EMPOWERED ENGAGEMENT WITH HUMAN NEED

ALUMNI FOCUS: JASON STREUBEL SOIL SCIENTIST

RECORD YEAR FOR ATHLETICS

WOMEN’S SOFTBALL BUILDING ON OUR CALLING
The mission of Northwest University is summed up in the phrase “empowered engagement with human need.” There’s a lot of meaning in that potent formula. It is rooted in our deep conviction that the greatest need anyone has is a saving encounter with Jesus Christ and the most important power we can have is a life of continuous fellowship with the Spirit of God. When we walk in the Spirit, we receive power to act on God’s behalf. By the Spirit’s power, ordinary people do extraordinary things that bring eternity into the present to meet humanity’s deepest need.

Empowered engagement also depends on knowledge power. Whether we are studying the Book of Scripture or the Book of Nature, our pursuit is the formation of a Biblical worldview that undergirds our appropriation of truth. In a world bound by ignorance and falsehoods and pretensions, truth in our lives cuts a path through darkness and empowers us to set people free. Whether our students are studying church ministry, business, nursing, education, counseling, or the liberal arts and sciences, they are being empowered by knowledge and creativity and the skills of learning and research that make solving problems possible.

While God has graced us with a world that contains everything humanity needs to live in prosperity, freedom, and contentment, sin has broken the system of God’s blessing and the world stands in grave need. Women and men need to be reconciled to their Creator, being born again as children of God. They need education to develop their minds and draw out their God-given talents and skills so they can contribute to the flourishing of humanity. They need freedom and opportunity to work and serve each other economically. They need good government. They need entertainment and the delight that the arts can bring. They need medical attention and relief from natural disasters. In God’s mission, human beings are reconciled to God in Christ and equipped with all that is needed for human life to flourish. Armed with spiritual power and knowledge power, we step out into the world of God’s mission.

On the last day of February, we had the pleasure of dedicating a new prayer chapel on the first floor of the Barton Building. In that space, there is a whole-wall mural of the student body and staff of 1937 together with historic church furniture from churches served by early graduates of Northeast Bible Institute. As I prayed there this morning, I thought about the work they achieved. Almost all of the people whose faces beam out from that wall are with the Lord now, but their work continues in the world through the thousands of souls they won and the churches they planted and served around the world. It continues through other works they did as well, and through the children and now, even great-grandchildren they taught to follow Jesus. I couldn’t help but feel that they would be amazed at how God has blessed their efforts. They would be proud of the advance of this community. As I read the words of their initial charter, I give thanks to God for the enduring vision they left us for the expression of God’s Kingdom and the declaration of the Gospel all around the world.

The stories you will read in this issue of Northwest Passages illustrate the ways our people are still engaging human need with spiritual vitality and academic excellence. I particularly love the story of the Curry twins, Dean and David, who respectively lead a soul-winning church and a body-tending rescue mission. They illustrate twin aspects of the mission of the church to expand the Kingdom through evangelism and express it through acts of loving service. Those of us who Carry the Call by focusing our full-time work on the building of this learning community are proud to present them and many other members of the Northwest family for your inspiration. My prayer is that God will move you to join us in supporting them as we continue to let light shine forth from the Great Northwest.

Blessings,

Dr. Joseph L. Castleberry, Ed.D
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Sister Universities in Korea

Northwest University recently announced the development of sister university relationships with top universities in Korea: Ewha Womans University, Soongsil University, Gachon University (formerly Kyungwon), Handong Global University, and Hansei University.

The exchange agreements not only qualify NU students to study in these prestigious Korean universities for up to one academic year, but also to apply for scholarships sponsored by the Korean government. Through these partner relationships, exceptional NU students can also apply for Global Korean Scholarships through the National Institution for International Education of Korea (NIIED), which covers airfare and living costs during students’ exchange programs at partner universities.

“Attending these universities is a fantastic opportunity for NU students. Exchange students can choose from hundreds of university courses, taught in English or Korean, as well as Korean language classes,” said Dr. Autumn Witt, Director of the Center for English Language Education (CELE). “Everyone we have worked with from these international programs has been so kind and professional and we look forward to starting our new relationships.”

