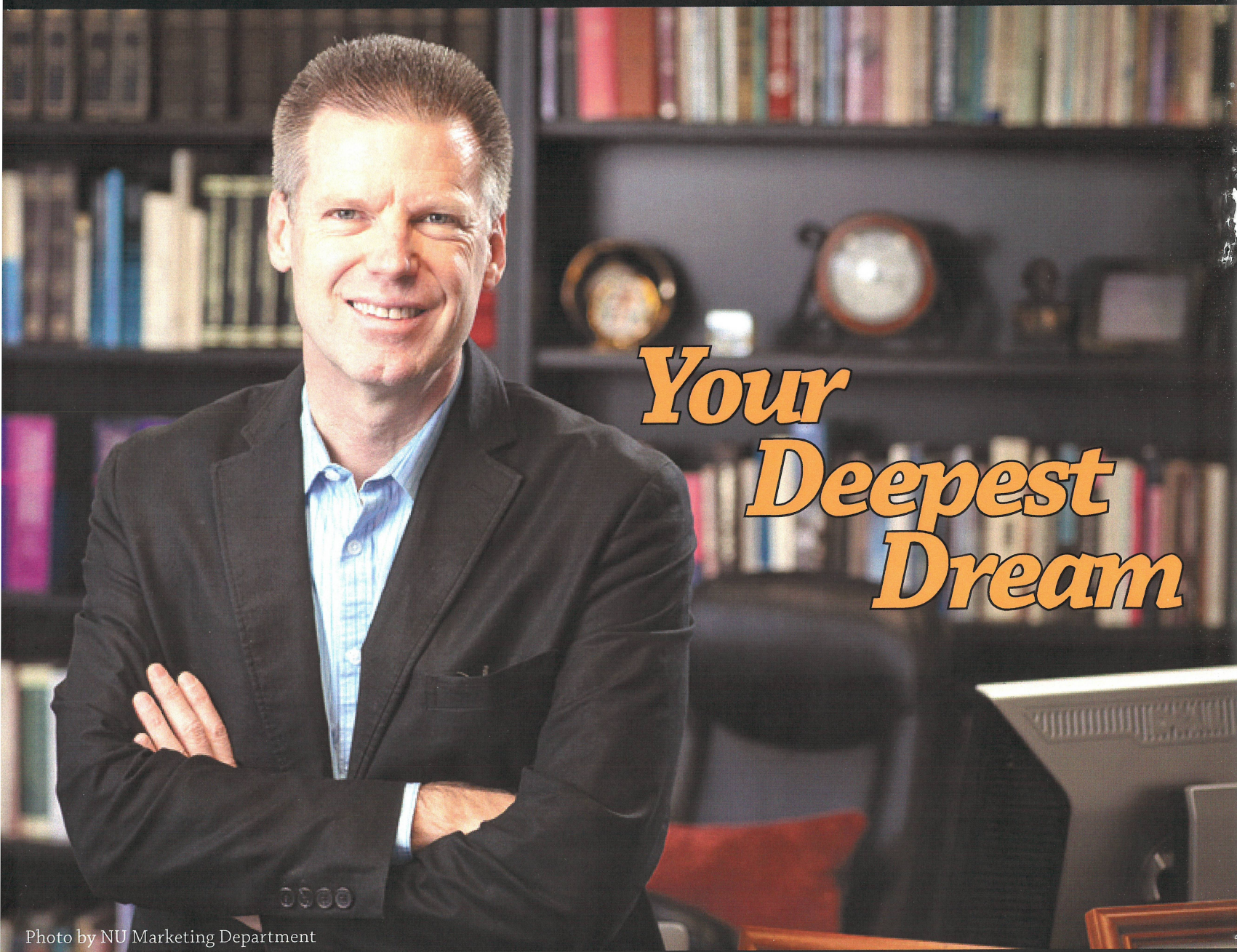


Photo by Matthew Zwicker

Men's Residence Hall Receives Renovations

The bathrooms of Gray/Beatty received some much needed sprucing up over the summer. When asked what the biggest difference was, RA Luke Hicks responded, "The showers. We're talking new walls, new doors, and new shower heads!" Indeed, Freshman Niko Johnson said of the bathrooms, "I'd sleep in there if they'd let me!" All jesting aside, the men are very grateful for the change and added comfort and aesthetic. Thank you, renovation team!

