

# NORTHWEST PASSAGES

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2016



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TO POSSIBILITY**  
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FAME**  
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**Northwest**  
UNIVERSITY

# From the President

*Dr. Joseph L. Castleberry, Ed.D.*



## INVOLVEMENT VERSUS PARTICIPATION

What is the difference between “getting involved” and “participating?” Perhaps in common usage, there is not a lot of difference. But in the strictest sense, involvement signifies a deeper level of commitment than participation. The original sense of the word was “to be wrapped up in.” Involving yourself in an activity or a cause means really making a commitment, taking the matter to heart, dedicating yourself. I hope that this issue of Passages will motivate all of our alumni and friends to participate in what we are doing at Northwest, but I pray that many will do more, that they will get involved!

We have never seen a more exciting time than now at Northwest University. This year, NU became a full-fledged, officially recognized master’s-level university. Our academic quality rises higher every year. Our enrollment count rose this year to an all-time high of 2,047. Our global reputation brought 120 international students to study on campus this year. The debate team has established itself on the national and international scene

as a real contender, finishing among the top 32 schools in the world and defeating teams from Harvard, Yale, and Cornell, among other schools. Our athletic teams compete at high levels in the NAIA. Our musicians perform annually at Benaroya Hall in a concert insiders consider one of the best highlights of the Christmas season. Our nursing program enjoys a strong international reputation after 15 years of intercultural involvement around the world. Graduates from our education, business, ministry, pre-law, counseling, and other programs have set a high mark of excellence in their professions. Chapel services and Pursuit continue to evidence the power of the Word of God and the fullness of the Holy Spirit. I could go on and on and on.

With all of this success, opportunities for participation by alumni and friends get more exciting all the time. What some alumni and friends may not realize is this: they can play a part on campus in the things they were once involved in as students. As the poet Wordsworth wrote, “What we have loved, others will love, and we may teach them how.”

The best things that have ever played a part in Northwest live on, and the things alumni loved the best about their experience in college still delight students today.

As you read about people doing things you did as a student, things you still love, I want you to know—you can still participate. You can even go further, and get involved! Make plans to visit the campus soon and explore the ways you can contribute to making God’s light shine from the Great Northwest.

Joseph Castleberry, President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Castleberry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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# COMMENCEMENT 2016: POSSIBILITY UNLEASHED

*May 7th at Overlake Christian Church*

289 women & 202 men

32% graduated with academic honors

374 from the Pacific Northwest

90 outside of the Pacific Northwest

25 states represented

International graduates from *A to Z*  
(Australia to Zimbabwe)



Entering the main sanctuary at Overlake Christian Church on Saturday, May 7th, you could sense the excitement. Even though NU's Commencement ceremony has occurred 80 times, each celebration feels new and alive. Perhaps that is because each

one is an unleashing of possibility—highly skilled NU graduates who go out from this building into all of the world to transform it for the glory of God. Though gone, they are not forgotten. We pray for God's continued blessing upon the class of 2016 and upon the fields into which they now enter.

We hope you enjoy these highlights of our 80th Commencement. It was a wonderful day to celebrate the hard work of our

graduates, the support of their families, and the faithfulness of our faculty.

If you'd like to see more photos, they can be found online at [northwestu.edu/graduation](http://northwestu.edu/graduation).

1



**1** The President's Award recognizes significant service to NU and the community. This year it was presented to Amy and Jeff Rogers.

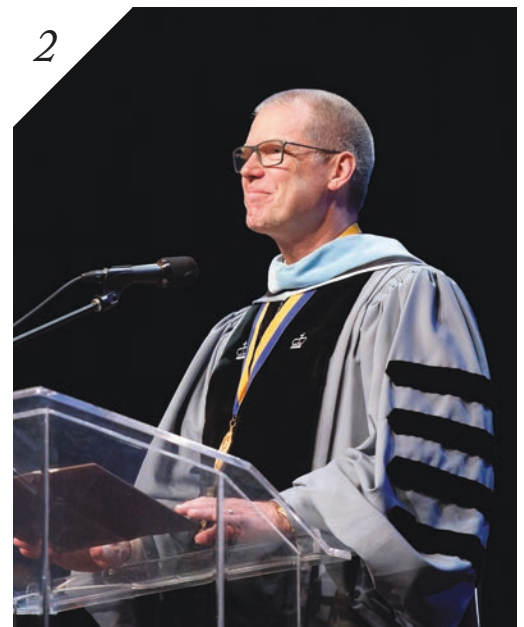
**2** NU President, Joseph Castleberry, welcomes the near-capacity crowd at Overlake Christian Church.

