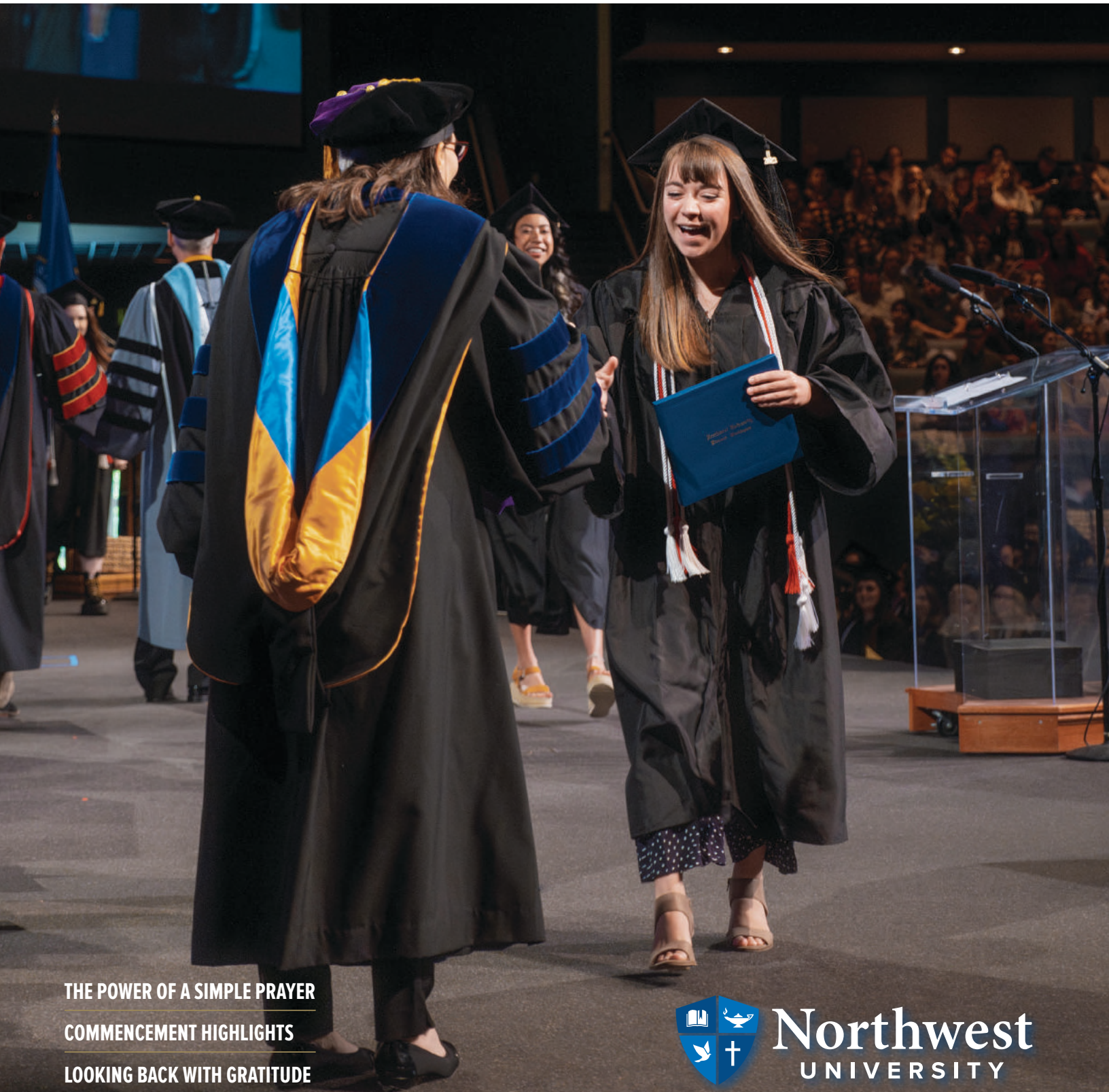


NORTHWEST PASSAGES

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY | SUMMER 2023



THE POWER OF A SIMPLE PRAYER
COMMENCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS
LOOKING BACK WITH GRATITUDE



Northwest
UNIVERSITY



Kingdom Impact

Nothing holds greater importance for universities than their *impact*. Charles Habib Malik, one of the most important founding leaders of the United Nations and a serious Christian, saw the university as the most influential institution in the world: “This great Western institution, the university, dominates the world today more than any other institution: more than the church, more than the government, more than all other institutions.” He had a strong point. Through our halls pass almost all the world’s most prominent leaders in government, industry, business, culture, religion, arts and entertainment, health care, education, journalism, and in almost every other sphere of human interaction. Charged with shaping the lives of students during their most formative stage of life, universities cannot escape their duty to make a positive impact.

Impact seems to imply motion, and perhaps nothing moves slower than a traditional bricks-and-mortar university. Yet Northwest University is dynamic. Our Northwest Partnership Program has established church internship sites from coast to coast in America. Our nursing students do clinical rotations all over the world, and almost all our students complete a study abroad activity of some kind. In the summer of 2023, I’ll take a group of 30 students on an international business study tour of Singapore, where they will hear from top Singaporean business, government, and artistic leaders who consciously apply their Christian principles in that burgeoning economy and society. I hope our students will find inspiration to do the same. From the beginning, Northwest University has believed in the Great Commission and in our duty to impact the whole world for Christ, and our alumni serve the Kingdom of God and humanity in every time zone on the planet.

