

NORTHWEST PASSAGES

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY | SUMMER 2022

BLOOMING ROOTS

COMMENCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

DONOR STORIES:

Sheila Kramer

Serge Shevchenko



Northwest
UNIVERSITY

Dear Friends

As I saw a little spring snow fall yesterday, I immediately thought, “Oh no! The trees!” Every spring at Northwest the cherry trees on campus regale us with a showy profusion of blossoms that delight and lift us once and for all out of winter’s gloom, as the sad, cold rains of winter give way to the happy, warmer rains of spring. A killing frost can completely ruin the show, so I always pray for warm weather in the spring. But this year it’s personal. Last fall, Kathleen and I planted fourteen mature-but-new pink cherry trees along 111th Lane on campus, and I’ve been waiting for months to see their first floral outburst.

We paid for the trees to establish a living memorial for my dad, James Jackson “Jack” Castleberry who died in 2004. He was my hero, the best man at my wedding, my model in following Jesus. Dad lived full of good humor, affection for people, and love for lost people.

I will never forget his words to me when he pledged “our” coin collection to help build a church in Colombia. “Dad, how could you give away our coin collection?” I asked. He answered, “Joey, the souls of those people in Colombia mean much more to me than those coins do.” Daddy taught me to tithe and to give to the work of God and to people in need from earliest childhood, often reassuring me with that time-tested adage of God’s people: “You can never outgive God.”

Dad never got to visit Northwest University, but he prophesied on his deathbed that God would use me in such a ministry to bless and empower the lives of young people. Because of his passion for the ministry, we have set up a \$30,000 endowment in his name to provide scholarships for ministry students, and we’ll keep feeding it for many years to come. This year, we gave \$15,000 to plant the cherry trees. Our prayer is that on many spring afternoons in the future, walking along the glorious pink path of 111th Lane, students will fall in love. I imagine many engagement rings presented the following year on bended knees, amid falling cherry blossoms, pink like kisses all around.

But cherry blossoms in spring at Northwest have an even greater meaning to me. Ten years ago in the spring of 2012, I wrote the following poem under their inspiration:



*As springtime reigns I wonder how
trees late oppressed and baldly bowed
now graced with glorious petalled crowns
toss diadems upon the ground.*

*And think when evil’s sway shall cease
the long awaited Prince of Peace
will glorify those then released,
whose crowns will strike the ground.*

*Of course, the ground, for us accursed
long held in bondage at its worst
will share with us the great outburst
with **glory** all around.*

*And all creation with us free
will gather neath a leafless tree
to cast our laurels wantonly
at Glory’s **head** now **crowned**.*

The great gift of God in Christ upon the cross reminds us all that our generosity can never compare to what God has given. Every memorial gift we make out of love for God wraps up our heroes in the glory of what God has done. I hope that when people see the plaque that honors my dad, they will always give thanks to the Father of us all.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. “Little Jack” Castleberry, EdD
President

Follow Dr. Castleberry’s blog at northwestu.edu/president/blog.



Northwest UNIVERSITY

CONTRIBUTORS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

Joseph Castleberry, EdD

MANAGING EDITOR

Beth Boyd

STAFF WRITERS

Annika Peabody

Mollie Bond, EdD

DESIGNER

Amy St.Clair

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Tyler Milligan

John Vicory

Eli Haney

Jake 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.

Northwest University is accredited by:



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Blooming Roots

Since 1934, students have walked onto the Northwest University campus and felt at home. For many, NU was the place where deep friendships formed and individual lives changed for the better. As faculty have continued to pour into students' lives during their time here, students have also begun to pour back into the community that was so formative for them. Whether through sharing fond memories, encouraging students to attend, or financially giving to help future students succeed, the giving roots of the NU community run deep. The following stories offer testaments to the importance of staying true to your roots and the impact that these roots can have in the growth of those around you.

CORRIE LAVELLE EBEL

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

“And this one is going to Amsterdam, and these need to be shipped...” Walking around Corrie Lavelle Ebel’s studio affords the treat of seeing various pieces of three-by-eight-foot square wood canvases of her art.

Every piece of Corrie Lavelle’s artwork has a story behind it. It matters to her deeply to hear and understand her clients so that she can produce art that reflects what they desire. And sometimes, if it isn’t the artwork’s imagery that attracts a person, it could be a title.

One time, a woman connected with an image and asked Corrie about its title. “Never Afraid Again,” she said. The client put her hands to her chest and said, “Oh! That means something to me in my life.”

Not all of Corrie’s clientele are Christians. Yet, Corrie makes sure to pray over each piece of art and give it a symbolic title that alludes to the ultimate Artist. “Living Boldly” or “Almighty” are some of those titles.

Corrie attributes her skills to her roots at NU. She knew, even in high school, that she wanted to attend Northwest University. Once she stepped on campus, she said, “I had this feeling of peace that it was the right place and that’s where God wanted me to be. The energy and excitement, investing in each other and my community, it was so amazing.”

Before then, Corrie attended a couple of other colleges briefly. She also spent about a year in Belize on an extended mission trip with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). Once she came back, she started at Northwest. “There was such a sense of pride the moment I enrolled at Northwest because Northwest is a great school. I love telling people I went to Northwest.”

She came thinking she was going to be a business major, but some classes seemed like a mismatch for Corrie. At the same time, she found herself drawn more and more to communications as a better fit for who she was, offering a way for Corrie to lean into the person God designed her to be. While Corrie wanted to study sociology in prison systems, professor Wood helped her understand herself better. “That’s wise counsel and guidance that’s important at that age. It’s a special time of life to find out who you are.”

Corrie now finds herself using what she learned at NU as an artist. The business classes help her market her art and work with clients. Her communication classes help her listen well to what her clients are looking for in art. She uses skillsets daily from the psychology of marketing and interpersonal communications that she gained during her NU education. She matured and learned more about herself, which gives her work greater depth. Her spiritual maturity shows in her artwork.

