

NORTHWEST PASSAGES

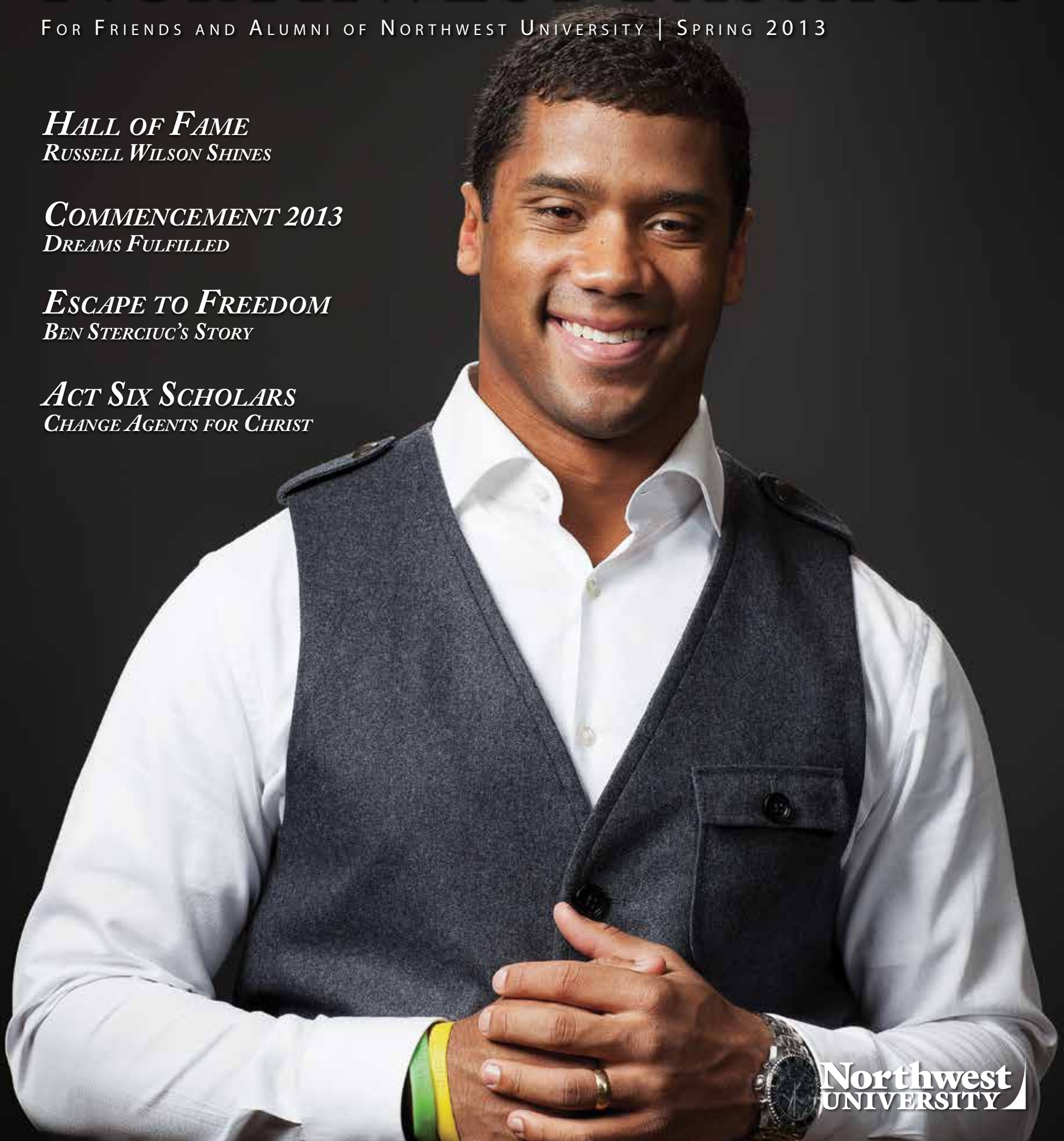
FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2013

HALL OF FAME
RUSSELL WILSON SHINES

COMMENCEMENT 2013
DREAMS FULFILLED

ESCAPE TO FREEDOM
BEN STERCIUC'S STORY

ACT SIX SCHOLARS
CHANGE AGENTS FOR CHRIST



Northwest
UNIVERSITY

From the President

Dr. Joseph L. Castleberry, Ed.D

The testimony of Jesus Christ has never resounded any louder in the Bellevue Hyatt Regency Hotel Ballroom than it did on March 22 during the Northwest University Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony! Whether current students like Heather Shulke and Stephanie Cummins (Women's Co-Athlete of the Year) or Michael Green (Men's Athlete of the Year) or our Hall of Fame inductee Wes Davis spoke, everyone from NU eloquently glorified the Heavenly Court for their success on our athletic courts. We've all come to expect that from our people. It's the Northwest Way.