Universities make their impact through people, and I want to take this opportunity to celebrate the effect of our Provost Emeritus, Dr. Jim Heugel. Jim served for 24 years at Northwest University after 15 years in ministry at University of Washington Chi Alpha and at local churches. In mid-career, he completed his PhD in History in order to devote his considerable intellectual skill to

teaching. His strong administrative talents quickly led to his appointment as provost 18 years ago, and as a result he has made a historic impact on the development of Northwest University. I encourage you to read about the transformational impact Dr. Heugel has had on Northwest University as its provost since 2005. (See page 14 of this issue.)

Of course, all of Jim’s achievements depended on teamwork, and he has worked with great teams here who deserve immense credit for his accomplishments. Still, I’ve never labored alongside anyone who works harder than Jim Heugel, and his impact has gone far beyond “the work.” He has strengthened and empowered everyone around him through his kindness and compassion and his stern insistence on drawing out the best in everyone. When I look at my 16 years at Northwest, I realize that I would have failed miserably without his executorial skills. Ideas are worth little without action, and Jim Heugel always knew how to convert ideas into action and impact. We can never thank him enough for his tireless efforts and results.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Passages*, which explores the impact of Northwest University through stories from influential alumni and through the reflections of key personnel who have announced their retirement this year. It won’t offer a comprehensive report on our impact, but hopefully an inspiring one. And we pray for your continuing impact on the world for God’s Kingdom.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Castleberry, EdD
President

[Follow Dr. Castleberry’s blog at northwestu.edu/president/blog.](https://northwestu.edu/president/blog)



Northwest UNIVERSITY

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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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From a simple prayer decades ago, God is building a state-of-the-art learning community that now includes bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in ever-growing fields of study. We've come a long way since the photo above showing Williams, Rice, and Fee Halls before they were combined to make up today's Ness building.



The Power of a Simple Prayer

Impact is a funny thing.

Very often, you can't tell the effect that a particular action will have until years later. It can best be seen by looking back.

■ About a century ago, two women knelt on a sprawling patch of land in Kirkland, praying that one day God would raise up a Bible school on these very grounds. This prayer would one day be answered in the form of Northwest University—an academic institution that would train hundreds of pastors to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world.

■ In 1966, the administration at NU applied for accreditation as a four-year college. Years later, this initial accreditation would give rise to a college of nursing, a college of business, STEM degrees, education and counseling degrees, the Creatio Center for Technology, Media, and Design, master's and doctoral programs—plus many more. Now, graduates of these programs go out into a variety of professional and ministry careers as the hands and heart and hope of Jesus.

■ Just this month, hundreds of Northwest University students walked across a commencement stage, filled with promise. As we watched them take their diplomas in hand, we cheered. We hoped. We saw in them the possibility of life unfolding.

Where will their paths lead? What effect will they have on the world? Despite our belief in these recent graduates, it's hard to say with certainty from the vantage point we have today.

But there is One who knows.

Years from now, we will look back upon the class of 2023—no longer through a glass darkly—but face-to-face, recognizing the impact they've made as pastors, teachers, medical professionals, and therapists. As entrepreneurs and creators. As husbands and wives. As moms and dads.

And we will praise God for the impact of two women who knelt in faithful prayer on a dense patch of forest in a small town that would one day be part of Kirkland.

THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH Commencement OF NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY

Walking into Overlake Christian Church, you could feel the excitement. Proud parents, grandparents, and friends made their way into the auditorium to cheer for their loved one on a job well done. The academic labors for these graduates were over. And the celebration was just beginning.

The festivities started with a Scripture reading and worship. Students and guests stood in unison to sing a song that meant even more on this momentous day: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” A student quartet continued the celebration with the song “Grace.”

Now it was time for the speakers and the honors.

President Castleberry spoke first by welcoming all and asking the question: *The mind is a kingdom, but who will rule*

it? The answer quickly followed: *Yield the mind to God’s rule.*

Next, Grace Seoyum gave the student address. She spoke with passion about all who had encouraged her throughout her academic journey.

Craig and April Chapman were recognized with the President’s Award for their significant contributions to NU and the community. John Jordan and Dr. Jim Heugel received awards for their service to NU—Mr. Jordan for his excellent work as CFO and Dr. Heugel for his transformative 18 years as provost. When Dr. Heugel took his award, he turned to see the faculty and students standing to honor him. Well done, good and faithful servants!

The Reverend Dr. Donna Barrett, general secretary for the General Council of the Assemblies of God,

was called to the stage to receive her honorary doctorate degree. Taking her seat, she didn’t rest for long. Rev. Barrett returned to center stage to give the 2023 commencement address. She urged graduates to remember five simple words that Paul penned in Ephesians 4: *I beg you to lead.* Rev. Barrett reminded us that the world needs Christians who are willing to lead when the moment calls for it. Sometimes the moment is large. Other times, it’s small. But all moments of leadership require the Holy Spirit’s discernment, wisdom, and courage to step forward and lead.

**Congratulations to these
leaders and Kingdom servants:
Northwest University’s
Class of 2023!**







“Lord, Maximize Our Impact.”

Brian and Emilie McCormack

I think about how impactful it was to have people older than me take an interest in me. I felt seen and recognized by the leaders at NU and was told: “You’re worth my time and investment, and you’re valuable right now, in this season of your life—not just when you’re on a church staff someday.”



Husband and wife Brian and Emilie McCormack graduated from Northwest University in 2005 and 2007, respectively. They’ve had a dynamic career in full-time ministry ever since. Recently, they moved their family to College Station, Texas, after God led them to join the team as executive leaders at Breakaway Ministries—the nation’s largest college Bible study, which meets on the Texas A&M campus. Here, they share their story about how the opportunity came and reflect on their time at NU.

After many years as the founding and lead pastors at Reach Church in Kirkland, you felt God leading you to something new. How did this opportunity at Breakaway Ministries come about?

