




# THE TALON

Northwest University's Student Magazine

Fall 2017 - Spring 2018

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# TALON



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The Talon is Northwest University's student magazine and it is published throughout the year online, at [northwesttalon.org](http://northwesttalon.org). A once-a-year "best of issue" is also produced in the spring semester, fulfilling The Talon's mandate to also act as the university's Karisma yearbook. If you're interested in joining The Talon, or have questions or comments, please contact the staff at [talonstaff@northwestu.edu](mailto:talonstaff@northwestu.edu) or visit their office at Fee 17 during the week. Additional copies of The Talon's paper edition may be available upon request.

This year's best-of Talon is designed by Stephanie Quiroz, working with Leatherback Printing in Kirkland, Wash. state.

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Northwest University students participated in an annual campus Color Run for Hope hosted by the Student Activities Board in September 2017. The proceeds from the event went to the Genesis Project, a local charity that combats sex trafficking through community services.

PHOTO BY MAGGIE BRIGHT



- **MADDI MILLER, EDITOR IN CHIEF**

As the 2017-2018 school year is coming to a close, I am delighted to introduce the first print edition of The Talon since the spring of 2014. This edition features handpicked stories that have been published throughout this year that illustrate Northwest University campus life. Since we switched to being an online news paper, we have maintained, and I would say even exceeded, the quality of news coverage and heartfelt storytelling of NU. This year, we have covered stories of all kinds ranging from community-strengthening activities such as NU Loves Kirkland, to beloved annual events such as Mr. Northwest. We have also covered hard-hitting news such as the suspension of a basketball coach to the accidental leakage of student information. "We, The Talon, will strive toward excellence as we pursue and present the truth, adding to the legacy of Northwest and glorifying God with our words and deeds," our mission statement says, and with this statement we consider and handle each story with care, holding ourselves to the utmost responsibility. It is with incredible honor and privilege that we present to you the 2017-2018 print edition of The Talon.



**Talon Leadership: Fall 2017**

Madison Miller, Sarah Ulrich, Riley Sine, Garrett Parker, Angela Lustyuk, Trevor Wood

**Journalists**

Alexis Savary, Cassidy Brown, B. L. Charlette Tapsoba, Danielle Nye, Jasmine Garza, Kimani Nyambura, Landon Fleury, Liesl Mehl, Maggie Bright, Ryan Maruyama, Trevor Wood, Jon Ladd

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**Design & Layout**

Stephanie Quiroz

**PONU**

Macray Jerome

**The Screech Leadership**

Tyler Milligan, Ian Dooley, Chase Kolby

**Screech Hosts**

Lemuel Daher, Jon Ladd, Judah Wessel, Nel Hering, Katie Orr



**Talon Leadership: Spring 2018**

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**Journalists**

Alexis Savary, Ben Lacey, Cassidy Brown, B. L. Charlette Tapsoba, Danielle Nye, Elias Horn, Gabriella Febrienzka, Kaelan Hicks, Kimani Nyambura, Landon Fleury, Martanna Broom, Amanda Christopher, Deja Andrades

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# DAWSON TRANSITIONS TO CAMPUS PASTOR, LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE DEVOTIONAL

WRITTEN BY ALEXIS SAVARY

PHOTOS BY ALEXIS SAVARY

9.28.17



**T**his school year brings several changes to Campus Ministries in both pastoral staff and department resources. Christian Dawson, an alumnus and previous assistant pastor, is now Northwest University's new Campus Pastor. Previous Campus Pastor, Phil Rasmussen, is transitioning into the role of Vice President of Church Relations.

Dawson, a Seattle native, discovered NU after a friend suggested he visit the campus. His college search later involved applying for the Act 6 scholarship, which allowed him to attend NU. Dawson originally intended to pursue a degree in music ministry, but later felt called to switch to pastoral ministry, a decision which ultimately led to his employment as NU's assistant pastor for four years under Rasmussen.

"Phil and I talked about me kinda slowly taking on being Campus Pastor, which is really humbling," Dawson said.

The transition began in spring of 2017.

Dawson explained the reason behind this year's Campus Ministries' spiritual theme, "Follow," was that he felt it was the right time for the NU student culture to take a break from specific books of the Bible and focus more on learning how to be an active follower of Jesus.

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***"Come follow me—that's what Christianity is," Dawson said. "People like the idea of having a relationship with God, but most people don't know how to have that relationship with God."***

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Dawson wanted to re-ignite the passion of the NU community through a new emphasis on learning how to pray and enjoying time with God.

Another Campus Ministries development this year is the creation of an online devotional program, which launched this fall. The creation of the devotional began last April and was the collaborative idea of Dawson and Rasmussen while on a road trip in California. Following concerns about publishing and printing a devotional, Jacob Kicha, the Stories and Marketing Director of NU's Campus Ministries, suggested an online publication.

The online devotional features writings from around 18 faculty members and students, and currently contains over 40 entries. It can be used daily or on a Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule and will continue to count for Spiritual Life Credit when fulfilling journal requirements.

Because student schedules and routines can make it difficult to commit personal time for God, Campus Ministries hopes that they have created a devotional that can adapt to anyone's schedule and help them develop personal relationships with God. Although the online devotional is not directly related to the spiritual theme of the year, it remains another way that the NU community can grow in faith.

In the midst of this year's changes, Dawson wanted to recognize Pastor Phil and Brenda Rasmussen for their dedication to the school and to his overall spiritual and personal development. After serving for years at Northwest University, the couple continues to spread the love of God in all aspects of their ministries as they continue to follow Him and serve the people of this community. ■

The online devotional can be found at <http://www.northwestudevo.com>.

# NU COMMUNITY SERVES KIRKLAND WITH PARK CLEAN UP

WRITTEN BY MAGGIE BRIGHT

PHOTO BY MIKAYLA WELLS

9.28.17



**N**orthwest University held its first ever campus-wide local mission event, NU Loves Kirkland, on Wednesday. The event was an opportunity for the entire NU community to get off campus and serve the city of Kirkland by participating in park cleanup in various locations around the city.

