

NORTHWEST PASSAGES

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY | WINTER 2020



ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

EMERGING FROM
UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

HOLISTIC LEADERSHIP



Northwest
UNIVERSITY



Pandemic, but Not Panicked

I dislike the word “pandemic.” It sounds like *pandemonium* on one hand (the place in *Paradise Lost* which served as “the high capital of Satan and all his peers”) and *panic* on the other hand (sudden mass terror in which we confront exaggerated fears). I am happy to say that the COVID-19 pandemic at Northwest University has brought neither pandemonium nor panic. From the earliest days of March, we have taken a careful, measured, calm approach that has served us very well. We took a conservative approach to action, carefully *following* the leadership of Seattle-King County Public Health (that is, not getting out in front of their advice). Just-in-time action resulted in optimal outcomes and kept us from acting out of fear. We carefully communicated with everyone in our extended community on a regular basis, kept an updated Frequently Asked Questions page on our website, and managed to end the year strong financially.

Over the summer, we planned for every “worst-case scenario” and other contingencies we could imagine. The faculty adopted an approach to teaching called HyFlex that would ensure that students could choose either to return to campus for classes in physical presence or stay home and attend classes by Zoom. We equipped all our classrooms with large screen monitors and other equipment to allow for real-time participation in the same lectures and discussions for both local and remote

students. All our planning—together with the impressive discipline our students have exhibited in wearing masks and appropriately distancing—has worked out to give us a successful semester together on campus. *As of late November, we have had twenty-two confirmed cases of COVID-19 with only ONE case of on-campus transmission.* No one on campus has suffered serious illness or hospitalization, and everyone who has tested positive has completely recovered. In response to the spiking number of new cases being reported in our state and in our country, our students will finish out the semester fully online. No one currently has the disease. Without a doubt, God has stood with us as we have stood with God.

We have committed ourselves to stay focused on the person of Jesus, to walk in the Spirit, and to cling firmly to the Word of God. We believe in the future, and we have spent months preparing to roll out new degree programs that will give us not only greater job market relevance but also a wider field of action for our graduates to express their calling and gifts. This fall our Creatio Center for Technology, Media, and Design launched new bachelor’s degree programs in User Experience (UX) Design, Video Production, and Audio Production. Next fall we roll out degree programs in Computer Science and Data Science. More technology majors will follow each fall for years to come. We are also planning a

variety of exciting new master’s and doctoral degree programs that we will announce soon. Our current PhD and EdD programs have grown this year, and our Doctor of Psychology program has become quite selective. Online programs exceeded our enrollment goals this fall and promise to continue expanding our reach.

We still face serious challenges from the pandemic, but we continue to operate with faith and confidence that we can overcome whatever presents itself. Our employees are attitude champions. Our students have inspired us with their love for community and commitment to preparing for their future. We have learned that faith, sober planning, and persistent work go a long way toward winning this struggle, and even though we recognize that the effect of the pandemic brings deep complexities to our future operations and that the worst may still lie ahead, we have confidence that God remains with us and will show us what to do as we watch, pray, and plan.

Sincerely,

Joseph Castleberry, EdD
President



Northwest UNIVERSITY

CONTRIBUTORS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

Joseph Castleberry, EdD

EDITOR

John Vicory

MANAGING EDITOR

Beth Boyd

STAFF WRITER

Isaac Peabody

DESIGNERS

Amy St.Clair

Ryan Kropf

PHOTOGRAPHERS

John Vicory

Tyler Milligan

Jake Campbell

Matt Lee

Connor Strauss

CONTACT

passages@northwestu.edu

NU MISSION

We, the people of Northwest University, carry the call of God by continually building a learning community dedicated to spiritual vitality, academic excellence, and empowered engagement with human need.

Northwest University is accredited by:



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Alumni of the Year

Each year, Northwest University selects one of our graduates to receive the Alumni of the Year Award. This has been one of our favorite annual traditions since 1967. It's a joy to recognize NU family members that are making an impact for Christ in their communities across the globe. Usually, this award is presented at our annual Homecoming and Family Weekend. Due to COVID-19, we had to postpone this event, which usually takes place in the fall, to a later date in February. Each recipient gets to give a speech at Homecoming

and Family Weekend and at the President's Banquet, and he or she is also highlighted in our alumni magazine, *Passages*. This year, we did not select an individual. Instead, we felt compelled to honor a very special group of people as collective recipients of the Alumni of the Year Award.

This year, we are honored to present the 2020 Alumni of the Year Award to all NU Alumni Frontline Health Care Workers.

The Alumni of the Year award is given to those who positively contribute to their community,

continue to carry the call of God, and show outstanding work and initiative in their field. Those qualities are clearly displayed by the nurses, counselors, and other frontline health care workers who have been working so hard this year. We could not be more proud of this group and their courageous response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We want to sincerely thank our NU alumni who have been actively and diligently fighting against the spread of the virus. **They have sacrificed much, and our community will always be grateful.**

Terra Mangum, DNP, ARNP

CLASS OF 2008



WHAT DOES YOUR “NEW NORMAL” LOOK LIKE?