I love the way our women's soccer team put it—"When they cross that line" (from the sideline to the pitch), "they cross for one reason alone—to glorify God." They play soccer for "an audience of One." This year, they did it the Jesus way; in a small way reminding me of what Jesus did when he snatched victory from the jaws of defeat at the Resurrection. The women had a starting record of 1-8-1 when they began Cascade Collegiate Conference play this year, with several devastating injuries. Refusing to see themselves as losers, they reeled off seven straight victories to win our first regular season conference crown in women's soccer. Then they made a video to tell their story for the glory of God.

I always say that we believe in athletic scholarship at Northwest University. We continually build—as our mission statement reminds us—a learning community. Everyone here learns; everyone teaches. When our athletes take the court for practice or competition, they do more than increase their bodily-kinesthetic intelligence. They teach us all lessons of teamwork, persistence, dedication, and recovery from setbacks. But most importantly, they teach us what a heart after God looks like on the move—bodies presented in a living sacrifice of holy worship.

At the Hall of Fame Induction, NU people put God's glory on display as expected in the first half of our program, but many people were surprised at the second half. Some 600 people had gathered to hear the Seahawks' quarterback Russell Wilson—the fans' choice for NFL.com Rookie of the Year in the Year of the Rookie. What many had not expected was his fire-breathing testimony of faith in Christ. Interviewed by professional journalist and NU professor Kara Heinrichs, Wilson left no doubt that he plays for the same



audience of One that our athletes play for. He challenged us to always strive for God's best and to never accept mediocrity in serving Jesus. Chalk up another outstanding second half for Russell Wilson! As he concluded, "Go, Hawks and Go, Eagles!"

So many people have told me they believe that night was transformational for Northwest. It was a spectacular event. Every detail was perfect. Our speakers were spot-on. Our event planning team left no room for glitches. The development team called sponsors relentlessly to ensure the financial success of the event. Our donors sent auction bids to levels we've never seen before. The food was outstanding. The venue shined with the excellence one expects from the Hyatt and its people. The public left the room with a deep respect for Northwest University. Every Christian went out proud of what God has done in building this amazing learning community.

We always feel pride in focusing the spotlight on our people in all of the ways they express their sacrifices of praise. Whether they are artists, scientists, missionaries, preachers, healers, teachers, administrators, entrepreneurs, lawyers, or athletes—regardless of their callings—they carry the call of the same One. They all play for the audience of One. When the limelight hits them, we know which way they will reflect it.

Blessings,

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NEWS AT NU

NU student Robert Otto '14

NU Spars with Irish National Debate Team

Outnumbered by a population of 4.6 million to a student body of less than 2,000, Northwest University gallantly took on Ireland in debate on April 3. Top Canadian students from Simon Fraser University joined forces with NU to challenge the Irish National Debate Team on the subject of immigration. NU denied the position that Western democracies should open their borders to all, while the Irish affirmed.

The Cultural Coffeehouse

NU's diverse student body weaves a rich tapestry of intercultural heritage. To celebrate this, NU hosted an original event, entitled "The Cultural Coffeehouse," where students dialogued about their differing cultural experiences over a cup of free coffee at St. James Espresso in downtown Kirkland. Students shared their unique stories through song, poetry, and laughter, which strengthened the attendees' common bond of faith.

The Spitfire Grill (photo 2)

The Northwest Drama Department performed a rousing musical, *The Spitfire Grill*, from February 26 through March 2. *The Spitfire Grill*, a play about a woman taking a job as a small-town waitress after serving her prison sentence for manslaughter, deals with powerful redemptive themes. Through its moving acting performances and catchy musical numbers, *The Spitfire Grill* quickly became a hit among students.

For You: NU's Own Worship Album (photo 5)

On January 14, NU recorded live NUMA music for a forthcoming worship album entitled, *For You*. Through the collaboration of NU's best musicians and studio technicians, NUMA and NU's own Creatio Studios created a state-of-the-art worship album. The music eclectically blends modern worship styles while remaining dedicated to heartfelt lyrical content focused on God and His Word. Photo: Jake Campbell

The Faith in Humanities Conference

The Faith in Humanities Conference, hosted April 18–19, displayed the creative and literary talents of scholars and students alike. The conference provided a receptive atmosphere for the reading of original literary works. Dr. Herms presented his article on postcolonialism and apocalypticism, "Beasts and Brothels," as the centerpiece of the conference. Undergraduates and faculty shared their poetry, short stories, and all other manners of academic creative writing.

