

NORTHWEST PASSAGES

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2017

WOMEN'S SOCCER

TWO CLASSICS FOR
SPIRITUAL HEALTH

CLASS OF 2017



Northwest
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Joseph L. Castleberry, Ed.D.



Pursuing Excellence

All academic institutions strive for excellence. I've never heard of a school that wanted to achieve mediocrity. In fact, the very nature of learning involves *rising out* (*excellere* in Latin) of ignorance and achieving our fuller potential. As students progress, they reach higher and higher levels of learning, finishing with a certification of the "degree" to which they have risen. Excellence defines the essence of a university as it seeks to rise higher and higher in the quality of its performance.

As president of Northwest University, our students and faculty have made me proud this year in the way they have risen out. In December, our women's soccer team, led by Coach Bryan Chud, reached a transcendent level of play as they made it into the playoffs, defeated the top-ranked Biola team on their home court, and then proceeded to the national tournament in Alabama, where they became the first unseeded team in NAIA history to make it to the Final Four. It impressed me, as I watched the games, how those women rose to a level of play they had never experienced before.

We have witnessed the same transcendent excellence in our biology labs, especially under the leadership of Dr. Tracie Delgado, who involves her students in virology research related to cancer, under a grant from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust. For several years now, our graduates have been accepted into prestigious Ph.D. programs in microbiology on the strength of their laboratory achievements under our science faculty mentors. This year, our student Sarah Clark gained acceptance to

the Ph.D. in virology program at Harvard and the microbiology program at Yale. Similarly, Robyn Emery earned a choice between the Ph.D. programs in microbiology at Princeton and the University of Washington. Any college in the world would be proud to see its graduates rising to such heights!

Not only have faculty and students risen to new heights, but our staff continues to reach new levels of achievement. Our Advancement department, including Marketing, Event Relations, and Development staff, together with the Choralons and other contributors such as our Foundation Trustees, collaborated to make this year's President's Banquet the most successful ever. In previous years, our highest fundraising total for this event had been about \$120,000. This year, the event raised more than \$490,000 to benefit our students.

We keep on striving to do more and to do it better. This month, we presented a proposal to our accrediting association to begin offering Ph.D. and Ed.D. programs in organizational leadership at Northwest. Designed to beget additional doctoral programs in the future, these programs will enable Northwest to become a full-fledged, doctoral-level, nationally relevant university over the next 15 years. Dr. Earl Creps has joined our team to lead these efforts. Having earned doctoral degrees in rhetoric (Ph.D., Northwestern) and leadership (D.Min., AGTS), Dr. Creps brings a rare combination of excellence in communication, depth in spiritual commitment, and breadth of experience that will inspire our future doctoral

students to more ambitious performance.

As our excellence increases, more and more high achievers are choosing to join us. I always marvel at how our faculty and staff get more talented and accomplished every year. This year, Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott, New York Times best-selling authors and globally prominent leaders in the field of healthy relationships and marriages, joined our community as members of our College of Social and Behavioral Sciences faculty. They will be representing Northwest at conferences around the nation, and we are proud to welcome them to our team.

The story goes on and on as other faculty, staff, and students have published books, finished dissertations, ministered around the world, pastored churches, inspired audiences, cared for students, served customers, prayed for each other, and followed Jesus. The upshot of it all is that this learning community keeps on exploring the call of our God with spiritual vitality, academic excellence, and empowered engagement with human need. To those who have supported us in prayer, generous giving, works of service, and personal encouragement, we salute your excellence as well.

With excitement,

Joseph Castleberry, Ed.D.
President



Northwest UNIVERSITY

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NU MISSION

We, the people of Northwest University, carry the call of God by continually building a learning community dedicated to spiritual vitality, academic excellence, and empowered engagement with human need.

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THE EIGHTY-FIRST Commencement OF NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY

Over 10,000 students have now graduated from Northwest University, going out to shape and impact the world for the kingdom of God. On Saturday, May 6, the

class of 2017 marched out of Overlake Christian Church to join those who have gone before them. We couldn't be prouder of our graduates, and we hope

that you'll join us in praying for them as they begin their careers. We hope you enjoy these highlights from our eighty-first Commencement ceremony.



Dr. Kari Brodin leads the Faculty Processional



Ms. Bette Wei Wang receives an honorary Doctor of Science



Student commencement speaker, Sarah Clark gives her address



Graduates receive the Sigma Chi Pi Honor Society Award



Mr. Kelly Wright, FOX News, receives an honorary Doctor of Letters



GRADS

- 302 Women | 215 Men*
- 399 Graduates from the Pacific Northwest*
- 95 Graduates outside the Pacific Northwest*
- 23 States Represented*
- 348 Kirkland Campus Graduates*
- 73 Adult Evening Program Graduates*
- 70 Online Program Graduates*





NAIA
NATIONAL
CHAMP
IONSHIP



MAKING HISTORY

This fall saw our women's soccer team go farther than ever before. Not only did they qualify to compete in the NAIA national championship in Alabama, but they made it all the way to the semifinal round before they were knocked out by Northwestern Ohio (who would go on to win the entire tournament).

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME NU SOCCER HAS EVER MADE IT TO THE SEMIFINALS, AND THE FIRST TIME THE NAIA HAS EVER SEEN AN UNSEEDDED TEAM MAKE THE TOP FOUR.

"It was an incredible experience, but all credit to the ladies," said head coach Bryan Chud. "They dug deep and took what they were doing to a whole different level. We were playing well throughout the season, but they just raised everything up a gear and played probably above what they themselves even thought they could do."

This is especially impressive, as this is Chud's first season with the team and as a head coach. Chud is an NU alumnus with extensive experience in the sport. After playing at NU for 4 years, he moved with his wife to Ireland and played professionally in the top Irish league for 12 years.

After Chud retired from his professional soccer career, he was invited back to NU to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. "When I came back, at that ceremony, Gary [the head men's soccer coach] talked to me quite seriously about coming back and working as the strikers' coach. So my wife and I talked about if that would be something we would want to do, and agreed it would be good."

The first season as a strikers' coach went well for Chud, and he enjoyed the new challenge of coaching. "I liked it, thought I could do another season of it, and thought maybe it could be something I do full-time," he remembered. "I was thinking more of doing it in Europe and continuing on with my licensing there, and then I got a phone call from Gary."

The phone call was an offer for the position as head women's soccer coach. At first, Chud was apprehensive. He didn't know if this position aligned with the direction he thought his career should go. But after praying about it, he and his wife felt called to make the move to Washington.

"Once we made the decision, I had peace about it. And once I met the team, and was probably a month into it, I knew it was the right call and where I needed to be." This was evident in the team's chemistry and performance, as they ended up having a record setting year under Chud's guidance.