Corrie’s art is based on an ancient process called “encaustic painting.” Encaustic painting requires wax pigment and resin to make the paint. The wax must be constantly hot during the process and poured onto a porous, inflexible canvas, like wood. She lays the wood onto a turning plate, resembling a Lazy Susan, that helps her move the heavy wood panels quickly, using physical labor to create art. A blowtorch plays an important role in the process, allowing her to manipulate the pigment and wax to evoke impactful imagery. The wax dries quickly and continues to morph as it dries, so Corrie works fast to achieve the effect she wants.

Corrie’s first series, “Inception,” portrayed peace and movement that lent itself to a conversation of emotion and beauty. But her second series, “Composite,” used texture and dimension to draw a response in a bolder fashion. She didn’t like how the pieces were turning out for “Composite,” so she and her son were going to burn the first piece in the backyard. As it burned, Corrie noticed the beautiful golden hues produced by the melting effect, at that very moment tried something new that resulted in the second collection.

An old adage says, “Art imitates life.” Corrie found art while she was going through a painful divorce. In that burning, melting she found her full-time work. “The redemptive opportunity is always there.”



An artist in the neighborhood encouraged and mentored her during those darker days. Corrie pulled her art supplies off the shelf and painted while their children played together. Corrie learned more styles, media, and ways to express what she felt. Several elements brought the artist out in Corrie: community, redemption, restoration, rebuilding, and the knowledge that Jesus held her in His hands. “It truly felt like a rebirth with the voice of God telling me that He held me in the palm of His hand, and I was going to be okay,” she says.

Later, she was sharing art studio space with others. They were preparing for a show and asked her to put up some of her artwork. Corrie wasn’t sure anything would sell, or that she could even call herself an artist, but they persuaded her. She hung every piece she had, all 12 items, and every piece sold.

Corrie is keen on making sure her time is spent in a God-honoring way, and she finds that art does that in her life. She listens to Christian podcasts and sermons while she creates her artwork.

It’s important to Corrie to connect with people and love them well by creating beauty.

Now, as a mother with children looking at colleges, Corrie finds herself encouraging them to scout out colleges, not because it’s the logical next step, but because she knows the value of a college degree. “It’s not just the sense of achievement, but the lifelong friendships and finding yourself. What I learned at NU were life skills that apply in many aspects of my life, not just in my business.”

If there’s one thing this year’s Alumna of the Year recipient would say to her kids and the students of Northwest, it’s that college is a place to discover who you are. “You’re around like-minded people for a very short time in your life while still expanding your horizons and learning more about being challenged.”

To see more of Corrie’s artwork, visit www.corrielavelleart.com.



LaVelle, Corrie. *Des Jardin*. 2017, Encaustic on wood board 36x48.



LaVelle, Corrie. *Stuttgart*. 2018, Encaustic on wood board 18x24.

DAVE AND DEBBIE COLE

FOUR GENERATIONS OF NU STUDENTS

The roots of Northwest grow deep in the Cole family, with four generations of NU students!

The story of the Cole family roots at NU began with Frank E. Cole, who graduated in 1952. Frank later became the superintendent for the Northwest Ministry Network and served as chairman of the NU board of directors.

In 1976, Dave Cole ('80) rolled up to NU in a '67 Firebird. Dave thought he would continue in his painting business and become a CPA.

In 1977, Debbie Cole ('11, '15) was arm-in-arm with her best friend and cousin entering NU as a freshman. She had planned to become a nurse—but for some reason, when she saw how long the registration lines were, she spontaneously chose a communications major, which was God's plan for her all along.

They both came to NU with an idea of what their future would look like, only to see that God did something quite different—and quite amazing. In all their ministry and service to others, three words come to mind: legacy, trust, and community. God's leading and the power of friends, mentors, and professors changed the course of their lives.

For example, during one chapel, an experience rocked Dave's world. Dr. Bill Pope-Joy spoke and Dave felt like

the message was directly for him. He prayed, "Jesus, I can run, but I can't hide from you. What do you want me to do?"

Shortly after that experience, he went to his parents and asked, "Would you be embarrassed if I went into the ministry?" He felt like the most unlikely candidate for that kind of a role. His dad shared the story of Moses and said, "If God calls you, God will equip you." Dave went from being a business owner on track to become a CPA to pursuing church ministry. He later completed an MDiv equivalency in 2008 and a doctorate in Christian ministry and leadership in 2015 from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Missouri. Dave will tell you, "I'm indebted to Northwest."

After graduating with his BA, Dave said he never wanted to be a lead pastor and took a position as a youth pastor in Vancouver, Washington. A church in East Wenatchee called and asked him to consider a lead pastor position, but he felt uneasy about it until he stepped into the church. Dave admits he hasn't had many visions but walking into that church was a marked occasion: he could see the church teeming with people and needing a bigger building, which all happened in the 20 years he was the lead pastor of that church.

After that, God led both Dave and Debbie to serve with the Northwest Ministry Network for 20 years. Dave is

the assistant superintendent and serves on the Assemblies of God United States Missions Board and Debbie leads the Alongside ministry for women leaders and enjoys speaking for women's groups and churches. They will leave that ministry in June of 2022 with full hearts. Together, they also founded a coaching ministry called Outward Focus Network that connects and encourages leaders.

As Debbie reflected on how God used their NU roots to expand their legacy, she said, "I just know God has directed my path—every single step." The couple married in September of 1978, about six months after their first date. When the Coles married, Debbie stopped her educational pursuits. "Sometimes people don't understand why I dropped out of Northwest after a year to get married. But at the time, it was the right thing for us. And I wouldn't change any of it."

Thirty years later, their oldest daughter had graduated with a BA from Northwest and her youngest daughter was a senior in the nursing program. When her daughter commented, "Wow, we will all be graduates of NU!" Debbie remembered she had not really graduated. Feeling the weight of something unfinished, Debbie enrolled at NU and graduated as an older student. "I wouldn't change going back and being in classes with 20-year-olds. I believe if you can embrace what God



has for you and walk in His presence, He opens the right doors and you walk through them.”

Once she finished her undergraduate degree, it was clear God had more for her, so Debbie went back for a master’s degree in missional leadership. She repeatedly expressed how thankful she is for the part Northwest has played in her life.