NU Loves Kirkland was the first event this year in a series of events to be hosted by Campus Ministries in an effort to increase NU's community involvement. Local Missions Director Sam Absten acted as the lead in organizing the event. Through similar events, Absten hopes to create a community on campus that emphasizes local service, something he said the Campus Ministry team is trying to focus on more this year. "We've always done a really good job of promoting global missions, but local missions isn't really something that we've promoted a lot and taken the time and the resources to create an event for that," he said. Absten is working to change that.

Since being appointed as Local Missions Director last year, Absten began communication with the city of Kirkland's Volunteer Services Coordinator. Finding an activity suitable for the entire student body to serve locally within a limited amount of time was no easy task. Park clean up became the most ideal choice. "[This is] the first ever school-wide event where we're actually doing a one day chapel schedule and letting everyone come and do this, it's not just like a club, it's a school wide event." Absten said.

Students were excited that NU offered the opportunity for the entire student body to serve together.

Student Olivea Rigg said it is important as a Christian university to get out and serve, and that this event sets NU apart from other universities.

"I feel like especially the big-name universities don't go out and do this type of [service], like maybe clubs, but not the [entire] school, so I think that it's good that we did that, to show that town that we care about them." Rigg said.

In a campus-wide email, Campus Pastor Christian Dawson encouraged students to reach out beyond the NU community.

"I will be the first person to say that spiritual vitality does not and cannot only happen in the chapel. I am calling us to be a community whose love will spill out of the campus and into the streets and parks. Let's follow Jesus well," Dawson said.

At the event, students were excited to serve the community.

Student Caanan Baca said this event helped NU students to connect with the city they now call home. "It's going to build not only comradery among students, but also to love the community that we're in, especially since students are coming from different states and out of town... just to get sort of planted in the community here," Baca said.

Absten was pleased with the students' attitude and eagerness to participate.

"Everyone seemed very positive about it and it went pretty smoothly for how many people we had show up, because I think there was more than we planned for, but it went really good," he said.

Absten is already looking ahead to organizing two or three more local mission events per semester, continuing to emphasize the importance of participating in service around the city of Kirkland.

"I just think it's a really important part of our spiritual walk to learn what servant-hood looks like and how to live that out in our daily lives. And this is just a really simple way that we can begin to do that and to take active steps in pursuing Christ and being more like Christ," he said. ■

# THROUGH EAGLE EYES: THE 2017 NAIA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

WRITTEN BY RILEY SINE

PHOTO BY TYRELL BONNER

12.4.17



*Editor's Note: The following is a first-person recount of the 2017 NAIA Cross Country Championship by Talon writer and NUXC athlete Riley Sine.*

**A**t 6:30, the alarm goes off. Problem is, I've been more or less awake for the last half-hour, as is typical on race days. Apparently, a decent night's sleep before a race is too much to ask. Dragging myself out of bed, I get dressed for our shakeout, a light 15-minute run to loosen up the legs and help dispel some of the nerves. Thus begins our pre-race ritual, as we've done for every meet. This pattern, first established each August, is used to focus our minds on the familiar motions of race preparation – as opposed to the fact that we're about to run on the biggest stage of our lives.

Still not entirely awake as the elevator hits the hotel lobby, I meet the rest of my teammates for our merry little pre-race jog. The events which have conspired to bring us here are nothing less than miraculous. Before the Cascade Conference Championship meet, I had said as much would be required if we were to reach this final race. Speaking to the parents of one of our teammates, I'd said that while the women's team was as close to a lock as you can get in cross country, the men's team wasn't so fortunate.



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***“We can do it,” I’d said, “but the stars have to align.” And align they did.***

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Because our conference was hosting the NAIA meet, one additional team on both the men’s and women’s side would be granted an invitation to the big dance. With five teams in the conference ranked in the Top 25 on the men’s side, we figured that six teams would qualify. That meant that all we had to do to become the first men’s team in NUXC history to qualify for Nationals was beat the Corban Warriors. The only problem with that is, no one on the team can remember a time when we’ve beat Corban in a race. Ever. But beat them we did, and we punched our tickets to Vancouver.

Driving over to the course, we’re struck by how pristine the weather is. The first rule of cross country is that the weather never plays nice, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. Yet as we exit the van, we are greeted by clear skies and a moderately warm morning. Beginning our warm-up, we marvel at the fortunate turn of events. As we report to the starting box, Daft Punk’s “Get Lucky” blares through the loudspeakers. Not my idea of pre-race jams, but it’ll have to do. Once again, I’m blown away by what has transpired to bring us here, standing on the banks of the Columbia with the best of the NAIA. We join our 350-odd fellow competitors at the line, and await the starter’s call.

The gun goes off, and 8,000 meters of trial by fire begins. As is our habit, we sprint off the starting line, vying for good position in the pack. As I begin settling into pace, I notice there are a few dozen more jerseys in my immediate vicinity than planned, but decide not to worry about it. The pack begins to close ranks as the course narrows, and I try to move up.

About halfway through the race, I can tell I’m in for a long day. I’m nowhere near where I wanted to be in the race, and my pace seems to have slowed a bit. To top it all off, the negative voices that run through the mind every race seem to have been dialed to 11 today, matched only by the reports of pain coming from my legs. I grit my teeth for the fight I know is about to begin, and try to claw my way forward in the pack. The uneven terrain of the course has taken its toll, however, and I’m unable to summon the second-half surge that’s become my calling card. The last two laps of the 2-kilometer course are a journey through the “dark night of the soul,” and I reach the finish line far latter than I would have liked to.

The clock reads 25:52, good enough for 57th place. A

year ago, I’d have been thrilled to have seen that number on the finishing clock under any circumstances. This season, however, it ranks as my second-slowest effort, and I’d run seven seconds faster two weeks prior at the Conference meet, 2,700ft above sea level no less. To say I’m disappointed in myself would be putting it mildly, but I try to push that out of my mind as I turn back to see my teammates come across the finish.