WOMEN'S SOCCER

FACTS

- FINISHED REGULAR SEASON TIED WITH EASTERN OREGON FOR 4TH PLACE
- POSTED A 6-3-2 CASCADE COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE RECORD
- UPSET NO. 8 RANKED BIOLA (CALIF.) IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE NAIA NATIONALS
- TEAM RANKED NO. 5 IN THE FINAL NAIA NATIONAL TOP 25 POLL
- 11 EAGLE PLAYERS NAMED CCC SCHOLAR-ATHLETES
- COACH CHUD WAS INDUCTED INTO THE NU ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME IN 2015



Such a strong finish reflects well on the team's commitment to their goals and to one another. By the time the national tournament came around, Chud and the Eagles were working together as if they had been together much longer than a single season.

From the very beginning of the tournament, the Eagles were up against steep odds. Their first match was against Biola, who was ranked sixth in the nation. But that didn't stop the Eagles. With a 2-0 victory, they set the tone for their competitiveness in the coming games.

"Taking down Biola was unbelievable," Chud said. "It was equally incredible to win again at the next level when nobody at the tournament was expecting us to do anything. When we beat Reinhardt, they were looking at us a bit different."

Though the Eagles' journey ended before the finals, they were able to return with their heads held high knowing that they accomplished much this season and in Alabama. Looking forward to next season, Coach Chud was hopeful. "We're set up to be very competitive for a long time."

The key to maintaining this level of competition will be recruiting well, as there are several key players who graduated in May. "The nice thing is once you do this type of thing, the recruits are coming out of the woodwork. So it's an exciting time."

We are so proud of our incredible women's soccer team and their accomplishments, and we look forward to another exciting season next year.

GOING THE DISTANCE: THE ROAD TO NATIONALS

Our women's soccer players weren't the only NU athletes to make a splash this season. While the soccer team was fighting its way to a national spot, our track and field team was also hard at work.

"The season started off really well," said Mark Mandi, who coaches women's track and field. "Early on we competed in meets at the University of Washington, which are very high-quality meets. You have to have a national qualifying time just to get in."

Qualifying for these regional meets is often more difficult than qualifying for the NAIA national meet. This season, more NU students qualified for the UW meets than in previous years. Four of these students achieved incredible success as part of a 4x800 meter relay team.

NU students Shandon Lystad, Lily Engelbrekt, Cassidy Brown, and Sarah Estabrook excelled in their first few track

events of the season. During their January meet, this team ran its fastest race yet, easily qualifying for the national NAIA meet with a time that was 25 seconds faster than the minimum qualifying time. In fact, they ran the fastest time in the country for the NAIA women's 4x800 relay, beating out the second fastest team by nine seconds.

According to Coach Mandi, running this time was "a big step psychologically because they didn't have to think about getting to the meet any more. And it's a big deal to get to this meet."

By qualifying for the national event with a record-breaking time, the team was able to set bigger goals than they had before.

"When I first started working here, just the idea of going to nationals was a long-term goal. We just wanted to get there," Mandi explained. "But they ran so well, it began to dawn on us, 'Maybe we can win nationals!'"

With spirits high, the team set out for the NAIA Indoor National Championship meet in Tennessee, one of them fresh off a month-long study abroad trip with NU's nursing program. Though none of the students on NU's team had been recognized as All-American athletes going into the race, they placed third and secured All-American titles.

Mandi was proud of his athletes' performance, as well as their character. "Their success is really a testament to the things that God has helped them overcome. Whether it's just the psychological battles they're facing, or one of the serious injuries that some team members had faced over the years."

Though Shandon graduated this year, the rest of the team and Coach Mandi will continue to train for another successful season.



TWO CLASSICS YOU SHOULD READ FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH

PROFESSOR JOE MCQUEEN

When the Northwest Passages editors asked me to recommend a few devotional classics that everyone should read, I was delighted! The editors' request raises an urgent question: what resources from the Christian heritage can sustain us in today's world?

In a culture that prizes the newest and latest, and often looks down on anything old, we modern Christians are always in danger of sliding into contemporary fads rather than rooting ourselves in the rich traditions and devotional habits of our forebears in the faith.

C.S. Lewis had such thoughts in mind when he wrote, "It is a good rule, after reading a new book, never to allow yourself to read another new one till you have read an old one in between." And when Lewis said old, he meant *really* old. In fact, he wrote these words in his preface to *On the Incarnation*—a short text by Athanasius of Alexandria, who lived in the fourth century.

Lewis himself was recommending Athanasius's text, so let me start there.

I love Athanasius's *On the Incarnation* because it shows us how the early Christians understood Jesus, not just as an individual man who lived in the first century, but as the ultimate reality that sustains the whole of creation. That sounds abstract, but think about some very familiar New Testament passages. John's Gospel describes Jesus as the Word, the *logos* in Greek—the cosmic reason or logic through which the Father holds all of creation in existence. Paul, likewise, says in Colossians that in Christ "all things in heaven and on earth were created" and that "in him all things hold together."

Following John and Paul, Athanasius explains that the Father rescues the world in the same way he creates it: through Christ the Word. If the Father creates through Christ the Word, and then creation becomes corrupted through sin and death, it only makes sense that the Father would also rescue us through the Word. So, Christ's incarnation—God's rescue mission—is actually a kind of "recreation." Sin and death draw us down into nothingness, but Christ pulls us back into life. He creates us again by calling us out of nothingness—just as he did in the beginning.

In one of my favorite passages,

Athanasius describes fallen creation as a damaged, dirty painting. That painting, moreover, was originally made in the image of Christ. So, Christ himself must come to "re-inscribe" his image on the painting so that it once again reflects him clearly. I don't have space to quote the passage here, but every time I read it, I find myself slowing down and praying with Athanasius's words. And that slow, prayerful, meditative reading—it's sometimes called divine reading or *Lectio Divina*—is the best way to approach these old texts.

Let me also recommend Augustine's *Confessions*. For Augustine, we humans are fundamentally lovers. That is, our desires and passions—rather than, say, our thoughts and beliefs—make us who we are. Moreover, our desire is bottomless, and so only God, who is infinite, can satisfy our infinite desire. As Augustine prays to God, "You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

The Confessions records Augustine's restless struggle to point his desires toward God and away from finite things that ultimately won't satisfy. And since all of us are caught up in that same struggle, *The Confessions* is a great text to pray with.

Indeed, we can all cry out to God with Augustine: when will "you come to my heart and intoxicate it, so that I will forget my evils and embrace my one and only good, yourself?"

