

# NORTHWEST PASSAGES

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY | WINTER 2019



**SIOBHON MCMANUS '16**  
**RETURN TO GUAM**

---

**CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE**  
**ON SUSTAINABILITY**

---

**ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR**



**Northwest**  
UNIVERSITY

# The Legacy of Northwest University



I recently attended a meeting hosted by The Signatry, an organization that helps Christians set up donor-advised funds to facilitate philanthropy. Famous for its work with the Green Family, which founded (and returned to God the ownership of) Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., The Signatry focuses not just on helping wealthy people ensure that their assets pass on to their heirs after their deaths, but also on *legacy planning*—training heirs to carry on their family’s values in their own lives and in their giving.

We often use the word *legacy* to refer to nothing more than an inheritance, but its historical usage adds a deeper dimension. Derived from the French word, *legacie*, the English word originally referred to a “body of persons sent on a mission.” In Latin, the related word *legatus* referred to an “ambassador, envoy, or deputy.” ***Our true legacy is the band of people we leave to carry on our values, not just the resources we leave to empower them.***

Deep in biblical revelation lies the concept of people as God’s legates. Genesis 1:26–28 declares the creation of humans as bearers of God’s likeness and image,

sent out into the world to exercise God’s rule—like sheriffs wearing a badge. Sin has complicated the mission, but we still carry the badge of God’s image. Christ has redeemed us and sends us out as His legacy through the Great Commission—as apostles, envoys, and deputies of God’s Kingdom. As Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:20, “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal [to reconciliation] through us” (NIV).

The Great Commission determines the mission of Northwest University. Our mission statement—intentionally based on Genesis 1:28 and Matthew 28:19—lays it all out: “We the people of Northwest University carry the call of God.” We are Christ’s legacy and the legacy of our founders—the people whose names grace our buildings, along with the unsung heroes that helped them carry out the Great Commission and sent out successive generations of image bearers and Kingdom deputies. Their legacy involves far more than just a campus and academic traditions and collegiate culture. Every college achieves that, but not every college

preserves the same values and mission as its founders. At Northwest, the apostolate of our founders has thrived, and with determination we pass it on to a new legacy, the current generation of students—even as we recruit the ones who will follow them next semester (and even next week or next month, in our many rolling starts for non-traditional programs).

The readers of *Passages*—alumni, parents, friends, donors, and others—represent the legacy of Northwest University. Even the casual reader who picks up this issue and feels inspired to serve God with greater passion and commitment becomes part of our posse. As you read this issue, we hope you will commit yourselves anew to our legacy.

Sincerely,

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

### DESIGNERS

Amy St.Clair

Ryan Kropf

Jess Steinruck

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

John Vicory

Tyler Milligan

Jake Campbell

Matthew Lee

### CONTACT

[passages@northwestu.edu](mailto: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.

Northwest University is accredited by:



# C O N T E N T S



6



12



20

- 4 Mission
- 6 Empowering the Future
- 8 Spiritual Crisis and Christian Higher Education
- 10 Achievers and Scholars
- 12 Changing the World: By Design
- 14 Return to Guam
- 16 To Tend and Keep: A Christian Perspective on Sustainability
- 18 Snapshots
- 20 Christmas Traditions Concert
- 21 Upcoming Events
- 22 Alumnus of the Year
- 23 Trustee Challenge
- 24 Alumni Updates
- 25 Event Recaps
- 26 Staff and Faculty Updates



**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.**

# AN **UNWAVERING** MISSION

---

Our mission statement is more to us than just a summary of values or an effort to inspire our community. It is an arrow pointing us back to that which is most important in the life of a Christian university: our roots in Christ. Our prayer is that our deep commitment to advancing the kingdom of God would spill over into all that we do—especially into how we prepare our students for the future. And each year, as pastors, nurses, business leaders, musicians, and more walk across the commencement stage to receive their diploma, our mission expands beyond the walls of Northwest University into the far reaches of the world.

In this issue, we are excited to share stories from a few inspiring members of our community who embody the three pillars of our mission statement: spiritual vitality, academic excellence, and empowered engagement with human need. We are proud of the legacy these alumni and faculty are leaving, and we are honored to call them part of the NU family.



# EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

REDUCING TUITION FOR  
MINISTRY MAJORS

---

**DR. JOSHUA ZIEFLE**

DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF MINISTRY

For those called to full-time ministry, the contemporary world is an increasingly complex place. Cultural change is ever accelerating, the costs of education are always increasing, and humanity's need for the transforming power of the gospel continues unabated. In response, the College of Ministry at Northwest University is committed to training a rising generation of Spirit-led pastors and church leaders who will carry the call of God into the heart of the 21st century.

**That's why we have named our new initiative "Empowering the Future."**

This vision for ministry training continues the high level of academic instruction we've always

had, but adds a significant financial commitment to our students. It also involves increased interactions with pastors and church leaders who will be investing in our students inside and outside the classroom. Whether through the efforts of our teaching faculty—all of whom are ordained ministers—or the presence of church leaders in the classroom, we are committed to the time-honored idea of apprenticeship: pastors training pastors.

As Northwest Ministry Network leader Dr. Don Ross says, “The new College of Ministry initiative is the practical application of Paul’s words to Timothy to ‘... entrust [these things] to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others’ (2 Tim. 2:2 NIV). Pastors training pastors is not only brilliant, it’s biblical, and I urge every church in our fellowship to support it.”

The Empowering the Future initiative consists of four essential pieces.