No one looks like they’re enjoying themselves as they cross the line. Granted, an 8k cross country race doesn’t fit within very many peoples’ definitions of fun, but even for runners, we look thrashed. This course has proven itself to be a grinder, despite first impressions. Most of the NU men come away feeling that today wasn’t their best day. Senior Brian Guisinger proves the exception; he has a red-letter day, finishing in the top 5 and scoring points for the first time all season, ending his collegiate cross country career with a bang.

When the results come back, we see “Northwest” in 33rd. Not quite what we were hoping, but not bad for the first NU men’s team ever to run at this meet. Though many of us felt that we could have done better, we learned a lot from the experience, and believe that our future seasons will be better because of it.

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***The women’s team also has a good day, placing 25th and finishing the season ranked in the national polls. The senior trio of Sarah Estabrook, Cassidy Brown and Lily Engelbrekt has led the Eagles to their best campaign since the early 2000s – a run which culminated in a national championship in 2002.***

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These three have walked a long, difficult road to get here, and they’ve been rewarded with the best team finish in over a decade.

There was a lot to celebrate this season, and while not everything went right, quite a bit did, in ways none of us could have predicted. ■

*Editor’s Note: For a fuller recap, including the perspective of NUXC athlete Cassidy Brown, visit: [www.northwesttalon.org](http://www.northwesttalon.org)*



## IN FOCUS: PROFESSOR DANETTE VER WOERT

WRITTEN BY MAGGIE BRIGHT

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY

11.15.17

**F**rom NU student to full time faculty, Professor Danette Ver Woert's journey is coming full circle. Ver Woert graduated from Northwest University in 2011 with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing and is now a full time professor in the Buntain School of Nursing. She teaches the Skills Lab and co-teaches Social Issues of Health and Nursing, as well as being a community health clinical instructor.

Ver Woert grew up in the small farming community of Lynnville-Sully, Iowa and was drawn to global work early on. "I knew that I wanted to have a job that I could do anywhere in the world. I was drawn to missions, and I knew that teaching or nursing would be jobs I could do anywhere in the world," Ver Woert said.

Ver Woert got her first practical experience in the healthcare field when she was in high school and worked as a nursing assistant at a nursing home, and she credits that positive experience for setting her on the track for nursing.

Ver Woert decided to attend NU after NU adjunct professors and missionaries Gale and Dwayne Turner visited her church, as they were traveling the U.S. raising money for a South Korea mission. The couple asked Ver Woert about her plans beyond high school, and upon hearing her passion for missions, healthcare and education, suggested NU.

Upon her graduation from NU, Ver Woert worked at the University of Washington medical center as an oncology nurse for four years, staying involved in the

NU community through volunteer work. Ver Woert also has experience as an urgent care nurse at Overlake Hospital's urgent care clinic in Bellevue, as well as teaching briefly at UW Bothell along with serving as an adjunct at NU.

Ver Woert was considering going back to graduate school, and credits the mentoring of faculty members at NU for helping give her the confidence to pursue that path. "It was through that relationship of volunteering that I had really positive mentoring relationships where they were encouraging me to look at grad school," Ver Woert said.

Ver Woert highly encourages students to find a mentor.

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*"I feel like some of the most defining moments of my whole life have had a gravitational pull [from] some really influential people... I think as students in college, it's meaningful to have even one person that is able to really speak into your personal life – that makes a big difference," she said.*

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Ver Woert found deep meaning in her work through incorporating her faith, and believes that working with a team of people of faith is crucial to process hard situations and give significance to what can otherwise seem like busywork.

"With healthcare, you see a lot of things that can be distressing or unjust, and when you have a common language of faith...there's a common way of expressing how to grieve that, but also how to have hope in that," Ver Woert said.

Ver Woert found the most meaningful experiences were on a small scale.

"Doing healthcare in the United States or abroad can feel really daunting and it can feel like you want to make a massive difference, and in reality the scope of making a difference is oftentimes very one-on-one...I think faith gives those person to person meetings a lot of significance and depth," she said.

Ver Woert's experiences with healthcare abroad shaped her career and she continues her involvement in missions today. Ver Woert will be taking six students to Kazakhstan this year to fulfill the month long nursing and ministry immersion trip that is required of senior students in the program. Ver Woert traveled to Zimbabwe for her senior trip and is excited to lead students in similar experiences.

"One of my favorite parts of my job here is I get to bring students to Kazakhstan for their cross cultural trips in the nursing program which is really amazing to have that as part of my role here," she said.

Faith plays a huge role in the way Ver Woert leads her team and cares for others.

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***"Praying together as a team and processing through things with the background of scripture as a support [and] encouragement has helped us to make meaning of things that are really hard to understand otherwise. You don't even necessarily always understand them just because you're praying about it, but at least there's a little bit more firm footing or security...that has been really meaningful for me," Ver Woert said.***

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Ver Woert is grateful to be able to incorporate many of her passions into her work. "It's been really fun and really meaningful to be able to see my life come full circle of being able to do both teaching and nursing, since that's initially what I was drawn to," she said.

Ver Woert is grateful to be a part of the NU community and to have the opportunity to give back to the program that gave her so much.

"It's really sweet to be back." ■





*Editor's Note: The Talon strives to provide factual reporting but understands that some language may have negative influences on its readers. For this reason, the phrase "racial epithet" is used in place of an offensive word referenced below.*

**J**ohn Van Dyke, Northwest University men's basketball head coach and assistant athletic director, has been suspended with pay for the upcoming basketball season, according to several sources within the athletic department and an email from the NU president's office.

According to Tre Benton, a senior on the basketball team, Van Dyke used a racial epithet in a team meeting before the alumni game a few weeks ago.

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***"Everyone was shocked and surprised about the incident and we did not know how to handle it at first," he said. "As a team we were able to come together to find a solution on how to manage this situation best."***

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According to another athlete with knowledge of the situation who did not wish to be named, Van Dyke has used the same epithet in the past in discussions with the team, but this was the first occurrence to be reported to the athletic department.