By Heather Karnes and Beth Ross



*Your
Deepest
Dream*

Photo by NU Marketing Department

President Castleberry
discusses his new book

What inspired you to write this book?

As I was praying about my future and the things I wanted to accomplish, the Lord spoke to me in a dramatic way. He told me to write the last sermon I had preached in Ecuador when I was a missionary into a book, and that if I did, I would see it in Walmart. So that very day, I started writing the book. Soon after it was published, it was available on walmart.com, which I counted as fulfillment of God's promise to me. Very shortly after that, we heard from a friend in South Carolina who had actually seen my book in the store!

How do you make decisions in life to guide you towards God's dreams?

When I was 18 years old, I promised God that if He would speak to me, I would always obey. So I have never made a major decision in my life that I didn't feel like God had clearly spoken to me about what I should do. It has been amazing. I could have never planned my life and had it come out this good!

How can college students discover God's deep dream for their life?

The most important thing is to first know God. If you know God, you are then able to know yourself. In order to achieve that, you are going to have to be a reflective person - to think about your life and what it means. The whole book is designed to help people through a process of thinking about their life - what they love, what they want, what God is doing in them. The book tries to help people build the moral framework out of which they can achieve their deepest dream. You can achieve shallow dreams without moral depth, but you can't achieve a deep dream, one from God, without moral depth. Building the right kind of

character is what helps people discover their truest self, dream, and identity.

You shared in your book that when you were 21-years-old you experienced what you called "a time of great sadness" and that during that moment in your life God promised you that you would one day be the president of a university. How did God speak that to you?

During a time of prayer, that idea just came into my head - a voice speaking to me in my thoughts, 'Don't worry about this setback. I'm going to make you a university president.' It was so out of sync with what I was thinking and grieving about that it shocked me and it had this ring of truth. I knew that God had spoken to me and I never doubted that was what my future would be. But I surely didn't tell a lot of people about it because it seemed so ridiculous. My family really didn't know much about colleges or how that whole system worked.

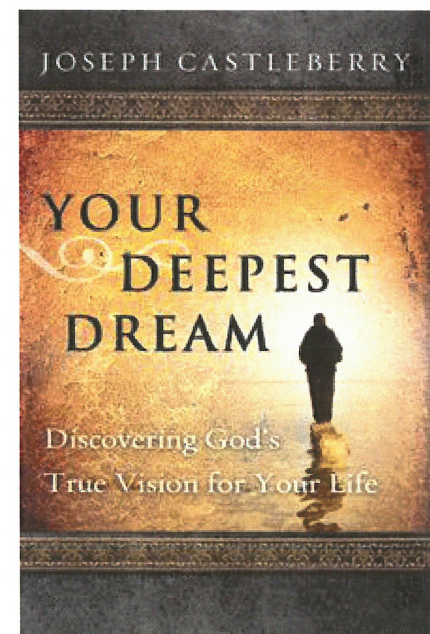
What has it been like to trust God to fulfill that promise and to now see the fulfillment of it in your life as President of Northwest University?

Well, there were so many things that I wanted to do along the way that I wasn't in a hurry. Part of my career aspirations was to be a missionary - I felt that was my calling. The 15 years I spent on the mission field were very precious to me and I wasn't in any hurry to see them come to an end. After that, I went to The Assemblies of God Theological Seminary and those were also precious years and I wasn't in any hurry to see them come to an end either. I was teaching and leading the academic vision of the seminary. When the presidency opened, it was becoming clear that God was leading me to Northwest. Then, about eight

months before I came here, a friend of mine essentially prophesied to me that I would be President at Northwest within one year. That didn't seem at all possible. But there was definitely a sense that God was preparing me for this. I had a sense of divine command to be here. God spoke to me in so many ways and it has been delightful to be here.

What is your hope for Your Deepest Dream?

My biggest hope is that the people who read the book will learn important things about themselves and will have a more clarified sense of what their deepest dream is - the dream that expresses their unique identity and purpose. Since I wrote the book, I've also started a blog on my personal website, JosephCastleberry.com, to continue exploring the theme of the book.



President Castleberry's new book is available for purchase online and at the NU Bookstore.