**SPIRIT-EMPOWERED LEADERSHIP: We seek the presence and power of God in all we do.**

Students and faculty in the College of Ministry are ready for the work of the Spirit inside and outside the classroom. In scheduled lectures and discussions, mentoring conversations with professors and church leaders, and ministry work in the local church, the presence of the Spirit is vital. Professors and pastors are modeling a hunger for the power of God as they invest in our students.

**21ST CENTURY CRITICAL THINKING: We provide education at the intersection of theology, ministry practice, and cultural engagement.**

The College of Ministry desires to train new leaders for our ever-changing and complex world. This involves a deep commitment to the truth of the gospel, top-notch academics, mentoring from high-capacity pastors, and informed engagement with human need. Pastoral practitioners from churches of every size will be present in multiple classroom settings to keep students aware of the practical realities in emerging fields of ministry.

**GROUNDBREAKING FINANCIAL INVESTMENT: We are dedicated to the financial well-being of the next generation of leaders.**

Northwest University is committed to significant financial investment in our Kirkland on-campus

College of Ministry students. Combined, these initiatives represent an effort to help students get the high-quality training they need without the fear of excessive cost. **Starting this year, Northwest University is providing a 50% tuition discount for every ministry major. They have also provided a path for every ministry major to graduate with no more than a reasonable amount of student loan debt** (for students entering 2019–2020, this amount is \$35,000).

**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE: We involve our students in significant on-the-ground learning.**

We know that ministry preparation consists of a number of components: classroom learning, mentoring, spiritual formation, and—importantly—hands-on experiential learning. In order to accomplish this, our students not only serve regularly in local churches, but also participate in dynamic supervised residencies, have opportunities for on-campus ministry, and are able to serve on staff at various local churches and ministries.

We hope that you’ll agree this refined vision for ministry training at Northwest University is something worth celebrating. I’m excited to be working with our excellent faculty and a growing cadre of pastors and ministry leaders—not to mention the ministry students we have the honor of training. I’m also thankful to be partnering with Dr. Troy Jones, lead pastor of New Life Church in Renton, Washington. Since earlier this year, he’s been working with us as a “cultural architect,” bringing his talents, years of experience, and passion to help us build our College of Ministry into what God is calling it to be.

Troy’s enthusiasm for our initiative speaks for itself: “Pouring into the next wave of pastors and ministers is the heart and soul of the College of Ministry. Our world needs Spirit-empowered and practically-trained leaders to lead the church of the 21st century.” With leaders like Troy Jones partnering with us to train the pastors of the future, it is an exciting time to be preparing for ministry at Northwest University.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, or for more information, see our website at [northwestu.edu/college-ministry](http://northwestu.edu/college-ministry).

As always, we covet your prayers as we continue to labor for the work ahead.



SPIRITUAL

# **CRISIS AND CHRISTIAN**

HIGHER EDUCATION

Each year at Northwest University we host a couple of days of New Student Orientation at the beginning of the academic year—perhaps the most exciting days of the year! Students and their parents tend to rave about the experience, as they plunge delightedly into life at a Christ-centered university. For those who transfer in from secular universities, the contrast can take their breath away. For a few days, students spend most of their time meeting roommates and classmates, comparing notes, sharing hopes, and basking in Christian community.

While the deeply Christian atmosphere will last for four years or more, the wild enthusiasm of the new academic year morphs into a more serious commitment to work by October, as the stresses of academic life get heavier and heavier around midterm. Winter gloom sets in by November, and by the time the Christmas break rolls around, most people are ready for a break. January then brings relief with a short revival of enthusiasm for a return to the goodness of life in a Christian community. Over the course of four years, the inevitable stressors of late to post-adolescent life itself—tragedies, romantic disappointments, sickness, social adjustment, disasters, economic need, family breakdown—often combine with intellectual questions to create challenges and even crises of faith.

Recent research conducted by Jennifer Carter, an assistant professor of leadership at our sister school, Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida, has pointed out that by the third year, students at Christian colleges often experience a spiritual crisis, despite the fact that such crises usually occur earlier at secular universities. While some readers misunderstood her research as suggesting that students are more likely to lose their faith at an evangelical college than at a



secular college, the research only suggests that spiritual crises come later at Christian colleges—not that such crises are more likely or that they necessarily result in the loss of faith.

I actually wrote my doctoral dissertation at Columbia University on the effects of college education on religious faith, so I have a certain amount of expertise on the topic and keep up with research on it. It is distressing to see so much false information “out there” about how colleges destroy faith. At Northwest University, we actually have data to prove our value proposition that Christian higher education helps students keep their faith. According to Northwest University senior student responses on the National Survey of Student Engagement, 91% of students “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the proposition: “I have a personally meaningful relationship with God.” While 8% of students neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement, **zero** students disagreed. We do have students who come to Northwest University every year without a strong faith—just checking the box—but almost no students leave us without faith in God. In responding to the proposition “This institution has reinforced values that I have always held,” 74% agreed or strongly agreed, while only 11% disagreed. Other data clearly demonstrates that students are challenged to grow in their faith here, while also suggesting that they deal with faith crisis during their collegiate years. That is no surprise: we are here particularly to help them grow through those naturally occurring times of crisis as they learn to “own” the faith they received or found in childhood.