There's one last thought I can't unpack completely but still want to mention. For Augustine, as for Paul, we live and move and have our being within God. In a way, God is Being itself, and therefore, to move toward him is to come more fully alive, more fully into existence. Sinning, then, isn't just breaking the rules or doing something bad. For Augustine, when we sin, we actually exist less. We slide away from fullness of life toward a kind of hollowness or nothingness. At one point, before his conversion, Augustine steals some fruit, and he says, "The theft itself was a nothing." This view of sin and evil has really important implications for our devotional lives. I don't have space to unpack those implications here, but read *The Confessions* to find out more!

One last note: try to get the St. Vladimir's Press edition of Athanasius's *On the Incarnation* (it has Lewis's introduction) and the Oxford edition of Augustine's *Confessions* translated by Henry Chadwick.

May God bless you as you read (and pray!) through these texts!



EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE

Through science, we learn about God’s creativity and vastness, but we also learn about his attention to detail and how he sustains every living thing. That being said, science has become a field of study that is not often associated with Christianity. This disparity is one of the many reasons Northwest University is committed to raising up students that are both strong Christians and excellent scientists.

Two such students are Robyn Emery and Sarah Clark. These new alumni studied biology at NU and are taking the next step in expanding their knowledge by enrolling in doctoral programs. Both were accepted into Ivy League schools and will be starting graduate programs in the fall, Robyn at the University of Washington and Sarah at Harvard University.

Robyn, who graduated in May 2016, will study infectious diseases in UW’s Molecular Mechanisms of Medicine and Disease (M3D) Pathology program. Robyn is already working in a lab at the University of Washington, and this is where she was first inspired to pursue a career in infectious disease research.

“I fell in love with the global health focus behind infectious disease research,” Robyn explained. “Really, it affects so many people. We just don’t see them.”

With this new clarity, Robyn started applying to various schools and then began an intense interview process. “You have multiple interviews at each school (anywhere from four to six). I counted it up after the whole process was over, and I had done 25 individual interviews in one month.”

After hours of interviews and campus tours, Robyn was accepted to Princeton, Penn State, Purdue University, and the University of Washington. With prayer and consideration, she eventually decided on the University of Washington.

“A lot of people ask why I didn’t go to Princeton, because it’s such a big-name school,” Robyn said. “But I have a really strong church family here, and I knew if I stayed in Washington, my faith would be supported and encouraged by my church family while I went through my program. That was one piece of the decision, but there was also the program itself. Princeton’s program is molecular biology, so it’s focused on very detailed research. It’s almost researching for the sake of research, instead of researching to find a cure. Princeton doesn’t have a medical school either, so it would be very lab-focused, which isn’t something I want. I want to bridge the gap between the lab and actual patients. UW had the perfect program that does exactly that, so I was very excited.”

Robyn eventually would like to be a researching professor who is able to travel for her research. This dream is made all the more possible by securing a spot in UW’s program, which is among the top infectious disease research programs in the world.

While Robyn will remain part of Seattle’s science community, Sarah has been called across the country. Sarah graduated from Northwest University in May 2017 and will attend Harvard University in the fall to pursue virus research.

While Sarah feels confident about her calling into science now, that confidence wasn’t always there. “I actually hated science most of my life,” she said. “But then I took an AP biology class my senior year in high school and really liked it. I figured it would be something good for me to pursue, because I have a very inquisitive mind, and I’m an introvert, so the idea of spending the



**ROBYN
EMERY**

Infectious
Diseases,
*University of
Washington*



day in the lab sounds great.”

Once Sarah started taking classes at NU, she was intrigued. She grew her knowledge through classes as well as extracurricular activities, including internships and conferences. One of these experiences was the SACNAS conference, where Sarah won “Best Poster Presentation in Microbiology.” These experiences served as valuable additions to her resume when she began the grueling process of applying to graduate programs.

“That semester I was taking 18 credits and applying to grad schools. I was also an RA on campus, and I was doing research,” she explained. “It was really hard.” But Sarah persevered and was asked to interview at Harvard University, Yale University, University of Washington, University of Colorado, and Oregon Health and Sciences University. She chose only to interview at Yale and Harvard, eventually deciding to attend Harvard in the fall of 2017.

Though Sarah’s schooling will take her away from her community in the Pacific Northwest, she feels confident in her calling to go to Harvard. “For a long time I thought, ‘Is this what God wants me to do?’ Because I was just studying the world, not preaching the gospel. So coming to the realization that I get to preach the gospel through my science was amazing. We have both the Bible and

God’s creation as evidence of his existence, and in science, I’m getting to learn more about that and getting to know him better through my research. I would say that Northwest has given me space to stand in the tension of faith and science and really see how they can be integrated. And going to Harvard, I know that’s going to be so important. If I didn’t know where my faith fit into this, I think it might fall apart once I get there. But I feel very confident now.”

With this confidence in mind, Sarah prepares to move to the East Coast in the fall. Ultimately, she hopes to go into research at an organization like Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center upon graduation from her program at Harvard.

While these two students will be studying in very different places, they both credit their time at NU for helping them secure spots in these programs. Even more specifically, they give credit to the professors who invested in them and mentored them along the way.

“Getting to know my professors so well helped me a lot, especially with the decision to apply for a Ph.D. program,” Robyn said. “Tracy Delgado and Greg Spyridis were both great about that. I actually just met with Dr. Spyridis for lunch the other day. Meeting with teachers outside of class and having personal relationships with them was really valuable. I wouldn’t trade it for anything else.”

Sarah agreed. “I would not be where I am without Dr. Delgado. I would not have gotten into Harvard without this research that she’s helped me do. She has been so committed to my success. The amount of time she has put into meeting with me is incredible, and she’s never made me feel like I’m a burden to her. She has deeply impacted my life in being honest about her faith and science. She’s been helpful in speaking into what grad school is like since my freshman year. I could never thank her enough. And it’s so cool to know that I’m not the only student that will get that impact either.”

We look forward to seeing what Robyn and Sarah will accomplish in the coming years and how God will use them to influence the science community. We are also looking forward to watching the next class of NU science students follow in their footsteps to more great achievements.



WHEN NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIBBY ABSTEN SHARED HER STORY AT THE 2017 PRESIDENT'S BANQUET, SHE HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF CHAMPIONS. SHE SHARED ABOUT LOSING HER FATHER DURING HER SOPHOMORE YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, AND THAT WITH HIS DEATH, HER HOPES, DREAMS, AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE DIED WITH HIM. BUT BY THE GRACE OF GOD, SHE WAS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR A NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP FOR URBAN LEADERS. AS LIBBY DESCRIBES IT, "WHAT IT REALLY IS, IS A SCHOLARSHIP OF HOPE."



