

For Northwest University,

Take

Exit 17

Carry  
the  
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Northwest University  
sophomore

**Stephen  
Ishmael**

loves to play  
basketball,  
but he has an  
even greater  
passion for  
**Kenya.**

TO LEARN MORE,  
PLEASE SEE INSIDE.





# PASSION BEYOND HOOPS

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the July 27 issue of the King County Journal. It is reprinted with permission.

**By Ryan Lambert**  
*Journal Reporter*

KIRKLAND – Basketball is Northwest University sophomore Stephen Ishmael's one-way ticket to the other side of the world – a ticket that takes him away from affluence and into third-world slums.

It's a rather novel usage of the game, particularly for a player who seems to have such a bright future in it.

But Ishmael's recent travels to Kenyan orphanages spawned a passion that supersedes anything basketball can offer.

Once the Northwest University basketball coaches understood that, the 6-foot-7 forward was all theirs.

"I've always seen basketball as means to an end," Ishmael says. The end he's hoping for is in Nairobi – the capital of Kenya – where he has worked in orphanages and with religious leaders for the past five years.

## **WITH THE WORLD WATCHING**

Ishmael's two-month trip this summer – his longest to date – came at a time when world leaders had convened in Gleneagles, Scotland, for the G8 Summit to discuss (among other issues) the insurmountable

debts of third-world countries.

For the first time in five years, Ishmael made the trip alone. Previously, he traveled in groups or with another person.

His first trip, after his freshman year at Redmond High, was with a college-aged group led by his parents, who are the United States coordinators for Christian Ministries in Africa. He made two trips with that group before joining a friend for the excursion in 2004.

Of the 5,000 Americans living in Kenya (a country similar to Texas in size), the U.S. State Department estimates about two-thirds are missionaries and their families.

But the average American tourist, Ishmael said, does not understand the scope of the problems afflicting the eastern African country. Even working through the ministries group, he said, access was limited at best.

"I didn't have their trust the first time I went," he says.

Traveling alone this summer, however, gave Ishmael access to Nairobi's daily life he otherwise would not have experienced.

"There's a whole new realm to it when you are there with all your senses," Ishmael said. "When

you see it on TV, the one thing you don't see is the hope. They have a lot of hope."

## **A DAY IN THE LIFE**

According to the State Department, the standard of living in Kenya, which was once "relatively high," is declining. A report released by the State Department in June puts Kenya's per capita income at \$271.

Ishmael estimated that on a good day, a Kenyan can make 60 to 150 shillings, which is less than \$2.

Even so, he said, he usually was treated to big meals by his host family. That made it hard for him to experience their day-to-day struggles.

"Probably the closest I can get to it is the people telling me their stories," he said.





# For Northwest University's Stephen Ishmael, his work in Kenya overshadows his love for playing basketball

The AIDS crisis, however, is unavoidable, he said, because it pervades nearly every aspect of daily life in Kenya – as it does in many other African nations.

One morning during his 2003 visit, Ishmael was taken to a burial ground where a long row of graves were dug and expected to be filled by that afternoon.

Ishmael was there for the funeral of a young girl named Caroline, who died in an HIV extension home.

The infant mortality rate in Kenya is more than 1-in-10, and the average life expectancy is 49 years.

Problems are compounded by a government that is corrupt and prone to mismanagement, leaving the Kenyan people with little more than their own hope.

“(The people) really want to have an assurance that food is coming,” Ishmael says. “A major thing is that there is not a lot of security.”

## HOME COURT ADVANTAGES

Ishmael is back home, preparing for his sophomore season with the Northwest basketball team. As a freshman reserve, he averaged 10.6 points and 5.4 rebounds a game. He was named the Cascade Conference Freshman of the Year.

Ishmael contributed eight rebounds and nearly 18 points a game for Redmond as a senior in 2004, when he earned Kingco MVP honors.

His scholarship to play basketball

at NU covers everything except books and food. Before he accepted it, however, he told coaches he planned to make summer visits to Kenya, which meant he would miss the recommended summer workouts. He had the coaches' support from the start.

Ishmael sees basketball as the job that pays for his education. His other job, as a landscape developer, pays for everything else – including his trips to Kenya.

“While I'm playing basketball, I want to continue to get better,” Ishmael said. “But if something was getting in the way of my passion in Kenya, I'd have to re-evaluate.”

Ishmael also brought a small part of the game to Nakuru, where one of the boys orphanages is located. They built an 8-foot hoop on a makeshift court for the boys to play.