I am firmly convinced that students can find no better place in the world to affirm and deepen their faith than Northwest University. But let me take this opportunity to explode another popular myth. According to sociologist Christian

Smith of the University of Notre Dame, the most recent data show that college students are 2.7 times more likely to report that their religious beliefs have strengthened during their college experience than that their beliefs weakened. It is true that many students at secular universities lose their faith during their college years, but college more likely serves to strengthen faith than to destroy it. Sociologists Mark D. Regnerus and Jeremy E. Uecker of the University of Texas in Austin found that young people who do not attend college “exhibit the most extensive patterns of religious decline.” In other words, young people are more likely to lose their faith if they do not attend college than if they do.

In general, Christian young people who want to grow in their faith should enroll at a university. I believe they will grow the most in their faith at a Christian school like Northwest, and I know that all of our professors, administrators, and staff, as well as fellow students, stand ready to help them in the inevitable times of crisis that come in the lives of twenty-somethings.

---

## BY DR. JOSEPH CASTLEBERRY



*For more writings from Dr. Castleberry, go to [northwestu.edu/president/blog](http://northwestu.edu/president/blog). Here, you can stay up to date with Dr. Castleberry as he writes about leadership, culture, theology, and the future of Northwest University.*



# ACHIEVERS AND SCHOLARS

---

## DR. CLINT BRYAN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

In 2018, Northwest University launched its honors program to provide advanced rigor for high achieving undergraduate students. To date, two cohorts (totaling approximately 22 students) have enrolled, taking core curriculum courses such as Honors English Composition II and Honors Environmental Science. While these classes are concentrated in the students' first two years on campus, it's the final aspect of their involvement, an honors thesis that they'll write during their junior and senior years and present in a showcase in their final semester, that has me most excited—and intimidated.

My trepidation comes from knowing that I'll be the instructor of record in this fall 2020



course, comprising students in almost 20 majors. With that noted, I'm excited about how this new thesis requirement will enhance a robust sense of academic excellence that Northwest students crave.

This desire for deeper research surfaced in the 2019 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) results from our graduates. The NSSE reports that "students learn firsthand how experts think about and solve problems by interacting with faculty members inside and outside instructional settings; as a result, faculty become role models, mentors, and guides for lifelong learning." Additionally, "effective teaching requires that faculty deliver course material and provide feedback in student-centered ways." These data continue to push us to grow.

Our education consultants, Ruffalo Noel Levitz, also collect data in the form of a Student Satisfaction Index (SSI) every two years. One of the highest areas that students in the 2017 survey noted is "the instruction in my major field is excellent." By requiring students to take three semesters to propose, conduct, and write an original research paper or creative work, working closely with a faculty mentor, the honors program committee hopes to capitalize on one of our greatest strengths: professors' knowledge in their academic areas.

Lenae Nofziger, associate professor of English and assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, voiced her support: "I see it as a win-win for all involved. Working collaboratively on an honors thesis provides a good opportunity for faculty members to move their own research projects forward while introducing students to hands-on research in various fields."

As the parent of an honors graduate from Lee University (my daughter Abby Stovall now works as Northwest's housing coordinator), I know that a rigorous education matters greatly to many families when selecting a college. Parents at our recent Presidential Scholars competition expressed hope that honors classes don't simply add pages and readings to

the workload, akin to high school AP classes. I reassured them that our honors curriculum is designed to meet the unique learning demands of high-achieving students, while enabling them to produce an original scholarly work. Many students will matriculate eventually to graduate programs. Having a well-crafted paper produced under the tutelage of a faculty member will help their admissions efforts.

Sophomore Tyler Kyte from Turlock, California, anticipates the thesis as a culmination of his Communication Studies degree, serving to "condense and identify the most important things I have learned in college." Kyte explained: "The opportunity to work with an expert in the field is an invaluable experience, especially since I plan to go to graduate school immediately following Northwest. For those of us in the honors program, having that one-on-one attention from a faculty member shows we've gleaned as much as we can from this university in terms of academic molding."

The honors program has been in the making for several years. Dr. Sarah Drivdahl, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, credits her own experience as an honors student for paving her way to the PhD and her career at Northwest: "Thesis experiences have the potential to push students to connect with their field in powerful, life-altering ways."

The honors taskforce includes Dr. Drivdahl; Professor Nofziger; Dr. Andrew Kaufmann, who will lead an honors team to Washington, D.C., this summer to meet lawmakers and lobbyists; Dr. Joshua Meeks, the honors program director; and me, along with faculty who teach the classes.

Director Meeks shared his message for prospective students and parents: "The purpose of an honors capstone thesis is to bring together not what was learned in a single class, but rather one's whole educational experience. It's a holistic reflection of an entire college career and the direction one is headed afterward."



# CHANGING **THE WORLD:** BY DESIGN

“Design is the fundamental soul of a man-made creation.” That poetic expression from Steve Jobs, made during an interview in 2000, fully captures the spirit of the man who created and then re-invented Apple Computers. The quote has really stuck with me as I have thought about the words “design” and “creation” and their relation to our human soul. Over the last few months, I have been working with my colleagues at Northwest University to put together a set of new degree programs within the Creatio Center for Technology, Media, and Design. Given the mission of our school to “carry the call of God by continually building a learning community dedicated to spiritual vitality, academic excellence, and empowered engagement with human need,” we must consider the question: Why should a Christian care about—and engage with—innovation, design, creativity, and technology?

It’s certainly no mystery that we have an incredibly creative God—the entire biblical story is a masterpiece of design. In fact, the very first verse of the Bible—before we learn anything else about God—highlights creation (“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”). At the end of the Bible, Revelation 21:5 says, “I am making everything new!” And in between are countless stories that highlight God’s creativity as the great Designer of the universe, the world, and His plan for our life. Our creation in the image of God means, among other things, that we are born to design and innovate. That fact makes it important to consider our own role as designers and innovators.