By Justin Kawabori
*Executive Director,
Northwest University Foundation*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHAMPION?

Libby would likely not be in college today had she not been the beneficiary of necessary help. Because Northwest University believes in championing students to help them fulfill their God-given callings and dreams, Libby has received the hope of a Christ-centered education. And while the University is committed to helping its students, it cannot sustain the cost on its own; it needs champions, too. One highly effective group of champions making a real difference is the Northwest University Foundation Board of Trustees.

Established more than 20 years ago, the board is doing far more now than its original charge of managing the Foundation and its resources. Under the creative and inspirational leadership of Chairman Barry Horn and President Castleberry, the trustees have become a high-octane group of leaders who display their generosity in multiple ways: by advocating to their communities, leveraging their influence, evangelizing the culture, and faithfully coming alongside the University to make an impact so our students have the resources they need to "Carry the Call" of Christ into the world.

What kind of an impact have they had? Consider this. The NU Foundation Board was restructured and reconstituted in the fall of 2013. A new board emerged with additional members and a new mission. With a mix of alumni and non-alumni, this group has caught the vision and the mission of the University and believes in NU's call as a Christ-centered institution providing discipleship and training for the next generation of leaders. Their work and generosity, both in giving and in dedication, have helped increase annual scholarship dollars for students by more than half a million dollars, in part by helping grow the Opportunity Fund from \$225,000 in fiscal year 2012 to more than \$775,000 this year.

How have they done it? Leadership by example, fostering community, enjoying the experience, rejoicing in achievement, and helping to bring in new partners and friends in support of our students and programs. Their advocacy has made all the difference, and yet the process has been fun, with gatherings for fellowship, small group events, participation in the life of the University, annual meetings, and an annual retreat. At these gatherings, relationships and affinity are built, ideas are brainstormed and shared, input is given and heard, and new strategies are developed—all within the context of community.

To that end, the Foundation Board of Trustees has committed to help make NU's fundraising events highly successful. This year, with trustees actively participating in leading and supporting roles for the President's Banquet, this annual event reached a record \$491,400 in funds raised. They have also helped to grow the annual Christmas Traditions Concert at Benaroya Hall by inviting guests to join them each year, broadening our support in the community.



They participate in campus events, such as the annual Scholarship Reception, and they each serve in their own individual ways, from guest lecturing in classes, to adjunct teaching, to mentoring students or hiring NU students as interns in their businesses. And let's not forget prayer; they regularly pray for our students, for our president, and for the University. They have indeed become champions for the great cause of Northwest University.

As NU moves ahead into a bright future, the Foundation trustees will play a major role in helping to fund the expansion of the campus and the programs that will move the University forward. But always remaining at the heart of their work will be students such as Libby Absten, who

gratefully receive and passionately proclaim the impact of their work.

“So you can see,” said Libby to the President’s Banquet crowd, “I am only here because I am standing on your shoulders. And we are all standing on your shoulders. You have not only given the funds to make it possible, but the hope to make it achievable.”

As champions, the Foundation trustees will need more than just friends and colleagues from their spheres of influence to help; they will need the participation of each and every alum, future alum, parent, supporting church, ministry network, and friend of the University. It’s a broad team, and each of us must play a role. Will you join them? Will you be a champion?

WHY I SERVE

Trustees on why they serve and what it means to serve.

“I envision students touching hearts for Jesus in their given profession. I want to support the effort of this fine institution to have kingdom impact. The world longs for people like us to care. I care.” – **Timothy Knapp** (2017 Alumnus of the Year)

“God called me to Northwest—not as a student, but as an advocate. It is exciting to see the impact we can have collectively by simply obeying and showing up. I consider it pure privilege to be part of this community and look forward to Northwest’s future.” – **Kim Martin**

“I am so very blessed to serve on the Foundation Board of Trustees with other men and women who have a common love for Northwest University and the impact it is having on our current generation and for generations to come.” – **Ted Terry**

“To me, there is no greater calling than to step into my grandparents’ footsteps and continue with what they started—carrying the call of God! Northwest University allows me to do this, as a parent and a trustee, and I’m grateful.” – **Talia Hastie**

“I see Northwest University as a lead player in the story that God is writing in Seattle, the Northwest, the nation, and indeed, throughout the world.” – **Jerry Brown**

“Northwest University is at the center of what God is doing today through the Holy Spirit, and with renewed vision. I’m as privileged to be involved today as a trustee as I was when I graduated in 1954.” – **John Butterfield**



ADDING TO OUR EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY

Northwest University has recently welcomed two new faculty members who bring years of experience and relevant fieldwork to their teaching positions. Dr. Earl Creps—a specialist in missional Christianity, communication, and leadership—will lead our newly formed Center for Leadership Studies. The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences has added best-selling author, Dr. Les Parrott to its faculty. Dr. Parrott and his wife Leslie are recognized globally for their work in marriage and family relationships.



DR. EARL CREPS

- D.Min. from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
- Ph.D. in Communication Studies from Northwestern University
- Director of Doctor of Ministry program, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
- Books include *Off-Road Disciplines* and *Reverse Mentoring*
- Articles in *Ministry Today*, *Influence Magazine*, *Enrichment Journal*, and *Relevant Magazine*
- Church planter at 360church in Berkeley, California
- Field-based team leader for Church Multiplication Network
- Specialties: leadership, emerging culture, communications, and spiritual formation

“The Center for Leadership Studies will shape leaders who write the books others read and lead the organizations others copy, not by avoiding their faith but by living it.” – Dr. Earl Creps



DR. LES PARROTT

- M.A. in Theology and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Fuller Theological Seminary
- Postdoctoral fellowship in Medical Psychology at UW School of Medicine
- #1 New York Times best-selling author
- Television appearances on CNN, The Today Show, The View, The O’Reilly Factor, and Oprah
- *Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts*, a Gold Medallion Book Award winner, has sold more than 2 million copies in more than two dozen languages
- Other best-selling books: *Real Relationships*, *Love Talk*, *The Good Fight*, and *Crazy Good Sex*
- Co-founder of eHarmony Marriage, with his wife, Dr. Leslie Parrott
- Creator of the online SYMBIS Assessment used by more than 10,000 counselors
- Specialty: Making bad relationships better and good relationships great

“Christian higher education is in my bones, and I am thrilled to be joining the faculty of Northwest University. The spiritual vitality and academic excellence on this campus is incredibly energizing to me, and I’m so honored to be a part of this world-changing community.” – Dr. Les Parrott



HOW HIS LIFE WAS CHANGED BY A CRAIGSLIST AD

For David Watson, discovering Northwest University happened unexpectedly, and it came at just the right time. While looking for a car on Craigslist, a seller asked David and his wife if they would be willing to meet at Northwest University. What started out as a Craigslist deal turned into something much more important: David discovered a place that would shape the path of his life.

