

NORTHWEST PASSAGES

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY | WINTER 2018

THE HISTORY
OF NU

THE MEANING
OF MISSION

FAITH SEEKING
UNDERSTANDING

Photo: Butterfield Chapel in 1966, the year it was dedicated.



Northwest
UNIVERSITY



This year, the Northwest Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God celebrates its one hundredth anniversary.

Such a significant occasion leads us to consider our own institutional history. This year began the eighty-fourth year of Northwest Bible Institute, now grown into Northwest University. It is my twelfth year as president. As I think about those years, and the five other people who served as president over our history—and about the boards that directed and the churches that supported and the faculty who taught and the staff members who served and the students who studied and the donors who gave—one theme joins them all together: they all rallied to our cause because of their commitment to Pentecostal fire and deep learning of God’s truth.

In the mission statement of Northwest University, our first dedication as a learning community is to spiritual vitality. That mission language comes out of our Pentecostal heritage and our ongoing commitment to the real presence of Jesus with us that the Spirit-filled life makes possible. Without the in-filling power of the Spirit, our chapel services would

quickly degenerate into lifeless religious rites, our classrooms would descend into the dissemination of prideful knowledge, and our service would wither into hollow works of self-righteousness. Without the presence of Jesus among us, we simply cannot accomplish the work we were founded to do.

God called me to college presidency when I was 21 years old. Now, at the age of 58, I will probably never lead another University, and Northwest represents the only chance I will ever have to fulfill God’s call on my life. Every day, all of us have unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to see God’s power and love anoint our efforts. We have to get it right!

When we walk in the Spirit at Northwest, our worship changes hearts, our interaction with each other becomes an exercise of the Spirit’s *paraklesis*, and personal lives are delivered from debilitating habits, temptations, and sin. Our academic excellence takes on a pulsating vitality that sets us apart from worldly institutions. Our professional internships and practice become empowered engagement with human need. If we do not achieve and preserve spiritual vitality, our whole mission falls flat.

Recently, a dear friend of mine, and a major donor, attended a chapel service at Northwest. He had not previously attended a chapel service. The power he witnessed among our students—their heartfelt engagement in worship and eager attention to the Word of God—surprised and delighted him. Before the day was over, he was calling friends to invite them to come to chapel with him and witness what he had seen.

Similarly, we recently got data from a study of our admissions’ patterns that revealed that the number one reason students chose to attend Northwest is the spiritual environment they perceive here. At the same time, the number one reason students who make us their first choice wind up not enrolling is lack of finances. NU’s spiritually focused community is distinct, making us an ideal choice for serious believers. What they experience here in classes, in the dining hall, in the service they get from staff, in the chapel, in talent shows and other features they observe—all of it convinces them that they have found the spiritual environment they were looking for.

Keep praying with us that the love of the Father, the fellowship of the Son, and the energizing presence of the Spirit will always be manifest in our life together at Northwest.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Castleberry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J".

Joseph Castleberry, EdD
President



Northwest UNIVERSITY

CONTRIBUTORS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

Joseph Castleberry, EdD

EDITOR

John Vicory

MANAGING EDITORS

Jess Steinruck

Beth Boyd

Harmonie Demos

STAFF WRITERS

Isaac Peabody

Owen Bostrom

DESIGNERS

Amy St.Clair

Ryan Kropf

Jess Steinruck

PHOTOGRAPHERS

John Vicory

Tyler Milligan

Matthew Lee

Jacob Campbell

CONTACT

passages@northwestu.edu

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.

C O N T E N T S



- 4 The Meaning of Mission
- 6 Faith Seeking Understanding
- 10 The History of NU
- 11 College Updates
- 12 The Starting Place for Discipleship
- 15 Upcoming Events
- 16 Snapshots
- 18 The Bible: An Old Book, Yet Always New
- 20 Alumni of the Year
- 22 Event Recaps
- 24 Alumni Updates
- 26 Staff and Faculty Updates





The Meaning of Mission

CHRISTIAN DAWSON

Campus Pastor, Northwest University

As a child, I was often asked what I wanted to be when I grew up. My answer was an obvious one for any four-year-old boy: I wanted to be a firefighter. When I entered grade school, my answer changed. “Christian,” my teacher would ask, “what do you want to be when you grow up?” I’d take a deep breath and respond, “I want to be a pilot.” As you can imagine, my answer to this question changed every year. When I was high school, the question still persisted: “Christian, what do you want to be when you finish school?”

Our society has a fixation with this question. We are constantly thinking about who we are becoming. Think about all of the programs, books, and blogs that focus on helping us become who we want to be. We put a great deal of effort into becoming richer, smarter, and more attractive tomorrow than we were yesterday. Often, we talk about the ideal field we want to work in, the dream job we want to have, or the goals we want to pursue.

When I think about how Jesus and Scripture address this question, a very different answer emerges. While our society is consumed with *what we are doing*, Jesus is deeply concerned with *who we are becoming*.

And who we are called to become is a person on mission.