Dave would agree, as he had a few favorite teachers who helped form his roots. Professor Jack Rozell (’60) taught Dave that the Holy Spirit was more than an emotion or a religious experience. The Holy Spirit, as part of the Trinity, has personhood that enhances the presence of Jesus. In Old Testament Survey, Amos Millard (’48) taught Dave the power of the Old Testament because it reveals God’s plan for redemption. That began Dave’s journey toward a

dissertation about how people of the Old Testament advanced God’s mission.

Dr. Mel Ming impressed both Dave and Debbie as a couple: first as a professor who taught them how fun ministry can be, and then as a colleague for more than 13 years at Northwest Ministry Network.

Professors at Northwest University know their students. Debbie left Northwest in the late 1970s. When she came back 30 years later, Professor Darrell Hobson (’70) looked her right in the eyes and said, “Oh, you’re back” as if 30 years had not passed.

Debbie had two other professors who left an impression on her. The first was professor Connie Rice, who taught a course on C.S. Lewis. “The passion she had for Lewis was evident.” The other professor that left an impression taught

cultural change during her master’s courses; that teacher was Dave Cole.

Dave has been an adjunct professor at Northwest for the past eight years. He also served on the board of directors for 17 years. Debbie has served on the NU alumni board since 2019.

It is their prayer that the family tradition of attending NU continues. Both of their daughters and sons-in-law are Northwest graduates and are currently serving in ministry: Ryan (’08) and Adrian Loffer (’05) and Shane (’07) and Hayley McCroskey (’08). Hayley is a clinical RN professor and teaches in the Buntain School of Nursing. They trust that their grandchildren will also attend Northwest University in the future.

“Northwest University has been good to the Cole family,” Dave said.

STERLING AND ESTHER CROOK

ENDOWMENTS ENSURING LEGACY IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Esther and Sterling Crook supported Northwest University in ways that fulfilled their individual interests and passions. While friends for years, the couple did not marry until 1996. Each had unique NU roots and engaged with NU differently, and yet, both started an endowment that aligned with their ideals. Remembering the roots of their time with NU has blossomed into something greater than either could have expected. To God be the glory!

Sterling Crook

Hugs, cookies, and care for family and friends. That's what Sterling Crook ('77) was known for.

Sterling passed away in December 2021. Attendees of his memorial service received a chocolate chip cookie with a "hug coupon" to give to someone needing a hug. Sterling's friends and family called him a "cookie monster" with smiles on their faces and reflected on his life as one to remember.

Sterling Crook grew up on his family's farm in Monmouth, Oregon. He was raised by a Christian mother who took Sterling, his brother, and his two sisters to Sunday school and church faithfully every Sunday. He gave his heart to Jesus when he was in the sixth grade, but it was his best friend, Bob, who encouraged him to grow in his commitment to the Lord as a teenager.

Sterling graduated from Dallas High School then went on to attend Oregon

Institute of Technology in Kalamath Falls, Oregon, where he graduated with an AA degree in electronic engineering technology. He moved to California for a job at Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in Livermore, California, but became inspired to join the Navy, where he would be stationed in Florida to assist in training Navy pilots.

After discharge from the Navy, Sterling felt the calling to go to Bible school. As he returned home to Oregon, he visited several Bible schools but ended up choosing Northwest. Sterling loved his time taking ministry, counseling, and Bible courses at Northwest and soon graduated with a major in ministry and a minor in counseling. While at Northwest he was involved in the Servicemen's MiG and did an internship as a youth pastor in Pe Ell, Washington. After graduation he moved to Enterprise, Oregon, where he worked as an associate and youth pastor in an Assemblies of God church.

When he returned to Washington, Sterling used his electronics degree to get a job at Rocket Research in Redmond. In the more than 35 years of working at the "rocket factory," he saw the company change names five times. Sterling retired from Aerojet Rocketdyne in 2015. Some employees remembered Sterling at the memorial service as an incredibly kind and supportive supervisor.

Sterling appreciated his time at Northwest University. He used his education in all aspects of his life in both full-time and volunteer ministry.

We remember Sterling Crook, and his roots, with love—and perhaps with a chocolate chip cookie in hand.

Esther Crook

Esther Anderson Crook met Sterling at Northwest University, but her legacy begins long before then. The Anderson family has been a part of Northwest University since 1946. Esther's father, Arden Anderson ('50), and her mother Una (Moore) Anderson ('49) graduated from Northwest Bible Institute when it was located in Seattle next to Hollywood Temple (now known as Calvary Christian Assembly). When Una graduated, she was already eight months pregnant with Esther, who likes to say, "I attended Northwest before I was born."

Esther felt a calling to become a nurse, but she also loved teaching, which drove her to become a Sunday school teacher when she was in high school. After finalizing her decision to become a nurse instead of a teacher, she was accepted into the nursing program at the University of Washington.

Esther loved the nursing program where her favorite classes were Maternity and Pediatrics. By the time of her graduation, she had the opportunity to become a nursing technician at Doctor's



Hospital working on the postpartum/ GYN unit. Not long after, the door opened for her to go to graduate school in nursing at the University of Washington, where she received her master's degree as a perinatal clinical nurse specialist. The focus of the program was on becoming an educator and specialist in all aspects of maternal child nursing. Little did Esther know that God was preparing her for a job at NU.

Several years after graduating with her master's degree, Esther had heard that Northwest University was starting a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. She mentioned to a friend that she would love to teach maternity nursing at Northwest and around the end of July 2001, she received a call from Carl Christensen, the dean of the Buntain School of Nursing. He said they were looking for a nursing professor to teach

the maternity course starting the end of August. Esther was thrilled with the opportunity but was worried because of her full-time night shift position. After praying about it, she felt God's calling to come to Northwest to teach.

Looking back over her career, she could see that God was preparing her for "such a time as this," and in the fall of 2001, she taught her first classes. In addition to her full-time job, she came back every fall as adjunct faculty to teach the maternity class for 15 years. Esther's NU roots became a remembrance that now impacts the next generation of Christian nurses.

A highlight of the nursing program is the Nursing as a Ministry course where the students are exposed to nursing in other cultures by participating in missionary experiences. Esther was able to take students overseas on two

different trips to Calcutta, India, and Zimbabwe. While in Calcutta, Esther had the privilege to meet Huldah Buntain and hear her own story as a missionary.