This has been an interesting year in health care. During the past nine months, I have been overburdened by understaffing in urgent care; furloughed due to lack of patient visits; fielding thousands of phone notes, labs, and emails regarding COVID-19; learned telehealth to better access patients from the safety of their own homes; helped set up a respiratory illness clinic, and maintained my normal practice in primary care. On my urgent care clinic days, my colleague and I are divided between respiratory and non-respiratory clinics. My primary care clinic days are filled with a mix of in-person and telehealth appointments. I wear a mask and eye protection all day which has been good for preventing illness but makes assessing and connecting with patients more difficult. I am reading a lot more journal articles and updates as we continue to learn more about the virus at the center of the pandemic. Seeing the scientific method played out across the nation and the world as scientists hypothesize, study, revise, and make new recommendations has been intriguing and also the most trying time of my 12-year career. I feel torn between being grateful to work in a position where I help

others and can maintain calm amongst colleagues and patients who are fearful, and wishing I worked in a safer profession where I could better quarantine and protect myself and my family.

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD AT WORK DURING THESE TRYING TIMES?

On a personal level, I have been more consistently in prayer throughout my day for my patients, community, colleagues, and family. In the spring, our clinic had few healthy patients coming in and so staff were asked to take leave and/or were furloughed. I was able to spend six weeks at home on furlough just as we welcomed another foster teen into our family. We now have had two teens recently added to our family and a one-year-old. The extra time with them was exactly what they needed in that season and what we needed as a family. God provided for our family's emotional, physical, financial, and spiritual needs during this uncertain time. Next, my grandfather passed in August, and due to COVID we had been separated from seeing him and my grandmother for the prior five months. It was both an incredible loss and a celebration of his life and deep faith. With God's provision we were able to bring my grandmother home

on hospice to live with us in September so that we can spend her last months or years with her. The pandemic has brought our typically obligation-burdened family inward, and increased our time together as we have adjusted to a new normal. Lastly, after going through five years of infertility and medical intervention, we were blessed with a daughter in May 2019. God surprised us all with a miracle pregnancy in May 2020 and our son will be joining us around the new year.

HOW CAN THE NU COMMUNITY BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

We in healthcare are generally exhausted. It has been nine months of more calls, emails, increased teaching, and daily concern for our patients, community, families, nation, and world. We have seen more fear, denial, death, lingering illness, and burnout of colleagues and staff during this time. Pray for encouragement, endurance, safety and health, and peace that surpasses understanding.

Ben Sterciuc, RN, MN

CLASS OF 2006

WHAT DOES YOUR “NEW NORMAL” LOOK LIKE?

This year was one of the most difficult years in 25 years of operating eldercare facilities. We had to adapt rapidly and implement drastic measures in our geriatric nursing work with the most vulnerable population: seniors. Yet, as hard as it was for our team to do all the new training, and the daily extra work required to keep everyone healthy and safe, the most difficult “new normal” is for our patients who are isolated from their loved ones who are not allowed to visit them in person. We’ve implemented creative ways, using new technology to keep the patients connected to their families, their friends and community, yet we all hope that this crisis will soon be over and families can be once again reunited!

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD AT WORK DURING THESE TRYING TIMES?

We have witnessed God’s grace and love for us in supernatural ways this year! Our family has been well and healthy during this pandemic, which allowed us to care for our teams, our patients, and clients alike.

In our international ministry, we have seen God do some

miraculous work in Kenya and Uganda. All of our 18 different locations have been protected and all of our students, church members and pastors, teaching and medical staff have been healthy during this pandemic season for the past nine months. The generosity of our family, friends, and donors allowed us to make and provide masks, soap bars, and emergency food kits to thousands of families in Kenya, Uganda, and Pakistan.

Also, during this pandemic and amidst lockdowns, in the past nine months we have planted two new churches in Uganda and two in Kenya, built and launched two Vital Solutions clinics and two Elevation Academy schools in very impoverished and marginalized communities. And the Board of Prisons Kenya asked for our help to provide emergency food for inmates in difficult prisons. 2020 has been the best year so far in our international ministry in Africa.

HOW CAN THE NU COMMUNITY BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

Please pray for the ministry we’ve started in Pakistan: the Middle East is our new frontier! God opened a new door for ministry there, and we now have a team in place working

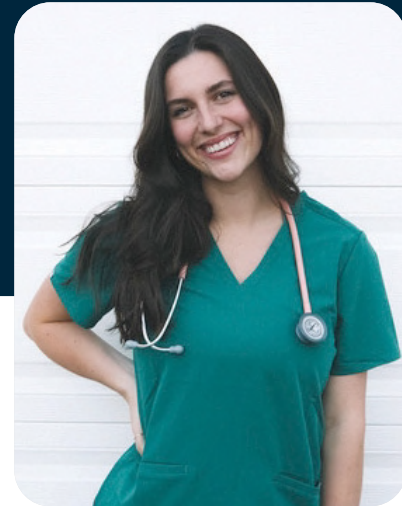


through the logistics of launching this new work, and we pray for buildable land in the slums of Lahore, Pakistan, where we will build a clinic, a school, and a church so that we can continue on mission to “elevate JESUS to the people of Pakistan.”



Jane Cooksley, BSN, RN

CLASS OF 2020



WHAT DOES YOUR “NEW NORMAL” LOOK LIKE?

