



TALON

How to **Survive Finals**
In 3 Easy Steps!

Looking Forward

The New Faces
Of **NUSG**

**From The
Kowalskis:**

Cut Up Your
Running Shoes!

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Grad School
Is It For You?

Looking Back
This Year At A Glance

Calvin Horne
Legacy of Leadership

*"It will be extremely difficult
to fill his shoes."*

MAY 2014





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Northwest University's Student Magazine *The Talon* May 2014 Issue • Cover Photo by MZwicker
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Finals Freakout Faces!



See more photos at NUTalon.com!

NUupdate

Summer Courses 2014

Summer 2014 courses are now available on the Registrar's Office website at eagle.northwestu.edu/departments/registrar. Register for courses in one or both terms on your Priority Registration date! Where to go: Registrar's Office in the Davis building, or you can register online via Self-Service. Reminder: before you sign up, complete the NU Pre-Registration forms. If you are new to NU, you can start registering May 1.



Graduation Is Here!

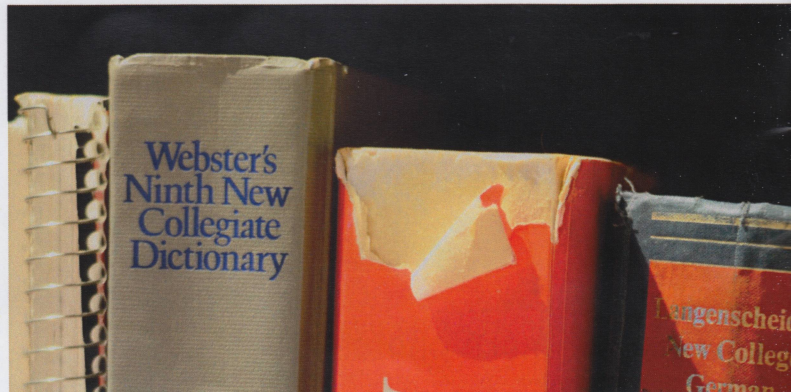
Graduation is just around the corner! Whether you're walking or watching, you won't want to miss out on this celebratory ceremony taking place at Overlake Christian Church on May 10. The Commencement will begin at 10:00 a.m. with doors opening at 8:30 a.m. Be there early to ensure you get a prime spot to cheer your fellow peers on in the transition from undergraduates to full-fledged grads!



Book Store

The bookstore is closing, but students aren't being hung out to dry. Northwest is teaming up with Amazon.com to provide students with savings on textbooks. Students can find an affiliate link to Amazon.com on the Eagle website where they can purchase textbooks. This should be available for the Summer 2014 term.

The decision was based on findings that show 12% to 70% savings on books purchased from Amazon.com as opposed to other book vendors. In addition to cheaper textbooks, Amazon offers Prime, a service that provides many benefits, including free 2-day shipping on various items. Get ready for even more savings on your textbooks!



For Housing Information Contact:

With Summer Housing right around the corner, here is some important contact information for all your housing woes!

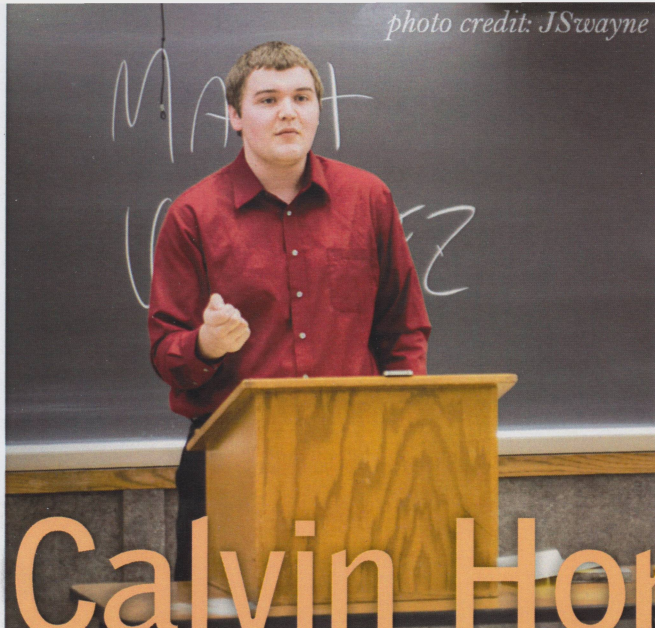
The Housing Department Info:

Email: housing@northwestu.edu

Phone: (425) 889-5334

Hours: M-F; 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Office Location: Hurst Library - Basement - Suite 120



Joy Shin & Katie Powell

Student Spotlight



Calvin Horne

Legacy of Leadership

Gearing up to graduate in Spring 2014 with a double major in History and Political Science, Calvin Horne leaves behind him a legacy of leadership.

Having served as Senate Chair, Debate Team Captain, and an RA in his time here at Northwest, Horne is more than just a familiar face on campus. He has become a real facet of the NU community.

His favorite experience during his time at Northwest, however, has been his involvement with the debate team. Horne joined debate as a freshman, and by the end of that first year, he was already being elected team captain.

John Swayne, a fellow debater, joked, "Calvin is not only an incredibly intelligent and devoted debater, capable of making me regret almost anything I say in a debate round, but is genuinely a great guy. He's made these last few semesters of debate really enjoyable."

Recently, Horne and his partner Abbie Kruse participated in a national debate tournament in which his team was ranked in the top 16 in the nation, exceeding their main goal of placing in the top 32 teams. Horne also had the honor of being the 33rd best speaker at this prestigious competition.

Having been debate partners for the past semester, Kruse is truly able to attest to Horne's extreme dedication. "It's incredible how much time he puts into debate to make sure he is the best he can be. I am excited to see where he goes in life," she said.

Some might assume that as a debater Horne loves to argue, but outside of debate, he is more soft-spoken. His warm heart and ability to easily take on a challenge has aided him in being an RA for the Hive last year and serving as senate chair for NUSG this year.

Horne was prompted to run for NUSG by the former NUSG President, despite the fact that he had never participated in Senate before. He tasted a little of his future position when he partnered with Nation Garza to craft the latest visitation policy a few weeks before elections. "That was a really cool introduction to what Senate is capable of, and it propelled me to be excited about this year," said Horne.

Under Horne's leadership, the student senate ran smoothly and efficiently, taking on more tasks and initiatives than they ever had in recent years. Donald Kimball, who will be taking over Horne's position, noted, "It will be extremely difficult to fill his shoes."

Post-graduation, Horne intends to take a gap year and pursue internships to gain experience.

Currently, he works with the City of Kirkland in their Inter-Governmental relations department, which works with city, county, and state governments. With a potential internship lined up under State Senator Steve O'Ban this summer, Horne is looking forward to potentially assisting with campaign work and becoming familiar with the inner workings of a political campaign.

In the long term, Horne hopes to attend law school.

As a result of watching his grandparents nearly get swindled by a lawyer, he has a desire to break the stereotype of the greedy lawyer who just wants to get as much money out of clients as possible. He is passionate about defending the defenseless and bringing integrity to the profession.

When asked about Horne's future prospects, Debate Coach Jacob Witt commented, "Calvin sees the advantages of debate beyond trophies and tries to develop his teammates' engagement with the world around them. Wherever he goes after NU, Calvin will bring the same level of commitment and pursuit of excellence."

As he graduates, Horne encourages students to get involved on campus, no matter how uncomfortable it may feel: "If you make the first move and decide to go to that first meeting of a club, Senate, or debate team, then there are immense opportunities for growth and relationships."

Horne will truly leave a legacy of leadership here on campus, and the NU community looks forward to seeing what he will accomplish in the future.

A photograph of three senior NUSG members sitting on stone steps in front of a fountain. The fountain has water cascading down. The background shows a large, dark, abstract sculpture. The text 'The New Faces Of NUSG' is overlaid in the top left corner.