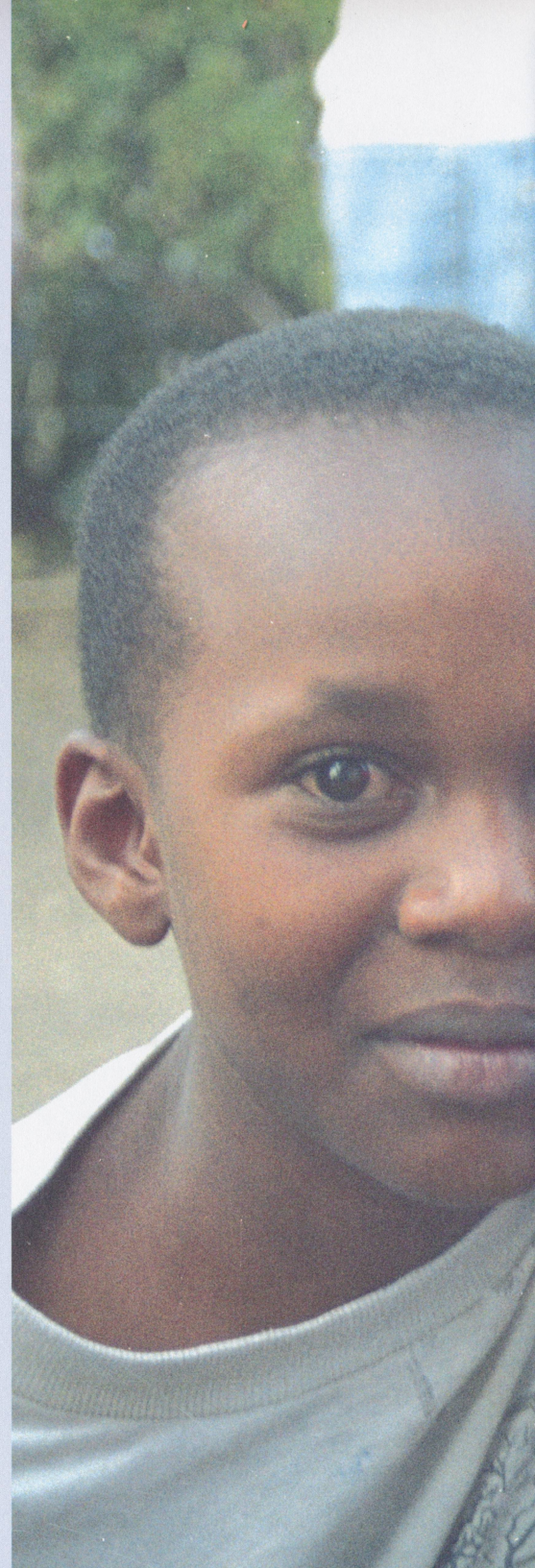
“I'll play a little bit,” he said, “but it's not like America where you can find a court pretty much anywhere.”

The game has its place, and Kenya has his heart. Though Ishmael can't yet foresee how it will happen, he hopes to move to Kenya after college.

“I've been called to Kenya, and it's become a passion of mine,” he said. “It's about being part of something bigger than yourself.”

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**For more information about Northwest University, call 800.669.3781 or visit [www.northwestu.edu](http://www.northwestu.edu).**