Lady Eagle Softball (photo 4)

Green grass, spring air, and the ping of the aluminum bat—softball has arrived at NU. This spring, the Athletic Department expanded through the addition of women's softball. Students and alumni alike enthusiastically welcomed softball in Kirkland from the March 8 home opener onward, with the ceremonial first pitch thrown by NU athletic legend Kristi Brodin. The Eagles battled familiar rivals like Warner Pacific and Corban in the Cascade Conference.

Screaming Eagles Week (photo 1)

Trampolines, decorated dorm rooms, dodgeball, and more—this year's Screaming Eagles Week had it all. Screaming Eagles Week, the annual floor competition event held in January, provided NU students in the dorms, apartments, and off-campus with a blast of friendly competition needed to survive the grey Washington winter. Through its jocular traditions, Screaming Eagles Week united the student body under a collective spirit of friendship.

NU Unplugged

NU Unplugged provides potential students a valuable preview of the vibrant scholastic, social, and spiritual campus life at NU. Prospective undergraduates stay the night in the dorms, chow down on a delicious barbecue lunch, and even experience a live worship concert. All this gives NU Unplugged attendees a unique, insider taste of all the excitement that four years at NU offers.

Christian Rapper Thi'sl Comes to Chapel (photo 3)

Chapel at NU celebrates the marriage of Assemblies of God traditions with cutting-edge worship styles. Chapel on January 22 showed this dynamic fusion when Christian rapper Thi'sl performed for both services. The St. Louis-based rapper created an electric atmosphere through his Christ-centered hip-hop performance, making students jump up and down and throw their hands in the air for the glory of God.



DREAMS FULFILLED COMMENCEMENT 2013

Janie Kliever '12



Kristen Waggoner delivered Northwest University's 77th Commencement Address.



An undergraduate student celebrates as he makes his way to receive his diploma.



A graduate student receives her ceremonial hood.



Kari Brodin, who serves as Marshall, ushers the students to their seats.



Lilyana Borges closes her eyes to take in the feeling of the moment.

The low hum of chatter fades as the familiar strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” fill the auditorium. But it’s not the grand music that everyone notices, it’s the enthusiastic cheers that follow the graduates as they enter and walk to their seats. People line the stairwells, halls, and aisles, clapping and cheering the capped-and-gowned students on these last steps of their college journey. Because this is about much more than academic achievements and degrees—it’s an opportunity to celebrate members of the Northwest University family, both those about to embark on new stages in their post-college lives, as well as those who have built on their NU education to go out into their communities and make a difference.

May 11, 2013 marked the 77th annual commencement ceremony of Northwest University, with a record-breaking 391 students graduating. Since opening its doors as the Northwest Bible Institute in 1934, Northwest has seen over 9,700 students graduate. Alumni representing many graduating classes were in attendance on Saturday, some to receive special honors and awards.

Starting with the class of 2013, Kyle Hamar delivered the student address, encouraging

his fellow graduates to aspire to greatness as a generation—a greatness characterized by a heart of service that seeks “results, not recognition; significance, not success; and purpose, not profit.” Hamar was also one of a group of students to receive Sigma Chi Pi honors in recognition of outstanding academic scholarship, approved Christian character, and recognizable achievement in leadership, service, or vocation. Alumni John Butterfield (’54), Grant Hill (’73), and Tim Ohai (’93) also received Sigma Chi Pi honors.

Another alumna, recording artist Natalie Grant, received the President’s Award for significant service to the Northwest University community and beyond. A five-time Gospel Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year, Natalie Grant continues to spread the Gospel message through her powerful music and passionately advocates on behalf of victims of human trafficking through Abolition International.

Commencement speaker Kristen Waggoner, who graduated from Northwest almost 20 years ago, built on Kyle Hamar’s theme of pursuing greatness, offering graduates a compelling call to move beyond mediocrity and strive for

competence and excellence, no matter what field they may find themselves in. Currently working as an attorney and often handling cases related to religious liberties, Waggoner drew from personal experience, Scripture, and story to eloquently encourage students to pursue God’s calling on their lives. “God’s call neither exempts us from hard work or failure,” she said, but “You can make a daily decision to approach your work as a calling from the Lord. And when you fully—not halfheartedly, but fully—embrace it as a calling and live it out with extreme competence, I can guarantee you that you will experience soul-satisfying, deep gladness.”