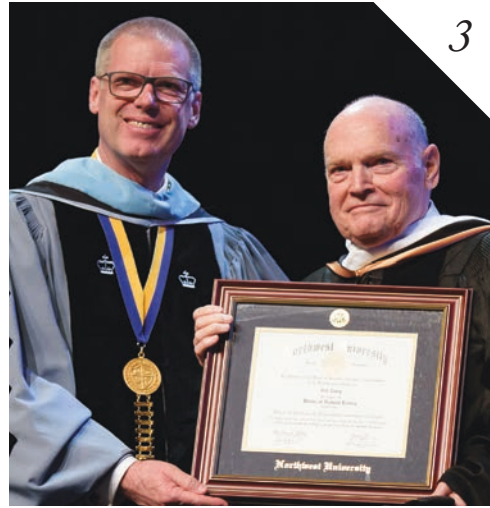
**3** Mr. Ted Terry is awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree for his distinguished work in the publishing field.



**4** Marlene Pierce gives the student address. NU was where this World Debate Championship winner found her voice (see page 9 for Marlene's debate story).

**5** NU professor, Jeremiah Webster, encourages graduates to "step into the will of God and find your deepest identity in Him."

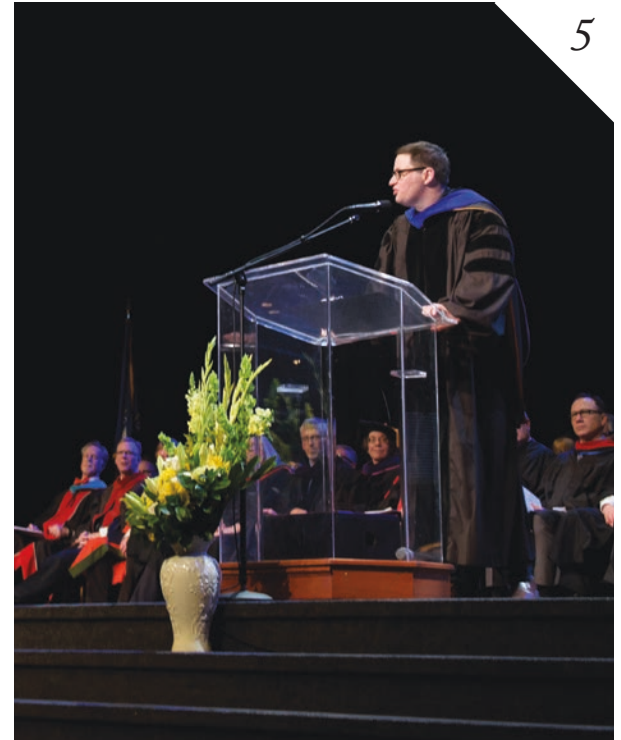




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# A NATIONAL STAGE FOR NU

## President Castleberry Elevates Our Status

When President Castleberry set out to write a book on immigration, he knew it was a relevant topic, but the level of media activity generated has surprised even him. Since his book, *The New Pilgrims*, was released, President Castleberry has hit the airwaves, bringing a new level of national recognition to Northwest University. Below is a small selection of the many interviews our President has conducted over the past several months—and more to come! For links to several of President Castleberry's interviews, visit [northwestu.edu/interviews](http://northwestu.edu/interviews).

## SEATTLE TIMES ARTICLE

The front-page story appeared in the Sunday edition of the Seattle Times above the fold. In the half page article, President Castleberry laid out a thoughtful immigration approach to the entire Seattle metropolitan area. The story was picked up by many smaller papers around the country and was featured as the Seattle Times story of the week.