There have been many changes over the years in the Buntain School of Nursing, including new online programs. Esther says, "It has been a pleasure to have a small part in helping to develop Christian nurses who go out into the world to share their love for the Lord while serving individuals and communities."

Esther and Sterling each established an endowment to ensure future students can have an affordable quality Christian education. By remembering our roots, we remember what Christ has done in our lives.

Cultivate Your Calling

Pastors, missionaries, and church leaders have demanding jobs. It is crucial to spend time growing and strengthening the skills and knowledge necessary to care for a congregation and to preach the gospel.

Through Northwest University's College of Ministry, you'll have the opportunity to expand your abilities and deepen your spiritual connection with God and His Word. Center your leadership in the biblical narrative, and give yourself the tools you need to pastor in a healthy manner for years to come.

The College of Ministry at Northwest University offers undergraduate and HyFlex graduate programs designed to increase your biblical scholarship and hone your ministry skills.

College of Ministry Highlights:

The Summer Journey, which is a nine-day program designed to help high school students discover how their unique story and interests find meaning, purpose, and clarity in God's great story. With trusted friends and mentors, students will embark on a journey into the story of scripture and gain tools they need to understand God's mission so that they can live as thoughtful, devoted Christians in their home, school, work and church communities.

Thriving Church Planters is a program, funded through Lilly Endowment's Thriving in Ministry initiative, where over the course of the next four years, Pentecostal church planters in four distinct populations (Hispanic leaders, female leaders, African American leaders, and leaders serving in rural contexts) will take part in two-year cohort experiences. Each cohort group will benefit from high-level mentoring with a veteran leader, peer connections with other church planters, a retreat, a site visit experience, and more.





Since 1934, the College of Ministry's mission has been to equip Kingdom leaders for effective service. Graduates have gone on to make a significant impact in the world through serving and leading churches, nonprofits, and organizations. They trust Northwest University to provide them with practical tools to fulfill God's unique calling on their lives and to lead in the 21st century.

Master of Arts in
BIBLE AND THEOLOGY

In the Master of Arts in Bible and Theology program, students explore various influences on contemporary culture and theology within a biblical framework.

Credits: 36 | On Campus, Online, and HyFlex

Master of Arts in
LEADERSHIP STUDIES

The Master of Arts in Leadership Studies degree combines practical business leadership and theology with an emphasis on developing dynamic, effective leaders who bring their very best to an ever-changing world.

Credits: 36 | On Campus, Online, and HyFlex

Master of Arts in
MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

The Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership program equips ministry leaders with a theoretical framework for understanding leadership, mission, culture, globalization, vision, and strategic planning.

Credits: 36 | On Campus and HyFlex

Master in
MINISTRY

The Master in Ministry degree is designed to prepare students for vocational or lay ministry in a variety of contexts, including those seeking their ministerial credentials as well as anyone seeking entry into ministry.

Credits: 30 | Online

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

The Graduate Certificate in Christian Leadership is for those who wish to develop a biblical and theological framework applicable in Christian leadership.

Credits: 12 | On Campus, Online, and HyFlex

CONTACT US WITH ANY QUESTIONS

Jamie Shores, Graduate Enrollment Counselor
Phone: 425-889-7795 | **Email:** comgradinfo@northwestu.edu



Since 1934. Kirkland, Washington.

THE EIGHTY-SIXTH Commencement OF NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY

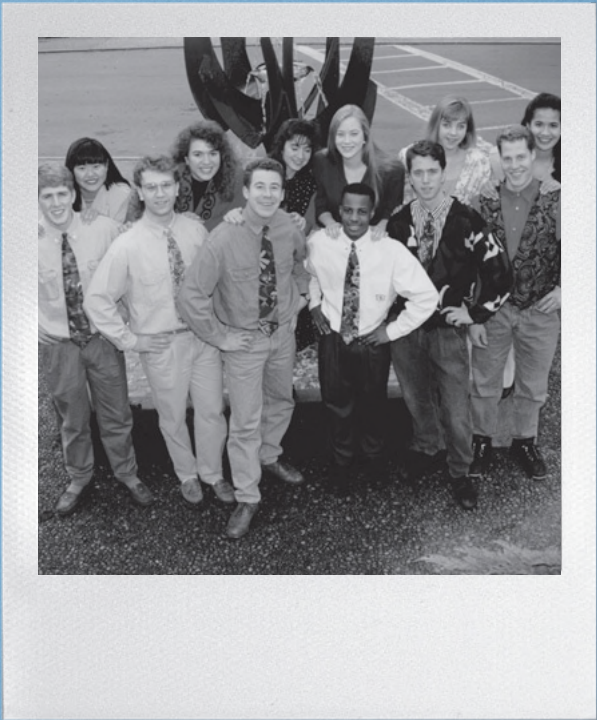
After the cancellation of 2020's ceremony and the two-day split of 2021, Northwest University was excited to host a fully in-person commencement ceremony for the students of 2022! Our graduate and undergraduate students have come a long way since the start of the pandemic, and it has

been our honor and privilege to celebrate them in their perseverance and academic excellence. *We couldn't be prouder of our graduates*, and we hope that you'll join us in praying for them as they step out to shape and impact the world for the Kingdom of God.