Christ-followers are people who are on mission with Jesus. To be on mission means to live with intentionality, purpose, a reason. A mission is not simply a hobby, a passion, or an activity that fits our personality type. A mission is an assignment given by someone in authority, and the recipient is then asked to live their life in a way that accomplishes that mission. When Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:18–19 ESV) he was affirming his authority and giving us our mission. The Great Commission of our God is not so concerned with what people *are doing*, but with who people *are becoming*. Jesus wants to make us into disciples, and then He works with us on a co-mission to make other disciples. Being a disciple is an identity. That is who Jesus wants us to be when we grow up.

Being a person on mission does not require a certain vocation. Being a person on mission means that I can be doing anything, anywhere. The field we chose to study and the jobs that we chose to have are simply the specific spheres in which we are people on mission.

So who do you want to become? Hopefully, as we grow in maturity, our answer to this question evolves as well.

Faith Seeking Understanding

Direction for the College of Ministry

DR. JOSHUA ZIEFLE

Dean, College of Ministry

Nearly a thousand years ago, a Christian theologian named Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109) coined the phrase *fides quaerens intellectum*. Roughly translated as “faith seeking understanding,” this bold statement has had lasting impact. For Anselm, the motto described the shape of his life’s work.

Beginning from a place of faith, he sought to go deeper in his apprehension of who God is, what God is all about, and how the truth of God might be better explained. This approach led Anselm to develop a classic apologetic proof of the existence of God (the oft-cited “ontological argument”) as well as the still-vibrant *Cur Deus Homo?*, which asks—and answers—the question of why God became human.

Though I cannot remember exactly, my encounter with the phrase *fides quaerens intellectum* likely took place during college. By my senior year I was studying systematic theology, and one of my textbooks was titled *Faith Seeking Understanding*. Hard to escape the idea there. During my time in seminary a few years later, I encountered the book again, this time accompanied by its author (and now my professor), Dr. Daniel Migliore. In the years since, I have taken Anselm’s phrase as a deeply personal statement of my own approach to faith, learning, and education.

The implications of “faith seeking understanding” at Northwest University are clear. As an academic institution committed to spiritual vitality, academic excellence, and

empowered engagement with human need, we take seriously our charge to help all of our students comprehend more of Christ and his call on our lives. Enshrined in the University’s motto, “carry the call,” Northwest keeps the work of God—and our deepened understanding of it—paramount. Our faculty, regardless of academic discipline, are daily at work integrating their faith in all they do. Campus Ministries provides our community not only chapel services, but many varied opportunities for students to deepen their faith through prayer, service, missions, and small group ministry. Two of our core University courses challenge students to consider their identity and vocation in Christ and our shared call to live out the Christian faith in contemporary society. And, of course, the College of Ministry continues to serve our school by providing a foundational set of required courses in Bible and theology for all of our undergraduate students.

The name “College of Ministry” is an interesting one, because its relationship to the training of ministers is broader than one might expect. For while we might be tempted to see the College of Ministry as only concerned with preparation of the next generation of pastors and missionaries, this is merely part of the picture. After all, we believe that each Christ-follower is called, without question, to be a minister whatever their occupation or discipline of study. In the words of the apostle Paul, God “gave us the ministry of reconciliation...entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us” (2 Corinthians 5:18-20 ESV). The lawyer, the small business owner, the historian,





“

*The College of Ministry
serves our community
by helping make it
one where faith truly
seeks understanding.*

”

the stay-at-home parent, and the pastor; each can in their own way be a minister. Each in their own way serves the Kingdom of God. Each has talents given to them by the Lord and is called to invest them in the work to which we are all called.

In light of this reality, the College of Ministry serves our community by helping make it one where faith truly seeks understanding. In addition to teaching the Bible to students from many and varied majors, our faculty (all ordained ministers) stand ready to serve as spiritual mentors for the students under our care. And, since at one point or another all Northwest students have classes with us, they are all truly our students. They do not stop being so after completing our required core classes, either. Over the years I have served here, we have seen students interested in digging deeper into their faith and Christian service, enroll in additional elective courses in the College of Ministry—a nursing major wanting to learn more about youth ministry, a psychology major hoping to dig deeper into classic works of Christian devotion, a math student taking an additional major in ministry. Each of these and more represent the opportunity we in the College of Ministry have to invest in current and rising Christian servant leaders.

It goes without saying that the College of Ministry has a more specific mission as well. For insofar as all Christians are called to be ministers of Christ in the varied circumstances of their lives, we also know that some are called to serve the Church in more focused ways. Preparing such individuals for a lifetime of faithful service in pastoral ministry is therefore essential to our work. The unique and privileged role we have to train women and men for pastoral ministry is a charge we take very seriously. A deep exploration of Scripture, a solid commitment to theological reflection, and a focused embrace of the skills and approaches necessary for practical ministry underscore our continued efforts.

As the College of Ministry moves ahead into the heart of the 21st century, I look forward to the continued training of pastors and missionaries at Northwest University. I believe this involves a series of commitments and goals that represent the best of what we can be in service to the Lord. These include: a) personal and corporate focus on the Spirit-empowered life of ministry that embraces the mission of Christ, b) an invigorated commitment to serve the Church and world, c) an education that consistently links the “why” with the “how,” d) academic commitment and quality on the part of faculty and students that is evident both inside and outside Northwest University, e) a deep sense of *koinonia*

for those training for vocational ministry, and f) hands-on ministry preparation that lends itself to effective and faithful servant-leadership.

