

THE TALON

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Photo by Steve Smith

Grammy Award Winner, Steve Smith, assists NU's Creatio Project

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Act Six Scholars Strive for Bright Future at NU

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Track Overcomes Injuries for Successful Meets

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NU LAUNCHES GROUND-BREAKING MUSIC PROJECT

Janie Kliever
Senior Staff Writer

Northwest University has become the frontrunner in recording arts education both regionally and nationally with its new music education and production program.

Once all the facets of Creatio are completed, the program will be the only one of its kind in an accredited university in the Pacific Northwest as well as in Evangelical Christian higher education on the west coast, according to the program's new website.

"Creatio is a fantastic opportunity for our university to become a leader in the recording industry for our region," said Department Chair of Communication Studies, Gary Gillespie. "The Creatio dream is to create a synthesis of technology and aesthetics that provides students with hands on skills and an appreciation of the arts to make them top recording professionals."

The impetus for this ground-breaking project resulted from a recent gift of recording equipment from a locally based studio. In response, Northwest is also developing academic, outreach, and professional aspects as university leaders continue to build and expand the Creatio Project.

NU is currently in the process of receiving nearly \$400,000 worth of equipment from Imperative Studios, which is affiliated with Cedar Park Church in Bothell.

This gift will become the anchor for Creatio Studios, one of four facets of the Project.

This donation functioned as the "first domino starting to fall that positioned us to begin to grow and evolve," according to Jeff Lockhart, the executive director of the Creatio Project.

"Northwest University established Creatio as an initiative, built on a long history of musical excellence, to enable innovative, explosive growth in creating music," according to the program's website.

In addition, the Creatio Project, when fully established, will include the Creatio Institute, an academic program grounded in NU's Contemporary Music Industry degree. Furthermore, Northwest just incorporated two new major concentrations, a new minor, and a certificate program to take advantage of all that the Creatio Project has to offer.

The first, a Music Industry business concentration in the business management major, features Survey of Music Business, Survey of Recording Technology, and Music Publishing as some of its course offerings.

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Clashing Sides: Is It Worth It?

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Technological luxuries come with responsibilities similar to raising a child, and NU has too many neglected infantile projects crying for attention.

An example of the future to come for any new technological installation at NU is best portrayed through the radio station (AM 1500 KCNU).

This school's mission statement is to "carry the call", but its radio station cannot transmit a signal far enough to reach the inner wall of the NU bubble.

The station came mainly by donation, and NU has not paid the cost to expand the radio signal.

Gregg Neilson, who teaches the radio class, is also the General Manager for C89.5 FM. He offers a lot of knowledgeable experience to the class, but lack of funding makes the hope of having a real radio station at NU, a fading forgotten dream.

"We choose a strategy of selective excellence here. We can't do everything, so we choose what we do carefully and do the best job we can," said President Joseph Castleberry.

Would you consider the radio station a good example of NU doing its best?

Sales and promotions are a huge part of radio.

The selling of airtime for commercials, and promotions for live events, generates money. If NU invested money into the station,

the station would bring money back to NU.

It pays for itself.

More people would hear about NU and maybe consider bringing their dollars to this institution.

Also, the possibility of broadcasting chapel to every radio by a bed is always a nice thought, but might just be humorous wishful thinking.

My counterpart and I agree on one thing; technology at NU is like a turtle in a rabbit race, hoping these industry hares will sometime take a nap, so we can catch up.

A computer technology program at NU only puts more weight on the turtles back.

Other projects like Creatio are primarily donations, and by next fall, the equipment will be outdated, and NU will not have sufficient funding to maintain industry standard upgrades.

Five years from now, Creatio will look like the radio station.

So in looking to the future of NU, we should focus on improving what have now, and not take on more programs the school will not be able to maintain.

Andrey Malskiy
Staff Writer

In an era where technology changes monthly, universities need to be up to par.

In order to provide the best level of education, universities need to be

relevant to the changing world.

With a small university, such as Northwest, keeping up with the Jones's is an issue, yet is fairly addressed by President Castleberry.

"We'll let

other institutions pay those R&D [research and development] costs, and do our best to trail along as close as possible, paying a lot less for the latest stuff just a few months behind the leaders," said Castleberry.

As a business major I agree in letting someone else paying R&D costs. However, there is a point in which updates are necessary to improve student life, as my counterpart mentions, and education standards.

The lives of each student varies, however having a busy schedule does not. Most universities can accommodate the students by providing online courses.

"I expect that within five years we will have some academic programs

that can be taken on-line without having to come to campus," said Castleberry.

The internet has been well established for nearly two decades. And we only plan to utilize it.

The HSC building was a brilliant addition to the campus. However, do we really need to have a greater surplus of flat screen TVs than Costco at any given time? We could have left one flat screen TV out and used that money to update the school's operating system, which [Windows XP] is two generations behind the current industry standard [Windows 7].

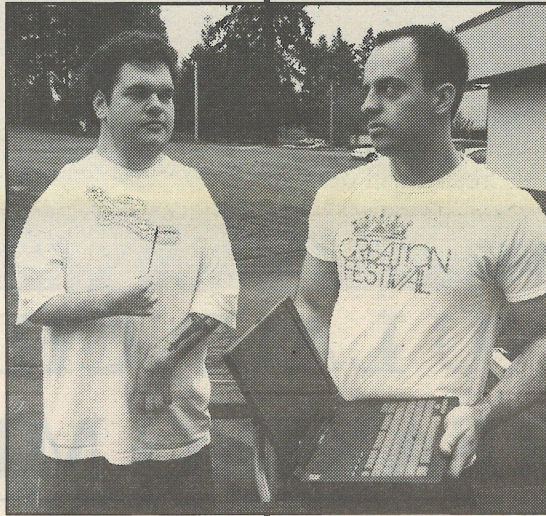
Software companies are always in need of developers; however there are no programs at NU offered for such fields.