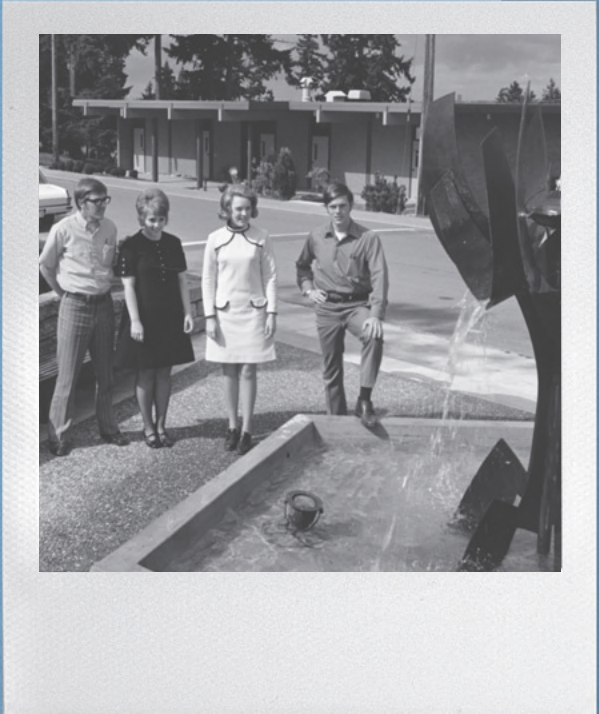




SNAPSHOTS

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.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dr. Renee Bourdeaux (assistant professor, Communication), **Chrystal Helmcke** (assistant professor, Communications and Theatre Arts), and **Dr. Michael Boling** (assistant professor, Communication) presented their paper, “Circles of My Multicultural Self: Personal Storytelling That Transforms Diversity Awareness Conversations in the Classroom” in the Great Ideas for Teaching Students division at the meeting of the National Communication Association in Seattle, Washington, in November 2021.

Dr. Renee Bourdeaux (assistant professor, Communication) along with colleagues from other institutions presented “Transformational Teaching: Engaging Strategies To Stimulate Difficult Conversations, Recognize Transformative Outcomes of the Pandemic, and Cultivate Hope for Students and Faculty” at the meeting of the Religious Communication Association in Seattle, Washington, in November 2021.

Dr. Clint Bryan (assistant professor, Rhetoric and Composition) recorded a workshop to be presented at the 2021 CCCC (Conference on College Composition and Communication) Virtual Annual Conference April 7–10, 2022. His talk, “‘Bound to Sound’: Listening to First-Year Composition Literacy Across Ong’s ‘Great Leap,’” asked writing teachers to rediscover the 1982 book *Orality and Literacy*, written by the late St. Louis University professor Walter J. Ong, S.J., for his predictions on the role that computers would play in restructuring human thought.

Dr. Clint Bryan (assistant professor, Rhetoric and Composition) wrote a chapter, “Bound to Sound: Reaffirming Ong,” accepted for publication in the anthology *Lost Texts in Rhetoric and Composition*.

Dr. Charly Easterling (assistant professor, Biology) with collaborators received the Company of Biologists Scientific Meeting Grant to help fund travel and activities at a symposium during the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology titled “Lesser Known Transitions: Organismal Form and Function Across Abiotic Gradients.”

Dr. Joe McQueen ('08, associate professor, English) was invited to speak as part of a panel on bringing religion and theology into the literary studies classroom sponsored by NAVSA's Religion and Spiritualities Caucus. He will be participating along with colleagues from UW, U of Lancaster (UK), and Wheaton. He also received an honorable mention for Ohio State University's Muste Award for the best dissertation of the year in English. He also was accepted to speak at a panel for the national conference of the Modern Language Association (MLA), which met in Washington, D.C., last January. His portion included an abstract of Joe's own presentation on Victorian novelist George Eliot.

Dr. Matthew Vraa (dean and professor, Physical Therapy) received an award for best poster for his research on opioid utilization at a national conference. Matthew completed his Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy recently; his dissertation is titled “Characterizing Low Back Pain and Low Back-Related Disability in Non-Care-Seeking Working-Age Adults.”

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dr. Rowlanda Cawthon (dean and associate professor) presented two workshops, “Emotional Intelligence: Know Your Emotional Capacity” and “Transformational Leadership: How to Lead Yourself, Your Team, and Your Organization,” hosted by the Washington State Department of Corrections for a Minority Leadership Mentoring Group Initiative.

Dr. Todd Nelson (associate professor, Business) served as pro bono pastoral counsel at law aligned with Alliance Defending Freedom, Pacific Justice Institute, Christian Legal Society, and other advocates and associations in constitutional, freedom of speech, commerce, religious, and conscience matters.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Suzan Kobashigawa ('87, professor, Education) and a collaborator published “Promoting an Inclusive Workspace by Holding Space” in the *Colorado Lawyer*, Vol 50 No. 10, in November 2021.

COLLEGE OF MINISTRY

Joseph Castleberry, president, presented a response to Daniel Topf's paper, “The Case for a Pentecostal Research University” during the Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California, in March 2022.

Destiny Kennedy ('19, '20, program leader for the Center for Calling and Theological Formation (CCTF)), with the help of Brad Griffin of Fuller Youth Institute and other keynote speakers, hosted a successful Youth Forum in late fall of 2021. The CCTF resourced more than 80 youth pastors and leaders from the greater Seattle area for the Youth Forum. Since then, the CCTF team, led by Dr. Joshua Ziefle (dean and professor, Church History) and Destiny Kennedy, has worked tirelessly to plan an exceptional summer theology program designed specifically for the enrichment of 30–40 Christian high school students. Students that have been accepted into the program hail from states such as Washington, Alaska, California, and North Carolina.

Dr. William (Bill) Oliverio (associate professor, Public Theology) edited, with guest editor Craig S. Keener of Asbury Theological Seminary, a special double issue of *Pneuma: The Journal of the*

Society for Pentecostal Studies (43.3–4, 2021), entitled “The Spirit Throughout the Canon: A Survey of Biblical Authors’ Approaches to the Divine Spirit,” which included 23 articles on the presence of the Spirit in Scripture from Pentecostal biblical scholars from across the world. He also co-authored (with Nimi Wariboko) the editorial “A Concert of Many Tongues: Accounting for the Divine Spirit Across the Biblical Canon” (pp. 327–328) for the issue.

Dr. William (Bill) Oliverio edited issue 44.1 (2022) of *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies* and co-authored (with Nimi Wariboko) the editorial “Pentecostal Spirituality as Theory and Praxis of Theology” (pp. 1–4). He was also a panelist during the session titled “The Past and Future of the Philosophy Interest Group,” and a respondent to a panel discussion “A Panel Presentation by the Pentecostal Justice Coalition: ‘Manifesto for Racial Justice,’” during the Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California, in March 2022.