Let's consider some other examples from the Bible: For instance, it's pretty clear that Adam and Eve had to design their own wardrobe! We might chuckle at that, but the point goes on and on. God gave Noah some detailed instructions about the size and purpose of the ark, but God left millions of design details up to him, allowing him to cooperate with God as a designer and innovator. We can assume that Jesus was also a designer. Tradition tells us that Jesus was a carpenter, but the Bible actually says he was a "tekton" or builder, working with stone, metal, and wood. I must imagine that God's son created some really cool stuff! But the Bible presents other designers we should not seek to copy. We can give some high marks for creativity to the folks who designed and tried to build the Tower of Babel, but since they were outside the will of God, they were ultimately unsuccessful in their attempt.

So, if we are born to be creative, how can we ensure that we're more like Jesus and less like those miscreants that thought it was a good idea to build a tower to heaven? 1 Corinthians 10:30 gives us some clear marching orders: "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

In his book *Called to Create*, Jordan Raynor shares a great example of someone who used his creativity for godly purpose. Johann Sebastian Bach was one of the greatest—and most prolific—musical composers in the history of the world. He ended every one of his works with the inscription, *Soli Deo gloria*—"To God alone be the glory." Raynor says it this way: "As we look to displace the world's motivations for creating, looking to motives of the One who has called us to create seems like the most logical place to start. As we adopt [God's] motivations as our own, our work takes on an entirely different and richer meaning, bringing deep satisfaction as we create to reveal our Creator's character and love others." Clearly the key word here is "motivation." The focus of our creativity must be fixed firmly upon God and His purposes. We need to ask ourselves this question: are we willing to inscribe *Soli Deo gloria* on all our creations? If the answer to

that question is "yes," then I would assert that, as designers and innovators with a heart for serving our Lord, we have the opportunity to change the world.

As Christians, I think that we can all agree that every one of the resources under our control belongs to God—our money, our time, and our talents. Our job at NU is to teach our students to take advantage of the creative talent that God has baked into us, and—instead of using it for our own glory or gain—use it for God's glory and the Kingdom's gain! More specifically, I feel that God's calling here within Creatio is to find students with a natural talent for creativity and teach them why God gave us that gift and how to use it. Those graduates from Northwest University will be the world-changers for the next generation.

So, was Steve Jobs correct? Is it true that "Design is the fundamental soul of a man-made creation?" While the sentiment expressed by Jobs sounds compelling to someone who loves to create, I believe that Steve put too much emphasis on the human role in the design process. Our ability to design, innovate, and create is imbued by our Creator, so let's make sure that He gets the credit. Our soul was made for design because we were created in the image of God.

## BY CRAIG CHAPMAN



*Craig Chapman is the Dean of the Creatio Center for Technology, Media, and Design. To learn more about the Creatio Center and our new programs in UX Design, Audio Production, and Video Production, visit [northwestu.edu/creatio](http://northwestu.edu/creatio).*



# RETURN TO GUAM

---

**SIOBHON  
MCMANUS**

*Class of 2016*

TELL US ABOUT WHAT YOUR LIFE LOOKS LIKE RIGHT NOW.

I am a junior producer at a nonprofit indigenous media production company called Nihi, which is a Chamorro word that means “let’s go.” We create and produce media that is centered around Micronesia and Chamorro identity. Generally speaking, Pacific Islanders don’t have any representation in media. Because of that reality, my boss had a dream to create the first Chamorro media network. Now, it’s expanded into an invaluable resource for the community. As a junior producer, I manage Nihi’s social media, I design and build the website, I talent produce, I help assemble



the layout of each episode, I'm on camera, and I'm sound mixing. I get to do a lot of different things since Nihi is a small nonprofit with really big, ambitious goals.

I'm also helping with research for a textbook with the University of Guam for the Guam Department of Education. We're replacing all the social studies textbooks with new textbooks written by Micronesian, islander, and Chamorro educators who have been teaching in Guam for a really long time. The books will still cover social studies and civics, but from the perspective of our region and our islanders.

I also help with logistics for a recovery, education, and shelter center that my parents opened up called Guam Restoration. My parents have vocational backgrounds in education and reopened an old school, creating a village and community-based program. In July 2020, it will become the first indigenous public trades high school, and my dad and I will serve on the board.

Everything I'm doing in Guam revolves around addressing the root causes of poverty and culture loss while holistically dealing with those things through my involvement with church, nonprofits, education, and cultural revitalization.

#### HOW DOES YOUR FAITH INFLUENCE ALL YOU'RE A PART OF?

Where there is church and where there are believers, there should be some effort to restore the world back to wholeness. So a lot of my work is involved with figuring out how to come up with solutions for brokenness. I take care of the people that God has called me to take care of. Many times, faith becomes

more real as you do the actions that God has called you to do. When I'm sitting with homeless moms or former inmates, and they're talking about their life and their faith, my faith becomes more real as it's decentralized.

The whole point of being part of a body of believers is that they help pull you out of yourself. They help make grieving possible because it's lighter, because it's shared. They make celebrating even more rich, because it's shared. They make addressing poverty in a village easier because that burden is shared.