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# NU MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH SUSPENDED

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WRITTEN BY RILEY SINE

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY

10.19.17

According to two sources who did not want to be named, but who have knowledge of the incident, Van Dyke used the term while describing music lyrics he wanted athletes to avoid. One source said he felt remorse about what he had said, when confronted about it later.

Assistant coach Jeff Drinkwine will serve as the interim head coach, and women's head basketball coach Ken Crawford has been named head of basketball operations. Drinkwine brings extensive coaching experience to the job. He was head coach of NU's Cascade Conference rival Evergreen State College, and also served on the coaching staffs of Boise State, St. Martin's University, and Pacific Lutheran over the course of his career.

"Coach Drinkwine is a great coach and the right person to fill this position," Benton said, adding that Drinkwine has already started working with the team.

NU President Joseph Castleberry announced that Van Dyke was suspended in an email to faculty and staff on Wednesday night.

"This change was not expected and was only taken with serious deliberation," Castleberry said in the email. "It is borne out of our desire to make sure that our student athletes have the type of experience that we all expect them to have at Northwest University.

"Coach Van Dyke remains an employee of Northwest, and we will be in discussion with him about resuming coaching activities next season. We appreciate John's service to NU for the past 18 years and want to give him a fair opportunity to return to his coaching role," he said.

Van Dyke and athletic director Gary McIntosh declined to comment. ■

*Editor's Note: Van Dyke resigned in January 2018, and assistant coach Jeff Drinkwine was promoted to head coach.*

# NU WELCOMES NEW CHEER TEAM

WRITTEN BY B. L. CHARLETTE TAPSOBA

PHOTO BY HOLLY HOLLOPETER

2.16.18

**N**orthwest University recently became the first private Christian university in the Cascade Collegiate Conference to have a cheerleading team. The team of 13 students performed cheer routines during each time-out of the men and women's games.

Larissa Lilly, Director of Community Life is the coach of the cheer squad, the first of its kind since the 1980s.

Lilly said she was pleased when she met student Hannah Brewster, a freshman, while on a campus tour and discovered her interest in a cheer program at NU.

"I told [Brewster] don't let Northwest not having a team stop you from coming because when I was a freshman in college I started my own college cheer team. You can do the same, and I would help her do it," Lilly said.

After an interest meeting attended by about 30 NU students and a meeting with the president's cabinet to discuss a budget for the team, the club was approved and the tryouts began.

Lilly said that having a cheerleading team to perform at games should not to be confused with a dance team.

"Cheerleading's primary function is not dancing. It is to lead the crowd in cheers and provide excitements at games for our sports teams, specifically basketball. It's a choreographed dance but what we call pomp dances are simply a 16 count dance that's repeated over and over again," Lilly said.

Brewster, who was appointed team captain, had a heart for cheer since she was six and expressed her excitement for being able to continue in her passion at the collegiate level.

"What I love the most is the ability for me to be active but also to be able to be an encouragement toward other people in what they do and love to do. We [are] able to



cheer for the girls and guys basketball team and that's huge for me because we've gotten a lot of feedback of how we've been encouraging them and the difference that we've made for them," Brewster said.

One of the two men on the cheer team, Jonathan Larson, said he wasn't expecting to have so much fun in cheerleading until he joined the team. "It's awesome, I never thought I would ever be a cheerleader in my life... I started out thinking, 'I am a guy cheerleader,' [and] kind of thinking it's weird but now I love it," Larson said.

The team practices twice a week at 6:00 a.m. and have performances that can go up to four hours.

"They have a really good attitude, they want to practice more," Lilly said.

With the club flourishing, the requirements for new members are flexible for the tryouts next year, which are scheduled in September.

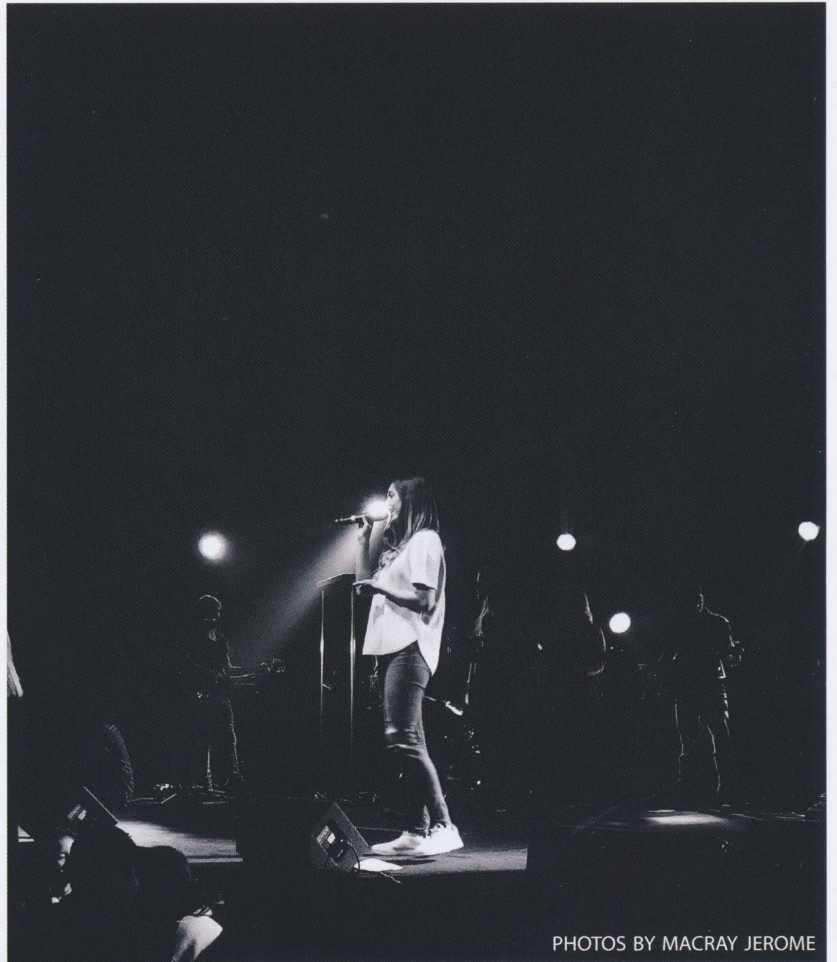
Lilly encourages students with or without experiences in cheerleading to come try out.