NU students can now apply for the exchange program for the fall 2012 exchange. Students are encouraged to apply before their sophomore or junior year. Local families or students are welcome to schedule a campus visit.

(NUVO)

The Northwest University Vocation & Occupation Center (NUVO) is a new resource for students seeking vocation and career guidance. NUVO's mission statement is to “serve students in the life calling discernment process by means of assessment, skill development, and life coaching.”

Some of the services NUVO offers are:

- Guidance for the transition into, through, and out of higher education.
- Assistance in the identification and application of strengths, passions, skills, and experiences.
- Promotion of networking between current students and local businesses, as well as alumni, to establish career opportunities.
- Personal coaching sessions for students to build their resume, prepare for interviews, discover interests, and become more self-aware.
Vocal Jazz Wins Lionel Hampton Award

NU’s Jazz Band, Rhythm Combo, and Synergy Vocal Jazz ensemble all performed at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in Idaho this February. Synergy took home a first place award and two students received honors for solo performances—Drew Baddeley for instrument and Julia Coulson for vocal performance.

Debate Team

The Eagles Debate Team recently ranked at two debate tournaments. Team Captain Calvin Horne and his partner James Bowsher received a semi-finals award at the Pan Pacific Championship in Honolulu, Hawaii on February 18.

The team also brought home two semifinalist awards from the 2012 Mark Hatfield Memorial Debates at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon in February. Both NU teams, comprised of students Kyle Hamar and Max Mooney and Calvin Horne and James Bowsher, reached the semi-finals after five rounds of debate. In addition, Team Captain Calvin Horne ranks as the second best speaker out of the 68 debate students participating in the tournament. Max Mooney was also ranked as the fourth best speaker of the tournament.

In March, the Eagles Debate Team hosted three of Ireland’s top university debaters. On their first evening together, they participated in an Impromptu Speech Contest where 10 students and President Castleberry joined in the speaking games. First and second place were awarded to two of the Irish debaters and third place went to NU’s James Bowsher. Later in the week, the two teams tackled the topic “Reject efforts to stop online piracy” at a special event held at Microsoft.

On March 31-April 1, teammates Calvin Horne and Abbie Kruse received second place at a tournament held at Portland State University. NU has reached the semi-finals at every tournament they have attended this year, but this second place finish marked the first time they reached the final round.
Faculty Updates

Suzanne Barsness & Dot McKim
Professor, Nursing
- Presented at the Taipei Nurses Association Continuing Education Conference on Nursing Ethics in Practice and in Life, February 2012.

Blaine Charette
Professor, Bible & Greek

Kevin Cooney
Professor, Business and Political Science
- Presented “Religion, Society and the Rule of Law,” fully funded International Research Seminar held in Shanghai and Beijing, China on June 3-16, 2011.
- “China and Black Swan Theory: How Long will China be Able to set its own Agenda?” Keynote address at the International Seminar on “International System in Transformation: China and East Asia” at China University of Law and Political Science in Beijing, China, October 22-23, 2011.

Brad Embry
Assistant Professor, Bible

Mizue Fells
Assistant Professor, Music
- Piano recital, California.

Marty Folsom
Adjunct Professor, College of Ministry

Teresa Gillespie
Dean & Associate Professor, Business
- Presented at the Annual ACBSP conference on “Managing Initial Accreditation From the Perspective of Henry Minzberg’s Management Theories.”

Jacqueline Gustafson
Associate Dean & Assistant Professor, Psychology

Ron Herms
Assistant Professor, Bible

Kim Lampson
Associate Professor, Clinical Director of the Psy.D. Program
- Elected as the president-elect for the King County Chapter of the Washington State Psychological Association.
Gary Newbill  
*Dean & Professor, Education*
- In the summer of 2011, along with his wife Karen (adjunct faculty), presented “Teaching Strategies: Facilitating Adult Education,” a Global University course for graduate students at Cape Theological Seminary outside Cape Town, South Africa.