The conferral of degrees followed this inspiring speech, when nearly 400 students received associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees, and 33 percent graduated with academic honors. Northwest University’s prayer for the class of 2013 echoes the words of Kristen Waggoner:

“Hopefully it’s more often than not, you will know that God has used you to demonstrate his glory to others. There is no feeling like that, absolutely no feeling, when you know that God has said to you, ‘This, this, is why you’re here.’”



Over 390 students walked across the stage to receive their undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral diplomas.



President Castleberry congratulates the Alumni of the Year: John Butterfield, Grant Hill, and Tim Ohai.



Singing of the *Alma Mater*.



Natalie Grant receives the President's Award for her service.



Alumni from the class of 1963 are honored during the ceremony. They also took part in a reception and campus tour following Commencement.



Kyle Hamar was chosen by students and faculty to deliver the student address.



Dr. Kay Peng Khoo receives the United States Commission on International Freedom Medal.



Graduates celebrate with their family and friends.



Russell Wilson (center) with Hall of Fame Inductee Wes Davis (right) and Davis' wife Kari (left).

A NOTE FROM WES DAVIS

Life is made up of a lot of moments. Most of those moments are pretty forgettable. But there are some moments that you want to capture, write down, record, and pass on. That was what the Hall of Fame night was for me.

The reason why is this: on that special night in front of so many important people, I got to publicly thank my parents for all the sacrifices they made for me. So while it was amazing to meet Russell Wilson (that was pretty cool), the guests of honor in my mind were my parents, Don and Karlene Davis.

Honoring Our **EAGLES**

3RD ANNUAL HALL OF FAME BENEFIT

“This is an amazing event.”

Those words were repeated over and over again the night of March 22 as people enjoyed the festivities at the 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Benefit. The evening began with a silent auction that included a variety of wonderful items. Over 180 auction items were donated for the evening, including a classic Mercedes Benz convertible. More than 600 event guests made their way into the Bellevue Hyatt’s main room to dine with friends, colleagues, and family in anticipation of the night’s two special guests: 2013 Hall of Fame Inductee, Wes Davis, and Seattle Seahawks Pro Bowl quarterback, Russell Wilson.

Dana Buck conducted a live auction and the bidding was intense for such items as The Ultimate Seattle Sounders Package. In all, the benefit raised over \$200,000. While the tone during the auction was competitive and fun, it was more reflective when guests honored the Student Athletes of the Year and Hall of Fame Inductee, Wes Davis.

Pastor Davis spoke poignantly about the importance of community and how some of the closest bonds can be formed during times of difficulty. Wes’ very presence was a powerful reminder of how NU students are shaped during their tenure at the university to have a significant impact in their own communities for years to come.

Then all eyes turned to Russell Wilson, who took the stage and joined the evening’s emcee, Dr. Kara Heinrichs. As he answered questions, Mr. Wilson made it clear to all in attendance why he is so highly regarded both on and off the field. He spoke with conviction about his faith and inspired everyone with his sense of vision and purpose.

As the evening ended, many went home with great auction items. More importantly, everyone went home with the knowledge that thousands of dollars were raised for scholarships to a Christ-centered university that will shape athletes’ lives from now into eternity.

TOP QUOTES FROM RUSSELL WILSON

“Nothing like Seattle fans. I wanted to play for the Seattle Seahawks.”

“I am always visualizing success.”

“My favorite moments of last season were beating Tom Brady, the field-shaking noise of beating the Packers, the Chicago Bears road win, and the Atlanta playoff game.”

“God has something in store for you. You just need to find out what it is.”

“Live with a purpose, play with a purpose.”

“I have a big vision. I want to be great and change the world.”

“Focusing on academics helped me become great at sports.”



Wes Davis engaging the audience with his passion and sense of humor.



Heather Shulke speaking on behalf of all of the Athletes of the Year.



Over 600 guests dining, bidding, and having a great time at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bellevue, Washington.



Michael Green, Male Athlete of the Year.



Athletic Director Gary McIntosh with Heather Shulke, Michael Green, and Stephanie Cummins.



Another paddle raised to benefit our student athletes.



NU student athletes Jessie Oliver and Adam Loga.



Dana Buck, director at World Vision, serving as the evening's auctioneer.



Russell Wilson, guest of honor and quarterback for the Seattle Seahawks.



President Joseph Castleberry.

NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY



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1 Darrell Hobson speaking with students.
2 Northwest Bible Institute students in front of the Hollywood Temple.
3 Cover of the 1938 Students' Magazine.

4 Original Northwest Bible Institute faculty.
5 Student studying by the chapel.
6 Harry Pennington, NBI's first graduate.