The New Faces Of NUSG

Looking Forward...

photo credit: MZwicker

As the spring 2014 semester wraps up, Northwest University seniors are finally ending their careers as college undergrads. It's time to look to the future and explore what comes next, but also to look back on our time at Northwest and ask ourselves what we have learned.

Three senior NUSG members, President Ilona Trofimovich, Senate Chair Calvin Horne, and Treasurer Emilee Larsen, have achieved much in their student lives and are preparing to pass the torch on to a new generation of student leaders.

"My first formal leadership experience was being an Event Coordinator for the Activities Chair that year," explained Trofimovich. Her NUSG career started her freshman year, and she only moved upward from there. In spite of her progress from EC to president, Trofimovich's fondest memories are of her experience as an RA on Guy 200 two years ago.

"Nothing compares with living in the dorms," she said, "the community you build, how much you get to learn about people, about living with people, and about having grace for people."

Trofimovich, who will be succeeded by Nathan Smith in fall 2014, is excited to see what he'll do with his new responsibilities. "Remember that this is about the people and the community and the students at Northwest," she offered him as her final piece of advice. "Everything we do in student government is meant to benefit the students. We are their advocates in front of administration, we're the people voicing their concerns to the rest of the school, and that's why we do what we do. Remembering that makes everything worth it."

Calvin Horne, NUSG Senate Chair, previously served as an RA for 400, also known as The Hive. Most of Calvin's leadership experience, however, comes from his experience as captain of the debate team. "I was by no means the best debater on the team," he admitted. "Some people had more experience than me, and some were on the same level as me."



But Horne's leadership skills allowed him to learn his team's strengths and weaknesses to turn the debate team into a force to be reckoned with. "In a lot of ways you need to play to people's strengths and let other people step up where they can, and you just fill in the gaps where you need to," Horne said.

Though the position of Senate Chair will be terminated next year, Calvin will be passing the torch on to Donald Kimball as NUSG's first Vice President. "I would tell Donald to be able to adapt throughout the year," said Horne. "Adapting can be tough when things you didn't expect to come along cross your path, but it can also be about something not going your way."

Horne recalls a specific instance when he learned this lesson as he attempted to get a campus policy reversed and received the opportunity to speak with President Castleberry about it. Though he didn't get his way, Horne went into the meeting with an open mind and learned a lot about the administration's reasons for their policies.

Although she did not serve as an RA like her colleagues, Treasurer Emilee Larsen spent the 2012-13 year as an Event Coordinator alongside Trofimovich. "Event Coordination definitely taught me how to work together on a team with a bunch of diverse personalities with a common goal." Larsen also spent time as an orientation leader, where she learned how important it is to "put yourself out there, and just have fun with it!"

"I've met with Sarah already, but I'd just tell her to be very intentional about supporting those around you," Larsen said when asked what advice she would leave her successor. "Don't be okay with just turning in the things you're required to. Really invest in the team that you're on."

...And Marching Into the Future

Nathan Smith, NUSG President Elect, is not wasting the time leading up to his term's start.

"There are two major priorities that I am concerned about for next year," he said. "The first priority is bridging the gap between the students and the administration." Smith spoke about the disconnect felt between students and school faculty, and the emerging "us vs. them" mentality held by many students.

"I am going to work hard to make sure student voice is heard as well as encourage our administration to be more present and approachable on our campus," promised Smith.

"Another priority is our school spirit," said Smith. It's no secret that spirit at NU has been dwindling recently, and Smith's NUSG crew is working on fixing this with an appointed position on the team dedicated to making school events

and games exciting and desirable for students, faculty, and community members to attend.

Donald Kimball, the first NUSG Vice President, is not new to the NUSG senate atmosphere. He served as an SAB member his first year at Northwest, spending the last year as Perks Hall Senator working with Horne and the team.