That night, David researched Northwest University and discovered its Master in Teaching (MIT) program. A short phone call with a Northwest representative left a lasting impression on him. “The representative was incredibly helpful and said all the right things in a genuine manner. I could tell Northwest had a family-friendly atmosphere, and that’s what I’m about,” he said.

Instantly, David knew Northwest was the place for him.

David’s path to teaching wasn’t straightforward. Prior to coming to Northwest, he worked in law enforcement for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. After 12 years, he felt it was time for a career change. Working in this field, he says, “Every day is a gamble and tomorrow is never

expected. With a wife and two kids, I knew it was time for something different. Something I could do long-term and something I could love.”

David took some time off work to spend time with his family and contemplate next steps. With a strong desire to serve others, and already having the foundation of a bachelor’s degree in social sciences, David thought teaching could be the perfect fit. It was at this exact time he met the seller of the car and found Northwest University. According to David, “the hand of God was certainly involved.”

After being accepted into the MIT program, he met with NU professor Dr. Delamarter to discuss his plans for the future. Again, David was impressed by the genuineness of the Northwest faculty. At other schools, he had felt like just a number, but here, he knew he was valued as an individual.

The MIT program assisted him in transitioning from law enforcement to teaching. Throughout his time at NU, David gained much more than knowledge. He experienced a change in temperament and the way he viewed the world—the kind of

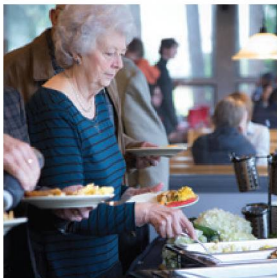
change that he didn’t just need for a job, but for his own well-being. Professors were keen to recognize David’s needs and invest in him in a way he describes as “priceless.”



Today, David teaches at O’Dea High School, a private, all-boys school in Seattle. In law enforcement, he saw the worst in people, but as a teacher, he’s able to see the best. Early intervention is key, and David is able to influence men at a younger age and mentor them, ensuring they don’t walk the wrong path. David has always possessed the ability to impact others, but NU helped him refine his gifts and become a more effective leader.

Welcome Home HOMECOMING

— February 10-11, 2017 —



NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY HELD ITS FIRST HOMECOMING REUNION IN OVER A DECADE,

and it was worth the wait. Alumni reconnected with friends and faculty, worshipped together, ate in the Caf again, cheered on the Eagles, and celebrated the people and places that were so fundamental in shaping them. It was encouraging to see the strength of the NU community as alumni gathered to remember such a special time in their lives.

If you missed Homecoming, we're planning another event for next year! Enjoy the photos to the left and see who you recognize.

JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!

Visit www.northwestu.edu/calendar for a list of upcoming events.

the PRESIDENT'S BANQUET

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES



*Alumnus of the Year,
Timothy Knapp*



President Castleberry



*Emcee for the evening,
Hattie Kauffman*



*Special guest speaker,
Kemper Freeman, Jr.*



A wonderful performance by the Northwest Choralons

A RECORD-BREAKING EVENING

This year's President's Banquet was a memorable evening—a community of friends filled with joy and hope and gratitude. Your generosity was record-breaking. The final number (including several gifts contributed after the event) brought the total scholarship funds raised to nearly half a million dollars: \$491,400. And all of it goes to help our students!

None of this would have been possible without you. From all of us at Northwest University, we thank you. To quote Libby Absten, a student speaker at this year's event: "These students are standing on your shoulders."



LENAE NOFZIGER

WHY DO YOU WRITE POETRY? I write poetry because I like the tangle of sound, meaning, and form. There are so many potential moments of delight: repetition, metaphor, the turn that happens in the pause of a line break. I often use poetry to think through things I don't always understand: why we suffer, how to recover from being hurt, what particular relevance biblical stories might have to our lives now, etc. Poetry can hold questions and answers comfortably. It doesn't require a thesis statement. It's an experience more than an argument; sometimes the experience is delightful, and sometimes it's painful, but the form of the poem can hold both simultaneously.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE THIS PARTICULAR POEM? "Roadrunner and Coyote" began as an exercise I wrote with my Genres class more than a decade ago. I often make my students write assignments on the spur of the moment in class, and I always write them, too. I have several large file folders of things I've written in class. Sometimes one of them sticks with me, as this poem did. I revised it several times over several years, but I had trouble with the ending until I took it to my poetry group. I've been meeting with Professor Emerita Marj Stewart, Dr. Jeremiah Webster, and Dr. Mischa Willett once a month for several years. Something they said helped me finally find an ending that worked.

HOW DOES FAITH INFORM YOUR POETRY? I hope that faith informs most things I do. But specifically, I find poetry is a good way to wrestle with issues of faith. Sometimes I take on other people's personas and write as if I were in their shoes. For example, I've written poems from the perspective of Christian snake handlers, the wives of the wise men, and the concubine from Judges 19. I use these fictional personas to explore how different experiences affect one's perceptions of God and one's belief. That can sometimes clarify my own beliefs.

POETRY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

ROADRUNNER AND COYOTE*

BY LENAЕ NOFZIGER

Somehow the clearly linear legs
of the roadrunner change at high speeds

into a circular blur—like the one
the angel's flaming sword makes

as he marks the edge of Eden.
The bird always escapes

the coyote, who is stupid
with hunger. We are stupid, too,

filled with the knowledge of good
and evil, exiled, lonely, wandering

in a cartoon desert of our own
making, clutching cases full

of products guaranteed to backfire.
Those winged creatures never

conform to our expectations or
to the petty laws of physics. But

we do—just as soon as we notice
there is no ground beneath our feet,

as soon as we see the anvil hanging
above our heads. We understand

gravity, we know all about falling.
Perhaps it's the possibility of flight

that stuns us—or our death-defying
resurrections: how our mangled bodies

recover in time for the next chase,
how we keep right on stumbling

after each glimpse of feathers.

**"Roadrunner and Coyote" first appeared in the literary magazine Windhover.*

We are fortunate at NU to have a strong roster of professors that inspire our students with their own work and accomplishments. Professor Lenae Nofziger and Dr. Jeremiah Webster are two professors who do exactly that through their poetry.

HERO*

BY JEREMIAH WEBSTER

With Skywalker, the hand,
Potter, the scar,

Gawain nicks his neck
on the Green Man's blade,

and between Gollum's teeth
is Frodo's severed finger.

Each returns home
with a wound, a blight

now coupled to a routine
unworthy of cinema or song.

Divorced from all gilding,
the true quest begins.