Brian: In the final weeks of 2021, everything in our ministry and our lives was really wonderful. But Emilie and I could not shake the stirring we felt. It took us months to discern what it was, but we realized the Lord was speaking this word of completion of assignment over us. We took a summer sabbatical to explore what that meant and specifically prayed: **Lord, we want our family to thrive, and we want maximum impact for your Kingdom.** When we brought this to the leadership at Reach, they confirmed that they were feeling the same sense of completion for us. So, in October 2022, we announced to our church that we would be spending another six months at Reach, even though we had no idea what was coming next. Three weeks after that announcement, this leadership opportunity at Breakaway Ministries presented itself. We now get to provide leadership, teaching, and vision for the largest on-campus Bible study in the country. The purpose and mission of Breakaway is to help any and every student take their first or next step with Jesus. At its heartbeat, it’s a Bible study, but it’s also a place to encounter the presence of God through worship and prayer. And we get to help this ministry operate like a funnel, taking 75,000 undergrad students and discipling them into the Kingdom, into faith, and into local churches. It’s absolutely a dream scenario that we never could have imagined, and Emilie and I love that we get to do this work together.

How would you summarize the impact of your ministry over the past several years?

Emilie: Our passion, from the very beginning, has always involved the words “both/and”— meaning that we’ve always wanted our ministry to be a place that is passionate about the Word of God and the movement of the Spirit of God; passionate about evangelism and discipleship. It’s important to us to be Bible people who also care about engaging with the world and the things that we’re facing without compromising the Scriptures.

Brian: I think we take great joy in blowing up false dichotomies. People will ask: Are you a Bible church or a Holy Spirit church? That’s a false dichotomy. Or: Are you guys passionate about evangelism or justice? That’s another false dichotomy. That’s really the heartbeat of the both/and idea for us. And that has been at the center of everything we’ve done over the years, whether that was with church planting and the work we did at Reach or with what we’re doing now at Breakaway.

It’s often said that people in ministry should not pour from an empty cup. As you continue to think about ways you can maximize your impact, it’s equally important to maintain spiritual, personal, and professional self-care. What does that look like for both of you?

Emilie: I would say there’s no replacement for time spent with Jesus in the Word and in prayer. Both of us can sense when we’re not spending time with Jesus, and that’s



when we start to pour from that empty cup. I’d also say that there’s no substitution for time with your family. It’s vitally important to have moments of togetherness and to be able to look each other in the eye and really listen to one another. In today’s culture, that can be so hard to fight for, but it’s so critical and worth fighting for.

Brian: We try to curate deep friendships and seek out committed mentors. And we try to maintain a posture that is always willing to admit that we will never be above the need for counseling and coaching. Over the past two or three years especially, Emilie and I have gotten really serious about these things.

What excites you most about the work that you get to do at Breakaway?

Brian: We really feel like God has invited us into something much bigger than us and bigger even than Breakaway. We get the sense that He wants to do something incredible with Gen Z, and to be a part of that is really humbling. We already feel strongly that the immediate fruits of this work will be really fun to bear—like watching the gospel change hearts and the Holy Spirit change lives—but we’re already geeking out about the future. We’re excited to be in our 70s one day, sitting on our porch, counting the fruit of what these students will go on to do with their lives across the country and the world.

Emilie: The opportunity to work with Gen Z is really exciting. Again, going back to that both/and idea: I love getting to train this generation to have a gospel worldview with the hope that they have in Christ and



to engage the world. In my circle these days, there’s a lot of talk about fear and how people are scared to raise kids in this day and age. But we feel the opposite of that. It’s the most incredible opportunity to engage these students, to train them, and to scatter them so that they can radically love others and bring hope to those around them.

How did NU impact you and prepare you for your career?

Emilie: NU was a place to practice ministry—leading worship, leading small groups, getting to preach and teach through the ministry of Choralons. Now that we’re working with college students, I’m also seeing the value of having a safe space for that development. I think about how impactful it was to have people older than me take an interest in me. I felt seen and recognized by the leaders at NU and was told: “You’re worth my time and investment, and you’re valuable right now, in this season of your life—not just when you’re on a church staff someday.” I pray to be able to do the same thing for the college students I’m working with now.

Brian: Mine would be twofold. First, I’m grateful for the leadership classes I took with Dr. Matt Nelson, which were truly formative in teaching me what Christian leadership is. Another class that impacted me was Acts of the Apostles with Dr. Blaine Charette. I came to NU as a kid who really knew his Bible, but I had never really been around the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit before. I had a lot of questions about the “why” of it all. That class with Dr. Charette gave me a really robust theological understanding of what it looks like to be a biblically grounded, Spirit-filled follower of Jesus, and that has shaped my approach to ministry. Second, being a student at NU gives you an opportunity to follow Jesus alongside other Christians in a context that, in many ways, feels years ahead of the rest of the country in terms of culture. So, if God sees fit to send you to some other part of the country, you’ll know how to engage culture as it progresses while faithfully following Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Our time at NU and our season of ministry in Seattle gave us a really unique perspective that we’re now able to bring into what God has for us next.

Faith in Action:

Mark Smith

“How do you help people turn their life around?”

It's this weighted question that has led Mark Smith ('81) down a winding career path over several decades before ultimately landing in his current role: vice president for humanities and emergency affairs at World Vision. Over the years, he has held several different vocational titles: student, pastor, criminal defensive lawyer, and humanitarian. But it's clear that no matter where his career has taken him, he feels deeply compelled to live out Jesus' command to love and serve others.

Mark graduated from Northwest University with a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Literature. He recalls enjoyable memories of his time at NU, playing on the soccer team and participating in other intramural sports. And he remembers the

distinct impact that President D.V. Hurst and Dr. Pecota had on him as a young scholar.