Microsoft, Nintendo, Google, and other industry leaders are located minutes from Northwest University—beckon for developers. Yet students whom wish to pursue a career in technology have to travel across the lake to the University of Washington or elsewhere.

The Northwest is also a staple in the music industry. NU is partnering with the Creatio Project and will be offering studies which focus on music production. Most of the production equipment was donated.

The question remains, will NU be up to par with the music industry or fall behind as did our campus operating system?

Music production is a great addition to our education, however if money is not backing the project the last thing they'll produce is a eulogy.



Spring 2010 Talon Staff

From R to L: Back Row- Tyler Hart, Graphics; Tim Smith, Staff Writer; Andrey Malskiy, Staff Writer; Matthew Moroni, Senior Photographer. Middle- Kara Heinrichs, Faculty Advisor; Racheal Arteaga, Ministry Editor; Doug Harkness, Photographer; Shayn Fite, Staff Writer. Front- Kirsten Phillips, Editor-In-Chief; Alexa Breidenbach, Staff Writer; Christy Wolyniak, Senior Staff Writer; Anu Akamine, Staff Writer; Janie Kliever, Senior Staff Writer; Jennifer Jensen, Staff Writer; and Jessica Orr, Staff Writer.

Not Pictured: Josh Bollinger, Staff Writer; Krissa Partridge, Publisher; Kyle Wall, Publisher; Liz Rodriguez, Staff Writer; Satomi Ito, Web Master; and Jessie Fast, column writer.

NU Jumps Ahead in the Music Realm With Studio

Continued from page 1

"The purpose of the Institute is to provide Northwest's current and future artists with state of the art production facilities, educational programming, administrative infrastructure, relevant experience, and outreach opportunities in our endeavor to attract, retain, and grow musical artists with the vision of 'Carry the Call' for future generations," according to Teresa Gillespie, dean of the school of business and management.

The second adds to the Contemporary Music Industry major with a Recording Technology concentration. A Church Ministry minor in the School of Ministry and a Communication certificate program in Audio Recording Technology round out the selection of new academic programs. All of these will be available for registration next semester.

The Creatio Project will also feature URock, an outreach program aimed at 11- to 18-year-olds, as well as Creatio Records and Productions, a recording label.

"Whether it's your major, your minor, or just your interest, we want to give people creative opportunities to express themselves. We want to be seen as the leaders in that given environment for people to express their imaginations and their creativity, whatever their major is," said Lockhart.

He hopes that the Creatio Project will both attract new students to NU and provide fresh, innovative experiences for current students.

"I'm really excited about the Creatio Project. It's awesome that this school is recognizing the need for Christians to be involved in the music industry. . . . We have the best thing to sing



More than \$400,000 worth of equipment was donated to NU for the Creatio Project.

about, we have the best reason to achieve excellence. Recorded music is a tremendous tool and I believe strongly that we shouldn't run from the music industry, but rather jump into it so that we might further God's kingdom," said student musician Carson Heffner.

Kyla Hedge, a sophomore and music major, expressed surprise that the university hadn't developed a similar program earlier, due to the popularity and breadth of existing music programs, but is looking forward to the opportunities Creatio will offer.

Central to the growth of the Creatio Project will be the availability of three separate studios—a soundstage in the chapel, a pop/rock studio in the lower level of the 11220 (former Seahawks) building, and a small studio in the top floor of the 6710 building exclusively for URock.

Although educational purposes will be given first priority, the studios will also be available for booking by NU students.

University leaders plan to start construction on the 11220 studio within the next few weeks, followed by the 6710 studio, and after some ad-

ditional fundraising hope to begin construction on the soundstage by this May.

According to Lockhart, starting with a high quality audio program creates a foundation for growth in other areas.

"It was really important for us to define the quality of the audio program not on what we thought would be acceptable, but what the industry would find acceptable—so all the courses and all the gear and all the internships associated with it are all of the highest caliber," he said.

Within the next five to ten years, the Creatio Project has the potential for exponential growth,

including working with existing campus programs to develop in the areas of a film school, the drama department (with a remodel of Millard Hall), video production, and possibly even video game production, according to Lockhart.

The Creatio Project recently promoted its first concert, featuring local artists Brandon Bee, Benjiman, and Rootdown. Save the City Records partnered with Creatio to stage the concert in NU's Butterfield Chapel.

"With the Creatio Project, Northwest University is quickly establishing itself as a premier Christian music hub in this part of the country," said Save the City president Derek Hoiem in a recent press release.

Jeff Lockhart, who formerly served as NU's Assistant Vice President for Development, is now the driving force and Executive Director of the Creatio Project, as well as a member of the Beatles cover band, Creme Tangerine. More information can be found at the Creatio Project website, www.northwestu.edu/creatio.

Comments? Email taloneditor@northwestu.edu

Creatio Sends Message to Community: URock

Christy Wolyniak
Senior Staff Writer

"School of Rock" is now a reality for junior high and high school students who will learn and create rock and roll music the new NU program called "URock."

"URock is the outreach arm of Creatio to the community," said Jeff Lockhart, Executive Director of Creatio and URock.

The new recording studio will allow students to record their band rehearsals at a professional level.

At the end of the program, each band will write two original songs and three cover songs, according to Lockhart.