THROUGH THE YEARS

7



8



9



11

10

7 Waldemar and Rosemarie Kowalski.
8 Original NBI Faculty.
9 D.V. Hurst, president from 1966-1990.

10 NBI at a parade in downtown Seattle.
11 Groundbreaking at the Kirkland campus.

ACT SIX

by NU student Wilson Pruitt '15



Four years ago, Northwest University began participating with Act Six, a program whose name harkens back to chapter six in the book of Acts. There, the church sets apart a “cadre” of leaders from a marginalized group as part of growing a dynamic and healthy Christian community. Described as a “Leadership and Scholarship Initiative,” Act Six seeks to increase diversity, train leaders, and generate positive change for communities.

NU’s Act Six coordinator, Juan Esparza, defines the composition of Act Six as

“not simply multi-ethnic, but rather, multi-cultural.” The program empowers students to enhance their campus and community intentionally, through the mixing of rich, diverse backgrounds and cultures. The aspiration stems from a desire to inspire and train individuals to create positive change in their communities, especially in urban areas. These scholars receive most of the same leadership training that RAs and student government officials do. They meet with their cadre once a week and grow to become like a second family—supporting, encouraging, and loving one another.



Act Six is not merely another scholarship program with typical institutional objectives; its scholars' combined dreams go beyond just producing college-educated individuals. They carry passionate, God-given calls to express their faith through practical, powerful action. Supporting the next generation of students is one expression of the greater goal—restoring broken communities, which doesn't simply translate to "low-income" neighborhoods. Instead, it refers to the "poor in spirit," those who need hopes nurtured and dreams kindled. Each Act Six scholar joined the program

to provide practical help for a world in need, whether through classroom teaching, vocational ministry, or medical school.

The inaugural group of NU Act Six students will graduate this spring, rejoining the "real world" to ignite positive change. Their chosen paths are diverse—youth ministry, worship ministry, graduate school, law school, teaching, and corporate business. But, their imparted mission is the same—Christian leaders bringing God's heart to their neighbors, their communities, and their world.

{ HELP HER RECEIVE AN EDUCATION }

that cherishes her soul.

Most universities see her as a brain to be filled. There is little acknowledgement of her soul or the God who called it into being. In today's world, students of faith often find that their spiritual lives are demeaned at college. The result? Recent studies show that many Christian students attending secular universities walk away from their faith.

A Christ-centered education is perhaps the most valuable gift we can give our youth because it has eternal implications. It will change them forever. And yet, each year we turn students away who can't afford a private Christian college. Very often, they end up at a secular university to become another statistic.

If you are considering giving to a mission, we ask that you consider ours—providing students with a Christ-centered education that builds their intellect and deepens their faith. By investing in the Opportunity Fund, you help to create scholarships for students who may not otherwise be able to afford it. So, before you turn this page, consider a gift to NU.

Their souls are worth it.

the OPPORTUNITY FUND



Staff and Faculty Updates

Julie Arnan

Faculty, Art

- Contributed several articles to *425 Magazine*, including “Nit-Picking Team,” “Down by the River,” “Back to the Basics,” and “From Heart to Home,” in addition to providing recommendations for the magazine’s “Best Bites” feature.

Kevin Cooney

Faculty, School of Business Management

- Contributed a chapter to the book *International System in Transformation: China and East Asia* entitled, “China and Black Swan Theory: How Long Will China Be Able to Set Its Own Agenda?” The book was published in 2012 by the China University of Law and Political Science Press.
- Received an \$8,000 Liberty Grant from the Charles Koch Foundation to conduct a series of student seminars on the themes of health care and the environment in joint cooperation with the University of Washington.

- **Jessica Daniels**

Staff, Office of the Provost

Co-authored the article “Women’s Leadership Development in Higher Education: Conclusion and Implications to HRD,” which was published in February 2012 in *Advances in Developing Human Resources*.

Jeremy Delmarter

Faculty, School of Education

- Submitted “Literary Practice and Imagined Communities at Christian Secondary Schools” for publication in the *Journal of Research in Christian Education*.

Sarah Drivdahl

Faculty, Psychology

- Listed as first author on the article “Fluidity in Autobiographical Memories: Relationship Memories Sampled on Two Occasions.”

Peter Ghavami

Faculty, Business

- Published his Ph.D. dissertation, “An Investigation of Artificial Neural Networks Applications in Medical Prognostics,” through the University of Washington’s Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering in 2012.
- Presented a paper entitled “Artificial Neural Network-Enabled Prognostics for Patient Health Management” at the 2012 IEEE Conference on Prognostics and Health Management.