After graduating from NU, Mark followed in his father's footsteps and became a full-time pastor. He served for eight years at Broadway Church—a Pentecostal church in Vancouver, British Columbia. During this time, he also enrolled at Regent College, where he earned a certificate in Christian Studies with a focus on Christianity and poverty.

Some significant theological seeds were planted in Mark's heart during this time, and he began wrestling with questions around Christian morality and ethics, wondering if God was leading him to serve through a career outside of a vocational ministry context. These musings led him to make a profound career change. After eight years at Broadway Church, Mark left his role there and went on to pursue law school so he

could become a criminal defense attorney. “Another way to frame it is poverty law,” he said, describing the issues that impacted many of the individuals he represented in court.

His legal career was successful, but his hunger to help people transform their lives continued to grow. So, in the 1990s, he took a break from his law practice and decided to volunteer in Calcutta, India, with the Assemblies of God and the Christian nonprofit organization Mission of Mercy Canada. His first trip to India was beneficial, so he was invited back a second time. Once again, God was preparing Mark for another seismic shift in his career.

Four days after his arrival in Calcutta in 1999, the coast of India was hit by a super cyclone. Suddenly, Mark found himself in the middle of a devastating natural disaster that affected millions of people. Here was an opportunity to



Mark Smith ('81) is the vice president for humanities and emergency affairs at World Vision.

impact and transform the lives of people in need in a deeply substantive way, and that was exactly what Mark did. Despite not having any formal tactical training in disaster relief, he was appointed to be the response director during his trip. And thus began his career in disaster relief work. He's never looked back.

"I found my sweet spot," he said about this newfound direction. Looking at the trajectory of the many roles Mark has had and the different humanitarian organizations he's worked with over the past eight and a half years, it's clear that that is true.

After India, he returned to North America to serve as an international director at Convoy of Hope. This got him noticed by World Relief, where he went next to work as their emergency response director, followed by a senior strategist opportunity at the American Red Cross. All of these roles prepared Mark for his current position at World Vision and gave him the opportunity to grow his skills, deepen his faith, and serve communities in a large and scalable way.

But for Mark, it's not simply about an impressive resumé. This desire to serve and transform lives is essential to his faith.

"When I think about my spiritual impact, I have found my most meaningful moments as a follower of Christ come from serving others and what I do for others. If we, as Christians, are pursuing spiritual growth for the sake of growth itself, we're missing it. That is just not the end of what our faith should be about. I think we are here to serve others."

At Northwest University, we talk often about the vital importance of serving our communities. As our mission statement declares, we are dedicated to "empowered engagement with human need." Mark Smith is an exemplary reminder that our graduates are doing exactly that.

Where Academic Excellence Meets the Grace of Jesus Christ.



Northwest
UNIVERSITY

Jesus First. Jesus Always.

Bachelor's | Master's | Doctorate

Business | Education | Health Care | Technology | Ministry
Psychology | Communications | Leadership

Kirkland Campus | Oregon Campus | Northwest Partnership Program | Online



HOW TO PACK A WHOLE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY INSIDE YOUR LAPTOP.



You know the value of a master's degree: greater career stability, promotion possibilities, and higher earnings. But with all of the demands on your life, who has time? At Northwest University, you do. Our online programs are tailor-made for busy working adults.

You'll study the same courses. You'll learn from many of the same professors. You'll earn the same degree. You can even walk in the same commencement ceremony.

Here's the biggest difference: Unlike other large online universities, NU offers a Jesus-first academic experience where your faith is welcomed. In fact, it's integrated into your learning. And our costs are very competitive with other online options.

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To find out more, visit northwestu.edu/online.



**HIGHEST ACCREDITATION | FAITH-FRIENDLY | *FORTUNE* BEST ONLINE NURSING
YOUR OWN ACADEMIC ADVISOR | *U.S. NEWS* BEST VALUE | NO HIDDEN FEES**





The Parting of Our Provost

No academic leader in Northwest University's history has led the development of as many transformational new programs as provost emeritus Dr. Jim Heugel. In the past 20 years, his leadership has facilitated a doubling in our enrollment, the founding of many undergraduate majors, the establishment of almost all of our 16 graduate programs, new accreditation for our business and psychology programs as well as continuing affirmation of our institutional accreditation, advancement in the Carnegie classifications from "regional college" to "doctoral professional university," the creation of our highly innovative Career Readiness Initiative, the establishment of successful online programs, and much, much more. As he enters into his well-earned next chapter—retirement—he leaves us with these reflections about his time at NU.

“ I arrived at Northwest University (then Northwest College) 49 years ago in the fall of 1974 as a freshman, and Northwest has been a part of my identity ever since. As a student, I had a blast! I made lifelong friends, met the love of my life and now wife, Cherie, and was shaped by godly professors like Dan Pecota and LeRoy Johnson. When I graduated, I was academically prepared to earn a master's in Theology from Fuller Seminary and a PhD in History from the University of Washington.

Returning to NU in 1999 after 15 years of ministry as a campus pastor at UW and then senior pastor of a church in Seattle was a dream come true. I loved teaching classes and interacting with students. One highlight was

a student discussion group that met weekly for several years called *Grex Christianus* (Latin for "Christian Group"). In fact, two of our current faculty members—Joe McQueen in English and Danette Ver Woert in Nursing—were part of *Grex* when they were students.