Meet This Year's NUSG Leaders!

Story by Colleen Weimer, Photos by NU Marketing Department

CJ Witkoe - President

Year: Senior

Hometown: Tacoma, WA

Major: Pastoral Ministries

Quote: "NUSG's vision is to inspire a fresh, Godly perspective challenging students to exceed the ordinary. Essentially, that is stemming out of a collective desire from all of us to always strive for the next level. For me personally, that means investing in my team and also being present for students by collaborating with other teams to accomplish this vision."

Elizabeth Moberg - Communications Chair

Year: Junior

Hometown: Kennewick, WA

Major: Marketing and Management

Quote: "As Communications Chair, my role is to advertise our events and keep students informed. My goal is to come up with creative, new ways to do that! You'll always be able to find out what is going on through social media, posters around campus, and other advertising. The big launch will be a new website called "ThePlace" that will be a source for finding things to do!"

Linda Banda - Treasurer

Year: Senior

Hometown: Lusaka, Zambia

Major: Finance and Accounting

Quote: *“A part of our vision is to inspire students to go beyond the ordinary. As Treasurer, I hope to encourage students to use whatever gift God has given them to serve and be much more than they could ever think or imagine - overcoming fears and stepping out to do new things, all for the glory of God.”*



Ilona Trofimovich - Activities Chair

Year: Junior

Hometown: Tacoma, WA

Major: Secondary Education, Endorsement in English

Quote: *“Regarding activities, I am most passionate about getting students to invest in the community. In my experience, that was what was so pivotal in shaping me and making my experience at Northwest meaningful. As Activities Chair, I want to foster activities and events that give students an opportunity to have that same transformation experience.”*



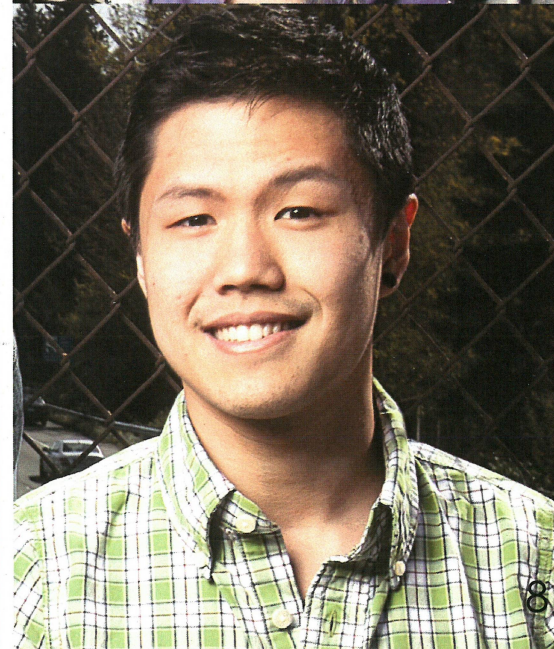
Brett Koga - Senate Chair

Year: Senior

Hometown: Mililani Town, Hawaii

Major: English

Quote: *“My vision for NUSG Senate is to provide students with a leadership opportunity among their peers, enabling them to make a difference at NU. They will be challenged by something I call “The Five I’s” - Integrity, Ingenuity, Impact, Influence, and Involvement. It is my dream for the students involved to develop a greater passion in uplifting the community, foster visions for the future, and be active and engaged student scholars.”*



Campus Creativity

Photos, poems, and paintings by NU students



Orphan Puppy - Tijuana, Mexico

Photo by Janelle Irene Ford

I was on a mission's trip and found this little puppy covered in dirt and fleas. The kids at the orphanage I was working at said that the puppy's mom was hit by a car so it was an orphan like them, too. It lived in this teeny alley which was really sad. The kids and I decided to give the puppy a bath, which helped and the puppy loved it.