#### HOW DID YOUR TIME AT NU IMPACT WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW?

I would love to give this community credit for a lot of things. The English department professors helped me navigate my college years really well. I took a postcolonial literature class with Dr. Webster and it changed my life because I finally had a language for the experiences that I had been thinking about since I was little. I still meet with Lenae Nofziger every year if I can. These professors have been mentors to me. They were the first people to believe in me as a writer, they were the first people to believe in this girl from Guam who wanted to explore ideas but felt insecure about her place on this big American continent. They were the place that I felt the most at home. All of my stories and poems that have been published were started in an English class. Nofziger and Webster at one point both told me to keep working on them and try to publish them. I would not have had the confidence to pursue publication if I hadn't come to Northwest. NU has played a massive role in my development as an artist and a writer.



# TO TEND AND KEEP: **A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE** ON SUSTAINABILITY

At Northwest University, our hope is that each of our programs would enrich both our students' intellectual and spiritual lives. When students receive these two kinds of instruction together, they graduate with both the ability and the desire to make a positive impact on the world.

Dr. Eric Steinkamp, an NU professor who teaches courses like Environmental Science and Integration and Development, sees a direct correlation between receiving a Christian education and the field of environmental sustainability.

"Genesis 1:26 says God gave us dominion and calls us to subdue creation," Dr. Steinkamp explains. "But then in Genesis 2:15, he adds the idea of tending and keeping His creation. God put Adam and Eve in the garden to tend and keep it." This passage may call to mind Numbers 6:24, "The Lord bless you and keep you." This passage implies protection and care. Dr. Steinkamp asserts that when those qualities are coupled with cultivation of the earth, that's where real sustainability begins.

"I think that caring for creation provides for the people living in it," he continues. "That means clean water, clean air, shelter, food, a lack of disease, among other things. It does a lot of things when you care for creation, and there are a lot of connections that Christians should continue to explore."

Steinkamp's students have opportunities to dive head first into hands-on work with sustainability. Much of class time involves coming alongside people who are already doing community development work and learning from them. Students also get to go on



“I THINK THAT CARING FOR CREATION PROVIDES FOR THE PEOPLE LIVING IN IT...THAT MEANS CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SHELTER, FOOD, A LACK OF DISEASE.”

international trips as they learn about issues like toxic charity and how to actually help people in a lasting way.

Another opportunity for students is called Ethos Conference, a sustainability conference led by Steinkamp with a focus on building stoves that work for developing countries.

According to Steinkamp, this work doesn't always go smoothly. But the bumps in the road can often add to the beauty of what they're doing. “Often times there are lots of mistakes,” he says. “We roll with those and understand that it's a messy thing to try to help people. You have to be flexible and full of love, and I think that Christians are well-positioned to do that.”

We might not all be Environmental Science majors, but Steinkamp suggests that Christians have a responsibility to protect the environment. “I believe you can be a strong evangelical Christian and still care for creation. Ultimately our everyday decisions and purchases influence a lot of people. They are our neighbors, and we are called to love them. Sustainability is drawing back from living on the extreme edge of all your finances. It's making sure you have room to be generous. There's so much research that shows that people are more joyful when they're generous,

and that's what God has called us to do: enjoy life through generous giving.”

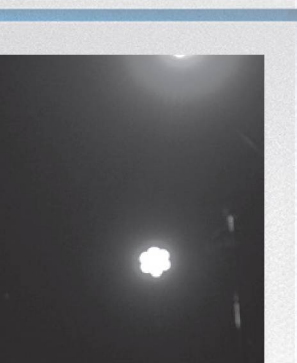
Steinkamp references Philippians 2:5-11 as a perfect example of how Jesus models the idea of tending and caring for creation: “Jesus was still fully God and fully human, but he gave up the rights to dominion over us and he came alongside us. That's a beautiful thing. I see this as a call not to stay up above, but to be members of creation. We're still unique, we're still created in the image of God, but we're members and we become part of community, and I think that's where change really occurs.”

## ABOUT DR. ERIC STEINKAMP



*Dr. Eric Steinkamp is a Professor of Life Sciences in our College of Arts and Sciences. To learn more about our programs at Northwest University, please visit [northwestu.edu/home](http://northwestu.edu/home).*

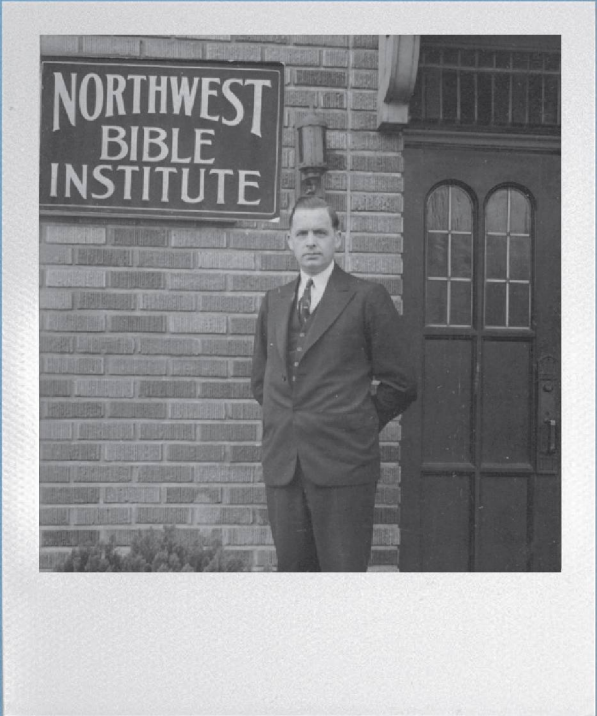
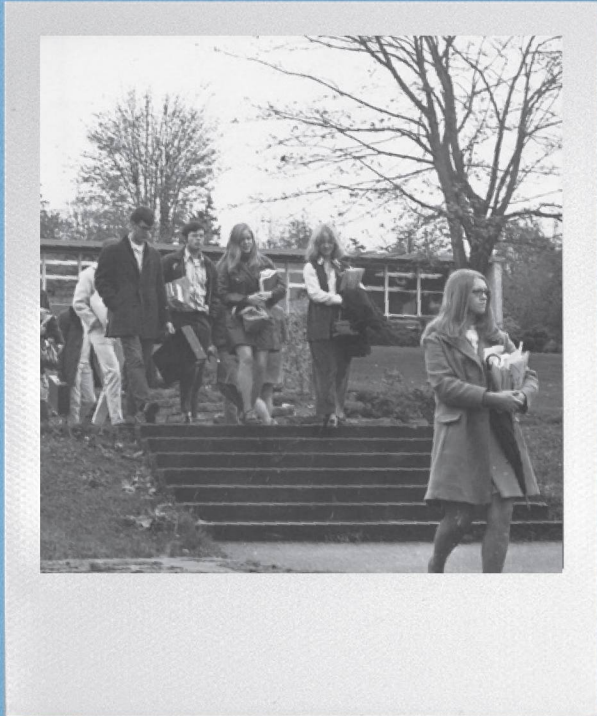