While the church-based ministers my colleagues and I train in the College of Ministry may be among the most visible and immediate aspects of our work, such efforts do not exhaust the work to which we are called. We do not simply serve individual churches; we serve the Church. We serve the Church, of course, through training pastors. We serve the Church by providing a vital foundation for Christian students at Northwest who are called to minister in occupations as varied as business, nursing, psychology, and education. We serve the Church in the theological, biblical, and pastoral scholarship with which we engage. And, finally, we serve the Church by participating in our local congregations—a responsibility to be part of the body of Christ common to all Christian believers regardless of training or background.

In his famous book *Celebration of Discipline*, author Richard Foster reminds us of a stark reality: “Superficiality is the curse of our age...the desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.”¹ By this, of course, he means people who are deep in the things of God. Christ followers who, in other words, have a faith that never stops seeking understanding. I could not agree more. I also believe that the work taking place in the College of Ministry has to do with such depth—the same kind implied in Anselm’s famous maxim. A deep faith, after all, is one that is vital, reflective, and engaged with human need. It is just this kind of faith enshrined in Northwest University’s mission.

In the end, faith seeking understanding is a task completed neither in a Sunday morning service nor a four-year college career. It is the work of a lifetime of desiring more and more of a God whose “understanding no one can fathom” (Isaiah 40:28 NIV). Despite the paradox of seeking to comprehend a God who is infinitely more than us, we press on to embrace the biblical charge to “grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge” (Ephesians 3:18-19 NIV). The Northwest University College of Ministry has the unique privilege to provide a foundation for such faithful exploration for all of our students. It will continue to embrace this work of active faith and empowered understanding, both now and in all the years to come, until our Lord returns.

¹ Richard Foster, “*Celebration of Discipline*,” 1.

A LOT HAS CHANGED. OUR VALUES

The History of

Much has changed in the last 80 years, but Northwest's commitment to providing a top-tier, Christ-centered education has remained constant. Since its founding in 1934, Northwest University has been shaped into what it is today by those who have shared a passion for its mission.

NU owes its beginnings to a young pastor named Henry H. Ness. Ness moved from Fargo, North Dakota, to Seattle after being invited to become the pastor of Hollywood Temple. Shortly after arriving, he had an impression from God that he should start a Bible school. Ness approached the Northwest District of the Assemblies of God about his idea and offered the Hollywood Temple as the campus.

Later that year, he became the first president of Northwest Bible Institute.

Under his successor, Charles Butterfield, the institution changed its name to Northwest College of the Assemblies of God. But Butterfield was responsible for overseeing an even greater change: the move to Kirkland. In 1955, the city of Seattle proposed the new I-5 freeway that would cut through the middle of campus. One day, while visiting the east side of Lake Washington, Butterfield began to pray and sensed that this was where the new campus was supposed to be.

He pursued the purchase of land and structures, but was rejected. Still, Butterfield continued



Henry H. Ness



Hollywood Temple



UNIVERSITIES HAVEN'T: NU.

to believe that Kirkland was the right place for Northwest—and it turned out he was right. In 1958, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare awarded Northwest Bible College 22 acres for one-dollar. That summer, construction started and the campus we know today began to come to life.

Since its move to Kirkland, NU has continued to grow while rooted in the values and mission established by Henry H. Ness. In 2006, what began as a Bible institute became a full-fledged University.

Today, Northwest University offers over 70 programs and equips missionaries of every profession throughout the world.



Kirkland Campus, 1966

College of Business

Two new full-time faculty members joined the College of Business this fall. Dr. Shannon Fletcher is the new business faculty lead for the adult evening and online programs. She is also teaching business communications in the traditional undergraduate program. Jeremy Chambers is the new marketing faculty member. He was an adjunct faculty member for several years and is also an NU graduate. Additionally, our undergraduate sales program is listed in the 2018 Annual Sales Education Foundation magazine as one of the top sales programs in the country.

College of Ministry

This fall, the College of Ministry welcomed its new Dean, Dr. Joshua Ziefle. He comes to the post after serving both in ministry and as a professor at Northwest. He brings to the role a reinvigorated commitment to serve the church and invest in our students. This fall we also launched a brand-new master's degree in church revitalization, adding this to the three other master's degrees we currently offer. We look forward to a good year ahead, during which we will be bringing a new intercultural studies professor on board.

School of Nursing

Dr. Carl Christensen is retiring after almost 20 years as Dean of the Buntain School of Nursing (BSON). Under his leadership, the program has grown from a cohort of 14 to 48 students and has added two new online programs: registered nurse to bachelor of science in nursing (RN-BSN) and the master of science in nursing (MSN). Northwest University has appointed Dr. Erin-Joy Bjorge to assume the role of Dean on January 1, 2019. Dr. Bjorge has a doctorate of nursing practice in educational leadership. Her research measured the impact of a cultural immersion experience on cultural competence among baccalaureate nursing students.