Teresa Gillespie

Faculty, School of Business Management

- Published “Blurring the Boundaries: Emerging Legal Forms for Hybrid Organizations—Implications for Christian Social Entrepreneurs” as well as “Teaching Social Entrepreneurship in Christian Higher Education Business Schools” (with co-author Timothy Lucas) in the *Journal of Biblical Integration of Business*, spring 2012.

Rod Gullberg

Faculty, Statistics

- Published “Estimating the Measurement Uncertainty in Forensic Blood Alcohol Analysis” in the *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*.
- Contributed a chapter titled “Measurement Uncertainty in Forensic Toxicology: Its Estimation, Reporting and Interpretation” to the book *Toxicity and Drug Testing*, published by InTech in 2012.

Jacqui Gustafson

Faculty, Psychology

- Published “Study Abroad, Student Exchange, and Service-Learning Programs: An Analysis of Legal Issues and Implications for University Administrators” in the *International Psychology Bulletin*.

Bob Stallman

Faculty, College of Ministry

- Published “Leviticus and Work” for the *Theology of Work Project*.

Jeremiah Webster

Faculty, English

- Submitted two poems, “Other Space” and “Natural Selection,” to the *Crab Creek Review*, which are slated for publication in the Spring 2013 issue.
- Published the following poetry: “He Prayed One Might Know an Eclogue by Heart” in *Dappled Things*, “Smoke Free” in *Eunoia Review*, “Post the Facts / Shoot the Kids” in *REAL*, and “Model Universe” in *Rock and Sling*.

Jack Wisemore

Faculty, Philosophy

- Published “The Better Angels of Our (Emergent) Nature: A Review of Amos Yong’s *The Spirit of Creation: Modern Science and Divine Action*” in *Australasian Pentecostal Studies* in January 2013.



ESCAPE

to

FREEDOM

Ben Sterciuc ran with all his might through a field of sunflowers while bullets tore through the stalks around him. He was running away from a life of prisons, and beatings, and oppression. He was running from a Romanian government that did not recognize his right to worship. He was running towards a life of freedom that he had dreamt of even as a little boy. It was a future that lay just beyond a field of sunflowers—100 yards away—in the darkened woods across the Hungarian border.

It is the stuff of movies. But Ben Sterciuc is no actor. He is a man whose story shows what can happen when you place all of your faith in the God of the Universe.

“I grew up in a small village in Romania in a Pentecostal family. As a boy, I would read about America—how everyone had an equal chance to go to school and practice their faith. I yearned for that kind of freedom, but it didn’t seem possible.”

Ben grew up and eventually married. As a Christian in Romania, he refused to join the communist party. Consequently, he was denied the basics of life—school, good jobs, and

opportunity. One day, his wife revealed the joyful news that she was pregnant with their first child. For Ben, the news was bittersweet. How could he raise a child amidst this oppression? It was in that moment that all of Ben’s dreams for freedom crystallized. He knew what he had to do.

Ben’s first attempt to escape in 1988 landed him in prison. He was placed with twelve other people in a cell that was intended to hold four. There was no light. He was denied water for three days, food for seven days, and was routinely beaten during interrogations. “It was a low point for any human being. To be put in prison and beaten into obedience for simply wanting to be free, for wanting a better life for your family. It was very hard to take.”

Ben was moved to a federal prison. Here, he found time to reflect, pray, and fast. “The fasting was not always by choice,” laughs Ben. “But that was the time when I really deepened my relationship with Christ. It was there that I knew, whatever happens—whether I live or die—I’m going to follow Jesus Christ.”

Eventually Ben was released from prison, but found himself



continuously followed and harassed by the police. His apartment was under constant surveillance and they interrogated him at will. “They wanted to make a case out of me to show that a Pentecostal Christian would become an atheist.” It didn’t work. Ben made plans for a second escape.

It was during this attempt that Ben ran through that field of sunflowers, towards freedom just beyond the Hungarian border. “In this moment, you see your life either ending or not. At this point, I was relying on God for my very existence. For my next breath.” Ben made it to those woods and was eventually found and released by Hungarian police. He was finally free. But what would become of his family? How would he be reunited with them?

After making his way to Austria, Ben immediately began plans to get his wife and child to join him. During that time,

Eastern Europe was undergoing a political change. Romanian streets filled with people marching for freedom. And then, in December of 1989, something unimaginable happened—the walls of communism crumbled and the Romanian government was overthrown. Ben reflects, “Forty-five years of communism. Thousands killed by the government. People unable to leave freely. And suddenly they are being issued passports. I watched all of this unfold in a matter of weeks. It was unbelievable.”