Jennifer North  
*Assistant Professor, Nursing*
- Certification as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Public/Community Health Nursing (Public Health Clinical Nurse Specialist-Board Certified).

Connie Rice  
*Associate Professor, English*
- Presenting a paper at the Colloquium on “C.S. Lewis and Friends” at Taylor University in May 2012.

Jeremiah Webster  
*Adjunct Faculty, English*
*Published:*

Jack Wisemore  
*Professor, Philosophy*
*Presentations:*

*Your Deepest Dream: Discovering God’s True Vision for Your Life*
*By Joseph Castleberry, President of Northwest University*

Everyone wants to live a rich, satisfying life, but according to Dr. Castleberry, the only way for that to happen is for us to discover and live out our deepest dreams. Many books on personal fulfillment help people identify their goals and objectives, but *Your Deepest Dream* goes beyond that to explain how developing godly character, having a strong moral center, and growing a vital relationship with God are all key to realizing our dreams.

Filled with inspiration and action steps, *Your Deepest Dream* outlines how readers can discover their deepest longings and the principles that will help make them a reality. Each principle is illustrated with stories of men and women from cultures around the world who excelled in realizing their aspirations. This is an ideal book for customers facing a transition period in their lives.

“Dr. Castleberry has written a book of remarkable clarity and insight. He shows us that discovering one’s deep dream is the key which unlocks our true potential and enables us to achieve the deep sense of fulfillment that God intends for each and every one of us.”
—ROB MCKENNA, attorney general, State of Washington

“To guide you through the godly achievement of your dreams, Joseph Castleberry has poured ancient biblical wisdom and the stories of inspiring leaders into the modern mold of a self-help manual with all its practical steps and memorable principles.”
—DAVID NEFF, editor in chief & vice president, Christianity Today Media Group

Dr. Castleberry’s book will be available in the Northwest University Bookstore and online at bookstore.northwestu.edu. Release date: June 29, 2012. Published by NavPress
Fastpitch at NU

Coach John Bacon

Not many female athletes have the opportunity to play softball at the collegiate level; fewer have the chance to create a legacy. However, for those athletes chosen to be a part of the first softball team in the history of Northwest University, that is exactly their task—to create a legacy. These young women have the opportunity to lay a strong foundation for all those who will wear the blue and gold on the softball field and represent NU as student athletes. To do so will take dedication, a commitment to excellence, perseverance, and a strong sense of tradition.

Each of the athletes that come to NU in the fall to play softball will be the first to do so in the 77 year history of the university. They have to create something from nothing. There will be uniforms and equipment, practice and work-out times, coaches and volunteers. However, there will be no previous formula or groundwork to build upon. To succeed in this environment will take dedication to the program. The importance of this cannot be overstated. In fact, one of the first acts the athletes will do as a team will be to participate in a ceremony retiring the ‘1’ jersey, because the program is number one, not any individual player or coach. Dedication to the program will be built into the fabric of the team from the beginning. Still, dedication to the program will not be a strong enough foundation for future generations of Eagle softball players. A fierce dedication to the sisterhood of the team is essential.

In a letter sent out to the recruits, the framework of this dedication was presented: “We will endeavor to make our team a family and in particular a team of ‘sisters’ that supports and cares for one another.” A dedication to one another that transcends being a team and seeks to create a family is the first step in creating a legacy. The second step is a firm commitment to excellence.

In order to maintain their fierce dedication to the program and to their new-found sisterhood, these athletes bent on creating a legacy will need to have an unwavering commitment to excellence. The great football coach Vince Lombardi was quoted as saying, “The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.” Those who have been chosen to represent Northwest University on the softball field are individuals who are not only accomplished and decorated softball players, but who also possess high integrity and are passionate ball players. Their commitment to excellence has been developed through years of rigorous competition, but will be put to the test through the crucible of the Cascade Collegiate Conference. Five of the eight softball teams that comprise the conference have been nationally ranked within the past five years, including one national champion. The Eagles’ softball program and the young women of this inaugural team must be committed to excellence in order to stand strong amongst such worthy competitors. To help illustrate this commitment to the excellence of the program, Eagle softball jerseys will never have a player’s name embroidered on the back for the simple reason that we want the players to be committed to the success of the name.
on the front of the jersey and not be tempted to play for the name on the back. Nevertheless, their commitment will be tested and they will stand strong if they persevere.