As a 2020 graduate, my cohort's graduation experience was unlike any other. But the global pandemic made us all the more eager to enter the workforce and do our part as nurses. I currently work for a pediatric intensive care home-health agency. We work with clients, most often children, who would likely be in the intensive care unit of a hospital if they were not granted in-home nursing staff. Because we only work with one or two clients at a time, all of our efforts are focused on keeping that client safe. When patients are in a hospital, they often understand their risk for contracting additional illnesses from staff or other patients. However, when you work with clients in their homes, the incoming nurses are the primary risk for exposure. Our clients are very susceptible to COVID; contracting it could be life-threatening for many of them. My “new normal” requires me to make daily decisions that will positively affect my client and their family. We have extremely strict policies for wearing PPE and for understanding our risk outside the client's home. Unfortunately, if any nurse on the team has a possible exposure to COVID, the family has to forfeit nursing care until results come

back negative. Instances like this have already occurred multiple times since I started my job, and we have certainly been reminded that COVID is still active and present in our community. This adds a lot of pressure on us as a staff to ensure even our decisions outside of work are safe and responsible. I have had to say “no” a lot more in this season, but it has allowed me to gain a new understanding of patient advocacy.

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD AT WORK DURING THESE TRYING TIMES?

It is so evident to me that God is actively at work during these unprecedented times. As many challenges as COVID has presented, it has also created countless opportunities. In many ways, the community of health care workers is bonded unlike ever before. We have learned how to sacrifice for one another, see the bigger picture, and better prepare for our future. I have seen so much grace extended amongst staff, patients, and families as we have come to understand that much of our present situation is out of our control. We have learned to lay aside our own expectations and set even higher ones for ourselves in order to protect the people around us. I have heard

countless stories lately about positive health care experiences even in the wake of this global pandemic. God is working in us and through us, and we are trusting him to sustain our ability to keep caring as He has called us to.

HOW CAN THE NU COMMUNITY BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

I think many nurses could use prayer for both patience and motivation. It can be very frustrating for health care workers when people do not take their health or the health of those around them seriously. Please pray that we would have patience in this long and hard fight against COVID as well as patience for a tired and restless community. Many of us need motivation to keep moving forward, to continue learning, and to foster our passion for our careers. I ask that the NU community pray for a renewed sense of value, belief, and hope as we continue to care for those in need.



Renee St. Jacques, PhD

CLASS OF 2015

HOW DID YOU ADAPT YOUR PRACTICE TO CATER TO PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PANDEMIC?

This is not just a public health crisis, this is a mental health crisis. God never made humans to live in isolation. Loneliness and depression is on the rise. I have adapted my practice to ensure that I can really serve as a support, a safe space, a resource and an advocate for mental health during these challenging times.

WHAT DOES YOUR “NEW NORMAL” LOOK LIKE?

Thankfully both my work as a counselor and coach can be done 100% remotely. Although I miss being able to attune to my clients in-person (read their body

language, look them in the eye, etc.) to foster the optimal therapeutic alliance, I am grateful for the ability to continue meeting without interruption despite the pandemic. Because my two- and four-year-old children are at home now and not in daycare, my “new normal” is a mix of meetings and calls in the morning and early afternoon. Then I spend the rest of the day with my kids! It’s a juggle and the noise management on calls (especially when I’m giving a big virtual training) is a challenge, but we are making it work.

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD AT WORK DURING THESE TRYING TIMES?

There is a myriad of “macro” level global and national events in our political, racial,



and public health landscape that are impacting the “micro” level aspects of individuals. Although this has not been a comfortable year by any means, I believe God is surfacing up undealt with issues in individuals, communities, and even in the church, that need to be addressed.

HOW CAN THE NU COMMUNITY BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

Clarity, wisdom, and influence as I seek to be a light and a witness especially in the corporate space.

Brooke Lundquist, PhD, LMHC

CLASS OF 2007

HOW DID YOU ADAPT YOUR PRACTICE TO CATER TO PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PANDEMIC?

Thankfully I have still been able to do counseling via telehealth over the past eight months of working from home. I am so thankful that technological advances have allowed for us to continue working with clients especially during this time.

WHAT DOES YOUR “NEW NORMAL” LOOK LIKE?

In addition to my roles as professor and counselor, my two daughters are also attending school from home. I start my day with prayer and then a workout—self-care has been essential for me especially in this season. After getting the kids ready for the day and online for their classes, I either start seeing clients from my home

office, catch up on emails, grade papers/ assignments, or I meet with students, depending on the day. In between meetings or sessions, I help my daughters with their schoolwork, make lunches, and sometimes even get some playtime in with them. It’s definitely been a juggling act this year, but I’m so grateful to be able to do all of these important roles safely from home.

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD AT WORK DURING THESE TRYING TIMES?

God has shown up in so many ways throughout the past many months. We have gone through some difficult health issues in our family this year and He has been with us and with our family members through these incredibly challenging times. In addition, He has continued to surround us with people who pray for, love on, and



support us. And I feel His presence regularly when I start to feel overwhelmed or my heart is heavy.

HOW CAN THE NU COMMUNITY BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

I have been praying for steadfastness through this season. It’s so very important to me to fully show up for all of my roles, and I would just ask for prayer for strength, grace, and persistence. In addition, our family could use prayer for complete healing for our brother-in-law who is fighting stage 4 colon cancer. We have seen such amazing progress and are believing for complete healing!

Mattie Keltner, BSN, RN

CLASS OF 2017



WHAT DOES YOUR “NEW NORMAL” LOOK LIKE?