"As we look to move on, it will probably be more girls especially [who have] cheer background. Obviously, they have to be coordinated, timely, and have a coachable spirit. Don't be scared though even if you don't have cheerleading background, people can always tryout," Lilly said. ■

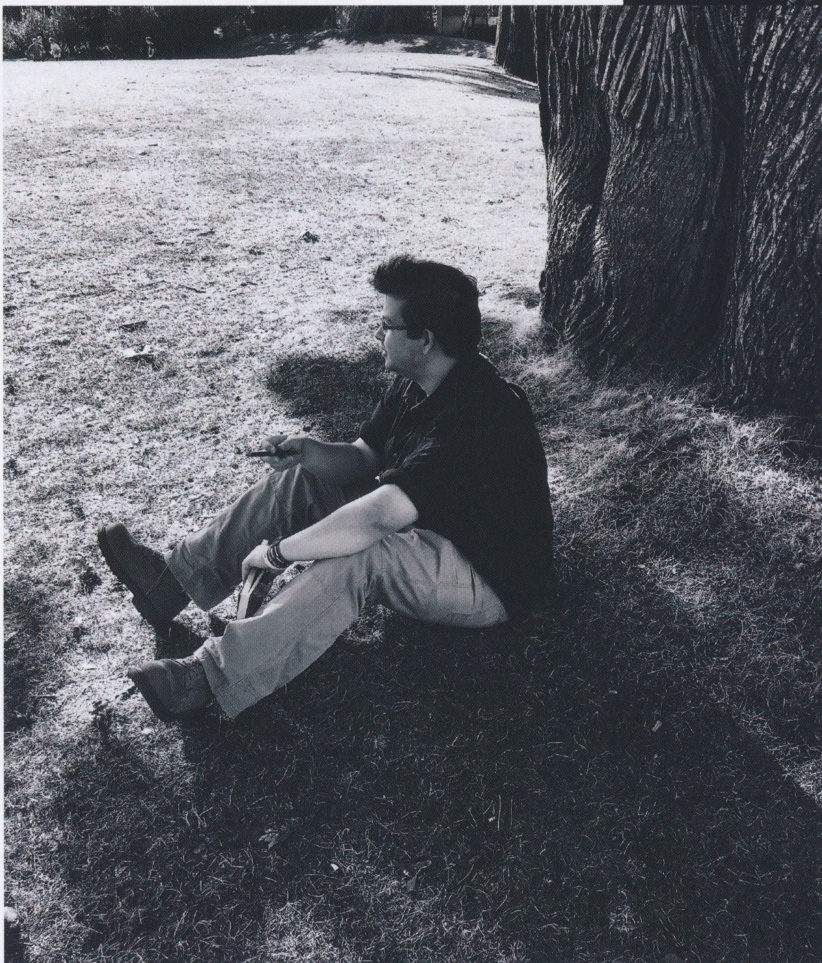
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*"God overtook my heart in a way that I had never imagined was possible, which has led me into a life walking with Him that I never dreamed would look so full of life."*

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PHOTOS BY MACRAY JEROME



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*"He gives you the strength to let go. Or the strength to subdue your human nature. If I was ever victorious, it's only cause God taught me how to be."*

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PEOPLE OF NU

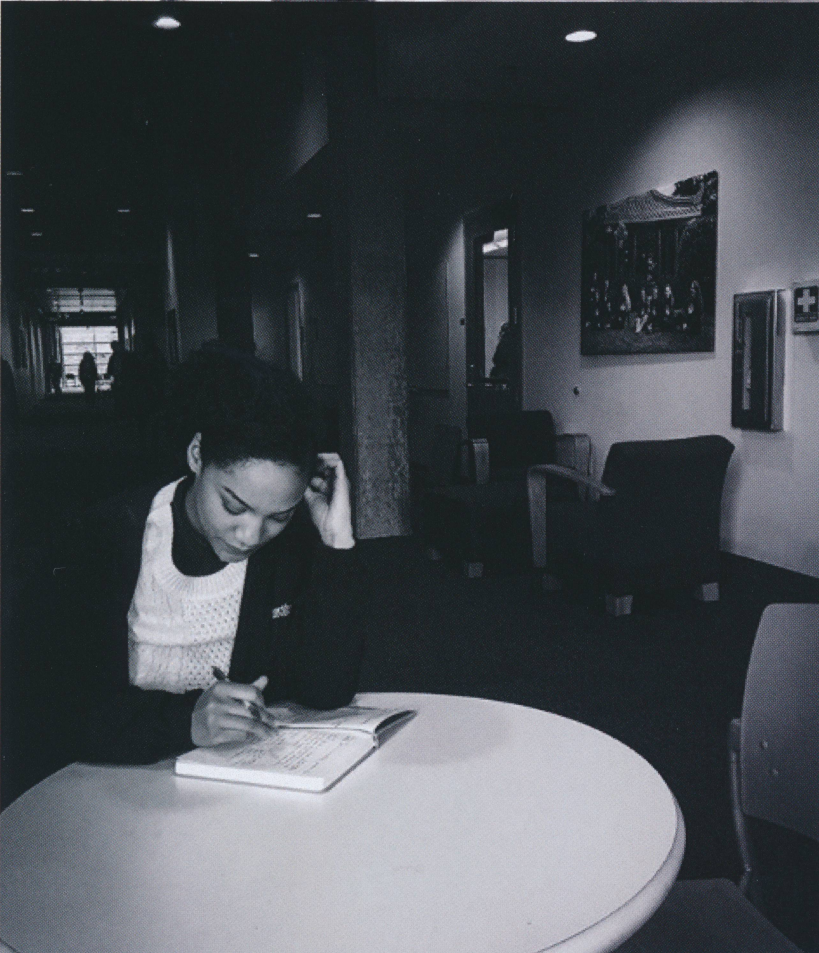
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*"Simply put, in order to love, we must be able to receive it as we are: unpretentious, imperfect, empty."*