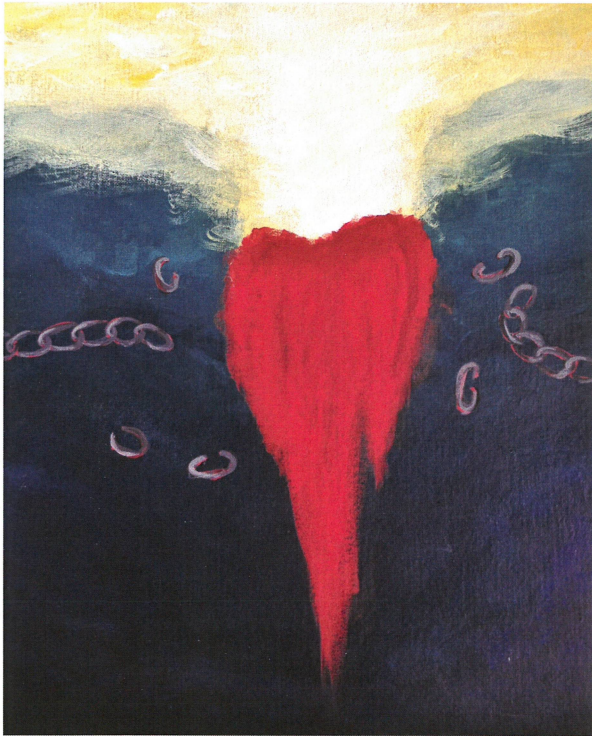
Vernal Falls - Yosemite, CA

Photo by Janelle Irene Ford



Montanan Serenity

Photo by Matthew Zwicker



Ascending Heart

Painting by Denise Baltzer



Sun River, OR

Photo by Janelle Irene Ford

Reflections on a Lonely Hill

Poem by Rebekah Ueland

My dear old friend--how old are you?
 What stories can you tell?
 Of men and birds and mice and bees,
 Of age-stained stones and tow'ring trees?
 Inside your gentle folds and swells,
 What sacred secrets have you viewed?

What fearsome hunt of beast and prey
 Makes earthen veins run cold?
 How long did piercing rains pour down
 To leave deep scars upon your brow?
 But soft you give reply,
 "Such rains relent to blossoms bold
 And quarrels rest at break of day."

What creature lies and wakes no more;
 What young girl's love began?
 Have whispered words once spoken here
 Ignited lasting love revered?
 What grand adventures first were planned
 By children sprawled on your green floor?

So tell me friend--how old are you?
 How long shall you endure?
 Beyond the lives of mortal men
 When will your records reach their end?
 Still softly you reply,
 "Since dawn of first words spoken pure
 Until the morn of earth renewed."

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 To see your work in The Talon, email talonstaff@northwestu.edu

Peter's Perspective

Peter McMurray reviews the latest in entertainment



Song Review - "Call Me, Maybe?"

If anyone understands the music industry, it is Carly Rae, her songwriter, and her manager. With one song, she took the top of the Billboard hot 100 list and stayed there. Her upbeat pop tune about giving a number to an acquaintance has taken the nation by storm and put her name everywhere.

Now as for the song itself, it's alright. It is upbeat and happy sounding, which is always nice on a rainy day. Lyrically, it left something to be desired. Upon reading the lyrics, I feel like they wrote the catchy hook and threw some words and a melody together to take up time between choruses.

However, despite its lyrical imperfections, it is remarkably clean and innocent which is hard to come by in the pop market these days. In that regard, Carly should be praised. Furthermore, it is catchy and like I said before, it is the number one song. So apparently she is doing something right.

I give "Call Me Maybe" a 3.5 out of 5

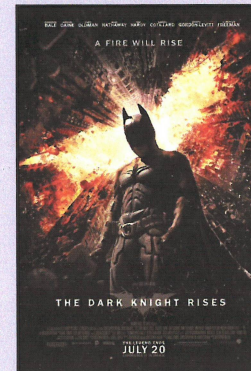
Show Review - "Falling Skies"

"Falling Skies" aired its second season over the summer and I must say that it was worth watching. There was plenty of action, love, hate, plot-twists, betrayal, and bizarre sci-fi that kept me entertained every episode and longing for the next.

The story takes place after an alien invasion and shows humanities struggle for survival, both with the aliens and with each other. There is a vast array of characters, all with their strengths and weaknesses. It has relatively good special effects and is enjoyable to watch as a whole.

One of the few downsides to the show is that the average viewer cannot jump in and just watch at any time. You have to start at the beginning, otherwise you will be lost. If you're a fan of science-fiction, action, alien, drama, and/or anything post-apocalyptic, then this is the show for you.