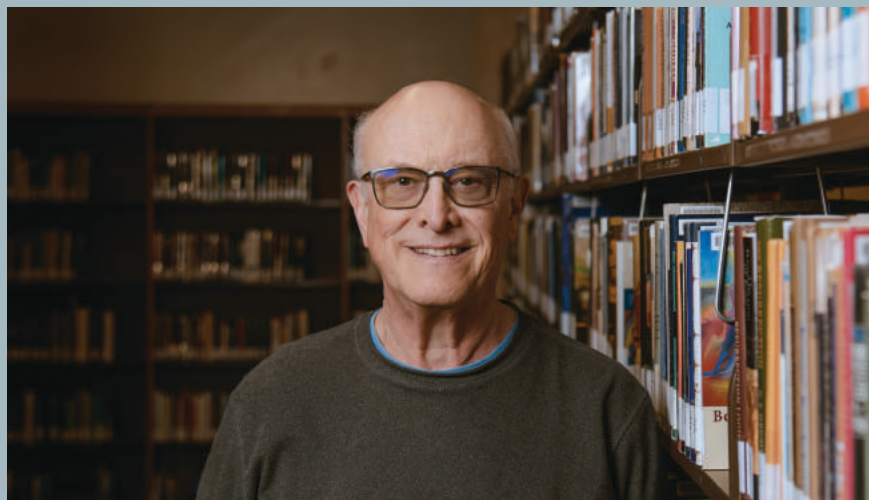
My appointment as provost in 2005 came unexpectedly soon. I have always felt both humbled and honored to serve in this role and to have been involved in developing the number and quality of academic programs we now offer at NU. Alongside academic growth, my attention has been focused on creating a community culture that is strong and reflects Jesus. The best thing about being provost is that almost every day, I've been

able to be part of creating a policy, making a decision, or implementing a plan that will make someone's life better.

I am grateful to the Lord for the way He has directed me to spend my life. The faculty and staff at NU are second to none, and it has been a privilege to serve alongside them. I will miss my daily interaction with them and our students more than I can say.

In retirement, Cherie and I want to remain engaged with NU in a supportive way. I often tell students and new faculty members: my prayer is that Northwest University will be as much a place of joy for them as it has been for me.

—Dr. Jim Heugel, Provost Emeritus



Decades of Dedication

Dr. Kevin Leach has been a staple of Northwest University’s psychology program for nearly three decades. Over the course of his 27-year tenure, he has taught and advised hundreds of students, has been a trusted colleague to other faculty and staff, and has been a faithful and noteworthy contributor to NU’s environment of academic excellence. As he prepares to retire from his teaching career at the end of the 2022–23 school year, his legacy at NU will undoubtedly continue to inspire our learning community for years to come. Here are his parting thoughts as he looks back on his time at NU.



“ When I arrived at Northwest College in 1996, there was no Health and Sciences Center, no student apartments, and no duplexes. The Seattle Seahawks were still training in what are now the Barton building and the soccer fields. Employees were just starting to receive desktop computers for their work, and the total number of faculty members was small enough that we could take our annual group photo in Dickey Plaza. Also, the cafeteria food was not as good as it is now—something that all generations say to previous generations, but that is usually true.

But here’s one thing that was true about NU then and remains true now: students, staff, and faculty have always been committed to honoring and following

Jesus. As we have added new buildings and academic programs and have redesigned our campus to fit the needs of a more modern learning community, I remain impressed with the spiritual wisdom and discernment of my colleagues as they seek to help students see how their faith in Jesus informs learning and how learning informs faith.

Northwest University has been and is a place to grow spiritually and intellectually. Faculty arriving at NU after me have achieved levels of scholarship in publishing and grant writing that did not seem possible in 1996. As I retire in 2023, I am confident that NU is in good hands. Go, Eagles!

—Dr. Kevin Leach, *Psychology professor*

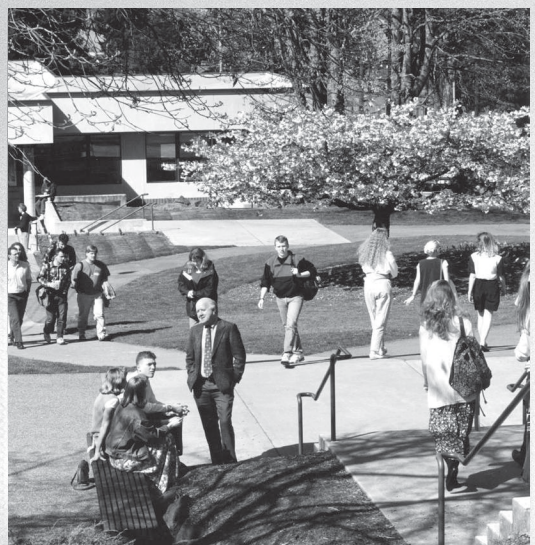
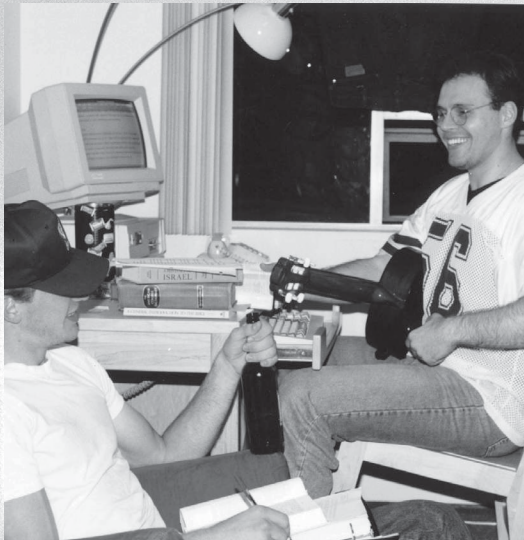




SNAPSHOTS

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.



THE 2023 SCHOOL YEAR AT A
GLANCE

01

REVIVAL NOW

A speaker series led by NU's Campus Ministries that focused on equipping our students to be effective agents of revival in the Church.