One day, Ben stood at the train station in Vienna, flowers in hand. After all of his trials—prison, interrogations, beatings, hunger—his wife and son stepped off of the train and they embraced. Finally, they were all free. Together at last. “I cannot express in words what that moment meant to us. It was like we were given a chance to live again. It was a rebirth.”

Since coming to the United States in 1990, Ben has made the



The first correspondence that Ben sends to his wife while he is in prison. It is through this letter she learns her husband is alive.



A legal document that Ben receives upon leaving prison. The green color lets others know he was a political prisoner.

most of his freedom. He started his own business by opening a care facility for senior citizens. He's earned several degrees—two in nursing (RN and Master in Nursing), one in music (B.A. in Music Ministry), and is working on another in ministry (Master in Theology and Culture). Ben was so appreciative of the quality of the education he received at NU, he became an adjunct professor for the Buntain School of Nursing. His son, Flavius, graduated from NU with a degree in business management. If all that weren't enough, Ben is also the full-time pastor of Elevation Church in Kirkland.

While most of us would feel a little tired just thinking about how to manage such a schedule, Ben's perspective is remarkably different. Where others see burden, he sees blessing. What others view as difficulty, he sees as opportunity—the very things he risked his life to find. "The life that God gave us here is so much

more than I even knew how to dream. All we wanted was to live in a country where we could be free, where we could worship and not worry about being put in prison. But God has been so gracious in the way he molded us through this process. He gave us favor when we needed it. He gave us life. He has been so faithful to us. There are not words to describe our gratitude."

Looking back, Ben can see how God's provision was with him even as he ran through a field for his very life. It took the form of splendid yellow flowers, reaching for the Creator and shielding a beloved son who yearned for and found freedom. Life is very often like that. We cannot always see evidence of God's presence in the midst of our difficulties. But our Heavenly Father is always beside us—shielding, providing, and loving. And, ultimately, restoring us to a life with Him that has no end.

Alumni Updates

1960s

Rev. E. John Wilkie ('66) is the area coordinator for NU's College of Adult and Professional Studies (CAPS) in Southern Idaho. The first Idaho cohort graduated on October 14, 2010. President Castleberry delivered the address. There are currently two other cohorts in progress.
Email: john.wilkie@northwestu.edu

1970s

Bob Biddle ('75) is on staff at Central United Protestant Church in Richland, Wash., where he serves as a worship leader, church soloist, and also directs the chancel choir.
Email: bobbiddlerealty@gmail.com

Debbie Christian (Stevens, '79) worked at her church for 30 years before becoming the director of a local food bank—the largest in South King County—and has found a passion for this work. She still works at the church one day a week and is committed to the ministries of wedding and funeral coordination. Debbie and her husband Lynn's life took a detour 18 months ago when they lost their youngest son in a car accident as he swerved to miss an animal. With the prayers and support of family and friends, they are continuing to find healing in God's sustaining power.
Email: djcfox6891@aol.com

Steve Hunt ('76) has been the executive pastor at Calvary Temple, a wonderful church in the East Bay area of San Francisco, for the last year and a half. His wife Melodee loves being a grandmother and also enjoys her role as a child advocate in the court system.
Email: steve@calvarytemple.org



1980s

Bob Burron ('80) studied at the University of Saskatchewan after attending Northwest College. Presently the owner of Burron Lumber in Saskatoon, he and his wife Valerie live in Saskatchewan, Canada, along with their son Robert and daughter Janelle.
Email: bburron@sasktel.net

Anthony Wilson ('82) changed careers at age 52 and is now getting a degree in physical therapy.
Email: southernson1960@yahoo.com

1990s

Martin Harris ('92) recently earned his teaching certificate. He also bought a small facility maintenance company. His oldest son has been in the Marines for nearly two years. Martin is a member of the Lions Board, which helps support community members with vision or hearing loss. He also serves as a board member for New Connections, which helps newly released, non-violent felons get reconnected into society.
Email: martinharris2006@aol.com

Andrew Culver ('97) is serving the people of Spokane Valley, Wash. as an associate pastor at ChangePoint Fellowship. He keeps busy with web clients, a family, and loving God. His wife, **Mindy Culver** (Alden, '00) is teaching at LAM Christian Academy.
Email: andrew@nwwebministry.org

2000s

Elizabeth Zwicker ('07) was promoted to clinical educator for all clinic locations in Washington state!