THE STARTING PLACE FOR DISCIPLESHIP

BY: BRITNEY MALCOLMSON

God’s “no” is often His invitation to a greater “yes.” This principle is one that I have been faced with over and over throughout my walk with Christ.

The first time I was confronted with God’s “no” was in early high school. All the girls in the youth group were being discipled by the youth pastor’s wife—meaning they were meeting with her one-on-one regularly and learning about what life with Jesus looked like. I deeply desired the same time and care from this youth leader, but my parents strongly said “no;” they did not understand why I wanted this other person to speak into my life. The “no” was devastating. I did not understand it, and I honestly felt like God was withholding from me.

But as I look back, I see that this specific “no” created a fork in the road for my walk with God. Either I could turn away in anger, or I could keep showing up in the ways He placed before me. By the grace of God, I chose to stay in it with Him, and it made all the difference.

In response to the “no,” I dug into the only resource I had available to me at the time—a small backpack Bible given to me by a friend. I started with the book of Luke, and in one sitting I ended up highlighting every word of the first three chapters. I did not yet understand what I was reading, but I wanted to. As I kept turning the pages of God’s Word day after day, I fell in love with it. I started a one-year Bible reading plan and stuck with it—feelings of duty quickly transitioning into feelings of delight (even though our flesh always thinks it will be the other way around). Years went by and I was reading through the Bible every year; it was changing me, softening me, transforming me, and anchoring me.

Then one day in college, while reading my Bible, the Holy Spirit brought to mind a profound realization that brought me to my knees with humbled thanksgiving—the Word of God had mentored me. The Word of God had been discipling me for years and years. I had so

desperately wanted flesh and blood to give me all the answers, but God graciously and sovereignly rerouted me to find Him first and foremost in His Word. The previous painful “no” in high school was actually His invitation to a greater “yes.” And I knew with my whole being that if He had not said, “no” I might not have sought and cherished, pondered and devoured His Word the way I had and still do today. I now know that it was His supreme grace to tell me “no.”

I share that background story to say this: by God’s grace, you will never find the perfect person to disciple you, you will never complete the perfect process or system of discipleship, and you will never read the perfect book (lowercase “b”) to disciple you. All those things are helpful and should be utilized as secondary resources, but ultimately and primarily, discipleship is not found in a human or a system; discipleship comes through relationship with Jesus, the Word-made-flesh. Discipleship comes through showing up in the Word He’s given us—studying it, soaking it in, asking questions of it, and staying in it.

And when it comes to our discipling others, here’s the beauty and freedom of it: our discipleship to Jesus—our following Him and learning from Him first and foremost—will naturally overflow into our discipling others. In the New Testament, we see Jesus sneak away from the disciples and from the crowds in order to get alone with God the Father. It was the overflow of that quiet time, and the power of the Holy Spirit, that fueled Christ’s mission and ministry, and it is the same for us today.

Therefore, may it be our conviction that when it comes to discipleship, we are to seek Jesus first and call others to Him first as well. If we skip Christ and move first to a book, process, or human being, we will be modern day Pharisees—calling people to perfection and performance, rather than inviting them into personal relationship with a Person, the Word-made-flesh, the only One who provides whole-person, Holy Spirit empowered transformation.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR | Brittney Malcolmson is the College Ministry and Leadership Institute Director at Reach Church, which meets just a few minutes away from Northwest University. Brittney lives in Kirkland with her husband, Benjamin, and loves hosting students for their weekly college group meetings. In her spare time, she loves reading, cooking healthy yet still delicious meals, and then reading some more. Brittney graduated from NU in 2014 with a bachelor’s degree in communications. She is currently finishing her last semester at Western Seminary and will graduate with a master’s degree in biblical and theological studies.

Koelsch Communities

PRESENTS

Northwest University's

10TH ANNIVERSARY

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Benaroya Hall - S. Mark Taper Foundation Auditorium

*Featuring the Northwest University Concert and Chamber Choirs,
joined by Coro Amici and the Kirkland Civic Orchestra.*

Now in its tenth season, this concert continues to celebrate the traditions of Christmas! It will feature new carol arrangements, traditional Christmas selections, and favorite sing-alongs. Conducted by William Owen.

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE BENAROYA HALL TICKET OFFICE:

206-215-4747 or 1-866-833-4747

Presented by:

KOELSCH

COMMUNITIES
SINCE 1958



Northwest
UNIVERSITY

UPCOMING EVENTS



Christmas Tree Lighting | November 29, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Northwest University Campus



Christmas Traditions Concert | December 4, 2018

6:30 p.m. Alumni and Parent Reception

7:30 p.m. Concert

Benaroya Hall—Seattle, Washington



Choralons Concert | December 7, 2018

6:30 p.m. Alumni and Parent Reception

7:30 p.m. Concert

Eastside Foursquare Church—Bothell, Washington



President's Banquet | February 22, 2019

7:00 p.m.