NU WOMEN'S SOCCER

02

The women's soccer team beat the College of Idaho on the road to clinch the title of Cascade Collegiate Conference Champions.



03

HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

After a three-year hiatus, alumni, students, parents, and families gathered for fun, food, worship, and friendship during this weekendlong event.



04



SCREAMING EAGLES WEEK

This weeklong competition built community by bringing together the student body who donned creative NU spirit gear and competed for the coveted stump trophy.



06

GRANTS RECEIVED

NU received two substantial grants this year. A \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment will be used to establish the new Family Faith Formation Initiative to support Christian parenting and church mentorship. The second is a \$1.5 million grant from the Murdock Charitable Trust.



PRESIDENT'S BANQUET

07

This annual gala brought together friends of Northwest University to raise money for student scholarships. This year, over \$1.5 million was raised—a new record for the event.

THE ARTS

05

NU students and faculty staged William Shakespeare's comedy "Love's Labour's Lost." Other artistic endeavors included recitals from NU's concert choir, symphony orchestra, and Choralons.

PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP

08

Forty-eight highly academic students and 93 guests attended this annual event to interact with faculty, attend a dinner with NU leadership, and compete for our highest scholarship awards.

09

MR. NORTHWEST

A fun event where NU men participated by dorm for the title of Mr. Northwest. This year's winner was Jacob Weaver of the Wolfpack.



10

HER VOICE, HER FAITH CONFERENCE

Seasoned business leaders and entrepreneurs with bold ideas and perspectives gathered together to network, learn, and grow.



EVENING AT THE SEATTLE AQUARIUM

11

An end-of-the-year tradition that brings students together for a formal event. This year's theme was "Under the Sea," featuring music, hors d'oeuvres, and an impromptu marriage proposal.

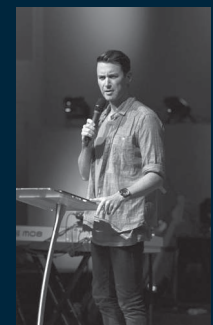
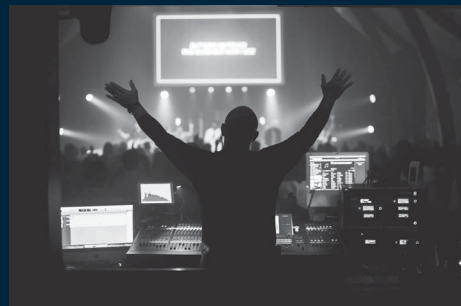




Looking Back With Gratitude

We have always put Jesus first at Northwest University. Nothing testifies more to that reality than the priority we place on our life in the Butterfield Chapel. In the chapel, students, faculty, and staff have gathered in prayer and praise. There, speakers have brought Scripture to life. Hurts have been healed, tears have fallen, and hands have been raised. In that space, the living Spirit of God breathes into the human spirit to convict, encourage, and transform.

Here, we show the chapel over the years with hearts full of gratitude for all that God has done in this humble yet powerful space.



Looking Forward With Anticipation



The Butterfield Chapel—spiritual home to so many students over the years—needs significant restoration. Several months ago, we began the Chapel Renovation campaign to transform it into a more effective Worship Center.

We are now in the campaign's final phase and invite you to help complete the funding of this most worthy project. Once finished, the new Worship Center will offer:

- A new Westbrook Global Prayer Center that is available 24 hours a day.
- Upgraded Creatio recording capabilities.
- An expanded atrium to enlarge the gathering space for students and visitors.
- Improved staging and technical equipment to elevate the worship experience.
- A new hospitality suite to better host guests and the ministry team.
- A new storage room so equipment can be housed on-site.
- A new front façade that will improve the chapel's appearance.


There is much to be excited about as we anticipate what God will continue to do in our newly renovated house of worship, prayer, and praise. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping us equip and empower our Jesus-first students to advance the Kingdom of God.

Vision Wall

The names of those who give \$1,000 (or \$500 over two years) may be added to the Vision Wall as a permanent tribute to their gift.

Learn more at northwestu.edu/campaign.



A person wearing a dark jacket and a cap is sitting on a large rock, looking out over a vast mountain range under a soft, hazy sky at sunset or sunrise. The person is seen from the side, looking towards the left of the frame.

Jesus First.
Jesus Always.

the PRESIDENT'S BANQUET

Presented by the Northwest University Foundation Board of Trustees

Over 250 members of our community gathered together on February 10 at The Westin Bellevue for our annual President's Banquet. In addition to being one of the most important fundraisers that the university hosts, this event is also always a special time where we come together as a community to worship as we hear powerful stories and testimonies from students, staff, faculty, and board

members. The President's Banquet is a time for us to celebrate all that God is doing at Northwest University.

This year's theme was "Jesus First. Jesus Always." President Castleberry explained this significant positioning for the university and why it especially matters in today's cultural context: "We believe 'higher education' calls our students to a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ, a more permanent



NU Foundation Board of Trustees Chair, Barry Horn, and Co-Chair, Talia Hastie.



Panel with Jeff Rogers, Zach Abraham, Semmelle Abraham, Chris Nichols, and Amanda Nichols.



Student Testimonies, Sarah Garat (Class of '23) and Ethan Wall (Class of '23).



Keynote speech by Northwest University President, Dr. Joseph Castleberry.



Our attendees enthusiastically raised their paddles to support scholarships.



A powerful performance by Northwest Choralons.

commitment to His call, and a more sincere love of their neighbor as they bring spiritual vitality and academic excellence to bear on human need through Holy Spirit empowered engagement with people. To achieve these ends, Jesus must always come first.”