One “new normal” is having so many patients who have been hospitalized for weeks to months. The pandemic has made it challenging to place patients at assisted living and long-term care facilities, leading to prolonged hospital stays. We take care of the same people for months, and then realize that they have not seen an actual face or smile in all that time. This can be disheartening, but it also provides opportunities to be creative in the ways we care for people. In some ways, the lives of health care workers haven’t really changed that much: we

go to work to care for the sick and hurting. In other ways, it is radically different: new policies each week, supply shortages, and being the only source of human interaction for people.

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD AT WORK DURING THESE TRYING TIMES?

I see God at work in the generosity of others. Individuals, groups, and businesses have given incredibly to my health care organization. I see God in patients: those who choose hope in pain, who show kindness under stress, and joy when it doesn’t feel like there’s anything to celebrate.

HOW CAN THE NU COMMUNITY BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

The NU community can be praying for renewal of strength. It takes so much more energy to care for people during these times. Complaining sometimes feels like an easier route. As believers we have access to a strength that is sufficient and a joy that never ends. Each day I pray for physical energy, and I pray to find delight in my work.



Thank you to all the alumni health care workers who are working on the front lines during this pandemic. We are grateful for you, and we are praying for you.

“He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.” Psalm 91:4 NIV

Emerging From Unprecedented Times

On August 31, classes began for the 2020–2021 school year. After months of intense planning and pivoting, NU was finally able to open its doors to students once again. While the masks, social distancing measures, and safety regulations are a daily reminder that life is nowhere near “back to normal,” we remain grateful for the opportunity to bring the members of our community together again.

Our top priority as a university will always be the health and safety of our community. So, when the pandemic struck in March, we took every precaution necessary to protect our students. This, unfortunately, meant a hurried end to the Spring 2020 semester. It was heartbreaking to cancel so many of our community’s favorite events, including our baccalaureate and commencement ceremonies.

As we began to approach the fall, we knew it was crucial to find a way for our community to return to campus safely. We firmly believe that a high-quality educational experience for our students remains a vital aspect of their lives. So, we’re taking every necessary step to continue providing that education in this unique Christian learning environment that we all love so much. We know that this school year already looks very different than any semester we’ve ever had on our campus. Nevertheless, we are committed to rise to the challenge and we will continue to fill the 2020–2021 school year with good things.





With safety regulations in place and a new hybrid modality for our courses called HyFlex, we have been able to charge ahead with our classes in a way that both protects our students and provides them with the education they're seeking. Though there have been a few cases of the virus during our first semester, the percentage for our student body is far below average, and at the time of writing, all cases have made full recoveries.

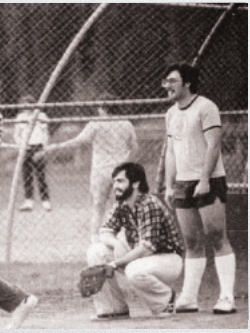
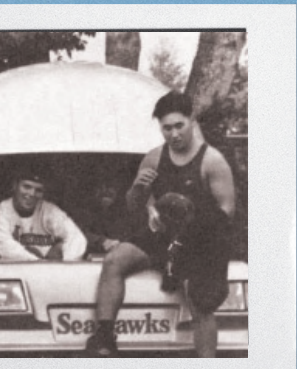
Though we are grateful to be open, our plans for the future are focused on thriving, not just surviving. Our online enrollment has surpassed our goals for this year, our graduate programs are filling their cohorts, and we've launched several new, cutting-edge programs with more on the way in 2021. We have not slowed in our continued pursuit of providing a quality, Christian education to the leaders of tomorrow.

We may not know what lies ahead with the future of this virus, but we do know that we remain determined to provide the Christ-centered education we're known for no matter the circumstances.



We will continue to follow CDC guidelines for universities, and we will continue to go above and beyond when it comes to the needs of our students. We will also remain united in Christ as we seek to equip the Christian leaders of tomorrow to impact our world for Christ. Though these are indeed unprecedented times, we will reach the other side as the Lord our God gives us strength.

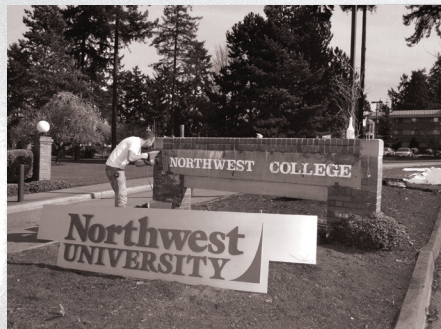




SNAPSHOTS

NU THROUGH THE YEARS

Do you have any snapshots from your time at NU that you'd like to share with the community? If so, submit them to passages@northwestu.edu.



Doctor

ROWLANDA CAWTHON



HOLISTIC LEADERSHIP

A new dean and a new vision for the College of Business.

Over the summer, Dr. Rowlanda Cawthon stepped into the role of interim dean of the College of Business. After the retirement of our previous dean, Dr. Theresa Gillespie, it became clear to the search committee that Dr. Cawthon was the perfect candidate to manage the transition. After a very successful semester as interim dean, the Board of Directors approved her selection as our new, full-fledged dean. For Dr. Cawthon, stepping into her own deanship is a sort of arrival. It's a culmination of years of hard work, staying true to her dreams, and the investment of key mentors.

"When I was in my master's degree program, I met a gentleman named Dr. Glenn Worthington who is now my mentor," Dr. Cawthon says. Dr. Worthington is the dean of the business school where she did her graduate work. "He was the one who talked me into getting my doctoral degree." In recalling her years working with Dr. Worthington, Dr. Cawthon credits him with opening the door for her first teaching job, helping her land a significant scholarship for her doctoral study, and inspiring her to become a dean someday. "Had it not been for Dr. Glenn Worthington and how he used his role as dean to open up doors for me, I would not be where I am today."