Eagle softball players will have a firm dedication to their school, their program, and each other while maintaining a commitment to excellence. However, there will be times when the road becomes rough and the challenges of maintaining excellence in the classroom, on the field, and in their personal lives becomes seemingly insurmountable. It is then when perseverance is necessary. Embracing the truth of Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him who gives me strength,” becomes vital in overcoming hardship and achieving victory. Whether on road trips, in study sessions, or on campus through small group Bible study, the coaching staff will provide opportunities for the athletes to excel in the classrooms and in their spiritual lives, teaching them to persevere. These athletes must understand, as Winston Churchill observed, that “success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts.”

Northwest University’s Athletics Department has a tradition of winning. From the early pioneers of NU women’s athletics such as Kristi Brodin and Aiyanna (Marcus) Curtis, to the 2002 NAIA National Championship Women’s Cross Country team, the female athlete has strong examples to follow. The softball program will incorporate the tradition of winning into their foundation and thereby honor those who have paved the way for this team through their dedication, commitment to excellence, and perseverance. Knowing the history of women’s athletics at Northwest, these young women from all over the West Coast will be audacious enough to then attempt to make history as the first Eagle softball team. They will craft softball traditions for themselves because they have no predecessors—traditions based on a fierce dedication to the school, the program, and the softball sisterhood; traditions based on an unwavering commitment to excellence; traditions based on undaunted perseverance. These young women have the chance to create a legacy led on by the motto, “Following none, we lead all.”

First to Sign

Brittany Bovard, the first to sign up for the team, plays second base at Arlington High School, where she earned three varsity letters in softball in addition to staying on the honor roll.

“I have played since I was a little girl in Little League and just fell in love with the game,” she said. “I love the intensity during the game and the adrenaline rush I get while playing.”

Brittany plans on majoring in nursing when she comes to NU in fall 2012. Her decision to enroll became official after visiting on a Northwest Friday, which occurs around once a month as a special day for prospective students to visit and tour the campus.

“I love that you can feel God’s presence, that NU is such a warm community, and being on the inaugural softball team is a once in a lifetime experience!”

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ATHLETICS UPDATE

Record Year for Athletics
Al Kawashima—Sports Information Director

2011-12 Northwest University Eagle athletics made a significant mark in the school’s sports history as all Eagle sports teams experienced successful seasons and many of our athletes were recognized individually for their exceptional athletic and academic performances.

Three Northwest head coaches were recognized for excellence, earning coach of the year awards. Erin Redwine and Gary McIntosh, coaches of the Eagle women and men’s soccer teams, were voted Cascade Conference Co-Coaches of the Year by their fellow coaches. For Coach McIntosh, it was the second time he received the award. John Van Dyke was named Coach of the Year in men’s basketball by a vote of his peers.

The NU women’s soccer team played their way into the CCC championship game and finished second in the league. For the first time in women’s soccer history, the team also received votes for a place in the NAIA Top 25 national ranking. The men’s soccer team earned a spot in the CCC semifinals as did the Eagle volleyball team. Men’s soccer also received votes for the NAIA Top 25. Cross country sent three runners to the NAIA National Championships and the women received votes in the NAIA Top 25 national rankings for the first time since 2004. Men’s basketball won the school’s first championship since joining the Cascade Conference with Oregon Tech. NU finished the season as the No. 7 ranked team in the country and were in the top 25 for twelve consecutive weeks. The Eagles also made their second consecutive trip to the NAIA Division II National Championships as the No. 8 seed and made their way to the quarterfinals.

The NU athletes not only excelled in their respective sports, but also achieved academic excellence. Twenty-eight Eagles earned Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete honors while 10 additionally made the list as NAIA Scholar Athletes for the year.