"It will be a very complete, support-approach to the whole idea of putting a band together as musicians working on material and rehearsing, and all of the success steps for a band," said Steve Smith, producer and recording specialist.

Small groups of four to five students will make up each band and will have a mentor to oversee their progression. The bands will also donate a portion of their end-of-term concert proceeds to a social awareness program of their choice.

"[URock] will create for those who are musically gifted an opportunity to express their gifting. It will be an avenue and platform for them that is not currently available," said Smith.

Smith is assisting the URock team. He will be producing a CD featuring all of the bands, assisting with the recording devices, and overseeing teaching audio classes and technical functionality.

URock will operate as an after-school program in the 6710 building for students seeking to learn and produce their own music. The program will incur a tuition fee to cover costs, according to Lockhart.

Classes offered at URock may include sound production courses and music history.

NU students can have hands on experience in their majors by being mentors and teachers to serve the students in the community through URock.

Lockhart and his team are launching a beta test for URock in May or June of this year with 80 students from Northshore Baptist Church. Based upon Northshore's current recording program, data will be collected in order to evolve the program into URock that will officially launch in October or November of 2010.

At the end of every URock program there will be two concerts: one at Northshore Baptist Auditorium and one at the Hard Rock Café in Seattle.

"URock will teach students reliance on each other in a band and an appreciation for what other members are doing," said Lockhart.



Photo by Jeff Lockhart

Jeff Lockhart is heading up URock.

Grammy Winning Music Mogul Benefits NU

Jennifer Jensen
Staff Writer

With 35 years of industry experience, Steve Smith, Creative Director of the Creatio Project is continuing to utilize his gifts and passions to equip others to experience music at entirely new levels.

Smith's success within the recording industry has earned him numerous gold and platinum albums, in addition to two Grammy award-winning productions.

His experiences have allowed him to work with a wide variety of artists ranging from, KISS to Garth Brooks, D.C. Talk to P. Diddy.

With every project and production Smith continues to carry the call that he knows the Lord had placed on his heart.

Smith began immersing himself in music at the age of 11. Living in South Carolina, he involved himself in rock bands and music groups that began to develop his talents and abilities.

In 1973, Smith moved to Los Angeles and began working with an engineer at a recording studio and it was in the midst of those interactions and



Photo by Doug Harkness

Lockhart and Smith are working on Creatio Project

experiences that his passion for music was developed and confirmed.

Smith then decided that he wanted to dedicate his gifts to the recording industry so others may also experience this art form known as music.

He describes the recording process as a "communication de-

vice that is crossing all barriers." He continues by saying, "Music is a language. Beautiful music in Spanish is still beautiful music in English."

But Smith also warns that the recording industry is not for the faint of

heart. "It is a very tough profession in that, to be successful you have to be dedicated to your craft...it's not as glamorous as everyone makes it out to be but it is artistically rewarding."

He encourages students looking into a career in the music industry to "put in the time, the focus, the study, and the hard work to achieve a level of excellence and once you get to that level of excellence God provides incredible opportunity."

Smith uses his passion for music to participate in multiple musical endeavors.

Currently, he is undertaking a vital role in the Creatio Project.

"I am blessed by President Castleberry's vision for the student body and putting forth programs that speak to peoples passions," he said.

Smith also underscores his excitement to partner with Jeff Lockhart, whose enthusiasm and heart is just as passionate.

"Everything starts with God giving his servants vision, and as I got to meet everyone [involved] I thought these guys have a wonderful vision for all of this," said Smith.

Not only is Smith and Lockhart's involvement with the Creatio Project beneficial to the music department but Smith anticipates this project to be complementary to each department, creating partnerships within music, drama, and the communication departments.

"They will all benefit from the presence of this [Creatio Project]," he said.

Students seem equally as excited.

Jonathan Stranton, majoring in music, looks forward to working with a renown producer such as Steve Smith and getting his band involved with the Creatio Project.

Smith brings new depth to the Northwest University community and he does not take his calling lightly.

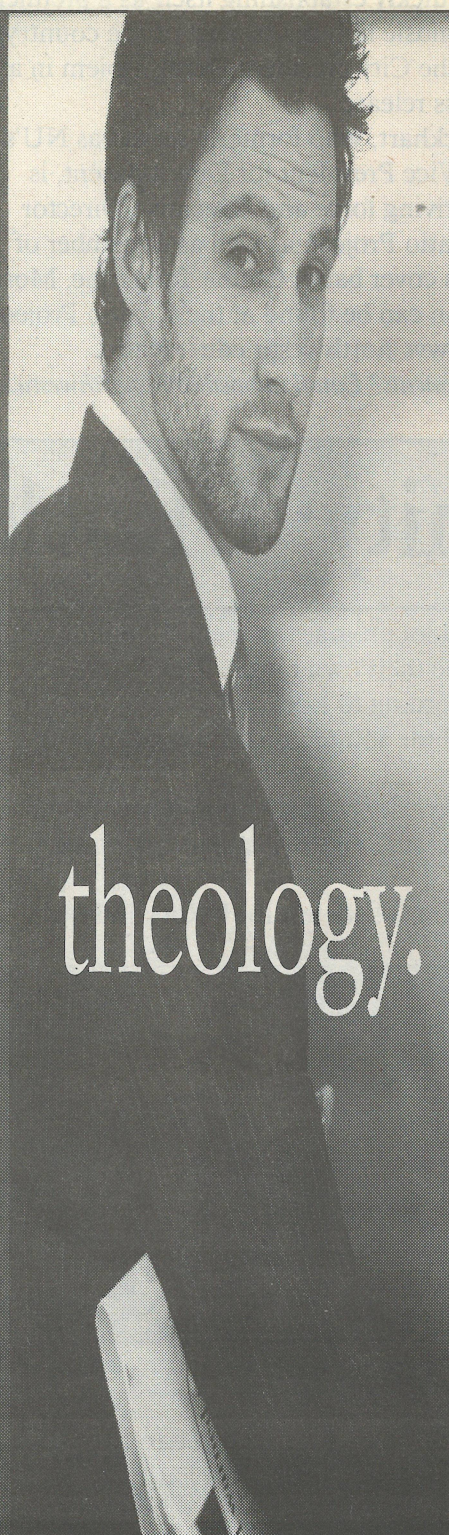
"God has blessed me. God knows my heart and I want to do the best I can at this particular profession. It's my gift and my responsibility to myself," said Smith. "Opportunities are born out of passion and a humble heart and being ready to answer the call."