That investment made a significant impression on Dr. Cawthon, and it informs her approach to her own experience as dean today. "For me, being dean means leveraging this position so that I can have a long-term impact in the lives of the people that I'm fortunate to engage with while in this role," she explains. "I've seen the impact of a dean that is involved and engaged in doing the hard work of building relationships. We can, as professors, go into the classroom and get so focused on academics that we forget that our students are human beings. They don't leave their problems at the door in the classroom; they want to be nurtured beyond just the academic experience."

To make this holistic approach a staple of the student experience in the College of Business, Dr. Cawthon knows that collaboration will be key. "Theresa was in this role for over 10 years, so clearly she set a really great foundation," Dr. Cawthon points out. "What the faculty, staff, and I are most excited about is building on some of the things that Theresa has done to take the COB to the next level. The first important aspect of this work is building a more collaborative culture within the College of Business."

And it doesn't stop with staff and faculty. Dr. Cawthon's positive mentorship experience has shown her the value of inviting every contributing party into the process, including students. "Building a collaborative culture can't be top-down. It has to be from the bottom up. We have to get students involved, we have to get stakeholders involved, because it's crucial to get buy-in."

As a part of her new vision, Dr. Cawthon is also leading the charge in holding the College of Business to the very highest standards. She and her team are seeking reaffirmation of accreditation for NU's business degrees, expanding NU's business network for the benefit of students and alumni careers, and seeking out extra trainings and certifications to add to graduates' resumes. "My hope for our students is not only that their business acumen would increase, but that their spiritual acumen would increase as well. I want them to walk away knowing more about themselves than when they got here."

Dr. Cawthon brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the College of Business from various industries including marketing, sales, and corrections. She is a favorite professor of many students on campus, and she has already gained the trust and praise of her community. We look forward to her deanship with the great expectation that her impact on NU will benefit students and alumni for years to come.



STUDENT ENCOURAGEMENTS

During a typical school year, *Passages* magazine is primarily intended to provide our readers with news and updates from the Northwest University community. But 2020 has been anything but typical. In addition to its usual content, we felt strongly compelled to make this issue of *Passages* a source of encouragement. **NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY IS A COMMUNITY WITH A FOUNDATION BUILT ON HOPE.** And this is a hope that transcends all circumstances—even when those circumstances include a pandemic. We hope these short devotionals from the students you support encourage you and lift your spirit.



SPACE TO DWELL

ISABEL HOIEM
CURRENT NU STUDENT
PASTORAL MINISTRY MAJOR

Dwelling is a commitment. The hard truth is commitment is never easy; every commitment should be followed by an asterisk, implying hardship. God-honoring commitment must be grounded in the steadfast love of our Father, championed with grit and supernatural strength. If 2020 has proven anything, it is that God is one of the few certainties in our lives. In order to live the abundant life God promises us, **WE MUST MAKE SPACE TO DWELL IN HIM.**

In **Psalm 27**, David finds himself in the midst of trouble, but his verbiage demonstrates his confidence and security are rooted in God. Appointed officials conspire against David, but David scoffs at them, stating, “Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1 NIV). He places the weight of his circumstance on the shoulders of God instead of internalizing it.

A couple of sentences later, David poses a request to God: “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life” (27:4). When we make a commitment to dwell in God’s presence, fear and stress pale in comparison to our confidence in the

Lord. David could easily have fixated on the many stresses life presented him, but his confidence rested in something greater.

Nevertheless, dwelling in God’s presence isn’t meant to be taxing, but a source of rest and renewal. When I come home from a long day of class, I am met by hardwood floors, the sound of CDs from the early 2000s, and the smell of Yankee Candles. These things bring me a sense of comfort and safety because they resemble home. Dwelling in God’s presence for eternity is meant to bring this sense of security to our hearts. It doesn’t mean we won’t have bad days, but bad days can be met with confidence in God.

PRAYER

God, we ask that we may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives.



THERE IS A LIVING HOPE

DANNY LOPEZ
CURRENT NU STUDENT
PASTORAL MINISTRY MAJOR



When I was a sophomore in high school, I played basketball. Granted, I wasn't good being only 5'9" and only playing JV. However, I enjoyed playing, and for a JV team we were pretty good. In our summer tournament we had played really well and made it to the finals. We played this final against a team that outplayed us. I remember the locker room talk after the game and how we all felt. We had hoped that we would win, after all. We had worked hard to get to this place only to let ourselves down.

While this is a small example, losing that game hurt, and it left us in pain because we had put our hope in winning and we didn't receive it. I'm sure many of us have felt a similar hurt when what we hope for and put our trust in lets us down. When we put our hope in things like health, money, jobs, relationships, winning, or anything else besides Christ, we are always left disappointed because all of those things are temporary. They aren't bad things, but they are finite and not everlasting.

A great example of putting our hope in eternal things is found in the book of 1 Peter. The people Peter was writing to

were a scattered group who were being persecuted all throughout Rome. Many of them were suffering and in deep sorrow, so Peter reminds them of their living hope. **IT'S NOT THAT THEY WILL BE REMOVED FROM THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT INSTEAD THAT JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN AND REIGN AGAIN.** In **1 Peter 1:3** it says: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (NIV). Their hope was that Jesus will return. Our living hope is that Jesus will return.