"My first year at SAB was all about me learning to fill in where needed," he said in reflection. Though Kimball thought of few noteworthy ideas of his own back then, he was always glad to listen to other students' ideas and do whatever necessary to make them a reality.

"I'm really looking forward to working with Nate and Sarah on the executive teams and forming what our vision is for the next year," Kimball commented. Although his future senate team hasn't been elected yet, he can't wait to find out who they'll be. "It will be really fun," he noted, "having my senate team put together and having weekly meetings!"

Sarah Clark, future treasurer, led a life group for the school's acting community as they put together their presentation of *A Comedy of Errors* before running for the position. "The person I was leading it with and I would switch off doing a devotional each week," explained Clark.

The experience taught her about organization and teamwork, and plays into how she is approaching her new position.

Clark accepted her predecessor's advice warmly. "On one level, I have the duties of keeping track of all the finances and receipts, but you are also such a support position for everyone else. I love to help people, and I love to be a team member!"

Although current NUSG leaders will be missed by the student body, next year's members are confident in their ability to serve the student body passionately and effectively.

"I first and foremost want to thank the current NUSG team," said Smith. "They have modeled how student government should be run as well as how to effectively get policy implemented. Ilona has been such an incredible role model as President, and she will be hard to replace. As your President for the 2014-15 school year, I want to make sure I am approachable. I am in this role to serve you and to be your voice. If you have concerns, ideas, or questions, I want students to feel like they can come and talk to me anytime. I cannot wait to get to work and start serving the Northwest community!"

Faculty Voice From The Kowalskis:

Cut Up Your Running Shoes!

We had the privilege of speaking in chapel recently. Some of Waldemar's students commented to each other that "We want that kind of marriage." Well, we've decided to share our secret to a long marriage (and other worthwhile endeavors): "Cut up your running shoes! You'll have to hunker down for the grit and grace that is marriage."

It's a huge effort to achieve a worthwhile, lifelong relationship. Some days and months—years even, if you're as stubborn and resistant to change as we've been—you'll wake up and wonder, "Who is this awful person in my bed?" (And it won't necessarily be your spouse; it may be you.)

How many times do you suppose Jesus felt like disappearing to where no one knew him? How many times did he long for an escape from the cross? If he was tempted in every way as we are (Hebrews 4:15), he must have thought about alternatives to the hideous death ahead.

God, whose son Jesus bore all the suffering of the world on the cross of Calvary, allows us to live our messy lives. His gift of free will means people make choices that hurt them and us. Our own decisions may have terrible consequences for others and ourselves.

Through it all, over and under it all, are God's everlasting arms of kindness and love. Our debt of sin and our illnesses were carried to the cross. Paid. Done. We do have a vile and vicious enemy. And we may choose whom to serve. Our life's outcome is ours to determine: life for bowing our knee to God and banishment from all that is good if we refuse.

God prepares a city for his people. It is so stunning that it is lit by his glory. The river of life sparkles through it. The leaves on the trees provide medicine and nourishment. Nothing broken comes into the city:

8

all is wholeness, Presence, and wellbeing. Tears

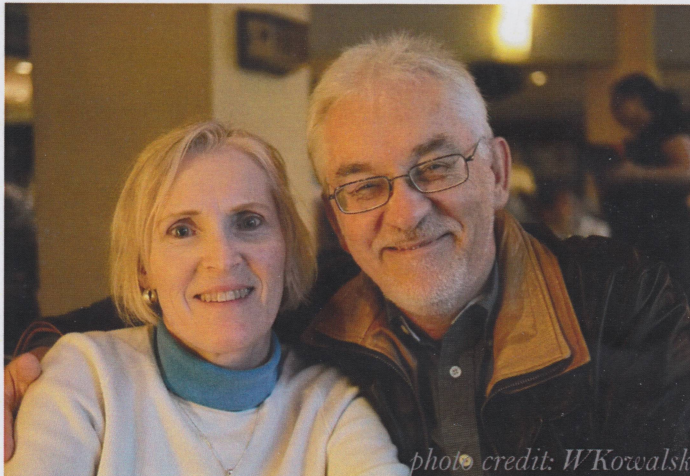


photo credit: WKowalski

are wiped away, and the pain of human existence is only a memory.