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*"Losing my father broke me, but broken things can become blessed things if you allow God to do the mending."*

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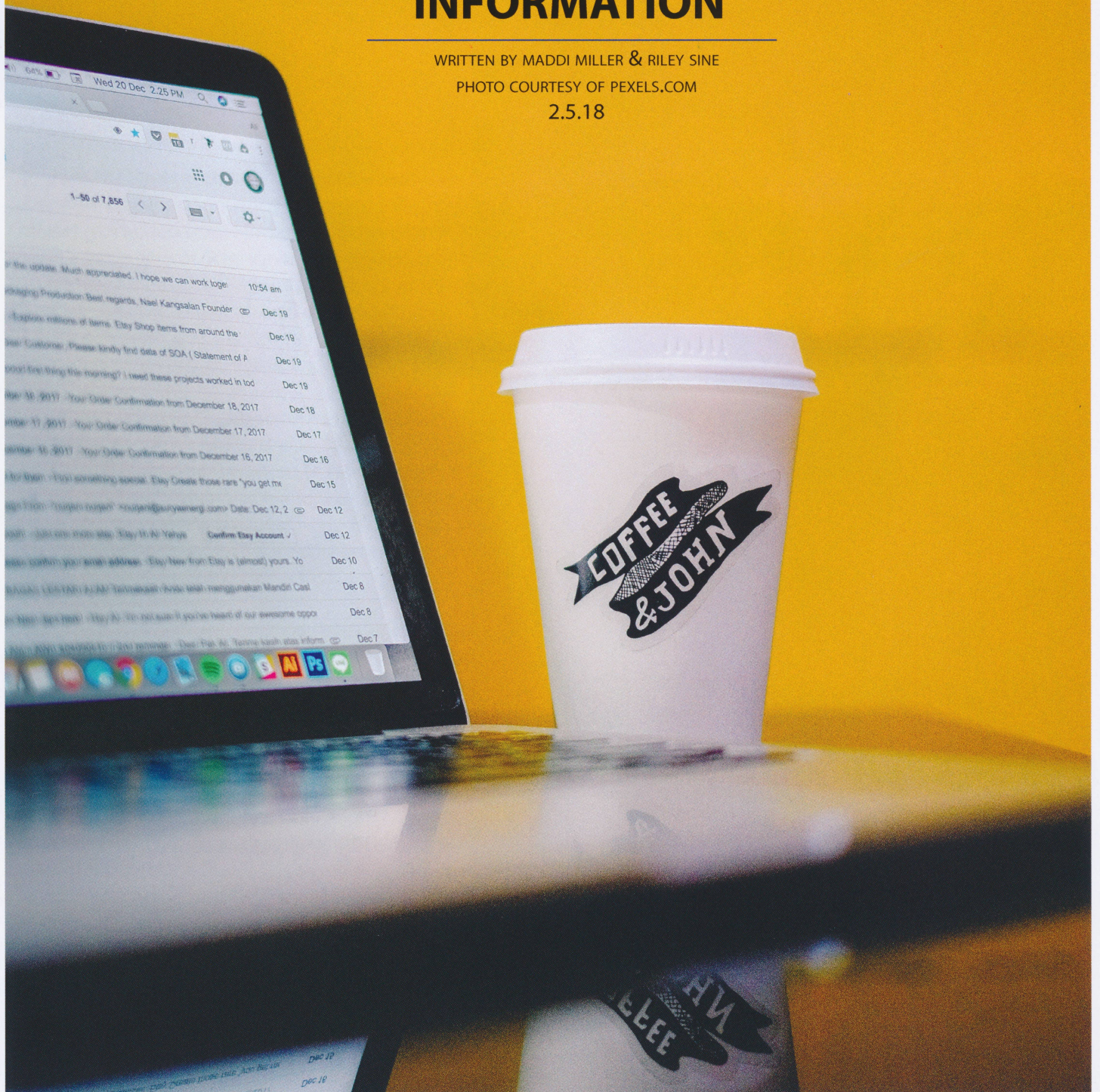
# STUDENTS RECEIVE ACCIDENTAL EMAIL CONTAINING DIRECTORY INFORMATION

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WRITTEN BY MADDI MILLER & RILEY SINE

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

2.5.18





**A**n email containing an attachment with students' personal and academic information was accidentally sent out to the graduating class on Monday, Jan. 22.

The attachment, an Excel spreadsheet with multiple tabs, was meant to be a ballot for selecting the student speakers at this spring's Baccalaureate and Commencement ceremonies in May. However, the file contained 10 tabs, with titles such as "SP18FERPA," "Master List," and "FA17 GPA."

These tabs included directory and academic information such as GPAs, student identification numbers, programs and majors, credits attempted and earned, and whether a student has signed a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) nondisclosure form, for almost every student who took classes at NU during the Fall 2017 semester. More detailed information could be found for some groups of students, such as home addresses and whether a graduating senior still owed tuition money to the university. Faculty received a similar email containing only the ballot tab of the spreadsheet.

Assistant Registrar Sharon Jones sent out an apology email that afternoon and attached the correct ballot to that email.

"The email did not include DOB [date of birth] or SS# [Social Security Number] information, so your personal identifiers were in no way compromised. However, the information was not for public distribution; and for that, I deeply apologize," Jones said in the email.

In an email to students, Provost Dr. Jim Heugel apologized for the mistake on behalf of the university, and asked students who received the email to delete the file.

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***"We all make mistakes, but a mistake of this type is embarrassing for the University to have made and we deeply regret it. We have taken measures to double check in the future to make sure this doesn't happen again," Heugel said in the email.***

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The information is designated in Northwest University's FERPA Student Records Policy as "directory information," which is not to be disclosed without written consent of the student, with some exceptions, such as faculty and

staff. For students who have signed a FERPA nondisclosure form with the university, however, this email to students constitutes a violation of that policy. The email also identifies these students as having signed such a form. [The disclosure of the file's contents to students] is a FERPA violation," Heugel said, adding that students may file an official complaint if they desire.