Later in the chapter, Peter uses an illustration of gold. When gold is put through the fire, the heat refines it and takes off any imperfections. Suffering roots you deeper into your hope. In fact, you can be filled with deep rejoicing and filled with deep sorrow. Our living hope actually drives us toward suffering. We are not called to an easy life; instead, we are called to walk in this life joyfully. Amidst the pain, amidst the suffering, we can walk through it joyfully knowing Jesus will return.

PRAYER

God, I pray that I would be deeply rooted in the only living hope, which is that Jesus will return. Amidst my suffering, help me to know I have hope and joy in You. Help me to not ignore the pain, but to know the battle has been won. I give myself to you, God. Amen.



WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING...



GABRIELA SALAS

HOMETOWN: Tacoma, Washington

CLASS STANDING: Junior

MAJOR: Business Administration

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT NU?

I love most that I'm able to play collegiate soccer in a great environment with great people around me. This community means a lot—especially the support we receive as athletes.

HOW IS NU PREPARING YOU FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE?

It gives me the chance to be more independent and shows me how life is, especially because of the distance apart from my family.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT NU?

What I love about Northwest is the community that Latina and Latino students have. It is a small community, but we all love to get to know each other, and we always welcome each other with open arms. Something that people always talk about when they come to NU is how amazing the community is as a whole, but they never mention how there are multiple

communities on campus that make the whole university so wonderful; one of them being the Latino and Latina community.

WHAT DOES THE NU COMMUNITY MEAN TO YOU?

The NU community means unity in Christ. We may not all look the same or think the same way, but we all follow one God.



ALEX THIEHOFE

HOMETOWN: Bottrop, Germany

CLASS STANDING: Sophomore

MAJOR: Business Administration

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT NU?

I love how close-knit the campus and the people are. I love that I can go anywhere on campus—whether I'm sitting in the Pecota Student Center in-between classes, in the library late at night, or even at a coffee shop in Kirkland on the weekend—and always run into someone from Northwest University. The idea of community isn't just amongst those few you know, but it runs through the school in all different grades and time spent at the university.

WHAT DOES THE NU COMMUNITY MEAN TO YOU?

The NU community means to be in step in the same season. Community means to grow in education, press into friendships, lean into personal leadership, and overall be together in spiritual growth. It truly means, regardless of what season we all may be in, that we all look to the same Lord through it all.



NIHARIKA PHAMBOTA

HOMETOWN: Covington, Washington

CLASS STANDING: Junior

MAJOR: Accounting

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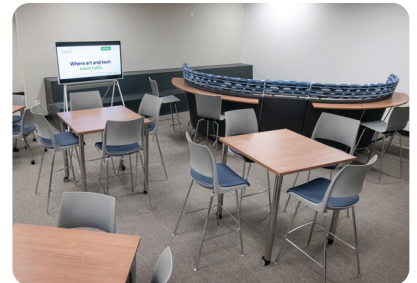
Creatio

A new creative haven.

We are pleased to share some exciting updates from the Creatio Center for Technology, Media, and Design. As of November, our state-of-the-art design lab is fully furnished and all but complete. Students are beginning to explore our new programs, and we are thrilled to offer them a space built specifically to inspire and contribute directly to their creativity and learning. With the combination of new lounge areas, an industry-standard video editing suite, and our already impressive recording studios, **the Creatio Center is shaping up to be**

a thriving hub for talented students filled with bright ideas.

In addition to a new space, we are pleased to add even more programs as a part of the Creatio Center's offerings. Starting in Fall 2021, students will be able to major in Data Science and Computer Science in addition to the four programs we currently offer. We can't wait to see how our students use the knowledge they gain in these programs to impact the tech and art industries for the Kingdom of God.



Programs in the Creatio Center for Technology, Media, and Design

BA in Audio Production

BS in Computer Science*

BA in Contemporary Music Industry

BS in Data Science*

BA in User Experience (UX) Design

BA in Video Production

**Coming Fall 2021*



northwestu.edu/creatio

BUNTAIN COLLEGE OF NURSING

Dr. Erin-Joy Bjorge (Dean, Nursing) presented “The Impact of a Cultural Immersion Experience on Developing Cultural Competence Among Baccalaureate Nursing Students” at Sigma Theta Tau’s 31st International Research Congress.

Chanda Moellenberg (Assistant Professor, Nursing) presented “Winterizing Your Sim Center” for the Pacific Northwest Healthcare Simulation Collaborative.

Dr. Tiffany Zyniewicz (Associate Professor, Nursing) presented “Ohio Simulation Study Proposal - Input and Partnership Opportunity” to Ohio Nursing Deans and Directors. She was also awarded a research fellowship with the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dr. Clint Bryan (Assistant Professor, English) published his review of Kate Bowler’s *The Precarious Power of Evangelical Women Celebrities in Politics, Religion & Ideology*. Also, his book chapter, “Bound to Sound: Ong’s Swan Song Still Belongs,” will appear in *Lost Texts in Rhetoric and Composition* when published in 2021.

Chrystal Helmcke (Assistant Professor, Communications and Theatre Arts) and Dr. Renee Bourdeaux (Assistant Professor, Communication) were part of a group presenting “Image Encounter” for the International Conference on The Image (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4qlhcRr0rQ&t=167s>).