# SNAPSHOTS

*NU THROUGH THE YEARS*

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](mailto:passages@northwestu.edu).





Koelsch Communities presents Northwest University's

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

**Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Benaroya Hall - S. Mark Taper Foundation Auditorium**

*Featuring the Northwest University Concert and Chamber Choirs, joined by Coro Amici, the Pilgrims Men's Chorus, and the Kirkland Civic Orchestra.*

Now in its eleventh 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:*



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## **Christmas Tree Lighting | December 2, 2019**

7:00 p.m. | Northwest University Campus



## **Christmas Traditions Concert | December 3, 2019**

Benaroya Hall, Seattle, WA

6:30 p.m. | Alumni and Parent Reception

7:30 p.m. | Concert



## **Choralons Concert | December 6, 2019**

Cedar Park Church, Bothell, WA

6:30 p.m. | Alumni and Parent Reception

7:30 p.m. | Concert



## **President's Banquet | February 21, 2020**

7:30 p.m. | The Westin Bellevue, Bellevue, WA



## **District Council Alumni Receptions | April 2020**

Various Locations



## **New Alumni Breakfast | May 8, 2020**

Northwest University Campus



## **50th Reunion Alumni Celebration | May 9, 2020**

Overlake Christian Church, Redmond, WA



## **Commencement | May 9, 2020**

Overlake Christian Church, Redmond, WA

Visit [northwestu.edu/events](https://northwestu.edu/events) for a complete list of Northwest University events.

# Alumnus of the Year

*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 the work they've done since graduation.*



## Kevin Geer

This year's 2019–2020 Alumnus of the Year is Kevin Geer. After Kevin graduated from Northwest in 1997, he began to work in ministry. Today, he has become an influential pastor and leader in Montana.

In 2012, Kevin and his wife, Tiffany, became lead pastors at Canvas Church in Kalispell. Since then, they have helped the church grow from less than 500 people to over 4,000 attendees spread across four different campuses. They plan to open a fifth next year. Kevin also leads one of our most successful Northwest Partnership Program (NPP) sites, which he continues to invest in as it grows.

Kevin and Tiffany Geer have been married for 22 years and have five children. Their oldest daughter, Morgan, is currently a freshman at Northwest University.

*If you'd like to nominate one of our alumni, email [alumni@northwestu.edu](mailto:alumni@northwestu.edu).*



# 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—with a twist. **This year we will be partnering with our President's Banquet fundraising event to double these funds 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 an eternal impact.**

Watch your inbox for more details, or go to [northwestu.edu/challenge](https://northwestu.edu/challenge) to give online.



**Northwest**  
UNIVERSITY

**1970s**

**Rick Ryan ('76)** Rick's educational experience at Northwest was an amazing maze of great lifelong friendships, deeply challenging classes from world-class professors, and overwhelming moments in chapel services that shaped his understanding

of the Holy Spirit. One of the key concepts he learned in a Dr. Dan Pecota class on pastoral ministry was that God's leading in our lives is a journey. Each step of the journey prepares us for the next place of ministry and development. Rick now serves as the Director of Intercultural Ministry of the Arizona Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God. God used each step of his journey—from his role as youth pastor, to camp director, to Chi Alpha campus missionary, to the District Youth and Christian Education Director, to a world missionary, to OneHope Bible distribution, to lead pastor, to Convoy of Hope, to executive pastor—for this present ministry assignment. He resides in Arizona, where 47% of the state can speak another language at home other than English. It is his joy to lead the international churches in Arizona to grow and expand and to assist churches to embrace the diversity around them.

**1980s**

**Janine Petersen Ridings ('82)** Janine has been married to Dean for 32 years and together they own a painting and construction company. Dean teaches weekly Bible studies at Union Gospel Mission and

Janine leads an online Bible study called Flourish that serves the greater Seattle area. Janine has learned that the trials God allows in our lives often lead to ministry opportunities. In her early 30s, she was diagnosed with multiple chemical sensitivity, a chronic health condition. God has used this "thorn in the flesh" to refine her and pass along to others what God has taught her through it. While at NU, her English professor, Marjorie Stewart, told Janine to pursue publication. In 2014, she published her first book, *Comfort in the Storm: Devotions for the Chemically Sensitive*. Janine and Dean enjoy watching the NU Choralons, and they attended a performance in 2016 at Westgate Chapel in Edmonds. Soon after that, they made Westgate Chapel their new church home. It's exciting for them to see Northwest University partnering with Westgate to provide degrees through the College of Ministry.