Steve Smith is just another example of someone willing to answer that call.



Photo by Steve Smith

Grammy award winning producer aids Creatio Project.



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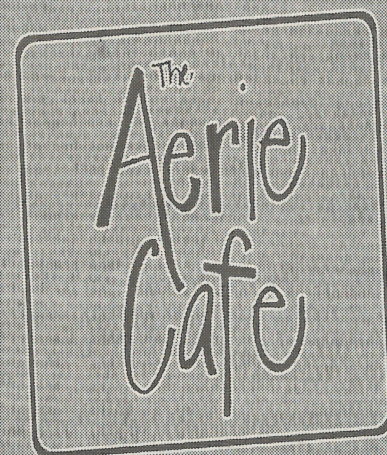
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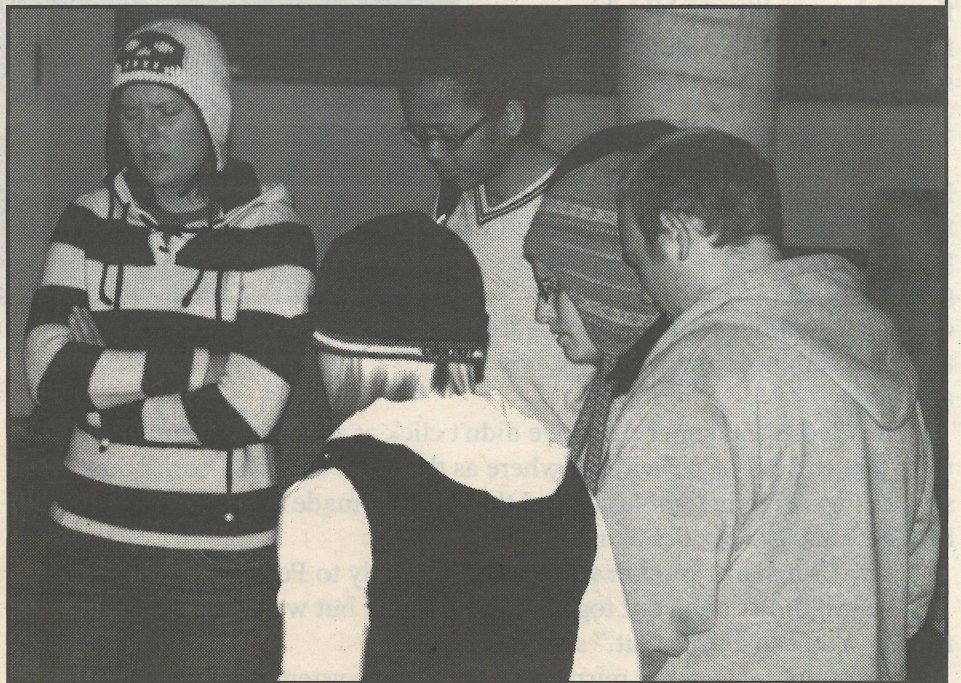
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Outreach: Lighthouse Homeless Ministry

Andrew Guatney
Guest Writer

As I crossed the 520 bridge heading into Seattle I saw the hand of God directing me in a way similar to that of His Son Jesus. Not that anything that I was doing was anything profound, but simply that the Father was using me as I submitted to His call and His direction. As a part of Northwest University's Lighthouse campus ministry to the homeless of Seattle I was crossing the bridge into a world that was familiar to me, but one that I had not experienced in its entirety. It was a world that previously I didn't truly know and really don't even know now, but as God spoke to me that night, I realized that this is what His Son Jesus did. He crossed the bridge into humanity, a world that He did not know as we as humans know, but as He humbled Himself and wrapped Himself in flesh, leaving the circle of the Godhead, it became known to Him in a way that He could identify with, fully in every way. Unbelievable that the perfect Son would leave the majestic throne of the Father and come into a world of death and grime. Unbelievable that he would want to come and live among us knowing that we would reject Him and that we would abhor His figure, the very image of the invisible, to the extent that we would murder Him. Unbelievable that He would come unnoticed, knowing full well that He deserved everything, and that every knee was to someday bow recognizing Him as the Only Wise King. Unbelievable that He would take our punishment and that His body would be cursed, leaving no room for recognition after the beating. He crossed the bridge and from that moment in what we know as time, He changed everything. Aside from the close friendships that I developed from my earliest moments serving with Lighthouse, to the deep spiritual encounters that I witnessed where God seemed to almost change the hearts and complexions of the homeless people on Broadway in mere seconds, God found me. He was there and He showed Himself to me. He showed me that it really is all about His Son Jesus and that I have a place in His

kingdom. I have a place to be a part of the radical change and life that He brings, and not only that, but that ministry isn't about "saving people" or "finding out how I'm shaped", but that ministry is about seeing God as the Ultimate Minister. It is an opportunity to just "BE" with Him, and to be transformed by Him. His ultimate purpose for me is to BE like His Son Jesus and to bring Him glory and this happens as WE spend time together. Let God speak to you about where He would call you to serve. Let God speak to you about how above anything else, He wants you to see His Son Jesus as you serve Him. If you have any questions about Lighthouse or want to join, please contact andrew.guatney08@northwestu.edu.