“It was an outstanding year for Northwest University Athletics,” said Gary McIntosh, Director of Athletics and Head Coach of the men’s soccer team. “All of our teams exhibited excellence with their accomplishments both on the field and in the classroom. It’s indicative of how all of our coaches are doing a great job of coaching their teams and the quality of student-athletes we are recruiting to come into our University.”
Awards and Honors

**Track & Field**

**Lindsey Wessa**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete; Daktronics NAIA Women's Scholar Athlete; CCC Track & Field Athlete of the Week

**Lindsey Wagner**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete; Daktronics NAIA Women's Scholar Athlete

**Luke Fischer**—Daktronics NAIA Men's Scholar Athlete; 2nd Place, Javelin, Cascade Conference Track & Field Championships; 8th Place, Javelin, NAIA Outdoor National Track & Field Championships; Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

**Greg Peters**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete; Daktronics NAIA Men's Scholar Athlete

**Jason Waltman**—3rd Place, Decathlon, Cascade Conference Track & Field Championships; 9th Place, NAIA Outdoor National Track & Field Championships

**Seth Bridges**—3rd place, Cascade Conference 10,000m run; NAIA Outdoor National Track & Field Championships entrant; Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

**Julia Johnson**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

**Shayna Prause**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

**Ben Schmalz**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

**Women’s Distance Medley Relay (Indoor)**—16th, NAIA Indoor National Championships, (Lindsey Wagner, Shayna Prause, Chelsea Miller, and Paige DeLapp)

**Cross Country**

**NU Cross Country Team**—Women 6th place, CCC Championships; Men 9th place, CCC Championships

**Seth Bridges**—CCC Runner of the Week (three times); 2nd Place, CCC Cross Country Championships; NAIA Cross Country National Championships qualifier; NAIA Cross Country National Championships 12th Place; NAIA All-American

**Paige DeLapp**—NAIA Cross Country National Championships qualifier

**Matt Porter**—NAIA Cross Country National Championships qualifier

**Meagan Governor**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

**Julia Johnson**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

**Ben Schmalz**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

**Sigrid Thoreson**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

**Lindsey Wagner**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

**Women’s Soccer**

**NU Soccer Team**—CCC Championship finalist (2nd Place); Verizon CCC Team of the Week; received votes for NAIA national poll

**Erin Redwine**—Cascade Conference Co-Coach of the Year

**Stephanie Cummins**—Cascade Conference First Team, All-Conference; NAIA 3rd Team NAIA All-American Team

**Abby Brauer**—Cascade Conference First Team, All-Conference

**Jordan Holmes**—Cascade Conference Defensive Player of the Year (four times); Cascade Conference Second Team, All-Conference; Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

**Shea Samuelsen**—Cascade Conference Offensive Player of the Week

**Acacia Johnson**—Cascade Conference Offensive Player of the Week (two times); CCC Newcomer of the Year

**Kirstie Walton**—Cascade Conference Honorable Mention, All-Conference

**Jordyn Wilson**—Cascade Conference Honorable Mention, All-Conference

**Elizabeth Perkins**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

**Volleyball**

**NU Volleyball Team**—CCC Semifinalist

**Heather Shulke**—Cascade Conference Libero of the Week (two times); Cascade Conference First Team, All-Conference Team; Honorable Mention, Northwest Region, American Volleyball Coaches Association; Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete; Daktronics NAIA Scholar Athlete

**Anu Akamine**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete; Daktronics NAIA Scholar Athlete; Capital One CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team College Division

**Lauryn Ernstner**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete; Daktronics NAIA Scholar Athlete; Capital One CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team College Division

**Sarah Stoker**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete; Capital One CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team College Division; Cascade Conference Honorable Mention, All-Conference Team