**1980s (cont.)**

**Tim Woods ('84)** With a degree in Music, Tim found that his NU education prepared him for far more than he ever envisioned. After working with his wife, Denise (Mark, '82), in North Dakota and Alaska

as music pastors, they relocated to Eastern Oregon in the late '90s where Tim served as an associate pastor. In 2000, God called him into prison chaplaincy for the Oregon Department of Corrections where he served for 16 years in Ontario and Madras. As he was finishing his chaplaincy career, he volunteered to assist with a new church plant in Oregon, but stayed and pastored that church for three years. In 2018, Tim began working for Northwest Church Insurance where he helps churches, schools, and camps in the tri-state region with risk management and insurance. During his business traveling, Tim connects with NU alumni and serves in churches and ministries through the Northwest. Tim and Denise love spending time with their son, daughter-in-law, and two grandsons and look forward to their daughter's seminary graduation this summer. Tim still wonders how a degree in Sacred Music lead to such a variety of ministry experiences, but he knows his time at NU equipped him in more ways than he would have ever imagined.



**Wayne F. Johnston ('84 and '14)** Wayne returned to NU in 2012 to pursue a master's in Ministry degree. The following spring, on May 6, he was diagnosed with cancer. He was told he had chronic lymphocytic

leukemia (CLL) and would live two to three more years. He was only halfway through his master's. His dad said, "God knew you would get this diagnosis and still He told you to go back to school. You don't know how many lives you can touch in a year or two, so stay in school." Wayne continued with his master's classes, knowing that Dr. Goodall was praying for Wayne every morning. While receiving chemo treatment one day, the oncologist told Wayne, "We're done. No more treatment. There is nothing more we can do for you: the cancer is gone." A few days later, one year to the day of that May 6 diagnosis, Wayne walked across the commencement platform to receive his diploma—cancer free.



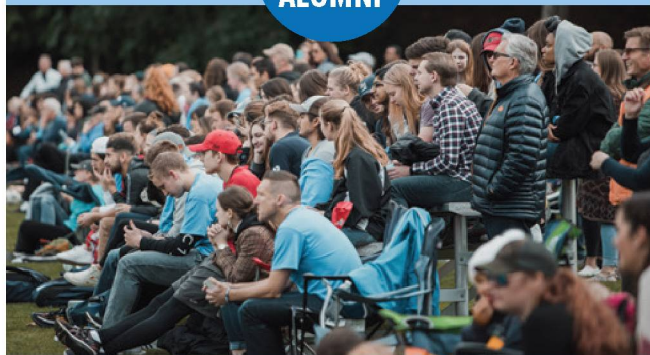
**90  
ALUMNI**



## SUMMER ALUMNI PICNIC

During our second annual Summer Alumni Picnic, around 90 alumni and their families joined the Northwest community for festivities at Perrigo Park in Redmond, Washington. Friends of all ages came together to play yard games like corn hole and spike ball, took photos at the photo booth, and enjoyed a Chipotle lunch together. More importantly, intergenerational fellowship highlighted the day!

**300  
ALUMNI**



## HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND

Homecoming and Family Weekend was another exciting time on Northwest's campus. Over 300 friends, families, and alumni joined in the fun for activities like soccer games, a tailgate (with a donut truck), departmental reunions, a community bonfire, and alumni chapels to celebrate our 2018–19 Alumnus of the Year and pass the torch to our new 2019–20 Alumnus of the Year.

**60  
ALUMNI**



## ELEVATE

Elevate was a successful first-time event for Northwest alumni to hear from a leading expert in human resources, engage with fellow alumni, and be a part of breakout sessions that provided tools to help elevate their careers. Over 60 alumni attended the event at Resonance at SOMA Towers in Bellevue, Washington, and heard from keynote speaker Colleen Rosas and breakout speakers Forrest Inslee and Todd Nelson. Our enhanced ticket holders had the opportunity for one-on-one coaching with leading human resource specialists.

**140  
ALUMNI**



## GENERAL COUNCIL

This summer the General Council for the Assemblies of God occurred in Orlando, Florida, and 140 alumni came together to celebrate the Northwest community and hear from incredible leaders. During this ice cream social event, Kevin Geer, Pastor of Canvas Church and newly appointed Alumnus of the Year, as well as Troy Jones, Pastor of New Life Renton and the 2018–19 Alumnus of the Year, spoke about their partnership and commitment to Northwest. President Castleberry and Dr. Ziefle, dean of the College of Ministry, shared about a new initiative to provide discounted tuition for all students in the College of Ministry to aid future ministry leaders.

## BUNTAIN COLLEGE OF NURSING

**Dr. Erin-Joy Bjorge** (Dean) presented “The Impact of a Cultural Immersion Experience on Developing Cultural Competence Among Baccalaureate Nursing Students,” the keynote address for the Sigma Theta Tau International Global Health Conference, Psi at-Large Chapter, in Rome.

**Dr. Tiffany Zyniewicz** (Visiting Associate Professor) presented “Outcomes of Using Different Ratios of Simulation-to-Traditional Clinical Replacement—What Nurse Educators and Simulationists Need to Know” at the Laerdal: Mini Simulation Network.

## CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP STUDIES

**Dr. Earl Creps** (Director and Professor) presented a seminar titled, “A Great Gulf Fixed: Reaching Post-Christians” at Missions Fest 2019. He also spoke on “Befriending Grace” at All Saints Church.

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Dr. Renee Bourdeaux** (Assistant Professor, Communication Studies) wrote, “Love and Communication: A Partner Service Project,” which appeared in *The Journal of Christian Teaching Practice* and a textbook, *Communicating Love in Relationships*. She also presented “A Better Us” at Timberlake Church and co-presented “Primary Stories Told in Marriages” at the International Association of Relationship Research mini-conference.

**Joseph McQueen** (Assistant Professor, English) presented “Liturgical Aesthetics and Secular Excarnation” at the Post-Secular Perspectives on Romantic and Victorian Poetry and “A (Post?)-Secular Genre: The Realist Novel, Mediation, and Charlotte Yonge’s *The Heir of Redclyffe*” at the North American Victorian Studies Association. He also participated in a Roundtable Seminar for the Ecology and Religion in Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference.

**Brenda Rasmussen** (Instructor, Music) and **Steve Smith** (Creative Director and Instructor, Creatio) collaborated on two recently released video recordings of a live Northwest Choralons concert. Also, Steve accepted an invitation from the University of Alabama to record an opera, commissioned by the state of Alabama for their bicentennial, which will be broadcast on the state’s public television channel. The subject matter is about impoverished tenant farmers during the Great Depression.

**Dr. Greg Spyridis** (Associate Professor, Chemistry) published “Activation Parameters for the Reversible Hydration of Pyruvic Acid” in *Current Topics in Catalysis*.

**Dr. Jeremiah Webster** (Associate Professor, English) published his poem “The Solemn Sea” in *Relief: A Christian Literary Expression*.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**Dr. Jeremy Delamarter** (Associate Professor, Education) co-published “The Affective vs. the Academic: A Quantitative Study of Pre-Service Teachers’ Expected Impact on Their Future Students” in the journal *Action in Teacher Education*. His article, “Closing the Expectation Gap: Helping Pre-Service Teachers Separate Fact from Fiction” was also accepted for a special issue of *Phi Delta Kappan*.

**Dr. Suzan Kobashigawa** (Professor, Education and TESL) co-published “The Effect of an Intensive, Competency-Based TESOL Certificate Training on Dominican In-Service Teachers,” which was also presented at the English Language Congress in Costa Rica. Also, Dr. Kobashigawa and Mary Ewart (Assistant Professor, Education) were authors of “Community-Based Learning: An Exploration from Theory to Praxis,” a chapter in *Community-Based Learning* (in press).

## COLLEGE OF MINISTRY

**Dr. Jack Wisemore** (Professor, Theology and Philosophy) conducted an apologetics seminar for Cornerstone Christian Fellowship.

**Kevin Hall** (Associate Professor) published “Thresholds of the Spirit: Remembering Peter and Cornelius in an Age of Tribalism” in *Resonance: A Theological Journal*. He also participated in a continuing education event at Regent College.

## COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

**Dr. Robert Campbell** (Assistant Professor, Psychology) presented “Secondary Trauma Self-Care” as a workshop for Royal Family Kids Camp.

**Dr. Jeff Cook** (Associate Professor, Counseling) presented “The Art of Professional Counseling” to the honors psychology class at Lake Washington High School and “Trauma and High-Pressured High School Students” at Cornerstone Church. He presented “Relational Psychotherapy and Shame: Shame Conceptualized (Part I)” and “Relational Psychotherapy and Shame: Shame Conceptualized (Part II)” to Pacific Behavioral Health. He also co-presented “Setting a Strong Clinical Tone for Your Program: Training That Internalizes the Counseling Process and Promotes Strong Relational Ethics” with Rachel Smulski (Assistant Director of Academic Programs and Adjunct Faculty) at the Association of Counselor Education and Supervision.

**Dr. Edward Ewe** (Associate Professor, Counseling) presented “Addressing Multicultural Competency Among Counselors” as a workshop at Hope Place. He presented “Burnout and Self-Care” at Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary. He also was a co-presenter of “Fostering Advisee-Advisor Working Alliance in a Doctoral Program: A Multisystemic Approach” at the annual conference of the Western Association of Counselor Education and Supervision.

**Dr. Nikki Johnson** (Assistant Professor, Psychology) published three blog posts, “5 Traps to Avoid when Studying for the EPPP,” “How to Stay Motivated to Study During the Summer,” and “Why Do I Need an EPPP Coach?” with the Association for Advanced Training in the Behavioral Sciences.

## COLLEGE OF ADULT AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

**Dr. Debbie Lamm Bray** (Director of Academic and Student Services, NU Oregon) was a panelist for the session, “Women Leading With Courage Through Calling” at the International Leadership Association Annual Global Conference.

## OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

**Dr. Ben Thomas** (Associate Provost) presented “The Courage to Lead Adaptively at Higher Education Institutions” at the International Leadership Association Annual Global Conference.

# EAGLE STORE NOW ONLINE

CHOOSE FROM HUNDREDS OF  
STYLES AND OPTIONS!



[northwestu.edu/store](http://northwestu.edu/store)



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

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

---

### Take a Free Class

NU grads have the opportunity to attend an undergraduate day or evening class totally free of charge every year.

### NU 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 E-Newsletter

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

### 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.

### Library

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

### Hotel Discounts

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