北亞
Northern Asia

Meet Mei Ling

1 in 13 billion

Loves noodles, karaoke and American movies
Laughs when her foreign friends try to speak Chinese
Practices English with her friends every week
Is curious about spiritual things

Every number has a story

Every person is significant

Northern Asia's astronomical numbers are your opportunity-1.3 billion opportunities-for your story to merge with one of theirs. Together, by praying, giving and going, we can touch Northern Asia . . . One person at a time.

You can go to Northern Asia.

Find out how at www.northernasianetwork.org

Act Six Scholars Strive for Bright Future

Anu Akamine
Staff Writer

The young Act Six Leadership program at NU has not been exempt from difficulties; however participants and faculty alike maintain hope for the future of the program.

Communication between Act Six and NU began five years prior to the first cadre enrolling at NU this past fall. Recently, NU decided upon the second Cadre for the 2010-2011 school year.

The Cadre model of the Act Six program is an important aspect of the program and is intended as a support group. However, creating a cohesive group does not come easily and according to Act Six students, the Cadre at NU experienced their share of ups and downs.

"Our Cadre was super tense, we didn't click at all in the beginning. We were just all kind of individual, where as the other Cadre's [from other schools] were really tight-knit. And that kind of made me sad," said Elizabeth Perkins, Act Six Scholar.

Grace Bringham, another student felt similarly to Perkins.

"We just didn't hang out together, we'd say hi but we weren't best friends. You can't force that," said Bringham.

Despite differences, the purpose of the Cadre system remains, according to freshman Augustine Ajuogu and students are working to develop a stronger group here at NU.

"Every part of the Cadre is integral. Mistakes are bound to happen, the measures we take as a Cadre, a group, to prevent mistakes will help better serve each other," he said.



Act Six Scholars become leaders at NU and look for big successes among the team.

According to Rhonda Davis, Director of Student Programs, the push this semester is for the students to get involved and to be leaders.

"We want them to be leaders on campus. The whole idea of Act Six is that they become well-educated, young urban leaders that can go back to their communities and change them," she said.

"We need to step up now, be an example," said Nik Nair, Act Six Scholar. "With the new group, there will be a greater expectation. We all have to live up to a higher standard whether that is a Christian [standard] or an Act Six standard."

Davis predicts a bright future for the Act Six program at NU.

"I would say that their [the student's] attitudes are really positive. They're excited for what's to come for next year, getting more involved on campus," said Davis.

The Act Six program has had a positive impact on many of the participants.

"We wouldn't have had this opportunity without this scholarship. And, I got four or five best friends from this - it made the transition into college way easier," said Bringham.

Act Six also participates with Whitworth, PLU, Gonzaga, Trinity Lutheran, George Fox and Warner Pacific.

Comments? Email taloneditor@northwestu.edu

Students Aid Farmers with Enable Nations

Shayn Fite
Staff Writer

NU students, in Dr. Wynn Allen's Small Group Dynamics class, are working to create an organization which will enable transportation among farmers in third world countries.

The Global Social Ventures Competition (GSVC) is a contest that requires the production of a student led business plan that not only creates profits, but also a social or environmental return.

Enable Nations is a business that works to connect investors with business owners to help offer a variety of services.

"We are a business that connects investors with business owners. We are starting with farm-

ers," said senior Mallory MacDonald, a member of the Enable Nations project.

"They lack safe and economical forms of transportation. We are helping to provide vehicles that can be used for towing the land and farming the land. It looks like a large go kart. It is very multi-purpose."

The idea for "Enable" began during MacDonald's internship trip in Washington D.C. where she researched global humanitarian enterprises.

"It's something I've been passionate about since I was like . . . 13. [Being in] D.C. gave me time to learn and figure out if I wanted to work in the field," said MacDonald.



Photo by Thien Lai

NU students work toward aiding farmers with Enable Nations.



Vehicles will aid international farmers in transportation on and off the farm.

Although the team hasn't completely finalized the details on their business plan yet, an early idea proposes that investors will sell the utility vehicle to businesses, and buyers will be paid back over time. In addition to hauling goods, the vehicle can also be used for plowing. The vehicle to be used runs on biodiesel fuel, "which is cool 'cause the farms will have a lot of plant waste," said MacDonald.

The competition will require the group to devise a

business plan and goals for what the participants plan to see happen over a period of time.

"So far it's going really good. We have high expectations for this to become a real business," said sophomore Lindsey Mielke, another participant in the project.

The group behind Enable Nations currently includes MacDonald, Mielke, Matthew Moroni, Anu Akamine, and Lindsey Bruner.

MacDonald, who was called the "brains" of the project by Bruner, said the business is very important to her.

As Enable Nations does hold future career potential, she jokingly admits that it may even cause her not to graduate.