**Breanna Covey**—Cascade Conference First Team, All-Conference Team

**Molly Boyle**—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

**Coach Erin Redwine**
ATHLETICS UPDATE

Men’s Soccer
NU Soccer Team—Cascade Conference Semifinalist; received votes in NAIA national poll
Gary McIntosh—Cascade Conference Co-Coach of the Year (2nd time)
Luke Fischer—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete; Daktronics NAIA Men’s Scholar Athlete; CoSIDA College Division Academic All-America, Second Team; Capital One CoSIDA Academic All-District 8 First Team (College Division); Cascade Conference Second Team, All-Conference
Adam Loga—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete; Daktronics NAIA Men’s Scholar Athlete; Cascade Conference Honorable Mention, All-Conference
James Kerr—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete; Daktronics NAIA Men’s Scholar Athlete; CoSIDA College Division Academic All-America, Third Team; Capital One CoSIDA Academic All-District 8 First Team (College Division)
Edgar Esquivel—Cascade Conference Offensive Player of the Week; Cascade Conference Honorable Mention, All-Conference
Joe Galbraith—Cascade Conference Defensive Player of the Week; Cascade Conference Second Team, All-Conference
Joel Pelton—CCC Newcomer of the Year; Cascade Conference First Team, All-Conference
Doug Whitney—Cascade Conference First Team, All-Conference
Drew Jensen—Cascade Conference Second Team, All-Conference
Mason Abdalla—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete
Timothy Filion—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete
Nickey Ricks—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete

Men’s Basketball
NU Basketball Team—Cascade Conference Co-Champions; Cascade Conference Tournament, runner-up; NAIA Division II National Tournament quarterfinalist; CCC Verizon Team of the Week (two times); Honda Classic Tournament Champions; Ranked No. 8 in final NAIA final regular season national poll; Ranked 11 consecutive weeks in NAIA Top 25 Poll
John Van Dyke—Cascade Conference Coach of the Year
Jordan Call—Honda Classic All-Tournament Team; Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete; Cascade Conference First Team, All-Conference
Michael Greene—Honda Classic Tournament MVP; Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete; Capitol One CoSIDA Academic All-District First-Team; Capital One CoSIDA Academic All-American Second Team; Cascade Conference Honorable Mention, All-Conference
Rich Skillman—Cascade Conference Scholar Athlete; Cascade Conference Defensive Player of the Year; Cascade Conference First Team, All-Conference; 1,000 career points scored, January 2012; 2012 NAIA Division II National Championships All-Tournament Team; 3rd Team NAIA All-American
Ahmaad Cook—Cascade Conference Honorable Mention, All-Conference

Women’s Basketball
NU Basketball Team—CCC quarterfinals
Jessalyn Jackson—Cascade Conference Player of the Week (two times); 1,000 career points scored January 2012; Cascade Conference Player of the Year; 2nd Team NAIA All-American
Domi Mendezona—Cascade Conference Honorable Mention, All-Conference
2nd Annual Eagle Hall of Fame & Sports Benefit

The 2012 Eagle Hall of Fame Benefit on March 23rd was a memorable event for all those who attended. The evening began with a silent auction, followed by dinner and recognition of the 2012 Hall of Fame inductees. Those honored included: former Athletic Trainer Jim Richards (’01-’09), the 2002 Women’s Cross Country National Championship Team, Women’s Basketball Athlete Aiyanna (Marcus) Curtis (’91), Women’s Basketball Athlete Dena Cambra (’93), and Men’s Basketball Athlete Dennis LaMance (’71).

Also honored were current student athletes, Paige DeLapp (Cross Country and Track & Field) and Luke Fischer (Men’s Soccer and Track & Field). They were named NU Female and Male Athletes of the Year.

In addition to honoring athletes and teams, the evening was designed to raise money for Eagle Athletics. NU’s sports teams worked hard at procuring items for the silent auction in which the proceeds were invested back into those teams. Bidders were excited about bidding on over 100 items while enjoying delicious hors d’oeuvres and mingling with current athletes, former players, coaches, parents, alumni, family, and friends at the Bellevue Westin Hotel.