## NATIONAL TELEVISION

President Castleberry has conducted ten national interviews, including Fox News, Christian Broadcasting Network, GodTV, and Trinity Broadcasting Network Salsa. More broadcast appearances are planned for the future. What began as author interviews has morphed into a new role as a social and political analyst.



## RADIO

With over 100 radio interviews to his credit, President Castleberry has shared the airwaves with radio legends like Jim Bohannon (Westwood One Radio), Chris Salcedo (The Blaze), Rusty Humphries (USA Radio Network), and Michael Medved (Salem Radio). Additionally, Dr. Castleberry was featured by John Stonestreet, whose show on Breakpoint is heard by an audience of over two million listeners on over one thousand stations.

## PODCASTS

Podcasts have become an increasingly important medium. Anthony Gill hosts a very influential research and religion podcast and has interviewed President Castleberry. George P. Wood also invited Dr. Castleberry to appear on his podcast titled Influence. It is well subscribed among Assemblies of God ministers.



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# WORLD-CLASS COMMUNICATOR

## *Debate at NU*

I knew God had a plan to grow the talent and passion for expression He had given me, and He delivered. Two weeks into my freshmen year, my Introduction to Speech professor pulled me aside and asked if I had ever considered joining debate. Twenty-four hours later, I was on a team that would soon become a second family. I quickly found my gift for speech synthesized with my thirst for knowledge, and I blossomed in the world of collegiate debate. Within two years, I was leading the team as the captain and participating in the activity that has become my passion.

Regional tournaments turned into national competitions, and my debate



partner and I soon found ourselves in Thessaloniki, Greece competing in the World's University Debate Championship (WUDC), the biggest non-athletic sporting event in the world. Being challenged and competing alongside prestigious peers from all over the world, Harvard and Oxford among them, was thrilling and will forever be one of my crowning achievements.

While at WUDC, I entered into the public speaking competition, a side event that focused on compelling, entertaining speaking. With the



support of my school behind me, I took to the stage with confidence and a gleam in my eye. After a three-minute speech, I found myself in finals as one of top five speakers in a field of over 100. After the final round, they announced me as the 2016 World's Best Public Speaker.

The topic I spoke on for the public speaking final was, "What would life be like if I wasn't a debater?" And, honestly, even the concept is terrifying. When I first started at Northwest University, I had a voice but I didn't know how to use it. Debate has fundamentally changed the way I approach life and given me a confidence that I would never have imagined possible. The past four years have done more than just teach me how to speak; they have given me a purpose.



# 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](http://northwestu.edu/alumni/association).



### **ID Card**

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

### **Northwest Passages**

Twice each year we'll send you an edition of Northwest Passages—a magazine that will help you stay connected with your fellow alumni. Each edition highlights campus news and events, student stories, as well as alumni features and updates.

### **Alumni Newsletter**

Stay right up to the minute with our e-newsletter. It comes out several times each year and provides you with all the latest NU news and events.

### **Eagle Fitness Center**

The fitness center is an on-campus gym located in the Barton building. Being a part of the Alumni Association grants you access for \$15/month or \$25/month for a family membership.

### **Take a Free Class**

Still desiring to learn and participate on the Northwest University Kirkland campus? NU grads have the opportunity to attend an undergraduate day or evening class totally free of tuition charge. Please contact the registrar's office for more information: [registrarsoffice@northwestu.edu](mailto:registrarsoffice@northwestu.edu).

### **Library Access**

As Northwest University alumni, you are given full borrowing privileges at the Hurst Library. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of the learning resources that are available through our library system. To check out books, all you need is your ID card.

### **Hotel Discounts**

Here's another benefit you'll enjoy by becoming a member of the Alumni Association: discounts at local Kirkland hotels when visiting the campus during university events.