How is this possible? It's because Jesus persevered. He stuck it out. Knowing the betrayal of his best friends, he ate with them and washed their feet. He cared for his mother from the cross, choosing a trustworthy friend as her provider. His heart

broke with the weight of our sins and suffering—but he willingly won our freedom and joy.

We may not understand God's plan. That's okay. "The servant is not greater than the Master," Jesus warned. "I'm suffering, but you will suffer too." Times will be tough. People will hate and revile us. They may malign and torture us. Life's burdens may hurt us.

But we've cut up our running shoes. We're waiting for the salvation of God. That's what followers of Jesus do. We look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, for stamina and strength. He said, "Greater things than these will you do," speaking of miracles and overcoming challenges.

Friedrich Nietzsche, who proclaimed that "God is dead," got a few things right. He observed that "the essential thing 'in heaven and in earth' is...that there should be long obedience in the same direction, there thereby results, and has always resulted in the long run, something which has made life worth living..."

Are you willing to give God your long obedience to win a strong marriage, a good reputation, and a sound life that glorifies God?

(Quote from Nietzsche in *Beyond Good and Evil*, ch. V-188; this article is based on a post at Rosemarie Kowalski's blog at peacefulones.blogspot.com)

- Rosemarie and Waldemar Kowalski

Dr. W. Kowalski is a Bible and Theology professor with a PhD from the University of Gloucestershire. Dr. R. Kowalski is the former Alumni Director for NU.



Peter McMurtry

Entertainment

photo credit: Niko Johnson



how to survive finals in 3 easy steps!

As the end of the semester approaches, some of you may be concerned about finals week and its ensuing difficulties. You may be feeling hopeless, confused, and/or afraid. Some of you may even be thinking about giving up now, quitting Northwest, and running away to a convent where at least you don't have to take any tests.

But there is no need to fear, young grasshopper. Having weathered many semesters throughout my days here at Northwest, I have become a master of the finals week. With these few tips, you will be prepared to overcome anything it throws your way.

TIP #1: Don't Sleep - Study

Most freshmen make the amateur mistake of spending too much time sleeping during finals week. That is the worst thing you could do. You need to be up all night studying not lazily laying around, wasting precious study time. God didn't want us to sleep—that's why he created coffee and Red Bull. If you are wise, you'll do what I do: drink five Rockstars at 10 p.m., study all night, then take the test at 8 a.m. This produces the greatest test results.

TIP #2: Watch Lots of Netflix

There are so many good shows available on Netflix these days, and finals week is a perfect opportunity to get caught up. It might seem unwise at first glance, but if you merely put the shows on while you're studying, you're bound to have a more effective studying experience. It will provide you with

necessary happiness and motivation to keep going without distracting you in the slightest, especially when watching intense shows like *Breaking Bad*, *24*, or *Courage the Cowardly Dog*. Just do as I do: reward your hard study work with five minutes of Netflix for every line of your textbook you read. You'll feel much happier about your study experience.

TIP #3: Don't Do Today what You Could Do Tomorrow

When it comes to final projects and papers, many inexperienced students are too eager to finish and often rush through the process. This could result in work being turned in early, which often leads to the teacher sharing your work with the class as an example, which then makes the rest of the class loathe your existence. So for the sake of your reputation, do what I do: don't even think about the project or paper until a week before it's due. Feel free to give it a solid thought like, "I should start that soon." Then reward your productive thought with Menchie's or a new haircut. Then, two days before it's due, begin work, but make sure only to accomplish, at most, 25% of the project then set it aside and forget about it. Finally, three hours before deadline, go crazy. You're more likely to produce your best work when under a stressful time crunch. Be sure not to revise at all (there's no time) and turn it in with two minutes to spare. You will feel most satisfied with your papers and projects when they are completed in this fashion.