The Westin Bellevue—Bellevue, Washington



District Council Alumni Reception | April 2019

Various District Council Locations



New Alumni Breakfast | May 10, 2019

Northwest University Campus



50th Reunion Alumni Celebration | May 11, 2019

Overlake Christian Church—Redmond, Washington

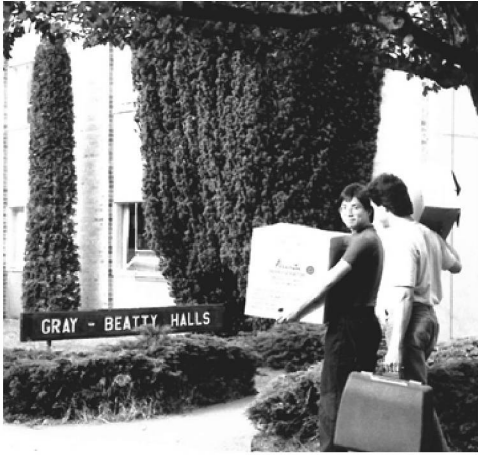


Commencement | May 11, 2019

2:00 p.m.

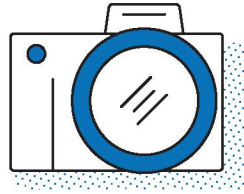
Overlake Christian Church—Redmond, Washington

Visit northwestu.edu/events for a complete list of Northwest University events.



Do you have any snapshots from your time at NU that you'd like to share with the community? If so, submit them to passages@northwestu.edu.





SNAPSHOTS

NU THROUGH THE YEARS



The Bible:

An Old Book, Yet Always New

DR. BLAINE CHARETTE

Professor, College of Ministry

One thing that makes the study of the Bible a source of continuing interest and enjoyment is that there are always new discoveries to make. You can study a passage you thought you understood very well, and yet find fresh meaning you missed before. I remember when I first considered working on a PhD in Matthew's Gospel, I was quite intimidated at the prospect that I would need to produce an original piece of research. How could I possibly come up with new insight on a book that had been studied and pored over for 2,000 years and by some of the best minds in history? And yet I need not have worried. The more I study the Bible, the more aware I become of areas of research that still need to be done. This should not surprise us since there is something living and robust about God's Word that makes its study an invigorating and open-ended exercise.

A common mistake many Christians make in their reading of the Bible is to assume that there is one best or proper interpretation of a particular passage, and that once we have learned it, we are good. Certainly it is important to interpret the Bible carefully in order to exclude improper readings of the biblical text. For example, a passage cannot mean something that would be totally outside the frame of reference of the biblical author or of the first readers of the text. However, it would be

mistaken to think that we can arrive at a "once for all" reading of a passage which completely exhausts its meaning and thus eliminates the need for further study.

What makes the study of the Bible so exciting is that every year we learn a little more about the world of ancient Israel or of the early church, with the result that about every generation, or so a major shift occurs that profoundly affects the way we read particular passages and even books. For example, greater insight into the context and beliefs of the Jewish people in the centuries prior to the birth of Jesus has profoundly shaped the way we now read the Gospels and Paul's letters. Also, greater understanding of literary strategies and rhetorical styles common in the ancient world give us new insights that can transform the way in which we read particular texts. The text, of course, remains the same. Yet because our knowledge of what lies behind the text is always advancing, the meaning we find in the text changes.

It is my hope, as a teacher of the Bible, to help students catch a vision for the promise and potential that attaches to an appropriate and prayerful approach to the Bible. Historically, whenever the Bible has been given its due, the church is strengthened and energized and the world is more effectively challenged by the voice of God. One of

A common mistake many Christians make in their reading of the Bible is to assume that there is one best or proper interpretation of a particular passage, and that once we have learned it, we are good.

my greatest frustrations as a teacher is how often students allow their ‘pre-understanding’ of the text, by which I mean their previous assumptions about the passage, to prevent them from exploring deeper and richer understandings of the text. We are often unaware of the presuppositions and biases we bring to our reading of Scripture. And yet if we do not seriously examine this tendency, we close ourselves off from what the Bible wishes to communicate and thus cut ourselves off from one of the primary ways God chooses to speak to us.

C. S. Lewis makes an interesting case for the reading of “old books.” He argues that since each era has its own particular point of view, which means the people of that time period are good at seeing certain truths, but at the same time blind to other truths, we need to read the books from past eras that will help us see more clearly in order to correct the characteristic blind spots of our own time. The Bible is an “old book” and certainly one that helps us to see beyond the limited perspective of our own era. Yet the Bible can be best described as an “old book” that is continually a “new book” in the sense that as we read it wisely and skillfully, the Spirit of God speaks through it in new and fresh ways that challenge our biases and transform us into a people who are wise and effective within their own particular time and place.



HONORING OUR *EXCEPTIONAL ALUMNI*

As a University, there are few things we delight in more than the successes of our alumni. It is a privilege to watch our students go out from Northwest University to impact the world for Christ, and we are always thrilled to receive stories of how they are doing just that. We are so proud of these two individuals and the work they've done since graduation.



Dr. Troy H. Jones

Alumnus of the Year

This year's Alumnus of the Year award was presented to Dr. Troy H. Jones. Troy can remember feeling called to be a preacher early in his life at a church camp. With this new sense of calling, he quickly narrowed his search for a college that would support his ministerial goals. Northwest University quickly became his first choice. Equipped with a Bible Quiz scholarship, Troy set out to earn his ministry degree.