I give "Falling Skies" 4 out of 5

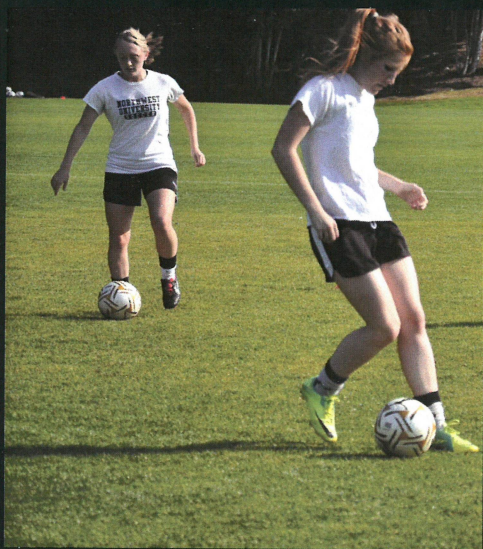


Movie Review - "The Dark Knight Rises"

Christopher Nolan has done it again with his third and final installment in his Batman trilogy. Creating another epic masterpiece, he delivers a superhero movie unlike any other – except of course, the Dark Knight. It has intense and intriguing storylines with strong dialogue, good acting, and tons of sheer amazement.

The movie features a new villain, Bane, who in some ways is worse than any ever before. He managed to be a good blend of creepy and evil, making him a suitable follow-up to the Joker's performance in the previous film. The only complaint I had was Bane's voice. I couldn't decide if I should shudder or laugh when I heard him. Plus he was a bit hard to understand at points. I was left guessing from time to time about what he actually said. But that aside, it was the best film I have seen in a long time and I highly recommend it.

I give "The Dark Knight Rises" a 4.8 out of 5



Fall sports
prepare for a
game-winning
season!

Photos by Kaitlyn O'Neill



Christian Dawson and his vision for NUMA

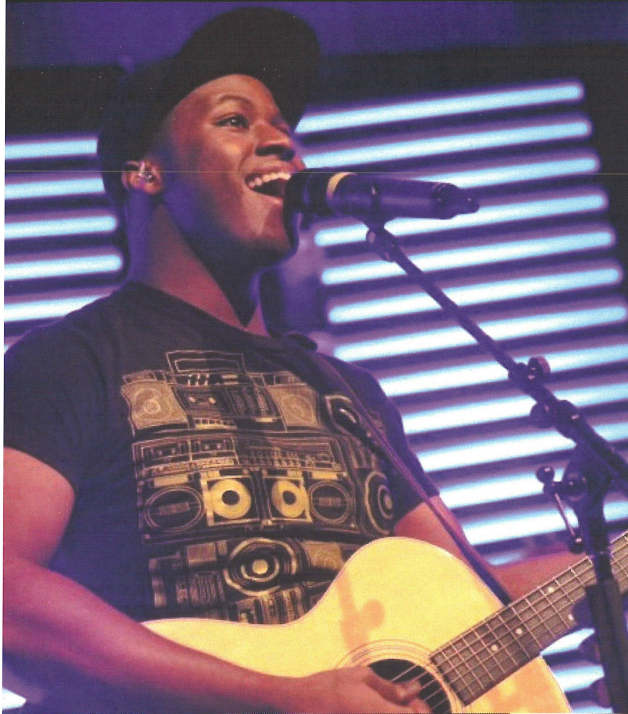
By Alycia Scheidel

Christian Dawson is this year's Worship Director for NUMA. A double-major in Pastoral Ministries and Biblical Studies, Christian spent his summer touring with Crossing, Northwest's summer ministry team.

Dawson said that in regards to his vision this year for campus ministries, he's grateful for last year's team who "created a foundation for so many possibilities in the future." Regarding what's coming this year, he said that NU students can expect to see events like the Pursuit Conference again, Christmas and Easter chapels, serve days, and a plethora of other opportunities to get involved in service and worship.

Dawson also shared his hopes for this school year: "NUMA exists to see the community of NU spiritually develop. The beautiful thing about our school is the differences in spiritual upbringing, denominations, and ideals. My heart is to see our community share, celebrate, and learn from our differences. I pray that we would be open to see Christ through others' eyes as well as show him from our own. I hope to see a vulnerability, openness, and grace that will be reviving for us."