Current Issues *Marlene Pierce*

OSO STRONG



A slight rumble in the distance is all that warned residents in Oso, Wash., of the impending doom that would befall their small town of 180 people.

The rumble, which would be picked up on seismographs up to 170 miles away, was caused by a monumental mound of mud dislodging itself from a hillside and cascading over the quaint community that resided in its shadow.

If one slide wasn't enough, a second smaller slide added to the chaos mere minutes after the first had begun to settle. The mud wouldn't settle for hours after the initial slide occurred.

Robin Youngblood, a survivor of the slide, recalls how she, "didn't see it coming. It hit [us] so fast and the house was moving." Youngblood would be the first person that rescue helicopters pulled from the debris that afternoon.

The mounting horror would only escalate in the hours that followed as rescuers pulled who they could from the mess and looked out futilely over the unstable mess that made the majority of ground rescues nearly impossible.

At the most recent count, 41 have been confirmed dead with just over a hundred more displaced or affected.

The communities surrounding Oso, however, quickly rallied together in support of their fallen neighbors. The community, as the term would be coined, was 'Oso Strong.' In the days following the slide, this phrase would inspire outreach, aid, and fundraising for those who lost their homes and loved ones.

The local Cabella's hosted a BBQ, churches rallied to the shelter and food needs of survivors, and the nearby outlet mall saw dozens of signs popping up in businesses stating, "Show our community that we are Oso Strong. Unite together to help those affected by the slide here."

The Stump Bar and Grill in Snohomish began donating 100% of their profit to the effort. In short, the community would not be crushed by this event but remain resilient in the face of a seemingly insurmountable task.

The trauma and damage caused by the slide was not only recognized and supported by the immediate surrounding community, but President Obama himself toured the slide zone on April 22, vowing, "I just wanted to let you know that the country is thinking about all of you, and have throughout this tragedy. We're not going anywhere. We'll be here as long as it [recovery] takes."

With the debris nearly 70 feet thick in some places and an estimated 50 homes destroyed, the road to recovery will be a long one.

The Red Cross has taken the lead in the relief effort and has been partnering with local schools and churches in order to provide for the needs of the now homeless community. For more information on how to get involved with their latest relief effort, you can go to www.redcross.org/snoco.

Donations and events are also being hosted by the Salvation Army, United Way, and The Cascade Valley Hospital Foundation (in support of the closest clinic to start treating victims) to name a few.

While most of the relief effort simply requires funding at this stage, it is nearly certain that labor and volunteers will be needed in the months to come when the rebuilding effort begins.

Whether you choose to get involved or pursue a relief effort, the undeniable truth is that the Oso spirit has not been squashed by this natural disaster. The people and surrounding communities are not going anywhere without a fight, and everyday the community proves that it is, indeed, Oso Strong.



Rec Sports Re-Structured

the best is yet to come.

The 2014-15 school year is going to have a new element on campus involving the NUSG restructure: more rec sports!

Rec Sports, or recreational sports, is expecting a metamorphosis with the upcoming structural change in the student government set-up. While this will be the second change in three years, Andy Hall, Director of Student Programs, is excited to see the new structure take shape.

At the head of the department will be Rec Sports Chair Andrew Northway-Meyer who will be the leader developing ideas and overseeing activities both with intramurals and the adventure recreation positions.

Under that position will be Intramural Coordinator Rebecca Covarrubia, who will be in charge of basketball, flag football, and organizing other student-involved athletics on campus.

Hall also expressed excitement about the Adventure Rec position, which is in its first full year of development. Aubrey Massmann will be taking over the title in the fall.

Abbie Kruse, who currently holds the title, has lead activities such as hiking and backpacking for students this year and worked to make students

aware of local outdoor recreation. With her strong foundation, this position should stick around for quite some time.

The newest addition to the Rec Sports program will be the new Eagle Spirit Director Shelly Hinson. This position is made to get students pumped and excited for our sports programs on campus.