Since his time at NU, Troy entered full time ministry and has become one of America's leading experts on leading

change and recalibrating established churches. Some of this time was spent as a District Youth Director (DYD) with the Assemblies of God. Troy credits those 5 years as a DYD with sparking his passion for helping pastors and leaders. "What I've done is developed a system that helps a pastor lead, with what I call a MCI (a mission critical initiative), which is a clear, time-bound initiative that will move your church forward." He has earned a reputation as an ardent advocate and contributor to church growth across the country, and is equally passionate about personal growth.

He is also the lead pastor of New Life Church, an innovative multisite church with 4 locations in the Pacific Northwest and over 5,000 in attendance each weekend. He has authored a number of books including his latest, *Recalibrate Your Church: How Your Church Can Reach Its Full Kingdom Impact*. Troy is a sought-after speaker, coach, and consultant, specializing in helping established church leaders cultivate momentum and create a culture of change.

Troy resides in Renton, Washington, with his wife of 28 years. They are passionate about healthy marriages and serving the local church. The pride of their lives are their two daughters, son in law, and two grandchildren.



Austin Robinson

Young Alumnus of the Year

2018's Young Alumnus of the Year is Austin Robinson. Mr. Robinson currently runs a home for children with disabilities and related school/ministries in rural Mexico as a part of a nonprofit called "Eternal Anchor" that he founded after graduating from NU. Eternal Anchor is a loving home, school and community outreach program for children and adults with special needs in rural Baja California, Mexico. Eternal Anchor now has a team of staff and volunteers working hard to educate and support the families of those with special needs. Mr. Robinson chose the name "Eternal Anchor" to point children and families in very unsteady situations to Jesus, the true Eternal Anchor for our souls (referencing Hebrews 6:19).

Mr. Robinson graduated Northwest University in 2009. In addition to running Eternal Anchor, he also serves as an adoptive dad to three young boys with disabilities. We are so proud of Austin and the work he's doing in Mexico.

HELP US HONOR OUR AMAZING ALUMNI

Know someone who should be nominated for next year's awards? Let us know. Here are the criteria:

- All nominees must be graduates from a Northwest University program. *(This includes those graduates from the former Northwest Bible Institute, Northwest Bible College, Northwest College, and Northwest University)*
- All nominees should reflect the ideals of Northwest University in his or her commitment to faith, profession, and the NU community.
- All nominees should have demonstrated support for the mission, vision, and values of Northwest University.
- Young alumnus of the year nominees must have graduated within the last ten years.

*Send the name, class year, and a short bio, along with why you think this nominee should be considered to **alumni@northwestu.edu** to nominate your recipient. Help us honor our alumni through the most prestigious award the alumni association gives.*





SUMMER ALUMNI PICNIC

Over the summer, we held our first annual Summer Alumni Picnic. Over 90 alumni and family members came together at Perrigo Park in Redmond for a fun afternoon of playing volleyball and enjoying Chipotle. After the tournament ended, Colleen Idso was recognized for her years of service on the Alumni Board.

HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND

In the fall, NU hosted another favorite alumni event: Homecoming and Family Weekend. This two-day event was packed full of activities that included a bonfire, tailgate, and a volleyball game (that NU won!). The weekend also included alumni improv, reunions and open houses, an exhibit on the history of NU, and chapel services honoring our Alumnus and Young Alumnus of the Year. Over 300 people came to campus to celebrate the NU community.



SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

A particularly special moment during Homecoming and Family Weekend was our annual Scholarship Reception. At this gathering, students were able to meet the generous people who gave toward the scholarships that fund their education. Over 100 people attended, and NU student Jelsy Gundao addressed them with a wonderful speech.





TRUSTEE **MATCHING** CHALLENGE

GIVE TO NU, REACH THE WORLD (TWICE)

From now until the end of December, every gift you give to the Trustee Matching Challenge will go twice as far. **Thanks to our trustees, every donation is instantly doubled—up to \$25,000!** That means even more students will receive scholarships to be built up by the quality of our Christ-centered education. Once these students graduate, they go out into all of the world to transform it for Christ.

When you give today, your generosity won't just be doubled—it will have eternal impact.

Watch your inbox for more details, or go to northwestu.edu/challenge to give online.



Northwest
UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI UPDATES

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

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

Visit northwestu.edu/alumni/update if you have an update or a favorite memory you'd like to share with Northwest.

1950s



Dale Montgomery ('58)

Dale Montgomery ('58) thinks fondly of his time at Northwest and feels it was the most valuable four years he ever spent. After he graduated, he and his wife, Beulah, helped

to start an Assemblies of God church in Walnut Creek, California. In 1964 they moved to Amanda Park, Washington to pastor a church, followed by a pastoral position in Leavenworth, Wash. After many years in Leavenworth, Dale sold insurance until he was asked to be an Associate Pastor at The Lighthouse Foursquare Church in Kenmore, Wash. On December 12, 2007, Dale's wife, Beulah passed away. In the fall of 2008, God worked an amazing miracle in Dale's life when he brought him the blessing of an equally godly and faithful wife, Carol. Dale is 82 years old and continues to serve in ministry by teaching a downtown mission Bible study in Decatur, Illinois where he lives with his wife.