# Northwest

UNIVERSITY | ALUMNI



## NU Alumni Events: Keeping You Connected

Your NU experience doesn't have to end once you graduate. We offer various ways to stay connected to your alma mater and to all of the people who came to mean so much to you while you were here. Why not connect with them again? Some events have already taken place, but you can still make plans to attend our summer and fall events.





## New Alumni Breakfast

Friday, May 6, 2016  
9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

A great new tradition! Breakfast is provided to our soon-to-be graduates and their families before the graduation ceremony rehearsal. This is a great way to honor our new alums as they prepare to cross the stage and start a new chapter in their lives.



## Men's Basketball Golf Tournament

Monday, October 3, 2016  
8:00 a.m.

We're teeing off at Snoqualmie Ridge, a beautiful course with stunning mountain vistas. This is the only Jack Nicklaus Signature Course in Washington. Rise and shine for an 8:00 a.m. shotgun start.



## Founder's Circle

Activities to be announced

In May 2016 we inaugurated The Founder's Circle, a designation reserved for NU Alumni who have celebrated their 50th graduation anniversary. In addition to receiving a special NU medallion, new inductees are invited to walk in the commencement ceremony and gather for a free luncheon immediately following graduation.

## Christmas Traditions at Benaroya Hall

December 8, 2016

This is one of our premiere events of the year. You'll hear beautiful Christmas music from the Northwest University Concert Choir, accompanied by the Kirkland Civic Orchestra, and conducted by William Owen. There will even be a sing-along to your favorite Christmas classics. More information will be shared as the date nears.

## 1960s Sedro-Woolley Reunion and Retreat

Friday, July 22 – Sunday, July 24, 2016

For NU graduates from 1960 through 1969, a special outing is planned during the fourth weekend of every July. Each summer, this group reserves a private campground near Sedro-Woolley, Washington for a great opportunity to reconnect with old classmates through outdoor activities, shared meals, and worship. For more details, you can visit: <http://nc60salumni.com/reunion2016/infocenter.shtml>.

## College of Business Alumni Reunion

April 1, 2016

This event was held on April 1, 2016 at the 425 Collective. Over 120 business alumni, graduating seniors, and local business owners gathered together to learn about the NU community, share business advice, and network with each other.



# FROM PERSECUTION TO POSSIBILITY

## THE STORY OF BEN STERCIUC

*There aren't too many people who take on the role of professor, pastor, father, businessman, and student, simultaneously. But Ben Sterciuc escaped a world of persecution and obstacles to find a world of opportunity.*

**B** Ben grew up in a Pentecostal family in a small village in Soviet Romania. As a Christian in Romania, he refused to join the communist party; consequently, he was denied many things, including education and decent employment. When Ben's wife Lia became pregnant, Ben could not imagine his child experiencing the same oppression. In 1988, he made his first escape attempt, which landed him in prison. Although the conditions were terrible, Ben reflects on this time as an opportunity to deepen his relationship with Christ and focus on his future. He eventually escaped to Hungary, where he began devising a plan to reunite with his wife and child. Fortunately for him, in December 1989, the Soviet Union collapsed and the Romanian government was overthrown, allowing for the Sterciucs to begin taking steps toward a new life.



Elevation Church in Nairobi, Kenya.



Giraffe in the Maasai Mara, Kenya.

*I risked my life for this very freedom and exploring these opportunities! Besides, when I enter into God's eternal presence, I will rest forever.*

Ben and Lia came to the United States in 1990, and from that moment, they have made the most of their freedom. Ben started his own business by opening a care facility for senior citizens. He's

earned multiple degrees (including several from Northwest): RN and Master in Nursing, B.A. in Music Ministry, M.A. in Theology and Culture, and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Ministry. Ben is an adjunct professor for the Buntain School of

Nursing, as well as the full-time pastor of Elevation Church, meeting each week in the NU Chapel. His son, Flavius, also graduated from NU with a degree in business management.

Ben's story is amazing and inspiring, and made even richer through his Northwest University experiences. We wanted to learn from Ben how his life's journey has been positively impacted by

his NU connections, as well as how he stays motivated while pursuing so many opportunities.