Students and faculty said they were caught off-guard by the email and the information it contained. "I was initially confused, because I assumed the email was the one to faculty," Dr. Clint Bryan said, "and then I learned the fact, from students who reported to me, that it had actually gone out to students, and I'll have to admit I was a bit taken aback, just because it seemed like an unfortunate incident."

According to the U.S. Department of Education, FERPA regulations dictate how students' information is to be protected and shared at any school or university which receives federal funding. This includes most colleges and universities, from public institutions like the University of Washington or Western Washington University, to private schools like Northwest or Seattle Pacific University.

"Under FERPA, a school may not generally disclose personally identifiable information from an eligible student's education records to a third party unless the eligible student has provided written consent," according to the Department of Education's website.

Heugel said that the Registrar's office, when compiling lists such as the Baccalaureate ballot, often needs to have multiple data lists open in an Excel file so that they can use various formulas to pull together the information they are looking for. Under normal circumstances, he said, only the final tab is what gets sent out, but that is not what happened this time. In the future, he said, the Registrar's office will instead make a PDF of that first tab and send that out in emails, rather than the entire Excel file.

"We should never send a whole Excel file to a group of people. We need to convert that one tab into a PDF and send that, and that can be the solution going forward and make [it] a rule that you never send a file, only a PDF," Heugel said. ■

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# STUDENT-LED PODCAST BREAKS GROUND AT NU

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WRITTEN BY LIESL MEHL

LOGO BY VICTORIA GECK

11.8.17

**N**orthwest University's student-led podcast, The Screech, debuted with its first episode at the beginning of fall semester. The Screech informs students about issues relevant to the NU community and connects students and faculty by providing information about everyday events and happenings on campus.

The Screech's creators, Tyler Milligan and Ian Dooley, were inspired to create the podcast after hearing Dr. William Mari's lecture about the history of the radio. Although originally interested in reviving NU's old radio station, Milligan and Dooley made the decision to compose a team to produce a modern adaptation for a new generation of NU students.

"I approached Dr. Mari to see if that would be possible to get that radio station up and running again, and he suggested that I do some research into it and to see if I could find some people that would be interested... fast forward through all the initial set up and [the podcast] is now a team of 10 led by me and Tyler," Dooley said.

Milligan and Dooley decided to revive the idea of a campus audio journalism source as a podcast instead of a radio station for several reasons. Dooley said that a podcast made more logistical sense to Milligan and Dooley in the long run. Additionally, Mari pointed out that the decision to create a podcast is a more relevant appeal to a modern audience.

Mari explained part of what makes The Screech unique is the cooperation between team members doing many different jobs. From the producers to the writers, and the hosts to the editors, it is a group effort to produce a polished final product which accomplishes The Screech's goal of becoming "its own journalistic, cultural news and arts coverage organization."

One of The Screech's hosts, Chase Kolby, said that hosting requires thoughtful conversation skills.



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*"It sound[s] like a casual conversation that just happens to be informative and interesting to our listeners," Kolby said.*

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Mari said The Screech's main challenge is ensuring continuity of staff, as most of the leadership is upper-classmen. Another goal is to incorporate more female membership to The Screech team, due to the fact that the current staff is primarily men. Team members hope that The Screech will be able to reflect the male to female ratio of the greater campus population.

While Screech members foresee many ways to apply the skills they have developed to their post-graduation workplace, producer and host Dooley said that he appreciates "the sense of accomplishment that comes from knowing that you have worked hard to create something and seeing it come to life."

The Screech has featured guests like Chloe St. Germain, Larissa Lily, Dr. Mari, Dr. Bryan, Dr. Spyridis, and Dr. Delamarter to address many student-relevant issues everywhere from student survival tips to Halloween. ■

The Screech can be found on iTunes.

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# ROBERT VINJE WINS THIRD ANNUAL MR. NORTHWEST COMPETITION

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WRITTEN BY MARTANNA BROOM

PHOTO BY GARRETT PARKER

2.27.18



**N**orthwest University's third annual Mr. Northwest competition crowned Robert Vinje as this year's Mr. Northwest Thursday, Feb. 15 in Butterfield Chapel.

The theme for this year's competition was Survivor of the Littest. The competition consisted of six contestants, nominated from each of the residence buildings. The contestants were judged by talents, interview questions, formal wear, and group dancing. This year's Mr. Northwest contestants were Robert Vinje, Ace Engler, Elliot Faley, Chase Kolby, Ala Mikaele, and Calvin Dall. Bradley Kerswill, the seventh contestant, had to drop out of the competition but was acknowledged throughout the evening.

The three faculty members who judged the event were Dr. Rowlanda Cawthon, Dr. David Thomas and Megan Netherton. The event started with an entrance dance featuring each of the contestants. Each contestant had their opportunity to walk the catwalk for three different portions which revealed a bit about their personality and their talents. The first portion was "alter egos," the second portion was "dream jobs," and the third was the talent portion.

Vinje was crowned Mr. Northwest at the end of the evening. He said it was an unexpected and humbling experience. "We did this together," Vinje said in reference to the other guys in the contest.

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*"I am stoked. It came as a surprise all the other contestants were so good. It was a humbling experience that wasn't expected."*

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Kolby said his favorite part of the whole event was getting close to the other contestants and that he wasn't disappointed that didn't win the competition.

"I live to entertain and to fill up a room with laughter and if I can make them laugh and entertain them, then it's all worth it," Kolby said.

The general consensus among the contestants was that the build up to the event was the best part of the whole experience. The contestants said they were able to form bonds and create a fun show together for the whole community.

Last year's Mr. Northwest winner, Stephen Pickens, said he thought it was a really great show and he is glad NU has something like this for students to look forward to each year. ■

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# NU INTRODUCES NEW HONORS PROGRAM

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WRITTEN BY ALEXIS SAVARY

PHOTO BY HOLLY HOLLOPETER

4.6.18

**N**orthwest University announced it will be offering an Honors Program to the current programs and opportunities effective next semester.