Such myths are why I cannot listen
to ministers who offer life

without pain, why I lie down
beneath inaccessible stars

as lungs breathe in and out
an unsung portion of possibility.

It is why, in this constellation,
there must be one beyond

the world's kleos:
a wounded hero,

the source of each
echo.

** Webster's latest poetry collection, [After So Many Fires](#), is available on Amazon and at [anchorplume.bigcartel.com](#).*

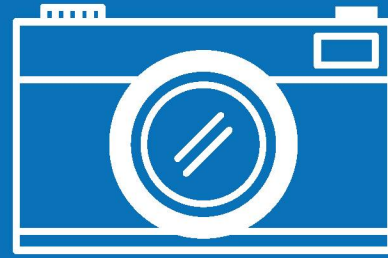


JEREMIAH WEBSTER

WHY DO YOU WRITE POETRY? I can't help myself. My compulsion toward verse is the result of my upbringing. My childhood home was full of music. I'd fall asleep to the melancholy of my mother's violin as she practiced in the living room. My father read Scripture aloud, the tone and timbre of his voice filling the house. Music and language were indivisible kindred in the Webster household. I think this is true of Christianity in general. Our faith is lyrical, extravagant in its aspiration and impulse. Jesus' earthly life entire was a poem. I don't think it's an accident that so many Modern poets were either the children of ministers, or deeply influenced by a liturgical tradition. The apprehension of an inherent music in language is the first great revelation a poet receives.

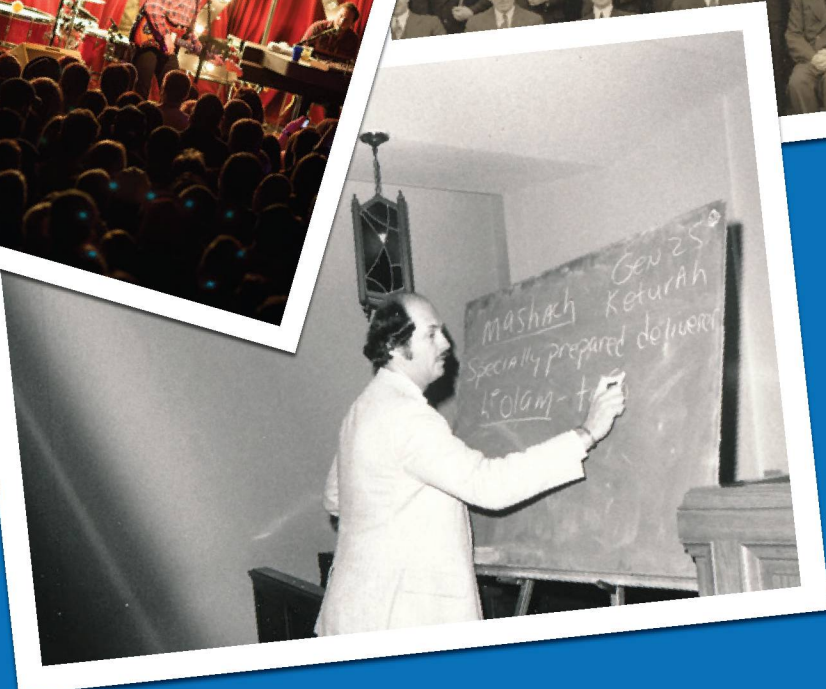
WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE THIS PARTICULAR POEM? I teach a class called "The Epic" here at Northwest. We explore the tradition from Homer to Tolkien. It's great fun. A pervasive theme in this survey is the fact that all heroes are wounded, maimed. Even if they survive Joseph Campbell's Hero Cycle, the journey is costly. For writers like Tolkien and Lewis, these stories are intimations of the life of Jesus. The heroes of antiquity are allusions, echoes as it were, of Christ's redemptive work here on earth and the wounds He bore at Calvary. I wanted to capture this notion in verse, and "Hero" was the result. Jesus is our 'wounded hero.'

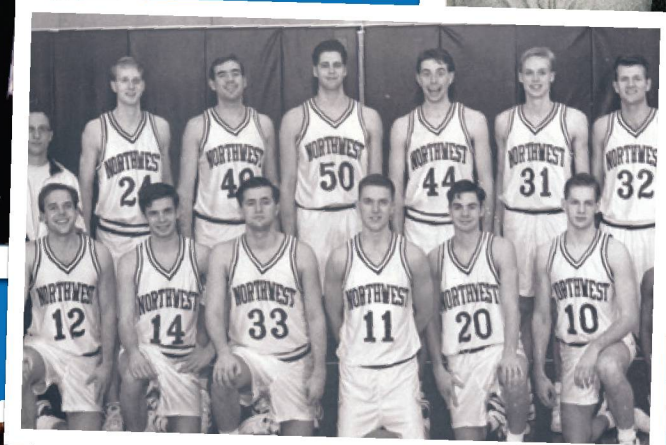
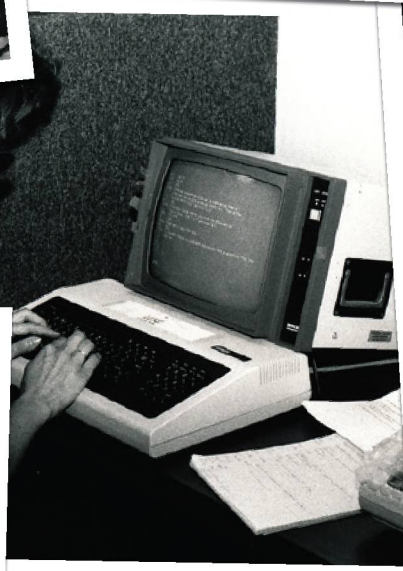
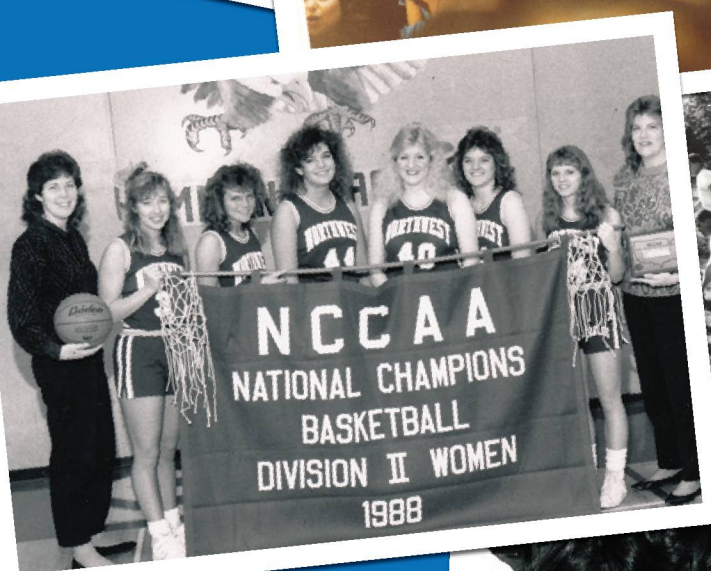
HOW DOES YOUR FAITH INFORM YOUR POETRY? According to John's Gospel, Jesus is the logos. The reason for life. The Word. The warp and weft of this reality is difficult, if not impossible, to fully comprehend. What I can say with a degree of certainty is that Christians should be studious, creative, and disciplined in their apprehension of God and the world he has made. This isn't some 'must try harder' mandate, or some appeal to the legalists among us. Rather, it is an invitation: to 'work for the Lord and not for men' (Colossians 3:23-24), to 'taste and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8). I hope my writing is a 'war against cliché' (to cite Martin Amis), truthful in its engagement with reality, and obedient to the truth of God as revealed through Jesus Christ.