**Q What experiences stand out to you having been a student and faculty member at Northwest University?**

**A** NU provides a great academic path for all students by caring for their spiritual needs and preparing them for life. While I came to NU later in life to pursue a dream, it still impacted my present and my future. Similarly, it did so for my son who earned a business degree at NU.

As a former NU student, the passion that the professors have for Christian education and the care and love for the students is remarkable. NU faculty and staff go beyond their duty to invest in the lives of the students and to pray for them and mentor them.

The profound understanding that I have gained through earning a BA





Elevation Church in Nairobi, Kenya.



Maasai Mara, Kenya.

in Music Ministry shaped who I was as a worshiper, as well as a worship leader influencing others to a healthier approach to worshipping Jesus through music and arts, but most importantly, through our lives.

**Q How does the University of Possibility relate to your Northwest University experience?**

**A** Access to higher education—that possibility meant everything for me. As someone who was denied access to higher education in Romania based on my faith, I cannot stop pursuing all the possibilities!

Even before the NU tagline was coined, it applied to my spiritual life, vocational calling, and professional career. My education at NU prompted me to aspire for more; to believe that God has envisioned more for my life, my family, and ultimately my impact in the world. NU’s education contributed directly to my theological and pastoral preparation

for church planting and my pastoring journey. My wife and I have planted Elevation Church in Kirkland with two additional campuses in Nairobi and Kitale, Kenya.

**Q How do you balance life serving in so many roles?**

**A** We are simply obedient and faithful to Jesus’ calling in our lives. It’s not easy, it’s not for everyone, and it’s definitely not for the comfortable. While here on earth, there are too many people who still need Jesus!

There is no magic formula for being a bi-vocational pastor. It takes intentionality, dedication, and consistency in, and to, our current commitments—church, business, teaching, etc. Frankly, I see all of these possibilities and areas of serving as a privilege. I risked my life for this very freedom and exploring these opportunities! Besides, when I enter into God’s eternal presence, I will rest forever.



ALL  
THINGS  
ARE  
POSSIBLE

Sophomore Isaiah Whitten  
shares about his year at Oxford.



Sometimes other people see our potential before we do. Such is the case with Isaiah Whitten. He attended Bellevue High School and fell in with friends who took him down a path that eventually led to academic failure. With little immediate support to overcome hardship, there didn't seem to be much that was possible in his life.

But something happened.

It all started at a Young Life camp in Canada called Malibu. Here, he found friends who believed in him, cared for him, and showed him a hopeful path that led to Jesus Christ. Isaiah got a glimpse of a new life that was possible and he decided his life must change.

One of his first decisions was to transfer to Bellevue Christian, but there were two obstacles: his grades and money for tuition. Isaiah took care of the first and his grades improved dramatically. When parents of the new friends he'd met at Malibu saw Isaiah's commitment and potential, they stepped forward to help with tuition. Isaiah graduated from Bellevue Christian and began considering college.

Isaiah's first campus visit to Northwest University convinced him that it was the right place. It was here at NU—with the help of friends, a scholarship and encouragement from President Castleberry—where Isaiah began to flourish and reveal possibilities that no one could predict. During his freshman year, Isaiah made the dean's list. However, this was just a hint of even greater things to come.

As an international business major, Isaiah applied to spend one year at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. It was a long shot, due to the number of applications and his status as a sophomore. One day, Isaiah received the staggering news that he was accepted into one of the most prestigious universities in the world. Shortly after, he packed his bags to spend a year studying in the same libraries that C.S. Lewis used. Since being at Oxford, Isaiah has joined the rowing team, was appointed to an executive committee position on the Oxford Guild, and he has explored areas far and wide.

Upon returning from Oxford, Isaiah will attend The Institute for Responsible Citizenship in Washington, D.C., an organization reserved for young African-American leaders. Isaiah is one of the ten students selected in this highly competitive application process. The Institute's members include Rhode Scholars, Fulbright Scholars, and students from universities such as Harvard, Yale, and now, Northwest University.