Luke Hicks, also a part of Crossing, has this to say of working with Dawson: "Christian is a strong leader. He is considerate of others and loves to see people grow. He is a great planner and always thinks of what is next. He is a lot of fun to be around and is always encouraging."



Dr. Kowalski shares his advice for new students

The Importance of Showing Up

*By Dr. Waldemar Kowalski,
Professor of Bible and Theology*

Show up!

That's my advice for those joining the NU community. Here are some ways to show up, which will be very important in your life.

Show up for class!

You know, better than anyone else does, what it's costing you in terms of time, effort, and money to attend a school like Northwest. If you pay hard-earned cash to go to a movie or concert, how much of it are you planning to skip? Probably not a lot, unless you have an emergency that drags you away. I'm pretty sure that the skills and knowledge you'll gain at university will be of a lot more enduring value than watching the latest installment of the Batman saga.

Show up IN class!

Another way to show up is to actually BE THERE in class. Yes, I know FaceBook, Google+, Twitter, and SMS are all pretty interesting, but they're not going to help you pass the exam or help you gain the skills to be a great nurse,

teacher, pastor, businessperson, etc.

There are people sitting in the chairs in the classroom that haven't really showed up – don't be one of them! I know – some classes don't turn your crank. Even so, that English teacher who taught you how to express yourself so that others pay attention to you will add something important to the rest of your life. Yes, the difference between there, their, and they're makes a big difference in your resume, proposal, or sales pitch! You'll think of them with gratitude when you land that dream job, just because you've distinguished yourself from the masses who don't have a clue, don't care, and don't even know that they don't know.

Show up where others are gathered!

Another significant way to show up is to be a part of the life of the university. Show up for Chapel, Pursuit, floor events, sporting events, drama productions, concerts, and other such events. Connect with others, show interest in them, and don't form a little island of your own. Make time to sit with someone you don't know (yet) in the Caf or the Aerie. You may feel lonely and disconnected, away from your family and familiar surroundings. Others feel the same way – show up for them, and you'll be surprised at how quickly a whole lot of people (including you) no longer are lonely.

Show up for others!

Another way of showing up is making and keeping friends. Some of the best and most important connections for your future success will be made at college or university. There's the professor who's an ongoing mentor, someone you can call up and ask for advice. Possibly you'll find that someone special who is willing to spend a lifetime with you. The friends who endured studying sessions, pizza runs, and all sorts of other parts of university life with you? You'll keep on showing up at each other's events, may form business teams together, network to help each other get jobs, and in all sorts of ways change reality together.

So that's my message: sometimes you just have to show up – it's the start of something really vital which can't happen if you're not there. By the way, my colleagues and I are delighted that you've decided to show up, in the most basic sense, at Northwest. Thanks for choosing to study with us and develop skills here that will change many things in your life. Now, deciding to really show up will make the most profound impact you can imagine on the rest of your life.

If you are a faculty member and would like to contribute an article to The Talon, please email talonstaff@northwestu.edu

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Pursuit Conference			End Scene Improv	Chapel: Student Testimonies	
	Tyler Sollie, Northwest NYD	Pastor Elijah Waters, The City Church	Pastor Chad Veach, Puyallup Foursquare			
7	8 Columbus Day Reading Day - No Classes	9	10 Chapel: President Castleberry	11 End Scene Improv	12 Chapel: Pastor Phil	13 Roomies Weekend
14	15 Chapel: Jesse Owens, Missionary Evangelist, Global Renewal	16	17 Chapel: David Thomas, Prof. of Intercultural Studies	18 End Scene Improv	19 Chapel: Dustin Shirley, NU Alumni Director	20
	Free Speech Week - Northwest University Communication Association					
21	22 Chapel: President Castleberry	23	24 Chapel: Faith Integration	25 Talent Show, 7pm	26 Chapel: NU Focus	27 S.N.L. Corn Maze, NUSG
28	29 Chapel: Margot Rea, Wyoming DYD	30	31 Halloween Chapel: Dr. Ziefle, College of Ministry Spooky Literature Showcase, Engl. Dept.	1	2	3

To see your events on *The Talon* calendar,
email: talonstaff@northwestu.edu

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