Dr. William (Bill) Oliverio presented virtually, “Narratives of Modernity and Narratives of Pentecostalism: A Foray Into the Relations of Two Massive Aggregations,” at GloPent 2022: Pentecostalism and Socio-Cultural Change at Cambridge University in Cambridge, United Kingdom, in April 2022.

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Dr. Erin-Joy Borge (dean and associate professor) presented at the Transform 2021, American Association of Colleges of Nursing in Dallas, Texas, in December 2021.

Dr. Tiffany Zyniewicz (associate professor) presented at the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare in Los Angeles, California, in January 2022.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Dr. Katherine Winans (associate professor, Psychology) participated as a clinical supervisor on a national research study titled “Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Prevalence” for the Federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Forrest Inslee (professor, MAICD) along with co-editor Angel Burns published an edited collection of essays called *Re-Imagining Short-Term Missions*, released by Wipf and Stock Publishers in March 2022.

Dr. Nikki Johnson (associate professor, Psychology) presented a Teaching Café on “Understanding and Addressing Implicit Bias” to the Northwest University faculty and staff in April 2022 and was the graduate faculty commencement speaker at the Northwest University PsyD and International Community Development graduation in April 2022.

Dr. Nikki Johnson (associate professor, Psychology) presented “Emotional Intelligence” at the Young Life Regional Leader Team Training to Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace leaders in February 2022.

Dr. Leihua Edstrom (professor, Psychology), as a member of the CCCU Doctoral Education Council, participated as a panelist in webinars for its members entitled *Serving in Crisis: Leadership, Self-Care, and Spiritual Considerations* in March 2022 and *Shepherding Doctoral Programs in Challenging Times* in April 2022.

Dr. Leihua Edstrom (professor, Psychology), as part of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Schools and Programs in Professional Psychology (NCSPP), facilitated the Advocacy Workgroup as part of the annual Mid-Winter Conference and, along with NCSPP President Gilbert Newman, will continue to lead the Workgroup initiatives in January 2022.

Dr. Brooke Lundquist ('07, associate professor, CMHC program director) presented on *Completing the Stress Cycle* in January 2022 and on PTSD in EMS in February 2022 at Harborview Medical Center for the UW Medicine Paramedic Training Program students.

Dr. Cherri Seese (associate professor, Psychology) presented on Emotional Intelligence to NU Resident Life/SAB leadership in February 2022.



VISIT OUR EAGLE STORE!

northwestu.edu/store



Sheila Kramer: GIVING BACK

Last year, we said goodbye to Sheila Kramer ('13). Sheila rarely missed an opportunity to talk about her pride of being an NU alumna. And, she had good reason to say so!

Sheila grew up in a farming community in Poulsbo, Washington. She grew up quite humbly—her father worked on a farm, and she had two brothers also attending college. The funds ran out, causing her to leave NU in 1983, just one semester shy of getting her bachelor's degree because she needed a job.

While employed at a real estate office, Sheila started typing reports from appraisers. Her employers noticed her good work and, eventually, Sheila got her license to become a real estate appraiser. She worked in real estate appraising for about 30 years. When the housing bubble popped in 2008, she decided that it was time to overcome her biggest disappointment—not finishing her degree. She came back to NU in 2013 and finished her degree in business administration.

Meanwhile, her husband, Van Kramer, moved to Seattle for work. He met Sheila on a blind date. Of course, the question of faith and whether the other went to church came up. When they both mentioned the same local church, they each felt quite certain the other was lying. After a bit of back and forth the two realized they did go to the same church, just at different service times.

Often at dinner parties the topic of where one went to college would come up, and Sheila would let everyone know she graduated from NU. She was so proud of her alma mater and appreciated that the professors didn't go easy on her.

When Sheila passed away in December of 2021, many of her college classmates came to the memorial. One person even travelled from Texas to Washington to attend the service. Sheila's memorial was a beautiful testimony of how the people you graduate with can become lifelong friends and sojourners in the faith.

Sheila (and surviving spouse, Van) wanted to ensure that people who started at NU could finish, and not 30 years later. Van (and Sheila) gave a generous scholarship to the College of Business in Sheila's honor and legacy.

If this story has impacted you, please contact the senior director of development, Mollie Bond, at mollie.bond@northwestu.edu or 425-889-6178 to learn more about leaving a legacy via a scholarship or endowed scholarship.



Serge Shevchenko: THE OPPORTUNITY FUND

Northwest University started the Ready to Work program in the fall of 2020 to ensure that every NU graduate has developed a Biblical theology of work and a Christian work ethic. The program also offers a wide variety of workplace skills certificates and expanded internship opportunities to help students develop their resumes and apply successfully for great jobs.

In the workplace, employers can tell the difference when students have received an education that thoroughly integrates faith and work. They may not know that it's Jesus they see, but they like what they see. Graduates are self-aware and have measurable and quantifiable skills ready to deploy in the workplace.

Serge Shevchenko ('18) is an alum who graduated before we began the Ready to Work program, but his success demonstrates the kind of values and skills the program seeks to instill in students. Serge graduated with a BA in business administration and is currently serving as a global startup partner development manager at Amazon Web Services (AWS). At AWS, Serge focuses on developing the next generation of "unicorns" (some of which are valued at over one billion dollars) that build solutions for customers in the cloud.

Serge realized a few years into his career that the biblical principles he learned as a student benefit his daily life, both personally and professionally. Dr. Todd Nelson (associate professor, business) encouraged students to

read one chapter of Proverbs a day before going to work; Serge admits there are results. "That's what really helped me think biblically in the workplace."

It's not just the Bible that has helped Serge at work—it's the quality of education at NU. Serge admits that his narrative-based approach at AWS is easier now because he learned how to craft thoughtful narratives at NU regularly. He calls out how "writing *is thinking*," meaning, it teaches us to think more clearly with data-backed claims.

Serge is an example of the many students at Northwest University who are doing ministry in all types of industries. The best way to support students as they enter—and stay—at NU is to be generous and give toward the Opportunity Fund, which supports student scholarships. **You can do your part by visiting give.northwestu.edu and contribute to the Opportunity Fund.**

As Serge says, "higher education is a serious investment for students, and at Northwest University, students like myself have the ability to obtain a valuable education professionally and spiritually. At the end of the day, the relationships we establish professionally tend to be more important in the long term than the business we do in the short term."