The possibility that God placed in Isaiah's life was always there. But it took friends, parents, and Northwest University to see it, believe it, and invest in it. No one understands this more than Isaiah. "The Lord has placed a special blessing on the campus at Northwest University. NU has this incredible tendency to partner with your specific needs and make the impossible more than attainable."

"I am living proof."

NU has this incredible tendency to partner with your specific needs and make the impossible more than attainable.



*Honoring Our*  
**EAGLES**  
6TH ANNUAL HALL OF FAME



Jordan Asher (left),  
Female Athlete of the Year



Jonathan Ferguson (right),  
Male Athlete of the Year



Phil Olson,  
Hall of Fame Inductee





Phil Olson (left) was inducted into the Hall of Fame.



With 300 guests in attendance, Northwest University's Sixth Annual Eagle Hall of Fame Benefit was a night to remember. The evening began with a silent auction featuring items such as autographed sports memorabilia, dinner packages, overnight stays, and more. Following the silent auction, guests enjoyed a catered dinner, the Hall of Fame induction, a live auction, and a powerful message from special guest, and former NFL quarterback, Brock Huard.

The Hall of Fame program, emceed by Craig and Rachel Terrill, included an introduction from Northwest's Assistant Athletic Director, John Van Dyke. Student Athletes of the Year, Jordan Asher (women's basketball) and Jonathan Ferguson (cross country and track and field) were honored, and Phil Olson was inducted into the Northwest University Hall of Fame. Each of these individuals spoke about the special impact that the University's coaches and teammates have had on their lives and their faith.

Special guest Brock Huard closed out the evening with a message titled "Seek and He Will Surround," followed by a time for Q&A. As a quarterback, Huard played in college for the University of Washington Huskies and professionally for the Seattle Seahawks and Indianapolis Colts. He told stories from his childhood, college, and professional years, which touched on how God surrounds us with His presence and provision when we seek Him.

"Seek those that love the Lord, seek those you're like minded with, seek those you can lock arms with, and trust me on this: He will surround you." – Brock Huard

The Sixth Annual Eagle Hall of Fame Benefit supported scholarships for student athletes at Northwest University. We are incredibly thankful for the sponsors and guests who made the evening possible. Because of their support, we can continue to provide a Christ-centered education to gifted athletes.



Emcees, Craig and Rachel Terrill (left), with special guest, Brock Huard (right).



Dr. Joseph Castleberry, Northwest University President

# A CHALLENGE MET

Back in November, Northwest University unveiled a new giving campaign called the Trustee Challenge, to raise money for student scholarships. It started with a postcard that asked a simple question: Are You Up For The Challenge? When the donations were all tabulated, the answer was a resounding “yes.”

But first a little refresher course.

As you may recall, the Trustee Challenge was a giving vehicle in which the NU Board of Trustees offered to match all donations, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000. When the Board of Directors witnessed such generosity, they also wanted to participate and significantly increased the total matching dollars available.

Thanks to their participation as leaders, and to the strongest year-end giving from NU alumni and friends, **a total of \$150,000 was raised for student scholarships!** Because of your giving, more students will be able to experience a Christ-centered university education. Your generosity is appreciated by Northwest University and by the students, and it will have eternal repercussions as we build up the next generation of leaders for Christ.

Thank you!

— *The Trustee* —  
**CHALLENGE**

*You Give. They Match. Students Win.*





## ALUMNI FEATURE: *JACK O'BRIEN*

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**J**ack O'Brien is the newest member of Northwest University's development team. As our Planned Giving Ambassador, Jack volunteers his 50+ years of experience in financial services, doing retirement and estate planning, and working in charitable giving. We are blessed to have such a knowledgeable and dedicated NU alumnus join our team.

Jack's story starts in 1938 when he was born in Everett, Washington. While Jack was not brought up in a Christian home, at the age of 15 he accepted the Lord while attending

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church camp, and from that time Jack's life transformed as the Holy Spirit led him through his journey.

After graduating from high school, Jack wasn't quite sure what he wanted to do with his life. He had some friends attending NU and he loved the campus. He enrolled at NU and pursued his BA in Theology, and then completed a one-year program (post-undergrad) to receive his ThB in Theology.