Macee Whatley (Jones, '08 and '10) graduated from Northwest with undergraduate and graduate degrees. She met a Bethany University transfer student in the registrar's office in Sept. 2011 and married him in June 2012. She works as a full-time mental health counselor and her husband Eli is a staff pastor at New Life Foursquare in Everett.
Email: macee.whatley@gmail.com

Brandon Newby ('02) recently finished his Master of Science in Special Education with a specialization in mild to moderate disabilities and a focus on autism at National University in La Jolla, Calif. He is currently teaching Physical Education and Resource K-12 at Joshua

NORTHWEST ALUMNI

Send Us Your News and Photos
Help us—and the entire Northwest University community—keep up to date on what’s happening in your world.

Online Update Form

This is the easiest way to keep us updated. Just log on to our website, www.northwestu.edu/alumni/update, and fill out the online Alumni Update Form. You can also send an email to alumni@northwestu.edu.



Dustin Shirley
Alumni Director
Phone: 425.889.5352
Twitter: @dustin_shirley
facebook.com/nualumdirector

Michelle Newell (Raimo, '02) launched her photography business in 2007 and specializes in wedding, maternity, and newborn portraiture. She recently opened the doors to a new studio space located in Monroe, Wash. She also serves the worship department at Cascade Community Church as the worship arts coordinator.
Email: newell081305@yahoo.com

Rachel Birrell (Nettleton, '04) recently received the 2012 “Branch of the Year Award” for the Union Bank location that she manages. Rachel and her husband Jamison are expecting their first baby in July!
Email: birdiebirrell@yahoo.com

Delia Lubanovici ('12) was crowned Miss Seattle 2013 and will compete for her chance to become Miss Washington and Miss America.
Email: delia.lubanovici@gmail.com



Kiley Zenk ('14) welcomed her daughter, Avery Rae into the world on Thanksgiving Day, November 21, 2012. She and her family will never forget Thanksgiving dinner in the hospital!



Springs Christian Schools in Yucca Valley, Calif. Brandon is also in his third year as the high school varsity basketball coach. He has successfully built a foundation of winning and growth from a team of eight boys his first year to a program of two teams and twenty-seven boys. They are currently ranked #2 in CIF Division 6 in California. He and his family have resided in Yucca Valley for the last 10 years and have become well established in the local community and church. Rachel is currently a sixth grade teacher in Twentynine Palms, Calif. and a loving mother to three wonderful children: Jordan (9), Addison (5), and Ben (2), who keep their parents on their toes daily.
Email: brandon.newby@gmail.com

Heidi McKnight ('09) is currently residing in Scottsdale, Arizona. She recently graduated with a Master of Education from Arizona State University and is teaching third grade at an inner city school in Phoenix.
Email: hmcknig@asu.edu

Marissa Frisinger ('05) and her husband are very pleased to announce the birth of their son, Malachi Thomas, on July 14, 2012. He is truly a blessing in their lives.
Email: marissamarre@yahoo.com

Stephanie Flaa (Kenney, '00) accepted a position at Christ Chapel Bible Church in Fort Worth, Texas as a nursery director. She and her husband Richard have two sons: Jackson (4) and Patrick (1). They are also involved with African causes in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

Commencement on Instagram and Twitter



@ScottHarris Congratulations @CambriaHarris and @masonflorence on completing your first year at @northwestu! Proud of you guys!!!

@leswelk Largest class in school history graduated @northwestu today, now next steps to Carry the Call of Jesus to the world.

@ohmichaela Look out world @JoyHeisel and @Rachelh311 have graduated college!!!!!! #NUGraduation #lovethem

@fosteeze Jobro is all up and graduated. So proud of this kid. @northwestu @thejoecodose #NUGraduation #classof2013

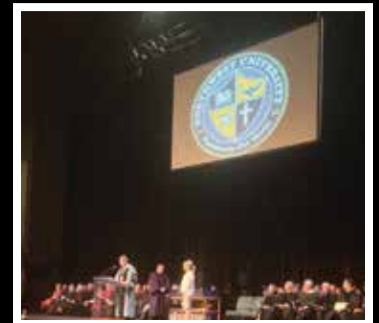
@PiratePastor @northwestu Any word on where Dr. Kowalski got his PhD? Interested in attending. #regaliawin #NUGraduation

@CodyJHC @KyleHamar is so cool - #NUgraduation

@northwestu "The greatness of a generation is measured in its capacity to serve." @KyleHamar (Student Commencement Speaker) #greatword

@nataliegrant Was just honored with Northwest University President's Award. When I was a student here, I never would've guessed I'd be back here for this. Humbled and honored.

@northwestu "All men are created equal, but not all men have equal influence...make competence in your work hallmark in your life." -Kristen Waggoner



@bengelsvold



@misterconfident



@oOnatalyaOo

Join the Conversation—@northwestu