It was evident throughout the night that Northwest University is a community that is unwaveringly committed to Jesus. We experienced it through a powerful time of worship led by the Northwest Choralons. We heard it in the hopeful stories shared by students like Sarah Garat and Ethan Wall. And we saw it through the generosity of our donors, **who helped us raise a record \$1.5 million**

toward the Opportunity Fund, which provides scholarships to NU students.

The evening was hosted by Colin McArthur and also included presentations from several Foundation Board of Trustees members: Barry Horn, Talia Hastie, Jeff Rogers, Zach and Semmelle Abraham, Chris and Amanda Nichols, Justin Kawabori, and Caryl Andrews.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended and donated. And we look forward to seeing how God moves in the lives and hearts of our students who will benefit from the scholarships resulting from this year’s banquet.

BUNTAIN COLLEGE OF NURSING

Dr. Erin-Joy Bjorge (dean and associate professor) was elected as president elect for the Council for Nursing Education in Washington State.

Dr. Tiffany Zyniewicz (associate professor) was part of a group that presented “The Value of Formal Networking Workgroups: Nursing Section Workgroup Updates” at the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare in Orlando, Florida. She was also invited to sit on the Content Innovation Focus Group at the Lippincott Nursing Education Innovation Summit.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dr. Clint Bryan (associate professor, English) published a book chapter titled “Bound to Sound’: Reaffirming Walter J. Ong” in *Lost Texts in Rhetoric and Composition*, edited by Deborah Holdstein. He also presented “Constructing Scholarly and Teacherly Identities in Academic Support Genres” at the American Association of Applied Linguistics.

Dr. Charlotte Easterling (assistant professor, Biology and Physics) and NU senior Holly Booth were co-presenters of “Swimming Performance of Desmognathine Salamanders” at the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology conference.

Dr. Joseph McQueen (associate professor, English) presented “Just Secularization: Mary Augusta Ward’s Robert Elsmere and the Liturgy of Social Justice” at the North American Victorian Studies Association conference. He also guest edited and wrote an introduction to a special forum, “Teaching Nineteenth-century Literature Beyond the Secularization Thesis” for the journal *Literature and Theology*.

Dr. Leland Nielson (associate professor, Exercise Science) and current NU student, Racelle Foley, presented “Assessing the Validity of the Garmin Venu SQ for Estimating VO2max” at the Northwest American College of Sports Medicine conference.

Dr. William Thompson (assistant professor, History) presented at a roundtable titled “Gaming in the Early Modern World & Colonial American Classroom” at the Renaissance Society of America’s annual meeting. He also ran a playtest of his Reacting to the Past historical role-playing game in development, *Conclave 1492: Power, Politics, and Faith in the Election of a Renaissance Pope*.

Dr. Jeremiah Webster (professor, English) presented the seminar “Kintsugi Theology: The Potential of Diminished Things” for Advent Anglican and published five poems (“Witness 1,” “Witness 2,” “Witness 3,” “Witness 4,” and “Middle Age”) in the *Mockingbird Journal*. His poem “The Collar” was also accepted to the *North American Anglican* and his novel, *Follow the Devil / Follow the Light*, previously published as a nine-part serial by *Mockingbird Press*, will be available on Kindle this spring. Additionally, two of Dr. Webster’s poems, “Extinction Event” and “On the Nature

of My Premature Soul and Its Capacity to Know God in the Incubator of Twenty First Century America” have been accepted by *Mockingbird*.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dr. Rowlanda Cawthon (dean and associate professor) was awarded a grant to update the *Management Development for Women and Minorities in Corrections Curriculum* for the U.S. Department of Justice’s National Institute of Corrections. Upon completion of the project, correctional professionals across the nation will be recipients of the updated training curriculum.

Dr. Shannon Fletcher (associate professor) co-wrote a manuscript, “The Top Ten Soft Skills in Business Today Compared to 2012,” that was published in the *Business and Professional Communication Quarterly*.

COLLEGE OF MINISTRY

Dr. J.P. O’Connor (associate professor, New Testament) published “‘Spiritual Blindness’ in the Bartimaeus Pericope (Mark 10:46–52): Toward Decentering Ableist Readings” in *Biblical Interpretation*. The piece was also selected as the regional scholar award nominee last year for the Society of Biblical Literature Upper Midwest Regional conference.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Dr. Geneé Glascoe (assistant professor, Counseling) recently completed her doctorate from the University of South Carolina, earning a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision. Her dissertation is titled “A Causal Comparative Study of the Effects of Physical Activity Course Enrollment on College Students’ Perceived Wellness, Mental Health, and Basic Psychological Needs.”

Dr. Brian Humphreys (director and assistant professor, International Community Development and Community Economic Development) completed his DMin degree from Portland Seminary at George Fox University. His dissertation is titled “Economic Peacemaking: Studying the Intersection of Missiology, Christian Peacemaking, and Economic Development Best Practices.”

Dr. Forrest Inslee (professor, International Community Development) led a workshop on the topic of “Cross-Cultural Short-Term Mission Strategies that Help Rather than Hurt” at the Mission ConneXion Conference. He was the keynote speaker at the Journey Together northwest regional short-term missions conference, presenting on “Strategies for Developing Global, Cross-Cultural Church Partnerships.” Dr. Inslee also launched a new limited-series podcast called “Re-Imagining Short-Term Missions.”

Dr. Kim Lampson (professor and NUhope clinical director) was interviewed by Abbe Wichman from the Huffington Post for an article about couples who are dealing with issues around irritating food behaviors or sounds.