Together, we can make a difference for students like Serge to be Ready to Work on day one.

the PRESIDENT'S BANQUET

THE UNIVERSITY WITH THE
SOUL OF A CHURCH



God showed up yet again on Friday, April 22, during the annual President's Banquet. While the President's Banquet is designed as a fundraiser, it typically doubles as a worship service and a celebration of God's faithfulness. This year was an exceptional celebration of God's goodness.

This year's theme was "The University With the Soul of a Church," showcasing how Northwest University students are providing ministry in any field they choose. As President Dr. Castleberry shared, "Our society needs young leaders formed in a Christian university where God's Word is held out as truth and where the Spirit of God is at work forming the mind of Christ in them, where they are taught to think critically as Christians rooted in the Word of God." That's what makes NU special.

When ICD student Kam Goetz ('21, '22) told the crowd that "he believed in this place," it was clear everyone in the room agreed that Northwest University is indeed a special place.

Guests at the banquet also heard from Grace Seyoum ('23), who gave God the glory first and foremost in what He has done in her life through NU. Levi Davenport (director of Corporate Relations) and Serge Shevchenko ('18) spoke about how NU is preparing students to be "Ready to Work." The Ready to Work program provides students with certifications that prove to employers their ability to jump in on day one.

Student speakers, special performances from the Choralons, and of course, an exceptional message from President Dr. Joseph Castleberry culminated in guests pledging \$1,278,250 to provide scholarship funding for our students.

We are so grateful for everyone who showed their support through their giving. We look forward to seeing what God does through students who will benefit from those gifts that are applied to the Opportunity Fund.



Barry Horn, Chairman of Northwest University Foundation Board of Trustees



President Castleberry sharing the final total raised for the Opportunity Fund.



Student Testimonies, Kameron Goetz (class of '21, '22) and Grace Seyoum (class of '23).



Fred Northup Jr. with Levi Davenport and Serge Shevchenko.



A wonderful performance by Northwest Chorals.



President Castleberry and Marlene Ostrom, recipient of the Northwest University Legacy Award.



President's Banquet attendees gave generously to the future and vision of Northwest University.

PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN VICORY AND ELI HANEY

UPCOMING EVENTS



Summer NU Alumni Picnic | July 24, 2022

Time TBD | Perrigo Park in Redmond, Washington

Gather together with your fellow alumni and friends as we enjoy the summer weather! Join us for a Chipotle lunch, prizes, a sand volleyball tournament, soccer games, and more.



NU Golf Tournament | September 26, 2022

Registration Time 9:30 a.m. | Shotgun Start Time 11:00 a.m.

The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge in Snoqualmie, Washington

Get ready for a great golf game, beautiful views at Snoqualmie Ridge golf course, and fellowship with other like-minded individuals to support Northwest University students. This annual event brings together golfers to help support NU and fund scholarships to our athletic teams.



Homecoming and Family Weekend | September 30—October 1, 2022

Kirkland Campus in Kirkland, Washington

All alumni, parents, and families are invited to join us here at NU. We will have more events and activities than ever! A tailgate, chapel service, and class reunions are just the beginning.

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

JOIN THE PARTY!

Here are a few highlights from alumni events of years past. Make sure to put this year's get-togethers on your calendar and come join the fun!





Lane Stockeland ('80)

Words can hardly describe how Northwest impacted me as a student and how it has helped me through the years. God led me to NU, out of a Lutheran background. I felt at home at NU and thus began formative years for where God would take me in life and in ministry in the years and decades ahead.

Northwest prepared me theologically, relationally, personally, and spiritually. Through classes in various disciplines, including my major and minor in biblical literature and counseling, the school, faculty, staff, and fellow students provided the education and life lessons to prepare me for years of ministry as an Army chaplain, pastor, Veterans Affairs chaplain, hospice chaplain, health care chaplain, and volunteer American Legion chaplain at my local Legion Post. The years at NU also helped me to grow as a person through the many relationships, experiences, and collegiality among the students, faculty, and staff that I grew very close to. As a chaplain serving in various capacities, God has provided ways for me, with His help and guidance, to impact people and organizations in ways I never dreamed of. Thank you, Northwest, for being a part of my life and providing an experience of a lifetime!



Kathy Martin ('86)

I currently live in College Station, Texas, serving as the enrichment specialist with fifth and sixth grade gifted students. This is my 36th year in a classroom, and I can't think of a better career than being a teacher. I'm thankful to the professors who were part of my training and the friends who were also part of the

first group of graduating teachers from NU. In the last two years I've been able to give back as an adjunct instructor and field supervisor for current students getting ready to start their career.

Making lifelong friends is the best part of attending NU. I went to NU over 40 years ago and some of my closest friends are the ones from dorm days who I've stayed in touch with or reconnected with in the last few years. My best memories include times in the dorms, being a Choralons groupie, worship in the chapel, Homecoming, yearbook, and parties at B-2. Thanks NU for the memories!



Mark Eide ('91)

I graduated with my degree in biblical literature in 1991 and went on to get an accounting degree at City University in Seattle in 2001 and have worked in accounting or finance since then.

Recently, our daughter was accepted to NU, and we're all excited for her to attend this fall. While getting reacquainted with NU during this process, I'm so impressed with the Admissions team and the entire university. It's exciting to see NU's growth with a focus on full-time ministry for every vocation. With all the changes, I still sense the "let light shine out" vision and the Holy Spirit-led mission when I accompanied my daughter on

her campus visit. I was inspired to hear of the planned capital campaign improvements including a prayer chapel.

NU continues to impact me. During a difficult time in my life a few years ago, I reached out to my RA, Fred Stevens, (from my fun and spiritually uplifting time in the dorms many years ago) for encouragement and prayer. My brother in Christ was a godsend, and it was neat that he was still willing to invest his time in me.