These four positions will work together as a team, rather than just individually, and the new members will brainstorm ideas over the summer and then come together for training in August.

While he can't give any hints as to what the possible new sports for students on campus might be, Hall is excited for students to be more involved with Adventure Rec. and Eagle Spirit activities for the next school year.

This is where you come in: students, express what you would like to do and see on campus to the new coordinators!

Looking forward, branch out next year, share your voice, and be involved with the numerous student-lead activities coming from the Rec Sports department next fall!

looking back.

“God has taught me how to take risks and chances without a backup plan.”

Coming to the end of another year at NU is all too familiar. The hustle and bustle of final projects, papers, and an always-dreaded dead week remind us that there is still light at the end of the tunnel.

However, throughout all the chaos and fluster, we should take the time to look back at the wonderful year we've had and some of the memorable moments our society labels the “college experience.”

This year has included some big changes and new policy with the implementation of one fewer chapel service and more diverse visitation hours for dorms, making NU one of the most progressive AG-associated schools in the nation. Student Siobohn McManus proclaims, “Replacing Monday Chapel with that extra time slot was a pretty big deal.” McManus continued, “I've seen a generally positive response to this change. Yay!”

While there have been many physical changes around campus, we believe that it is not the only determining factor into what makes a “good year.” There are also spiritual changes. Northwest is a place that nourishes and promotes a healthy relationship with Christ and pushes us to dig deeper in our faith.

“This last year God has taught me how to be more vulnerable, instead of settling for things I know I could achieve,” said newly appointed NUSG president Nate Smith. “God has taught me how to take risks and chances without having a backup plan.”

It would be a stretch to say that NU obeys the norms of society, with students storming the roof of Perks, the infamous toilet paper bandit, and



men racing each other in giant hamster balls for Screaming Eagles Week. In all, this year has been quite eventful, to say the least. Throughout all these crazy circumstances, we've grown fond of each other and created a caring community based on forming new friendships. When asked what his favorite part of NU was this year, new student Odason Pelogi confirmed, “Meeting great people and doing fun things with them.”

With another year at college coming to a close, we must prepare ourselves for the dreaded “goodbye,” or in some cases, “see ya later,” to friends, professors, and another set of graduating seniors. Looking back at this year, brings joy, and sorrow, but we can always take a look ahead at what next year can bring and the plan God has for each of us.

“Replacing Monday Chapel with that extra time slot was a pretty big deal.”

this year at a glance.

Mike Bowman & Gabe Cline

Student Life

photo credits: CBrown



Marriage Count: How many couples do you think got married *this year* at NU?

I'm gonna say 33 couples.

- Alyssa Dario

I don't know, 30?

- Brendon Wheeler

Let's see: 1, 2, 3...ahh, I think at least 6 couples.

- Daniel Paull

Farewell from this year's Talon scholarship staff!



photo credits: CBrown, MZwicker, respected owners

“The biggest change at NU this year was Arami Kidane getting buff!”

- Arami Kidane on

Arami Kidane

“We actually know the opposite sex. It's cool 'cause we can actually have male friends without people judging or whatnot. Definitely a change for the better!”

- Valentina Koreponava on the changed visitation hours

“I think the new chapel policy took a step in the right direction in encouraging community in the student body.”

- Jon Massman on

Monday Chapels

Grad School: Is It For You?

con

As a senior graduating in May, grad school is an ominous possibility. The pressure is on to decide what to do with the rest of my life in one application.

That is incredibly unfair. As twenty-somethings, we are told that we will most likely change careers several times over the course of our lives. We are also told that grad school is the best way to ensure a place in the field of our dreams.

Feeling that pressure, I attended an informational meeting on NU's Master in Teaching program. I quickly discovered two things. First, grad school is typically for people who already have an established career and want to advance but can't without additional education. Secondly, grad school is a huge commitment, both of finances and time—a commitment that can be stressful for someone who is both starting a career and has just ended a commitment to a bachelor's degree.