If you were a student athlete or a fan of athletics, you have an opportunity to invest in the Athletic Program of Northwest University by attending the third annual Eagle Hall of Fame Benefit next year on Friday, March 22, 2013. We hope to see you there.
Christ’s Love Made Visible

Dr. Forrest Inslee

This issue of Passages is all about empow ered engagement with human need. But what does “empowered engagement” really mean? In my view, it is using the “power” that God has given each of us already to change the world around us. It is important to be always asking ourselves: What is my role in building God’s kingdom? My premise here is that we are ALL, individually and corporately, created to reflect the character of God and to express his priorities in all we do. As John Perkins puts it, “It is the responsibility of the body of Christ to live out his life on earth and to make the love of God visible in our time.” Each one of us should therefore seek hard after an understanding of our unique call to engage human need, never stopping until we know at least the next steps we are meant to take.

At Northwest University (NU), the Latin motto on our University seal reads vocationem dei gerite—which roughly translated means “carry, carry out, and be characterized by the call of God.” This idea really is at the heart of all that we do at NU. For every staff member, administrator, and teacher, our job as members of this formational community is to help men and women figure out WHO they were created to be, WHAT they were created to do, and HOW to live in the dream that God has already dreamed for their lives. And this means challenging them to think beyond conventional options and to imagine new possibilities that God has for them.

However, it is sometimes difficult to take a risk on these “new possibilities” for service because they often seem at odds with the way ministry is supposed to be done. I contend that more often than not, people miss out on all or part of their callings to become world-changers because of their inability to recognize their own particular paths. What is more, people miss out on their best and most impactful avenues of service because, when they DO discover their unique callings, they lack the courage to embrace them because they don’t conform to the parameters of the “done thing” in a particular area of work or service.

So many of us in this day and age feel restless and unfulfilled. We understand that life in the kingdom of God should entail a commitment to mercy and justice, yet we so often have no idea where to start. Through our churches, neighborhoods, schools, and even our workplaces, we are presented with pre-defined opportunities for involvement—yet too often the “cookie cutter” shapes of these opportunities for service seem ill-suited to the shapes of our own lives. Our hearts may yearn to be part of something bigger than ourselves and yearn for the significance of social-change engagement. Yet the daunting question that often immobilizes us is: What are we actually supposed to do about it?

What is needed is a more organic view of what it means to serve, one that leads to authenticity and resonance of soul. The advice I give to my graduate students, as obvious as it may seem, is simply this: Be yourself; yet be MORE of yourself—your unique, God-dreamed, specially-gifted self that was designed to meet the needs of the world as no one else can. To live that way takes courage and imagination, but it leads to the sort of empowered engagement that brings transformation and healing to the world.

When you think about it, the prospect of becoming an agent of transformation and healing sounds scarier than it really is. Too often we assume that God’s call to service will require us to live among the poorest of the poor, or perhaps require us to carry placards and march in the streets. Well, maybe. But more often the type of service that God has in mind for each one of us is NOT meant to be something that inspires fear. Rather, when God invites us into engagement with human need it means doing something that we are able to do, that we are gifted to do, and even something that we LIKE to do. Yet too often the stereotypes we have about world-changing “ministry” or service keep us from seeing what God really has in mind for us.

Let me further illustrate this idea with a few examples of people who HAVE taken the time to discern God’s unique call to service on their lives—men and women who have had the courage to imagine new possibilities for service out of their specific interests and abilities.

Jeff Ericson is a guy who knew early on in his life that he was called to make a difference in people’s lives for the sake of God’s kingdom. The conventions of his church culture prescribed that he get theological training for the ministry, so without questioning that assumption he started his education in that very subject at Northwest in 1980. The fact of the matter was that Jeff really didn’t like studying theology, and the prospect of life as a pastor left him cold. What Jeff REALLY liked, though, was the challenge of making money and creating new business opportunities; in fact, even as a college student he found himself devoting far more energy to entrepreneurial activities than he did to his schoolwork. But very importantly, it was in entrepreneurship that he found the most joy. For Jeff, the pivotal act of courage was the decision to leave school and devote himself to business. And guess what? Jeff met with a lot of success—so much that he “retired” in his 30s and then went on to create a coffee company committed to social justice. Through the sale of fairly traded, sustainable, organic coffee, his company, Camano Island Coffee Roasters², now supports the creation of farming cooperatives that lift hundreds of
previously poor farmers out of poverty, and offers them the opportunity to become self-supporting. That’s engagement with human need, *Jeff Ericson style*!