Jenilee Lefors ('06)

My favorite memories from NU were the friendships and relationships I made! I remember taking a class with my floormate, Maegan Hawley (Stout, '06), and we made some off-handed comment about fashion and law and how we decided we were going to change the world! We planned to move to D.C. right after graduation

in 2006, but we ended up both having detours that took us in opposite directions of D.C. and law. I became a youth pastor in my hometown and pursued something I said I would never do!

We met up for coffee in 2009 one Christmas break, and Maegan was telling me how she just moved to D.C. and was loving it and would prepare a place for me. And the crazy thing is she did! I applied for an internship that ended up being the church at which she was on staff in D.C.—National Community Church.

My first friend in D.C. was already my friend from Northwest University! We spent the next decade being roommates, cheering each other on in our careers, being in each other's weddings, and eventually becoming business partners in our company, Ethic Goods—a jewelry company that employs survivors of human trafficking.

From our conversations in the lounge of Crowder 600 we went on to take law classes with Teresa Gillespie ('18) together, and now we run and operate a company that is shifting the trajectory of the artisans that we partner with, along with impacting the world of fashion by demonstrating jewelry can be made ethically and be beautiful.

Relationships and friendships are so valuable to my experience at Northwest University, especially my friendship with Maegan Hawley!



Joseph Gannon ('13, '15)

While studying at Northwest, I always felt like I was being prepared for my career. The lessons I learned in every class have proven invaluable later in life, whether Marketing Theory or Introduction to Music Business.

Through my relationships with Steve and Joyce Smith, I gained real-world music industry experience; experience I would use with the record labels I was a part of, bands I managed, and in my career as a music publisher. Being a lover of education, it was an honor to return to Northwest to complete my MBA. Since graduation, I have worked with global and local brands such as Hilton Hotels, Microsoft, and Dunn Lumber. I currently serve as the marketing manager at Passion City Church and Passion Conferences, where I oversee all marketing for our events, content, digital marketing, Sundays, and much more. My time at Northwest University was priceless, setting me on the path to where I am today.



Christian Dawson ('14, '17)

A few years ago I heard a brilliant commencement speech. I remember the feeling that was in the room as the whole audience was completely enraptured in this speech. The man concluded with these beautifully haunting words, "If you think you know where you'll be two years from now, you're kidding yourself." I came to Northwest University in 2010 and over a decade later, I can attest that those words were true.

After graduating with my BA and MA out of the College of Ministry, I have served as the campus pastor at Northwest University, traveled the country as a guest preacher and worship leader, and now pastor at Bridgetown Church in Portland, Oregon, where my wife, Yinka, and I live.

None of the places that I landed were in the mind of that freshman version of myself in 2010, which is why I am grateful for my experience at NU. Ultimately the university shaped my character into the sort of man, husband, and follower of Jesus who has been able to thrive wherever Jesus has taken me. For that I'm deeply thankful.



Stephen Garcia ('16)

The longer I've been away from NU, the more I've appreciated its impact on my life. I formed friendships and community, not only with students on campus, but in a local church. After deciding to live and work in the area after graduating, this relational support system became invaluable. Kirkland has become home.

I graduated NU from the Creatio program after studying music and earning a degree in recording arts; the intersection of creativity and technology in my studies has become a key skillset. After being involved in worship teams for several years, in my junior year I produced an EP of original songs that other students had wrote. It was thrilling. Over three months, we arranged and recorded five songs together and premiered them at a release worship night. It was the first time in my life that I was constantly absorbed in a project and knew, "This is what I was made to do." That experience taught me so much about where I am gifted and what I enjoy. I entered senior year knowing I wanted to give my life to three things: creativity, technology, and ministry in the local church. It just so happened I would be hired to do just that, within the year.

After interning at Reach Church in Kirkland during my senior year, I was hired as a creative projects manager after graduation. It was my dream job. I worked part time at the church and a local restaurant for a couple of years before I was brought on full time at Reach as our communications and media director. Needless to say, getting hired to oversee all communications and technology at a church right before COVID started has taught me a lot. It's been a lot of work, but a ton of fun. NU impacted me, not only in my studies, but spiritually and relationally as well. I will always look back on my time as an NU student with deep gratitude.



Brandon and Dina Moate ('20)

Since graduating from Northwest University, Dina and I have been simultaneously immersed in the demanding world of business and the rewarding toil of ministry. Often, these dichotomized careers are viewed as contrasting worlds. Business achieves and propels oneself, while ministry sacrifices in altruism and calling.

Dina works at our family's company, A.C. Moate Industries, and cheerfully relinquishes her free time to serving our church in the kids and women's ministries. I function as the associate pastor at Bellevue Neighborhood Church and work part time at a coffee shop in downtown Kirkland. As we've continued down our paths following graduation, we've learned that business and ministry can be graciously reconciled because they're bonded by a love for God and a love for people. Undoubtedly, Northwest University prepared us with skills to tackle both the business and ministerial world. More importantly, NU crafted our philosophy on how to succeed when encountering challenges. We now remember to lean into God, ask good questions, do the research, and not to shrink back.

We've loved bringing ministry to the workplace and incorporating business skills in our ministries. The world around us is rapidly changing and one day we will have to restructure the way we operate our churches in America. We hope we'll be well-equipped and ready to use business as a platform for the church when that day comes. Our future is to continue to let Him lead, and we know that we'll see Him maximize and blend together our experiences, our formal education gleaned from NU, and the gifts He has given us for His glory.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Terra Mangum ('08)

NU Alumni Association Board Member Terra Mangum was awarded the Rick Steves Service Above Self Award in February 2022. She and her husband, Zack, have opened their home to foster children and young adults for the past five years. She stated in an article for *My Edmonds News*: "Zack and I have shared our home with 25 young people between 5 and 19 years old. We've found our personal mission in focusing on kids who have a tough time being placed in foster care—like teens. We're passionate about changing the statistics on fosters—most don't attend college, and many don't graduate high school. We've had up to five fosters in our home at one time, and this is in addition to our own two 'bio kids' Aria (2.5 years) and Soren (13 months). And we're currently in the process of adopting Noor, one of our fosters who's now 22 years old. This work has become our life. We've remodeled our home to accommodate everyone, taught four teens to drive, and had a high school grad every year."





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

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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.

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.