Lenae Nofziger (Professor, English) published a poem, “There was a poet on Edisto Island who roared,” in *The Journal of Mennonite Writing* (<https://mennonitewriting.org/journal/12/2/tributes-students-and-colleagues/#page7>).

Dr. Eve Wade (Assistant Professor, History) wrote a series of entries for the website Blackpast.org including posts on Lori Lightfoot, Mayor of Chicago (<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/lori-lightfoot-1962/>); Evelyn Carmon Nicol, a pioneer in microbiology and immunology (<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/evelyn-carmon-nicol-1930-2020/>); and Christopher Barnes, currently working to find a vaccine for COVID-19 (<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/christopher-barnes-1986/>).

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dr. Shannon Fletcher (Associate Professor, Business) presented “The Paradox of Student-Centered Learning” at the ACBSP Annual 2020 Virtual Conference.

Dr. Todd Nelson (Assistant Professor, Business) presented “Enhancing Business Education with Trial Simulations” at the Pacific Northwest Academy for Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference.

Dr. Tony Pizelo (Associate Professor, Business) presented “Developing Business Leaders for a Better Tomorrow: Presenting a New Leadership Development Model” at the ACBSP Region 7 Conference.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Jeremy Delamarter (Associate Professor, Education) published “Reclaiming Location in Education: A Response to the COVID Pandemic” in *International Dialogues in Education*. Dr. Delamarter and Mary Ewart (Assistant Professor, Education) published “Responding to Student Teachers’ Fears: How We’re Adjusting during the COVID-19 Shutdowns” in the *Northwest Journal of Teacher Education*.

COLLEGE OF MINISTRY

Dr. Kari Brodin (Professor, New Testament and Greek) is the featured scholar in October for the Assemblies of God “Chasing Truth” women’s Bible reading plan, posting weekly videos addressing various passages on their Facebook site.

Dr. Blaine Charette (Professor, Bible and Greek) published “The Shema as a Key to Understanding Worship in the Synoptic Gospels” in *Toward a Pentecostal Theology of Worship*.

Dr. Bill Oliverio (Associate Professor, Public Theology) co-authored an editorial, “American Pentecostalism, the 8:46 Moment, and the COVID-Pandemic,” which appeared in *Pneuma: Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*. He also published “The Beauty of the Immanent: Dialectics of Divine Presence in Nimi Wariboko and David Bentley Hart” in *The Philosophy of Nimi Wariboko*, “Theological Hermeneutics: Understanding the World in Encounter with God” in *The Routledge Companion to Pentecostal Theology*, and “Contours of a Constructive Pentecostal Philosophical-Theological Hermeneutic” in *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 29:1.

Dr. Joshua Ziefle (Dean) launched a blog (www.joshuaziefle.com) as well as a podcast, “*Christianity Now*.”

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Dr. Kim Lampson (Professor, Psychology) published an article, “The Bad Virus: The First Incidence of COVID-19 in a Psychology Training Clinic,” and a poem, “The Virus,” in the Association of Psychology Training Clinics Bulletin.

Dr. Brooke Lundquist (Associate Professor, Counseling) presented a webinar, Developing your Researcher Identity, for the Summer Writing Collaborative Stewardship Team, a project of the Counseling Research and Leadership Lab at Oregon State University. Her publication, “Experiences of Counselor Education Doctoral Student Mothers With Young Children” is scheduled to appear in the December 2020 issue of *Counselor Education and Supervision*.

2000s

**Kanoe Vierra ('02)**

Northwest College (now Northwest University) prepared me well for my career as an English Language Arts teacher. Dr. Paul Kress, Dr. Susan Kobashigawa, and Mr. Leigh Wilson were three professors that I really connected with

during my time at Northwest, and I've remained in contact with them over the past 20-plus years.

I took what I learned from Northwest University with me as I began my teaching career. In fact, I "borrowed" much of what I currently do in my classroom from the relationships and the sharing of ideas from my professors as well as the students I interacted with at Northwest.

Currently, I serve as an English Language Arts teacher and Dean of Students at Scriber Lake High School. I also serve on various committees in the Edmonds School District. I am one of the founders and a leader for the Edmonds Educators of Color Network and serve as a Washington Education Association's Culturally Responsive Practices Trainer.

**Austin Robinson ('09)**

In 2009, I graduated from NU with a bachelor's in History. Shortly after, I moved to rural Baja California, Mexico, to volunteer at a school for children with learning disabilities. I taught there for more than three years before

co-founding a disability services organization. After four years of operations, Eternal Anchor saw amazing growth. In addition to the residential program that now offers a loving home to eight children with special needs (where I have had the pleasure to serve as a full-time caregiver for more than six years), we currently operate a special education school, adult life skills program, a mobility and adaptive equipment workshop, a social work program, and a horse therapy center. Each week, our amazing local staff members serve more than 150 clients with special needs and their families. In order to better serve as the director of Eternal Anchor, I started seeking professional development opportunities about two years ago. That's when I returned to NU and joined the Master's in International Community Development program. The program gave me the tools and knowledge to be a more effective leader and to implement new policies and initiatives that increase both the quality of the work we do and the capacity to help even more families in our remote region. My time at NU fueled my passion for international social justice, inspired me to engage foreign communities and cultures with humility and sensitivity, and equipped me to become a better leader.