Only in Oxford: Jessie's Story

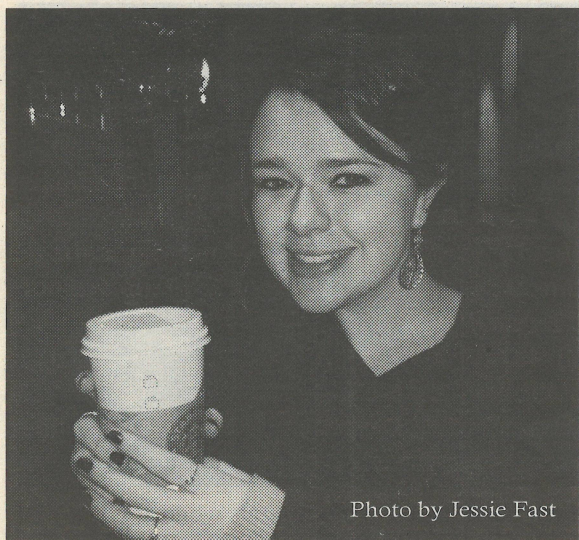


Photo by Jessie Fast

Jessie enjoys Starbucks in Shakespeare's hometown.

Jessie Fast
Staff Writer

As I have been in England for many weeks now, I find myself venturing to many different locations.

A few weekends ago I went to Liverpool. Located about five hours north and on the coast, the city had a completely different feel to it than the intellectual aura surrounding my university town of Oxford. Besides being the home of the Beatles and boasting an excellent

International Slavery Museum, Liverpool consists of mostly working-class males, has an occasionally indecipherable accent, and it does not rain for more than five minutes at a time, although it is almost constantly grey.

I would never have learned these facts if I had not left NU for the semester. Academically, my tutorials push me to think, to think more deeply and more critically than before, to think through the lens of a different "colour."

However, I am learning in the most practical sense of the word as well. By being imbedded in the culture, I am forced to understand a different dialect, an alternative system of social and civic rules, a new way of operating my life to every way, from getting groceries at the store to ordering a coffee to checking out (or not checking out) books at the libraries.

Through experiencing both the scholarly and the practical knowledge

that comes from living in another country, I have determined studying abroad happens far too infrequently at NU.

Although Northwest tries to turn its attention towards global agendas and problems, this cannot be really appreciated until one has left the country and seen the globe, even just so as to understand how other countries think of our country. The prejudice against Americans can be talked about theoretically, but gains an entirely new meaning when experienced first-hand. I have heard more comments about the failure of the Bush administration here than at home. This extrinsic perspective allows me to develop and bring balance to my own opinions.

Knowing more about the world is never a bad thing. Claiming to know about the world without ever experiencing it, however, is.

Oxford, the university, challenges my mind and forces me to input new information and ideas at a rate faster than I am used to, and this has only helped me.

Additionally, the challenges of living my life in Oxford, the city, has caused me to grow in other ways, and I would love if more of my fellow NU students could experience this same pushing, twisting, and reshaping of their own ideas for themselves.

All of aspects of learning add up to well-rounded people. And well-rounded people are what culminate in a well-rounded campus. If this is what we claim to be, let's make sure we really are.



Photo by Jessie Fast

Jessie with John Lennon statue in Liverpool

Students Embark on Writing Novels

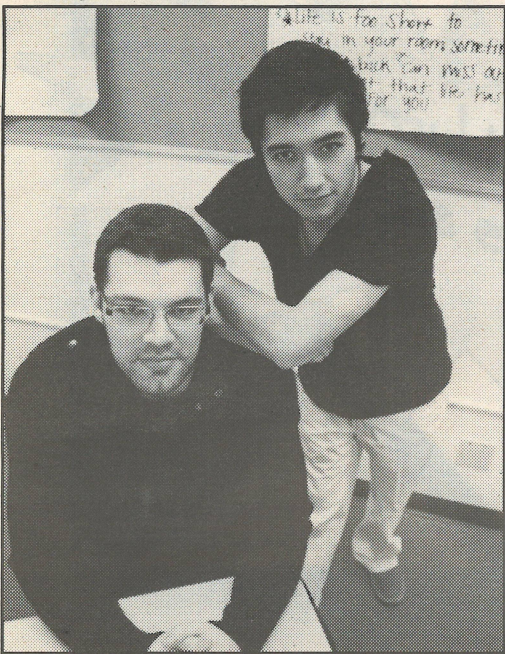
Jessica Orr
Staff Writer

Northwest University is home to diversity of talented dreamers all working to develop a passion. NU's Genres course fosters a community of undiscovered writers all working toward the same goal—to fearlessly better their writing.

Students Shayn Fite, Dustin Larson, and James Dominguez currently work to write and publish their own novels.

Junior Shayn Fite has worked on three to four projects over the past couple of years.

"I have all these projects I start but never finish," he chuckled.



Larson and Dominguez hope to be published.

From an early age, Fite knew that he wanted to write.

"I've always loved to tell stories and knew I wanted to write ever since I was a kid," said Fite. "I love people stories."

His current novel combines his love of people and stories, providing readers with new perspective on human situations. Fite made a New Year's resolution to finish his novel within the year and plans to submit the completed draft for publication in the near future.

Senior Dustin Larson creates a novel from roughly 200 pages of short stories he wrote over the past 5 years. Previously, Larson planned to pursue a career outside the literary world.

"I wanted to get into aerospace engineering but eventually decided that influencing the human soul was more important," said Larson.

Unintentionally writing several stories addressing the same issues, Larson realized he had something to work with.

He later combined those stories to create his current novel in progress. Larson says he will submit his manuscript for publication if he thinks it "has an audience."

The book addresses themes of power, of choice, redemption, and replacing stereotypes with real people. He enjoys taking the typecast epic characters and humanizing them.