Pete Ahlstrom ('59)

After graduating, Pete Ahlstrom ('59) became the librarian of Northwest College from 1959 to 1967. After a series of library jobs, he ended up working at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida where he ran the tape and documentation library that supported the shuttle's firing rooms, and helped compile the firing rooms' daily software schedules. When that contract ended he became a master planner, helping to build a new shuttle launch site on California's Central Coast. It was intended to launch Air Force shuttles into polar orbit, but was converted to an unmanned launch site after the Challenger explosion. He continued as a defense planner for several years after that, mostly working on radars and night vision systems.

1970s

James Pemberton ('74)

For the last 30 years, James Pemberton ('74) has assisted in the immigrant/New American Community, helping approximately 14,000 families from over 140 countries resettle in about 40 states. He also wrote a book about "our God who does not fail."

1980s

Sherilynn Vineyard ('81)

Sherilynn (Tuthill, '81) has worked for almost 12 years at the Southwest Research Institute. She graduated from Texas A&M University-San Antonio in 2018 with a BBA in management and an HR management concentration. She currently holds a Certified Administrative Professional - Organizational Management designation from International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP). She is scheduled to attend SHRM National Conference in Chicago in mid-June and is studying to take the SHRM Certification Exam in July. Her husband is in his tenth year working at Walgreens. Both Sherilynn and her husband are amateur radio operators on KE5MHL and KA7SSR.

1990s



Kimberly Lapham ('91)

During her time as a student at Northwest, Kimberly Lapham (Zellers, '91) traveled for the drama team, A.C.T.S. for three years. During one of her summer promotional tours, she met her husband at Glacier Bible Camp in Hungry Horse, Montana. Her experience in

A.C.T.S. strengthened her love for people and travel and confirmed her calling into ministry. Now employed as the events coordinator for Global Disciples, her experience, skill, and joy are applied in a position with an international ministry. Global Disciples partners with churches in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to fulfill their vision to reach nearby least-reached people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2010s



Sara Wilkinson ('12)

Sara Wilkinson ('12) began her nursing career after graduating from Northwest by working at the University of Washington Health Science Center in the Cardiac Thoracic Intensive Care Unit (CTICU). She continued her education and

recently graduated from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) with her doctorate of nursing practice degree with a concentration in nurse anesthesia. Dr. Wilkinson was elected as the president of UTHSC during her time at the university. She graduated with honors and was awarded the Doctorate of Nursing Practice Leadership Award recognizing her outstanding leadership during the last three years at UTHSC. She was inducted into the IMHOTEP Society, was the recipient of the Student Service Award, and received the American Association of Nurse Anesthesia Student of Excellence National Award. Dr. Wilkinson will be practicing at LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Rachel Peash ('16)

After receiving her degree in biology, Rachel Peash (Ballou, '16) began working at The Genesis Project in SeaTac, Wash. to assist women involved in sex trafficking. About a year later, she moved to North Carolina to study at Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine. This past May, she graduated from medical school, and she matched at her number one program choice, Providence Saint Peter Hospital in Olympia, Washington. She is excited to start her residency program as a family medicine physician and begin helping women and teens involved in domestic violence and sex trafficking.

DOWNLOAD THE APP

This free app is the best way for alumni, parents, and friends of NU to engage with the University.

Type in "NorthwestU Connect" in your app store or text "NUAPP" to 779-77 to download.



STAFF AND FACULTY UPDATES

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

College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Renee Bourdeaux (Assistant Professor, Communication Studies) co-authored "The Christian Narrative Around Online Dating & How it Shapes Single Christian's Rationale for Using Online Dating" with five NU students. She also co-authored the paper, "Contrapuntal Analysis of Family Communication: Examining Dialectics in Emerging Adulthood." Both papers were presented at the National Communications Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

She also chaired a panel that included **Chrystal Helmcke** (Assistant Professor, Communication Studies and Theatre Arts) and **Dr. Will Mari** (Assistant Professor, Communication Studies) at the National Communications Conference.

Dr. Will Mari (Assistant Professor, Communication Studies) published "Not Just Another Trade Pub" in the Society of Professional Journalists' magazine *Quill*.

Dr. Greg Spyridis (Associate Professor, Chemistry) was a co-author of the article, "Activation Parameters for the Reversible Hydration of Pyruvic Acid," published in *Current Topics in Catalysis*.

Dr. Jeremiah Webster (Associate Professor, English) published three poems in the latest issue of *Relief: A Journal of Art and Faith*. They likewise were selected for the Editor's Choice Award. In addition, the second edition of his book of poetry, *After So Many Fires*, has been released.

College of Business

Dr. Rowlanda Cawthon (Assistant Professor, Management) and **Dr. Ben Thomas** (Associate Provost) presented a session, "How to Write (or Revise) Effective Student Learning Outcomes" at the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs Conference.

Dr. Don Doty (Professor, Business Management) presented "Disciple-Making Leadership and Sustainability" at the Christian Business Faculty Association and "Follower-Making Leadership" at the Academy of Management.