I was totally convinced that I needed to have a master's in order to make a difference in the world, to make enough money to live, and to get a "real" job. I also was scared to go into the real world and wanted to hang on to the world of university education for just a little while longer.

But I made a bold decision. I decided to make the most of my current job and to take full advantage of the training and certifications I could get for free (and actually get paid to get). I decided to break out of the NU bubble and let myself grow into a career that I will enjoy, maybe not for the rest of my life, but for the time being.

14 Perhaps when I decide whether I want to



photo credit: MZwicker

be a teacher, a chef, a writer, a speech therapist, or a zoologist, I will continue with my education.

Graduating with a bachelor's degree is a huge accomplishment and a gateway for twenty-somethings to pursue their dreams without being limited to a specific micro-field. We can be anything we want, but not everything we want.

If someone is already passionate about one single field, graduate school is definitely appropriate.

If a student is passionate about many disciplines, then allowing time to grow and make decisions in more than the three months between undergrad and the next fall semester is a good option.

Graduate school has a lure that can be overwhelming to those of us who love education, but the commitment can cause massive regrets to someone who isn't 100% committed to a single discipline.

You do what you are. Wait to find what that is before you become what you do. - Kaly



Pursuing a grad degree takes time, dedication, and money. Up until recently, getting a Master's degree was rarely seen among students in this generation. However, many undergrad students and alumni are having a hard time finding a good paid job that relates to their career field.

According to Pew Research Center, in an article labeled, "For Millennials, a bachelor's degree continues to pay off, but a master's earns even more," the median monthly earnings of young adults with master's degrees rose 23% from the year 1984 to 2009. As of 2012, the median monthly income for ages 25-34 ranged between \$5,960 to \$7,234 with a bachelor's degree and around \$7,000 to \$8,618 with a master's degree. Now let's hear from a few students and faculty.

Erin Saunders, a communication major, states, "I think a grad degree is valuable to certain people, but not for everybody. If you have a purpose and know what you want, then do it." Kelsie Geer, also a communication major noted, "It depends on what job you are looking into. If it can get you farther in your career or work area, then yes, I think it [a master's degree] is valuable."

So is education more valuable than experience? Professor Heinrichs commented that "master's degrees offer a unique type of experience that people usually cannot obtain on the job." She also claims that they offer, "unparalleled opportunities to study with highly motivated peers, simulate dynamic experiences, and study theoretical ideas that underpin our actions."

Professor Peg Achterman expresses her opinion by stating, "It advances you in a profession you're already in - for instance, many teachers get their teaching certificates and start working and after a few years go back and get a master's degree." She also recommends waiting a few years after you graduate to gain a clear vision. It won't hurt, and is often helpful.

As far as NU pushing grad school, it's not mentioned much or pushed by professors during class lectures. Installing at least one class lecture that incorporates the positives as well as success stories relating to master's degrees would be truly eye-opening. We as a society are shifting from a 4-year college degree representing the cultural norm to a 6-8 year college degree. Every day more and more jobs are being filled, and it's important that your resumé stands at the top of the competition.

From the Editor:

Thank you to our loyal and involved readers! Your support and interaction has truly made the *Talon* a stronger voice both on and off campus this year. We look forward to serving you next year with a new online platform! Keep your eyes peeled at northwesttalon.com as well as Facebook ([/NUTalon](https://www.facebook.com/NUTalon)), and Twitter ([@TalonMagazine](https://twitter.com/TalonMagazine)) for updates!



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5 Midnight Breakfast 10pm	6	7 Finals	8	9 Graduate Celebration 7pm	10 Graduation Commencement 10am @ Overlake Christian Church
11	12	13 Summer School Begins Transfer Tuesday	14	15	16	17
24	25 First Day of Classes	26	27 Academic Convocation 10:40am	28	29	30
31	1 SEPT Labor Day - NO CLASSES	Coming soon...				
<p style="text-align: center;"> AUGUST </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Find Talon Magazine online next year at Northwesttalon.com! </p>						