Dr. Esther McCartney (assistant professor, Counseling) and **Dr. Geneé Glascoe** were two of the authors of a manuscript about vicarious post-traumatic growth in the helping professions that was published in the journal *Traumatology*. Dr. McCartney, along with three students in NU's Clinical Mental Health Counseling master's program, also presented a poster on providing multicultural supervision during counseling internships at the Western Association for Counselor Education and Supervision conference.

Dr. Cherri Seese (associate professor, Psychology) and **Dr. Sarah Drivdahl** (dean, College of Arts and Sciences) presented "Impact of Belongingness, Relational Communication, Religiosity and Screen Time on College Students' Level of Anxiety" at the Association for Continuing Higher Education conference.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND ADVISING

Traci Grant (director and adjunct faculty) published her first novel, *After the Rotting*.

Finally.

**A University That Will Build
on What You've Started.**

As a parent, you've spent years building your son's or daughter's foundation on Jesus Christ. But for too many students heading off to college these days, those values will be undermined.

At Northwest University in Kirkland, Washington, it's a much different story. As an AG-affiliated school, our professors proclaim Jesus. Our classrooms invite Jesus. And our chapel resounds with praise. Here, our students don't just receive a highly awarded educational experience that leads to great careers—they graduate with an even deeper sense of Christ's presence in their lives.

**Over 70 Majors and Programs | Jesus-First Community | U.S. News Best Value
Career Readiness | Kirkland Campus or 100% Online**

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Jesus First. Jesus Always.



Mike Alexander ('91)

I graduated from Northwest University in 1991, where I met my wife, Kim Carmichael, during my senior year. We have two grown children, Maci and Ty.

After graduating from NU, we served at a church in the Bay Area

for 13 years before moving to Bend, Oregon, where I served as the executive pastor for 14 years. Kim continues to serve as the director of discipleship.

In addition to our work in ministry, we have launched and sold two small businesses and continue to be active in real estate investment. I completed an MBA and currently serve as the vice president of programs at Assist International, a faith-based NGO focused on renewable energy, medical oxygen and anesthesia, and biomedical projects in over a dozen countries.

Kim and I have fond memories of our time at Northwest University, where I played the drums for Northwest Sounds and served as VP for Student Activities. Northwest University played a crucial role in developing the spiritual depth, character, and skills that have equipped us to serve in God's Kingdom, the Church, and the marketplace for over three decades.



Serge Shevchenko ('18)

As the manager of the Startup Partner Development Team (PDM) at Amazon Web Services (AWS), I play a critical role in driving the strategy for the developer tools, data and analytics, MLOps, and infrastructure partnerships with venture capital-backed startups. I lead a team of

dedicated PDMs who are responsible for empowering ISV startup partners to leverage programmatic resources to achieve their goals of building, marketing, and selling their solutions with AWS. I enjoy guiding startups on their journey to becoming enterprise-ready and achieving their full potential.



Nathan Sanchez ('20)

Since graduating from Northwest University in 2020, I have had the blessing of working as an associate pastor at Passion Church QC in Davenport, Iowa, while my wife pursued a Doctor of Chiropractic degree. I invested time in growing the church's discipleship by

developing Passion School of Leadership and creating studies for new believers. In March of 2022, I received a call from Church For

All Nations in Tacoma, Washington, about joining their staff as an associate pastor. In June, my wife and I moved back from across the country without knowing if the church would hire us. Since accepting a position here at CFAN, we have had the honor of developing small groups and the youth ministry programs. The lessons I learned through professors such as Steve Mills, Dr. Jack Wisemore, and Dr. Joshua Ziefle have provided me with the tools needed to grow the areas of ministry that I get to serve in. After nearly a year in my position at CFAN, both ministries I oversee are healthy and growing. I am grateful for Northwest University's investment in people like my wife and me.



Angelina Denver ('23)

I just graduated in May with my Psychology degree and am preparing to pursue my MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

I started back to school as a late in life college student. I am the parent of seven mostly adult children—six

of whom are adopted. (We were foster parents for more than 20 years.) I worked on my undergraduate degree throughout the pandemic, attending online. I placed a high value on striving for good grades and graduated with a 3.9 GPA. My husband of nearly 30 years, Allen, and I live in Woodinville, Washington, with two of our seven children still at home. We are active members at Overlake Church where you can find us supporting foster and adoptive parents. I look forward to working toward my MA and then starting a private practice in counseling. I will be working with Ruth Graham ('12, '14), another graduate of Northwest.



Coni and Edith Williams

Coni and Edith Williams were the second couple to get married in the Butterfield Chapel. Edith died in 2019 and Coni in 2022. The Williamses were pastors in the Northwest Ministry Network at various churches, serving in places like Winthrop. Their last place of

service was in Union Gap until their passing.



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.

ALUMNI BOARD UPDATES

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the following alumni board members who have faithfully served their terms and will be resigning this year:

- **Jack O'Brien 2014–2023**
- **Julie Kidwell 2016–2023**
- **Jak Moroshan 2016–2023**
- **Mark Rodli 2019–2023**

We would also like to welcome our newest board members who are joining us this year:

- **Scott Hedcock**
- **Jason Olson**



P.O. Box 579
Kirkland, WA 98083-0579

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS



Homecoming and Family Weekend | September 30—October 1

Northwest University

All alumni, parents, and families are invited to join us on campus at this premier annual event. Featuring an alumni chapel service, games, prizes, great food, and class reunions, this is one of our favorite opportunities to gather with the entire NU community. Please join us!



NU Golf Tournament | October 2

The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge in Snoqualmie, Washington

Mark your calendars for Northwest University's Eagle Golf Tournament. Enjoy a great golf game, fellowship, and beautiful views at Snoqualmie Ridge golf course. This annual event brings golfers together to help support NU and fund scholarships for our athletic teams.

For more information on upcoming events, visit northwestu.edu/events.