SNAPSHOTS

NU Through The Years





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 if you have an update or a favorite memory you'd like to share with Northwest.

1960s



Paul D. Goodman ('65) Our first three years in pastoral ministry took us to Superior, Montana. In 1976, two important events took place. First, I was asked to become Montana District Secretary which was, and still is, a part-time position in Montana. Second, I was asked to pastor

Helena First Assembly. Being on the Montana District Executive team also included membership with the Northwest College Board of Directors and the General Presbytery. In 1989, I was elected Montana District Superintendent and held that office for 18 years. In 2007, I flunked the course called retirement and found myself back in Helena, Montana, on staff part-time at Helena First Assembly. Almost 10 years have gone by, and we are doing what we love and were called to do: serve the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Northwest University had a major role in our lives, as well as that of our children, and we highly value the relationships we formed and continue to hold there.

1980s

Richard Oertel ('85) At the age of 41, God called me out of a 20-year career in industry to prepare to serve him in a support ministry. After graduating from NU in 1985, I served on staff at Calvary Assembly in Irwin, Pennsylvania, as Christian Education Director, and from there, God added more training as I served as Lead Pastor for 10 years at First Assembly in Union Grove, Wisconsin. My next move was to serve as Senior Associate Pastor at Family Worship



Center in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Then at age 74, at our Wisconsin-Northern Michigan Network Summit, God called me to be a missionary to Japan. My wife, also a NU alumnus, and I are currently in Japan beginning to serve a minimum two-year term in a support ministry—filling

in for one of our missionaries returning to the States. Lesson: God can use ANY willing vessel—age is not a barrier.

1990s



Joseph Sanders ('97)

Starting my education at Northwest University and finishing my degree in psychology were instrumental in my work in social services through a company called Service Alternatives. While there, I worked in case management and youth

services serving at-risk youth through both group care and foster care services. That continued for a total of 15 years. I worked as an Administrative and Assimilation Pastor at a Southern Baptist Church in Bonney Lake, Washington until the early 2000s. I left that to go a different direction, which resulted in moving back to my hometown of Rupert, Idaho in 2006. This has since resulted in becoming a volunteer Community Voice for Voice of the Martyrs, serving our persecuted brethren around the world. This allowed me to speak in a variety of denominational and non-denominational churches about the faith and the cost of following Jesus in places where it is dangerous or restricted to serve the Lord. You can find out more at www.persecution.com. In 2013, I partnered with the pastor of a Free Will Baptist church and became his associate pastor. My faithful partner in ministry and life is Melody, and we have two adult children, one who is a second-grade public school teacher, and one who is serving his nation in the Navy.

DON'T MISS OUR ALUMNI RECEPTION AT GENERAL COUNCIL

If you're planning to attend General Council or live in the Anaheim area, be sure to stop by our Alumni reception. It's your chance to catch up with fellow Eagles, enjoy great food, and celebrate the evening together.

AUG. 9, 2017

Northwest University Alumni Reception at General Council
9:00 p.m. – Midnight
Location: Marriott, 700 Convention Way, Anaheim, CA 92802

2000s



Stephanie Perrine ('08, '09) For the past five years, I've worked in one of the most diverse schools in Tacoma, Washington, where enrollment has declined and students have had to overcome administration changes, possible school closure, and a school shooting. When I think about the greatest contributing factor that influenced

my desire to work in education, I think about my students. If there is one thing I learned during my time at Northwest, it was that life is about people, our shared experiences, and our obligation as believers to "Carry the Call." My current position includes working for a large community-action agency, Metropolitan Development Council. Here I teach for a federal Department of Education Trio College Bound program, which serves low-income, first-generation students. I also serve as the Interim Project Director over 15 school sites. Through this program, I teach college readiness classes, provide mentor support, and most importantly, help students develop the necessary resilience they need to succeed in life. I have helped connect my students to resources for housing, spent countless hours counseling them, helped their parents find jobs, and other tasks far above and beyond my role as a teacher. When I reflect back on the person I was when I graduated, I would've told myself to dream bigger. I thought I would become a youth pastor, but little did I know, I would get to use that skill set to make a huge impact in the lives of students in the classroom. In June, I will be leaving my position to move to Houston, Texas, to pursue a MSW in Clinical Social Work, with an emphasis in health and behavioral health. I believe that if we can learn to address the social and emotional needs of our students in poverty, they will naturally begin to be more successful in the classroom and, hopefully, in life.

2010s



Brooke Miller ('15) In 2016, I was ordained with the Assemblies of God and have since entered the mission field as a missionary to the children of Panama. I focus on ministry to the abused and exploited students of Panama City. Since I graduated from Northwest, I

have bounced around between Washington, Indiana, Costa Rica, and Panama, but I am thrilled to finally call Panama home. The Lord has blessed me so richly since I graduated just two short years ago!



ALUMNI FEATURE:

COURTNAY PHILLIPS ('07)



Since I was a child, I always knew that my life was headed for ministry. While I attended NU, I dove right into classes that would prepare me for this dream. From the get-go we always had a heart for adoption. We had watched many people in our life say things like, "We always wanted to adopt, but we never got around to it." The frequency of this statement killed us.

We began our adoption classes, scared yet excited. We trusted the Lord with his plan for our life and believed even more in our universal call to orphan care. We knew without a doubt that our heart's desire would be met, as would our financial needs and the needs of the child that he had handpicked for us.

What happened next took us by surprise. One of our adoption classes was paired with a foster care class. We were introduced to a father who had lost his children into the foster system. Typically, when people think of those parents, it's something like, Oh well, they probably deserved to lose their kids anyways. Our compassion meter is incredibly low. But this father took the mic and wept as he told his story. He was an ordinary man, living an ordinary life. He was you. He was me. The trajectory of his life took a hard and unexpected left turn, and he lost his kids because of it.