During Jack's time at NU, he met his beautiful wife, Ardyth. They have been married for over 53 years and are proud parents to two sons and grandparents to four granddaughters, one grandson, and two great-grandsons.

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After graduating from NU, Jack served as a pastor and youth pastor for a few Washington churches. Later, he would go into financial services. Jack's philosophy in his business has always been to "talk about life before you talk about services and financial products." His pastoral instincts, as well as his trustworthiness and friendly persona, led to a very successful career.

We are grateful to have Jack joining our team. He brings years of investment and recruiting experience, as well as the personal connection of being an NU alum. Jack is also the newest member of our alumni board. If you see him on campus, or at an NU event, make sure to stop and say hello!

# STAFF & FACULTY UPDATES

## PRESENTATIONS



### **Blaine Charette**

*College of Ministry*

- “The Whence and Whither of Those Born of the Spirit: John 3:8 and the Correlation between Son of God and the Children of God,” American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 23, 2015.

- Panelist: Discussion of Craig S. Keener, Acts an Exegetical Commentary: 15:1-23:35 (Baker, 2014), Society for Pentecostal Studies Conference, San Dimas, California, March 11, 2016.



### **Carl Christensen**

*School of Nursing*

- “External Expectations for Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) Education Programs in Washington State.” Nursing education symposium hosted by the University of Georgia in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, February 29, 2016.



### **Don Doty**

*College of Business*

- “Tangible Object Identity Formation as exemplified by Christ through Salt and Light,” Management, Spirituality and Religion Scholarship Consortium, Academy of Management 2015 Annual Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, August 9, 2015.
- Peer Review: “Leadership for Sustainability: The Role of Values, Sustainability Understanding, and Education,” Academy of Management Annual Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, August 6, 2015.



### **Sarah Drivdahl**

*College of Arts and Sciences*

- Drivdahl, S.B., Arnold, M., & Hiatt, R. (2016, April). Discussions about Sex in Conservative Families. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association, Long Beach, California.



### **Leihua Edstrom**

*College of Social and Behavioral Sciences*

- “Executive functioning and its contribution to learning: Implications for teaching, assessment, and intervention.” Professional development seminar presented to the Special Education staff of Mukilteo School District, October 2, 2015.



### **Bob Stallman**

*College of Ministry*

- “When Less Is More: Applying ‘Focus on Form Instruction’ in the Biblical Hebrew Classroom.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature and the National Association of Professors of Hebrew, Atlanta, Georgia, November 23, 2015.



### **Jeremiah Webster**

*College of Arts and Sciences*

- “Moby Dick: The Metaphysics of Ahab’s Madness,” Providence Classical Christian School, Kirkland, Washington, October 2015.



## PUBLICATIONS



### Clint Bryan

*College of Arts and Sciences*

- “Heads Bowed, Eyes Closed: Analyzing the Discourse of Online Evangelical Altar Calls,” doctoral dissertation, Middle Tennessee State University, May 6, 2016.

### Brent Colby

*Adjunct Faculty, College of Ministry*

- Co-author, “Fusion: Children’s Ministry Book Two: Family, Science, Strategy (Fusion Children’s Ministry 2).” Northwest Ministry Network; 1.1 edition, November 10, 2015.

### Nancy Erickson

*Adjunct Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences*

- Second album release, “While Strolling Through the Park,” January 8, 2016.



### Ron Jacobson

*College of Education*

- Jacobson, Ronald B. (forthcoming). Bullying and Cyber-bullying. In P. Smeyers (Ed.), *The International Handbook of Philosophy of Education*. Springer.