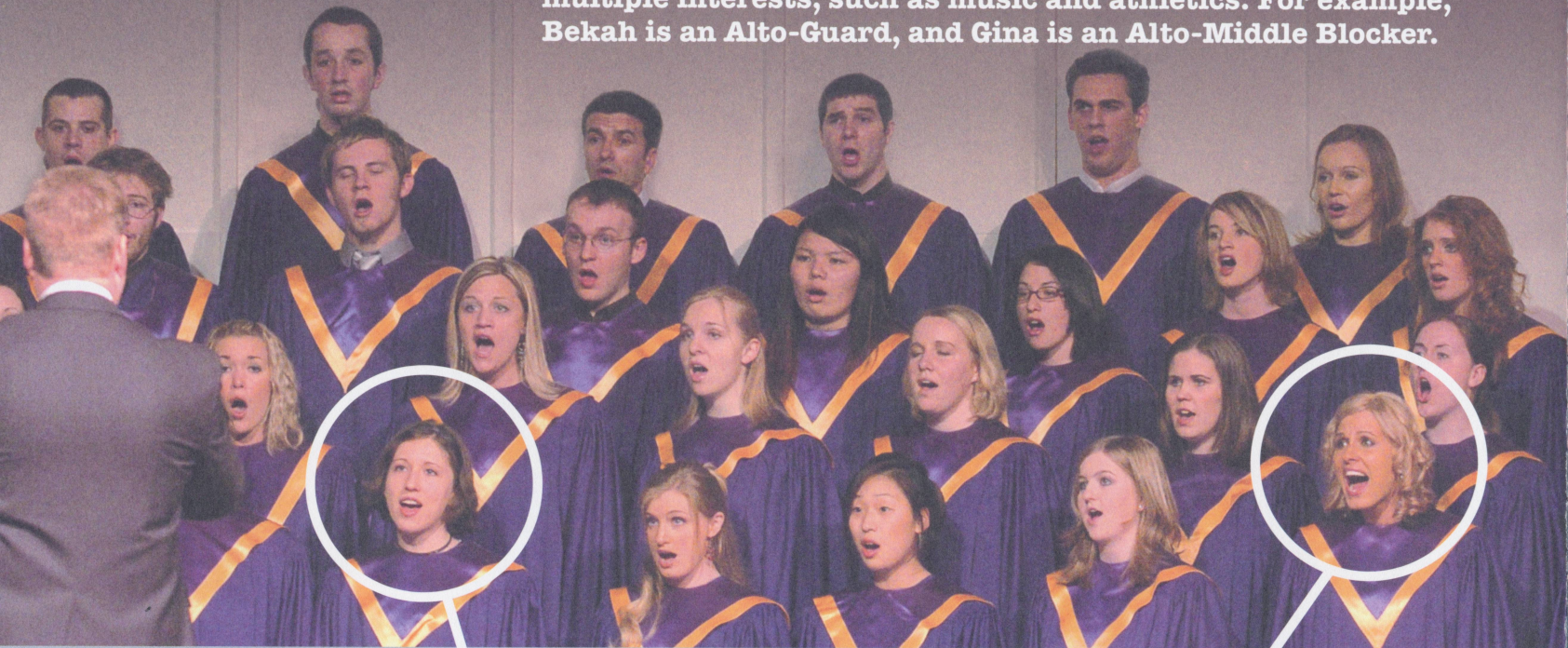






# Hey, I'm a "Hyphenate"

In the entertainment industry, for example, it's prestigious to have a hyphen in your title – something like Actor-Director or Writer-Producer. At Northwest University, students can pursue multiple interests, such as music and athletics. For example, Bekah is an Alto-Guard, and Gina is an Alto-Middle Blocker.



## Alto-Guard

### Bekah Proctor

is an English major with a Music minor. She is a guard on the basketball team, sings in the Concert Choir, and tutors in the writing center.

Bekah, who was named an All-Cascade Conference Honorable Mention last season, says about her full schedule, "I think it enhances the education experience. I am able to broaden my experiences and skills and do fun stuff, like making music and playing basketball."

Staying involved provides opportunities to build relationships. "I associate with three groups: the English department, the music department, and the athletic department. It is fun to get to mingle with a lot of different people," she says.



## Alto-Middle Blocker

### Gina Lubanovici

a Political Science major with a Writing minor, says about playing on the volleyball team and singing in the Concert Choir, "Both of them are complete time commitments, but they are my passion. It is amazing that I can do them both at the college level. It plugs me into the college community."

Gina says that her extracurricular involvement at Northwest has been life changing: "In my two years here I have grown more as a person than in my entire life," she says.

"God uses other people to influence me and build me up. He uses relationships from choir and volleyball and people all over campus."







High school sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduates:

*You are invited...*  
TO VISIT OUR CAMPUS AND EXPERIENCE

# Northwest Fridays!

We'd love to have you visit our campus during one of our **Northwest Fridays**. This is a great chance to experience life at Northwest University up close and personal. You can worship in chapel, attend actual classes, meet current students, and chat with professors.

There's a **Northwest Friday** every month:

2005	2006	
■ Nov. 4	■ Jan. 27	■ March 17
■ Dec. 2	■ Feb. 24	■ April 21

## The Schedule

- 8:00 Registration (in Chapel)
- 8:30 Welcome
- 9:00 Campus Tour/Class Visit
- 10:00 Chapel
- 11:30 Campus Tour/Lunch/Class Visit
- 12:30 Lunch/Class Visit
- 1:30 Lunch/Parent Information Meeting/Class Visit
- 2:30 Financial Aid and Scholarship Workshop
- 3:30 Faculty Dessert – Meet professors/ask questions
- 5:00 Dinner

More than **50**  
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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
COMMUNICATION  
COMMUNICATION AND PREACHING  
CONTEMPORARY MUSIC INDUSTRY  
DRAMA  
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION  
ENGLISH  
ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS EDUCATION  
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
FILM STUDIES  
GENERAL MINISTRIES  
GENERAL MUSIC EDUCATION  
GENERAL STUDIES  
HEALTH AND FITNESS EDUCATION  
HEALTH SCIENCE  
HISTORY  
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC EDUCATION  
INTERCULTURAL STUDIES  
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES  
LEGAL STUDIES (PRE-LAW)  
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MANAGEMENT  
MARKETING  
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MISSIONS  
MUSIC  
MUSIC EDUCATION  
MUSIC MINISTRY  
NEW TESTAMENT GREEK  
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PASTORAL MINISTRIES  
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POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY  
PSYCHOLOGY  
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P.O. Box 579  
Kirkland, WA 98083-0579

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