2010s

**Jessica (Weaver) Downs ('10)**

After graduation, Jessica's Children's Ministry degree came in handy as she became the Children's Pastor at a local church. She married her college sweetheart, Loren Downs, in March of 2011 and has served in a couple of children's ministry

positions in the greater Seattle area since then. Jessica has had the opportunity to collaborate in three published kids ministry books—two put out by the Northwest Ministry Network and one by the National Assemblies of God. She was also given the opportunity to be mentored by Jim Wideman and to attend the Leadership Journey through the NWMN.

Loren and Jessica have been very open about their five-year struggle with infertility and Jessica has a heart for ministering to those going through the same experience. In July of 2019 they welcomed their long-awaited miracle, Nathaniel David Downs, into their family. Both Jessica and Loren have a heart for foster children and have served at Royal Family Kids Camp for 10 years and have been licensed foster parents through Olive Crest. Jessica currently serves at Cedar Park Church in Bothell as their Early Childhood Pastor and loves volunteering for NWMN Kids events.

**Christina Ho ('14)**

Graduating from Northwest University's Buntain School of Nursing was one of my proudest accomplishments, and I still proudly let my Eagle wings soar! After starting my nursing career on a progressive neuro care and transplant unit

in Seattle, I left home to expand my skills as a travel nurse. In the past few years, I've had the privilege to work at some of the nation's top hospitals and trauma centers in various specialties in Philadelphia, New York City, and Los Angeles. While I absolutely LOVED travel nursing, I recently gave it all up to follow my lifelong dream of being a missionary nurse. Alongside a mission organization called 4 Christ Mission, I lead the medical branch to train disciples and missionaries to be healthy not only physically, but mentally, emotionally, and spiritually as well. As the Bible commands, we seek to love the Lord with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and integrate a holistic approach to do so to be effective ministers of the gospel. As I care directly for coronavirus patients these days, I am humbled and amazed that God would call me into such a position and time as this, and am unbelievably grateful to be doing all that He has called me to do!

Despite the challenges of this year, we have been pleased to see many alumni still making major career moves. Some of these career moves have received well-deserved media attention. We are deeply proud of these alumni and thrilled to see them excel.

JEFFERY PORTMANN

Because of his years of faithfulness and experience as a pastor and church planter, Jeffrey Portmann has been chosen for a new leadership role with the Assemblies of God as director of the church multiplication network. Jeffrey is best known for his work in planting Newhope Church and its four sister locations. Now, as the new director of the church multiplication network, his church planting skills will be put to use on a larger scale.

AG News (2020, June 29). Portmann to Direct Church Multiplication Network. Retrieved November 24, 2020, from <https://news.ag.org/News/Portmann-to-Direct-Church-Multiplication-Network>.

ADAM SWINYARD

Over the summer, alumnus Adam Swinyard became superintendent of the Spokane school district, which includes more than 31,000 students. Though he faces a tough challenge as he transitions into his new role during a global pandemic, Adam came into his new role with courage and momentum as someone who had already supervised the transition of classrooms from in-person to online.

Allen, J. (2020, July 04). New Spokane schools leader faces 'significant challenge' leading district during pandemic. Retrieved November 24, 2020, from <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2020/jul/05/new-spokane-schools-leader-is-young-picked-from-wi/>.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

DAN BERGMAN

Parkview Medical Center in Pueblo, Colorado, recently hired NU Alumnus Dan Bergman to serve as director of cardiovascular services. Dan received his BA in Organizational Management from NU, as well as his MBA. Since then, Dan's hard work and experience have earned him an outstanding reputation among health care professionals in Colorado.

Pompia, J. (2020, October 24). Bergman to head Parkview cardiovascular. Retrieved November 24, 2020, from <https://www.chieftain.com/story/news/local/2020/10/24/dan-bergman-lead-pueblo-parkview-cardiovascular-services/6023232002/>.

NORMA HERNANDEZ

As of August 2019, NU alumna Norma Hernandez has served as the mayor of College Place, a city near Walla Walla, Washington. This new role came to her after pushing for greater awareness of the needs of the Latino community as a member of the city council. Now, as the first Latina mayor of College Place, Norma is working hard to make sure her city emerges from the pandemic ready to thrive.

Reed, D. (2020, July 10). A vision for a city's future. Retrieved November 24, 2020, from https://www.union-bulletin.com/lifestyles/a-vision-for-a-citys-future/article_a4e60c93-7370-56a4-a045-df61986dab32.html.



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THE NU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: *Membership Has Its Privileges.*

If you've ever thought about joining the NU Alumni Association, there are plenty of reasons to do so. It's a great way to stay in touch with NU and your fellow alumni, and it offers real benefits you can use. Joining is simple. Just complete the online form and begin your membership privileges right away: northwestu.edu/alumni/association.

Take a Free Class

NU grads have the opportunity to attend an undergraduate day or evening class totally free of charge every year.

NU ID Card

The NU ID card will provide access to a variety of benefits—both on and off campus.

Northwest Passages

We'll send you *Northwest Passages*, a 28-page magazine that will help you stay connected with NU and your fellow alumni.

Alumni E-Newsletter

Stay up to date on NU news and events with our e-newsletter, which comes out several times each year.

Eagle Fitness Center

The fitness center is located in the Barton Building. As an NU alum, you have access for \$15/month for individuals or \$25/month for family memberships.

Library

You'll have full borrowing privileges at Hurst Library. To check out books, all you need is your NU ID card.

Hotel Discounts

Receive discounts at Kirkland hotels when visiting the campus during university events.