Dr. Joshua Meeks, the director of the Honors Program, said that the program will start with at most 24 students.

However, he and the program's committee are more concerned with the qualifications of the incoming participants than the size of the program as a whole.

"We are pretty set on not filling it out just so we can have numbers but rather really being honest and earnest in the assessment of 'is this a good honors student—are they a good fit for the program?'" Meeks said.

Some of the qualifications that the committee will look for include a high school GPA of at least 3.75, high test scores, the student's statement of intent, an essay component, and a willingness to grow as an individual.

Reflecting on his own experiences in a college honors program, Dr. Joshua Ziefle shared his perspective on some of the benefits of participating in an honors program. One of the biggest benefits of the program is the smaller class sizes, which will hopefully encourage deeper discussions and support the students' desires to learn.

"This is an opportunity for high-achieving students to be in certain settings with other high-achieving students who are passionate about academic excellence and learning to really spark some really interesting conversations that they might not have the opportunity for in a larger class or amongst a class with a diverse population who might have interests in a lot of different areas," Ziefle said.

The Honors Program is primarily formatted for incoming students, and differences in majors will have little impact on the ability for students to participate due to the types of classes offered within the program.

The program is scheduled to include a course curriculum of eight core classes, which have been redesigned into NU's first set of honors classes. These classes include Composition II, Christian Thought, Fundamentals of Speech and Communication, and other typical prerequisite classes that will conclude with a trip to Washington, D.C.

"One of the reasons why Northwest University is launching an Honors Program is that we have been in the 15 percent of Conference on Christian Colleges and Universities that do not yet have one," Dr. Clint Bryan, a member of the Honors Program committee, said.

Dr. Renee Bourdeaux, who will be teaching the Honors Fundamentals of Speech and Communication course, explained that teachers who design the curriculum for honors classes tend to gravitate toward materials that they feel will allow students to change their perspective on a topic.

"When you design a curriculum for an honors program, what you want to be able to do is allow the students to wrestle with the material in a way that allows them to really critically think about it," Bourdeaux said.

While some may think that the courses are primarily an excuse for professors to assign more work, the "honors" label is not a license to assign a heavier workload. The goal of an honors course is to provide students with the chance to really delve deeper into different topics and themes.

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***"An honors course is not necessarily more classwork. It rather provides an opportunity to think and process information in deeper ways," Dr. Sarah Drivdahl, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said.***

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For example, Professor Joseph McQueen, who will also be teaching an honors course, explained his desire for students to think about the material from multiple angles. He said he wants his students, who will be looking at everyday rhetoric and persuasion, to look not only at the reading material but also at ads in the mall to see how the human senses influence one's subconscious desires.

The Honors Program will have three main pillars: scholars, citizens, and servants. In addition to the increased academic expectations, students in the program will have the opportunity to engage with people in the community and to serve the NU campus. The program is designed to teach its participants how to be a leader, but more importantly, how to serve one's peers.

"The Honors Program is in part about academics, but it's also about being a leader—a servant leader—within the campus and within the community," Meeks said some of the anticipated changes that will take place on campus include more academically focused events and conferences, an amplified desire to learn, and a deeper understanding of how to pursue one's calling.

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***"You're going to feel the impact of it all over campus, and I think that's something that few Honors Programs truly achieve: that actual impacting a campus culture," Meeks said.***

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The conclusion of the two-year Honors Program will include an honors thesis, which will allow students within the program to work directly with their

instructors. This thesis will function as a final project, allowing participating students to graduate with honors in addition to their B.A. degree.

Faculty and professors look forward to the opportunity to try different teaching styles, to interact with students actively striving to learn more about the world God created, and to fulfill their calling to implant knowledge on younger generations. Despite its emergence as a new program, the Honors Program is highly anticipated to be a dramatic change to NU culture.

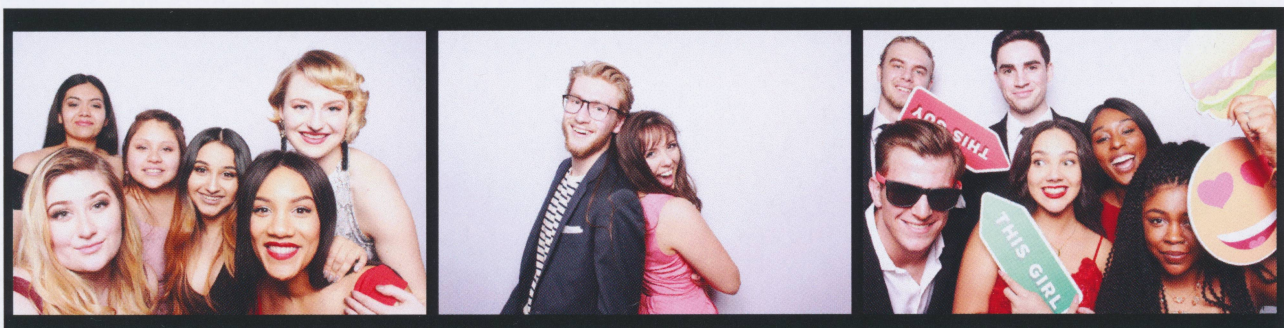
"I am most looking forward to hearing what Honors graduates are doing for the Kingdom around the world down the road as they invest their world-class education into various fields of endeavor," Bryan said.

Most importantly, the Honors Program will emphasize the privilege that students have to spend a period of life learning about the world they live in and the Creator of it all. To view college education as simply a means to a degree cannot compare to the memories, friendships, and knowledge that are gained in the process.

"This is an amazing experience—our culture does not let people stop for many years of their lives, read books, and talk about ideas with some other people who've spent their whole lives reading books and talking about them...and that's an amazing privilege. My hope for the Honors Program is that that sense of the privilege that it is just starts to penetrate the campus," McQueen said. ■



Northwest University's annual formal event, Evening, was held in April 2018 at the Museum of Pop Culture in downtown Seattle. Students enjoyed a night of desserts, music and pop culture memorabilia with access to all of the MoPOP's various exhibits.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THESNAPBAR.COM