## SELECT APPOINTMENTS

### Dr. Renee Bourdeaux

*College of Arts and Sciences*

- Appointed as Assistant Professor, Communication

### Dr. Yi-An Burleson

*College of Arts and Sciences*

- Appointed as Assistant Professor, Psychology

### Carl Christensen

*School of Nursing*

- President, North Puget Sound Clinical Placement Consortium

### Esther Harmon

*College of Arts and Sciences*

- Granted Staff Emerita status

### Chrystal Helmcke

*College of Arts and Sciences*

- Appointed as Assistant Professor and Director of the drama concentration

### Dr. Darrell Hobson

*College of Arts and Sciences*

- Appointed as Professor Emeritus

### Nikki Johnson

*College of Business*

- Appointed as Associate Professor, College of Adult and Professional Studies

### Dr. Stephanie Kerr

*College of Arts and Sciences*

- Appointed as Assistant Professor, Exercise Science

### Brooke Lundquist

*College of Social and Behavioral Sciences*

- Graduate Student Chair, Washington Counseling Association

### Dr. Joshua Meeks

*College of Arts and Sciences*

- Appointed as Assistant Professor, History

### Dr. Cherri Seese

*College of Social and Behavioral Sciences*

- Appointed as Assistant Professor, Psychology

### Dr. Millicent Thomas

*College of Arts and Sciences*

- Granted sabbatical, fall 2016

### Thor Tolo

*College of Arts and Sciences*

- Appointed as Assistant Professor, College of Adult and Professional Studies

# ALUMNI UPDATES

## SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Stay connected with your classmates as they share personal and professional updates and some great NU memories.

Visit [www.northwestu.edu/alumni/update](http://www.northwestu.edu/alumni/update) if you have an update or a favorite memory you'd like to share with Northwest.

## 1970s

**Deborah Roth-Bush ('79)** God is the master of restoration. Many of you know I was widowed when my son was just three and half. A friend from high school was reintroduced to me in April of 2011 through another alumni, Leslie Starr (formerly Schlegel). After nine years as a single parent, we married in 2013. My son, Andre, is thriving at Faith Christian



Academy high school earning great grades, playing soccer, and singing in both the choir and men's ensemble. I currently consult on fundraising with nonprofits nationwide. I have also gone to auctioneer

school and plan to begin a new career working closely with groups trying to raise money to make change in their community and world.

*Memory: Eating way too many donuts with Gail Johnson and the other cheerleaders left over from a game while studying. Lots of giggles, wonderful classes and professors, and great friends.*

## 1980s

**Greg Holman ('83)** Moved to Mount Vernon in October where we're managing Little Mountain Estates, a senior community. Also serving as a wedding/funeral celebrant.

## 1990s



### Marcus Robinson ('91)

I was ordained as an Anglican priest in 2015 and serve as the pastor of Crossover Church in downtown Colorado Springs.

*Memory: Theology classes with Doc Pekota and Kowalski. Pentecostal History with Jim Heugel. Air bands and parties with the Ducks!*

**Kimberly Kennell ('94)** I have recently started my new business with Rodan and Fields and love being able to stay at home with our six children and work around our crazy schedules. We are also breaking ground on our own facility for our physical therapy clinic. The Lord's grace and blessing to our family are incredible!

*Memory: I absolutely LOVED Northwest Sounds! We had such a great time rehearsing, praying, traveling, and singing together!*



**Brent Gibson ('96)** I accepted the position of Director of Music Leadership at Summit Pacific College and started my new role in September.



*Memory: My favorite NU memory was ministering on the various travelling music teams each year and getting to be a part of something special. Thank you Dr. Swaffield and Paul Melidona for your musical leadership and pouring into each and every singer and band member in Choralons and Northwest Sounds. I'll never forget the amazing experience.*

## 2010s

**Chelsi Green ('11)** *Memory: Pursuit, Professor Mohan's classes, and every minute spent with the people on Guy and Beatty 100.*



## 2000s

**Jeff Riley ('04)** My wife Maria and I moved to pastor at a church in New Jersey with our three children. Maria works at a local hospital as a lactation nurse.

**Eli Thomas ('06)** My family and I moved to Vancouver, Wash. in July of 2013 so that I could accept a position at Call to Christ Community Lutheran Church. In October 2015, we moved the church from Vancouver to the small town of Ridgefield. My wife Jennifer (Cordle '99) also began teaching fourth grade at Kalama Elementary School in the Kalama School District in September 2015.





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