Tony Pizelo (Associate Professor, Business) successfully defended his dissertation, *An Exploratory Study Examining a Transformational Salesperson Model Mediated by Salesperson Theory-of-Mind*.

College of Education

Dr. Tom Alsbury (Professor, Education) was the opening keynote speaker for the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) at the California Governance Policy Institute.

Dr. Jeremy Delamarter (Associate Professor, Education) presented a paper, "Race and Re-Imagination: Pre-Service Teachers of Color and Their Expectations of Teaching" at the National Race and Pedagogy Conference of University of Puget Sound in Washington state.

Dr. Suzan Kobashigawa (Professor, Education and TESL) presented “Communication in the Workplace” at the Transitions Conference of Japanese Education Teaching Program (JET).

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Jenny Harris (Associate Professor, Psychology) presented the following poster sessions at the meeting of the Western Psychological Association in Portland, Oregon: 1) “An Exploration of Academic Achievement: The Role of Sleep and Mood,” 2) “Difference Between Public and Private Attorney in Drug Courts,” and 3) “Difference Between Private and Public Attorneys in Plea Negotiation.” At the same conference, Dr. Harris co-presented the following poster sessions with students: 1) “The Effects of Depression on Motivation to Change in Adolescents Who Continue to Drink Despite Consequences,” 2) “The Effects of Mindfulness and Exercise on Academic Self-Efficacy,” and 3) “The Impact That Perceptions of Guilt Has on Public Versus Private Attorney Defense.” Dr. Harris was a co-presenter of the paper, “Legal and Non-Legal Factors Considered in Plea Negotiations for Drug Cases” at the American Psychology and Law Society in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. Kim Lampson (Professor, Psychology) was the panel chair and discussant for the session, “Never Discuss Religion or Politics in Polite Company” at the Association of Psychology Training Clinics Conference in Maui, Hawaii.

Buntain School of Nursing

Dr. Erin-Joy Bjorge (Associate Dean) successfully defended her dissertation, *The Impact of Cultural Immersion Experience on Developing Cultural Competence Among Baccalaureate Nursing Students*.

Dr. Merry van Zoeren (Visiting Assistant Professor, Nursing) successfully defended her dissertation, *New Nurse Self Directed Learner Readiness in Relationship to Hospital Patient Safety Culture from the Preceptor’s Perspective*.

Center for Calling and Theological Formation

Dr. Earl Creps (Director and Professor) presented on “Evidence-Based Leadership” at the 2018 Northwest Ministry Conference.

College of Adult and Professional Studies

Dr. Debbie Lamm Bray (Director of Academic Services, Salem campus) was a co-author of the article, “Relational Responsibility as a Motivator for Women to Lead,” published in *Journal of Leadership Studies*.

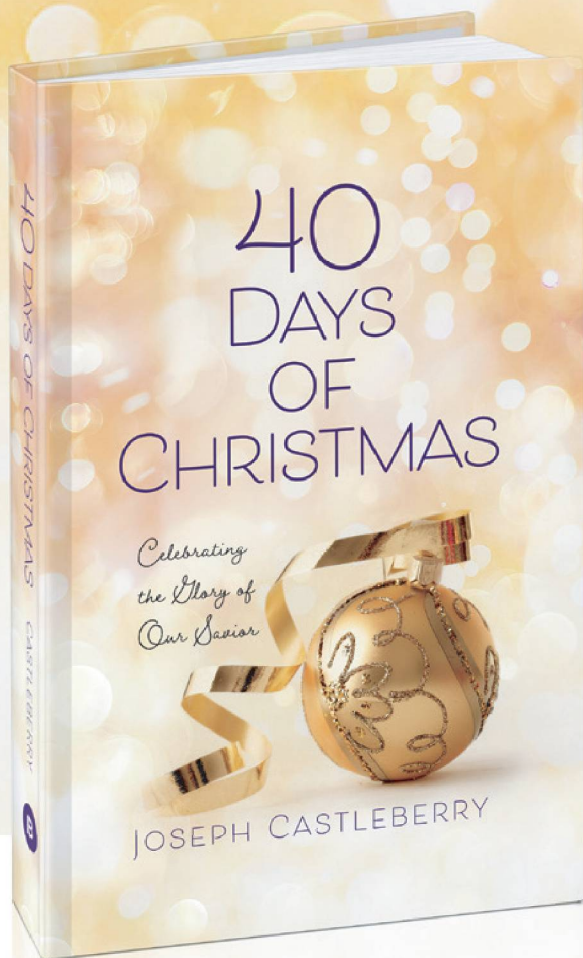
Office of the President

President Joseph Castleberry hosted a scholarly conference funded by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, entitled U.S.-Mexico Relations in 2018: Challenges and Opportunities. His keynote speech was “Mexico and the United States: Closer than Ever Before.” The event took place on the Northwest University campus on November 1.



P.O. Box 579
Kirkland, WA 98083-0579

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



Celebrating the Glory of Our Savior

**A 40-day personal devotional of the
Christmas season covering the Advent,
the birth of Christ, and the epiphany.
Perfect as a gift for family and friends.**

All proceeds and royalties benefit the opportunity fund at
Northwest University. Available for a \$15 donation
per book at northwestu.edu/40Days.