We had always heard of the huge shortage of foster families, but never even thought about the fact that there is an even bigger shortage of Jesus-loving foster families. Though we had a million and a half fears and questions, we knew without a doubt that our hearts were turning. We were to enter the mission of foster care.

After we had fully switched gears to foster, the Lord gave us the desire of our hearts and unexpectedly placed a sweet baby boy in our laps for adoption. So our family grew after all, but by then our hearts were also committed to foster care.

And just think: had we stayed in the land of the what-if, none of this would be true for us today. I am beyond thankful for the courage to step out in faith, rather than throwing out another excuse.

STAFF & FACULTY UPDATES

Every year our staff and faculty venture off of campus to publish, speak, and engage our communities. Here is this year's list.

Buntain School of Nursing

Danette Ver Woert (Faculty, Nursing) presented at Kazakhstan American Free University with five senior nursing students as part of their cross-cultural clinical experience. The presentation to faculty, students, and area health professionals focused on the role of nurses in the U.S., social perceptions of nurses in the U.S., and the nursing program's curriculum.

College of Adult and Professional Studies

Debbie Lamm Bray (Director of Academic Services, Salem Campus) co-authored a chapter in *The Handbook of Research on Gender and Leadership* titled, "The role of purpose and calling in women's leadership experiences." The book was released in May 2017.

College of Arts and Sciences

Renee Bourdeaux (Assistant Professor, Communication) co-authored "Adult Student Expectations and Experiences in an Online Learning Environment," which was published in *The Journal of Continuing Higher Education*.

Tracie Delgado (Associate Professor, Biology) was a speaker at the March for Science in Seattle in April 2017.

Jon Dyhr (Assistant Professor, Biology) co-authored the article "An insect-inspired model for visual binding I: Learning objects and their characteristics," forthcoming in *Biological Cybernetics*.

Joseph McQueen (Assistant Professor, English) published the article, "Remembering the Revolution: Wordsworth, Benjamin, and Mnemonic Critique," in *European Romantic Review*.

Will Mari (Assistant Professor, Communication) published his article, "Technology in the Newsroom" in *Journalism Studies*.

Joshua Meek's (Assistant Professor, History) book, *France, Britain, and the Struggle for the Revolutionary Western Mediterranean (War, Culture and Society, 1750–1850)*, was published in January 2017. Available on Amazon.

Lenae Nofziger (Associate Professor, English) published her poem "Roadrunner and Coyote" in *Windhover*.

Millicent Thomas (Professor, Mathematics) co-authored "Seismic Signal Analysis using Multi-Scale/Multi-Resolution Transformations," published for the Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition annual workshop. She also co-authored "A Comparative Study of Multi-Scale Image Super-Resolution Techniques," published for the National Aerospace and Electronics Conference.

Jeremiah Webster's (Associate Professor, English) poetry collection, *After So Many Fires*, was published in March 2017. Available on Amazon.

College of Business

Rowlanda Cawthon (Assistant Professor, Management) was one of the featured speakers at “The Gathering” event at Seattle University on February 10, 2017. She also attended the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington D.C. as an invited guest in January 2017.

Don Doty (Professor, Business Management) was selected as the 2016 Outstanding Reviewer for the Academy of Management’s Management Spirituality and Religion and Management Education and Development Divisions. He has also peer reviewed five research papers in 2017. He chaired the “Leadership Development” session for the 2016 annual conference of the Academy of Management in Anaheim, California, and presented a workshop titled “Reducing Anxiety and Improving Performance of Management Oral Presentations.”

College of Education

Ron Jacobson (Dean, College of Education) wrote a chapter titled “Bullying and Cyber-bullying” for the forthcoming *International Handbook of Philosophy of Education*.

College of Ministry

Wayde Goodall (Dean, College of Ministry) co-authored *Faith: Believing in the God Who Works on Your Behalf* with Yonggi Cho. The book will be released in July 2017. Available on Amazon.

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Forrest Inslee (Professor, Global Studies) published an article on the Native American church for *Christ & Cascadia* journal in February 2017.

Brooke Lundquist (Assistant Professor, Psychology) made three presentations in November 2016 at the Western Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (WACES) in Vancouver, Canada: (1) “Finding Balance: Surviving Graduate School as a Working Parent” (co-presenting), (2) “Cultural Immersion in Your Own Backyard: Two Creative Teaching Activities to Develop Self-Awareness and Cross-Cultural Competencies” (co-presenting), and (3) “Dissertation-ing Through Distance Learning Mediums” (co-presenting). Additionally, she received the award for Outstanding Graduate Student at WACES. Brooke is scheduled to complete her doctoral dissertation this summer.

Leihua Edstrom (Associate Professor, Psychology) and **Kim Lampson** (Professor, Psychology) presented a workshop titled “A university-based psychology training clinic: Empowered engagement with human need in action” at the annual Assemblies of God Faculty Conference in June 2016.

Office of the Provost

Ben Thomas (Assistant Provost) was a co-presenter for two sessions at the NASPA Annual Conference in February 2017. The presentations were titled “Cultivating environments for innovation in higher education” and “Successful pathways and strategies for improving the educational pipeline for students of color at the graduate and professional school levels.”

International Studies

Autumn Witt (Associate Provost) presented “Applying Action Research for IEP Professional Development” at the WAESOL 2017 Regional Conference. She also presented “Using Action Research Communities for IEP Professional Development” with **Julie Moon** (Adjunct Faculty) at the TESOL 2017 National Convention.

Kristen Ross (Short-Term Programs Assistant Director) presented “Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education: The need for reflective engagement” at the 2016 CCCU Diversity Conference.



P.O. Box 579
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ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

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: www.northwestu.edu/alumni/association.

ID Card

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

Northwest Passages

We'll send you Northwest Passages, a 28-page magazine that will help you stay connected with NU and your fellow alumni.

Alumni Newsletter

Stay up to date on NU news and events with our e-newsletter, which comes out several times each year.

Free Estate Planning Consultation

All alumni will be able to schedule a future appointment with Steve Waltar, PS for a free, one-hour consultation (valued at \$500). Get valuable insight on Wills, Trusts, and how you can plan for your future for free!

Eagle Fitness Center

The fitness center is located in the Barton Building. As an NU alum, you have access for \$15/month for individuals or \$25/month for family memberships.

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 charge every year.

Library

You'll have full borrowing privileges at Hurst Library. To check out books, all you need is your ID card.

Hotel Discounts

Receive discounts at Kirkland hotels when visiting the campus during University events.