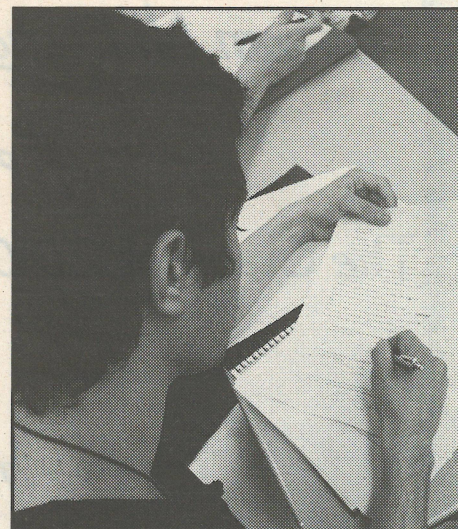
"I love the hero who falls and the villain who repents," said Larson.

Junior James Dominguez was inspired by Dr. Fischer while taking an English 101 class at Everett Community College.

The course challenged his thinking through class discussions on the nature of evil, incor-

porating literature such as *Candide*, *Clock Work Orange* and *In Cold Blood*. "That class really developed and broadened my critical thinking," said Dominguez, who currently works to finish his own untitled novel. "It focuses on father figure issues and childhood and what it means to grow up." The book also addresses social themes such as religion, perception of reality, parenting and families, and the power of the human imagination. "It forces us to come to terms with reality from a different perspective. It takes such an outlandish approach that it's going to make some people feel like they need to take a shower," he admits.

Dominguez forces readers to question "right" and "wrong" from both Judeo-Christian and Universal perspectives. He plans to finish the manuscript this semester and publish the novel by the end of the year.



Dominguez works on writing his novel.

Student Life

Northwest Student Makes Waves on Martha's Vineyard

Brian Hansen
Martha's Vineyard
Guest Writer

In the heat of summer, the Island of Martha's Vineyard is shoulder-to-shoulder celebrities. President Obama, Meg Ryan, David Letterman, Oprah Winfrey, plus a raft of movie stars, politicians and pundits descend upon the Island by private jet and yacht in search of a little R&R. But in the heart of winter, the crowds thin out and the island becomes home to several dozen up-and-coming musicians, techs and entertainment industry entrepreneurs, such as NU student Mitch Robinson.

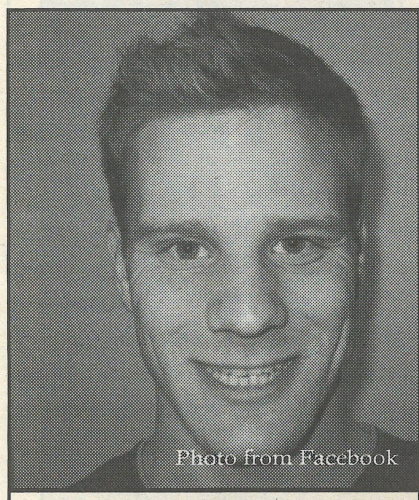


Photo from Facebook

Robinson is studying at the CMC.

The Contemporary Music Center (CMC), an off-campus study program sponsored by the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) and BestSemester.com, offers classes and

hands-on experience in song writing, recording, performing, artist management and marketing. This semester, Robinson is there and having quite an impact on the island's creative community.

"I am very happy to be here and have enjoyed the opportunity to learn about music production and live performance."

The CMC is one of twelve semester-away study programs created by the CCCU and BestSemester.com. Students can also go to China, Russia, Egypt, Latin America, Oxford, England, Washington, D.C., Uganda, Australia and Hollywood to explore the interaction of faith and learning in various disciplines. CMC Director, Warren Pettit, explains that "We chose Martha's Vineyard as the location for our program both because it has a long history as an artists' community and because it affords students the opportunity to get away from the distractions of big-city life and spend an intensive four months identifying and developing their creative gifts while gaining key insights into the inner workings of the music industry."

Shortly after arriving on the island, Robinson, as a member of the CMC's Tech Track, found himself immersed in an ocean of state-of-the-art recording, sound reinforcement, lighting and video gear. Days—and nights—are spent recording various artists, running sound for live shows, and becoming the master of the digital domain.

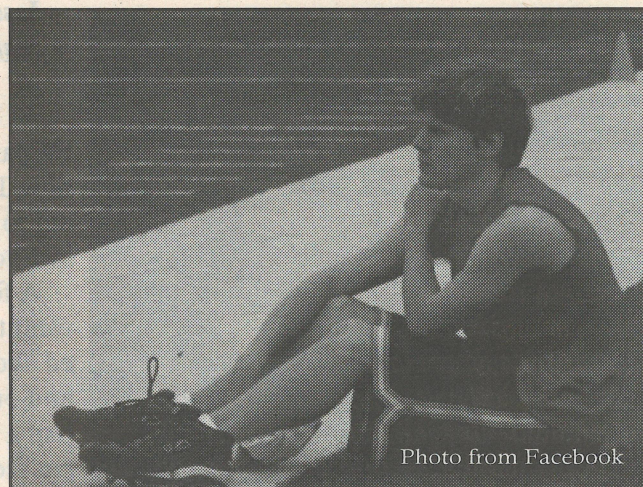


Photo from Facebook

Mitch participated in intramurals while at NU.

Along side the other 20 students at CMC, Robinson will help create a compilation CD to be released this Spring on New England Indie label 450 Records.

"It's exciting working with each individual artist on a personal level. I enjoy having a part in the creative process of piecing a song together in the studio or practice room," he said.

For more information about the Contemporary Music Center or the CCCU's other programs, visit www.thecontemporarymusiccenter.com or check out www.bestsemester.com.

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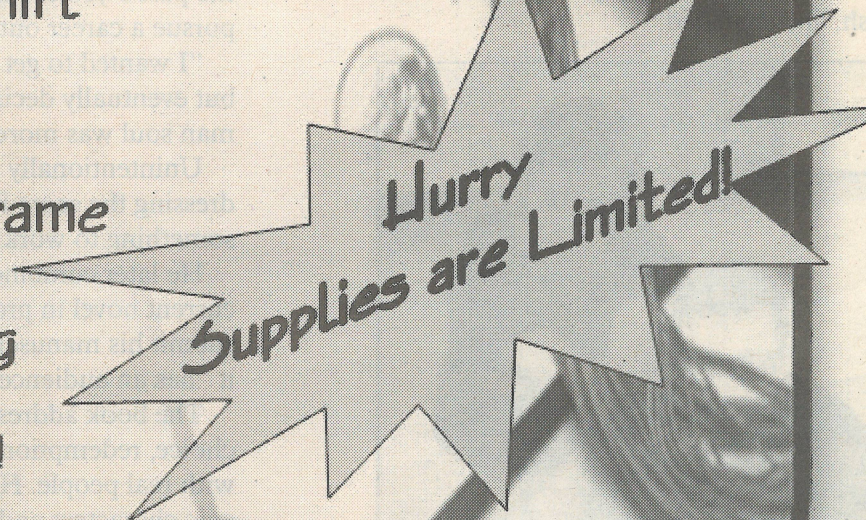
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Track Runs to a Strong Beginning

Alexa Breidenbach
Staff Writer

Despite setbacks in preseason training from persistent injuries the Northwest University Track Team is already experiencing a successful season.

The Eagles are very optimistic after successful performances in recent competitive indoor meets.

However, although early successes the team has been plagued with injuries causing lapses in training routines and forcing the athletes to push through the pain.

Sophomore Seth Bridges suffered an early injury which prevented him from participating in a meet halting his chance to qualify for indoor nationals.

"It has been really inspiring watching athletes who are limited because they are hurt, continue to show up for practice, and work as hard as they can at what they can," said Bridges.

Along with the injuries both the men's and women's team acknowledge their disadvantage in the size of their roster.

"The main obstacle that our team faces is numbers. It would be great to have a bigger team so we could do more damage as a team," said sophomore Lindsey Wagner.

Regardless of these setbacks the women's team had a strong showing at the NAIA Indoor Championship with the distance relay which is composed of Lindsey Wagner, Paige Delapp, Julia Johnson and Chelsea Miller, finishing 8th in their heat.

"These women are running well, right now, and it'll be exciting to see what they can do in a few weeks," said Coach Mark Mandi of the women's qualifying time.

Also individually competing was Paige Delapp along with Derek Woolley on the men's side, both running the 1000 meters race and placing 16th

and 14th respectively.

"We are still a young team, with mostly freshmen and sophomores competing today, so I believe there is still a lot of potential for the upcoming years," said Mandi.

To start the season the Eagles have already competed in a couple highly competitive meets, with teams from Division 1 schools such as Gonzaga and Washington.

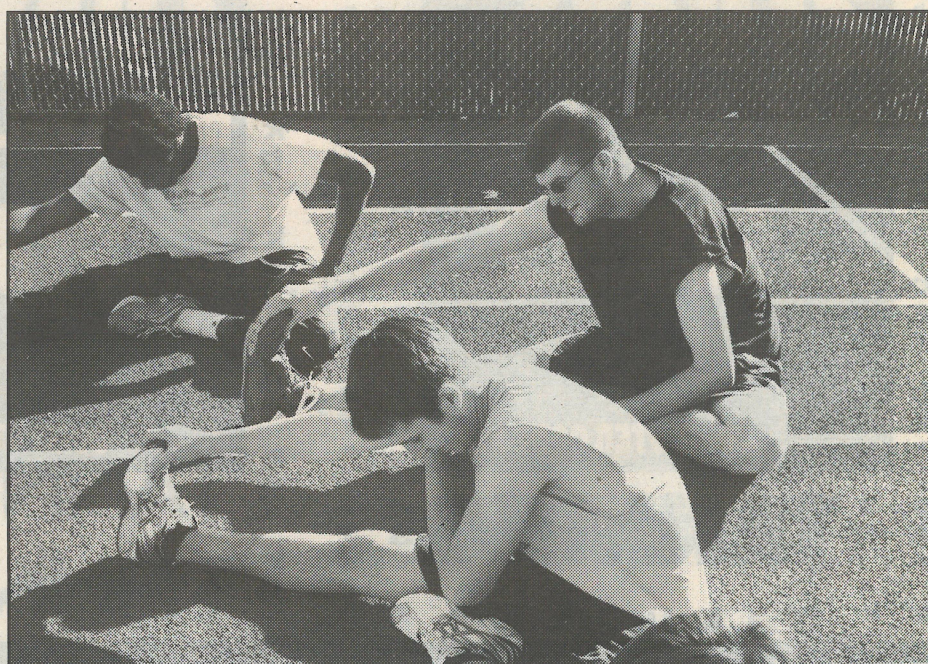
"Coach is giving us a real vote of confidence by taking us to these meets, because he feels that we can be competitive," said Bridges.



Men's long distance runners practice at the soccer fields.



Women's track team members enjoy practice on a sunny day.



The men's and women's team hope to remain injury free this season.

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