Consider another example of empowered engagement in the example of a colleague of mine, Dan Graetzer, who teaches science at NU. Dan belongs to a church in South Seattle that is surrounded by human need in the form of the poor and the homeless. Dan is an outgoing, friendly guy who loves to meet people. He also has a roomy old Honda SUV, and an eye for opportunity! The consummate networker, Dan figured out that grocery stores in the area throw out damaged or past-date food that is still perfectly nutritious. So out of his love for God and people, he established relationships with the managers of those stores, and every single day he makes the rounds to collect food that ultimately empowers his church to feed the homeless in that south end community.

Or consider the example of Beth Bruno, a full-time mom who recently earned a master’s degree at NU. As Beth sought her unique calling to service, she began to take seriously her love of photography—and to consider the possibility that ART might actually BE her avenue of service. In an act of brave creativity and out-of-the-box imagination, she collected a bunch of digital cameras and headed off to Turkey. In her heart was a God-given concern for disabled children—and a desire to give voice to these kids who, in that culture, were essentially hidden away and ignored. She made an opportunity to train some of these kids in basic photography skills, then sent them out to record and interpret their world with the cameras she had brought. The results of taking a risk on God’s unique call? The culture of that Turkish city has begun to be transformed. After several exhibits of the kids’ photos, key leaders in their city have acknowledged the need for more awareness of the disabled, and these previously-marginalized kids now have a public voice and newfound confidence. Beth is still a full-time mom. And she has ALSO started a nonprofit called A Face to Reframe¹, through which she continues to work for social justice through photography.

Jeff, Dan, and Beth will all tell you: what they do is deeply satisfying. They engage human need through the things they do well, and the things they love to do. When a person understands the unique interests and abilities she has for service, that service is not something heavy or oppressive. Rather, to serve out of our true selves is a life-giving activity; and as we receive life, we are all the more equipped to give life to others.

The hurts and injustices of the world surround us, and God calls us—has empowered us—to engage human need. The challenge for each of us then is to attend to that call: to discover and embrace that unique constellation of talents and interests, inclinations and passions. In that place, the Spirit inspires us to re-imagine and re-create our understanding of what it looks like to love and serve the hurting, the lost, the oppressed, and the poor. To follow God’s unique call often takes enormous courage, especially if we must act against the status quo and challenge conventional thinking. But then, it seems to me that the One we follow was all about that sort of thing.

²http://www.camanoislandcoffee.com/
³http://www.afacetoreframe.org/

Forrest Inslee earned an M.A. and Ph.D. from Northwestern University in communication/ethnography, and an M.C.S. in cross cultural theological education from Regent College. He spent six years working among the urban poor in Chicago, and later lived for four years in Istanbul supporting community development and leadership training for the emerging churches there. He currently lives in Kirkland, Washington with his young daughter, and teaches and directs a graduate program at Northwest University called International Care and Community Development. His primary teaching interests lie in intercultural studies, Native American issues, environmental justice, and social entrepreneurship.
John Vicory is the Associate Director for Visual Communications at NU. He also recently graduated from the M.A. in ICCD program. In 2007, John went to Uganda, Africa to organize an international HIV/AIDS conference. While he was there, he got in touch with the director of an orphan care center called St. Ameria. After meeting the children and hearing the director’s heart for them, he knew that he had to do something to help them accomplish their dreams. He started a non-profit organization called We Are Lights that provides scholarships to primary and secondary school children. The photo on the cover and the current pages were taken at the orphan care center on one of his trips.

We Are Lights is dedicated to seeing orphaned children become flourishing members of society. They accomplish this by partnering with small orphan care centers around the world to help them accomplish their own dreams for the communities and nations. Sign up to find out more at wearelights.org.
People Characterized by the Call

Northwest University’s community extends far beyond its campus and includes alumni, donors, and board members in addition to students, staff, and faculty. This issue of Passages offers a glimpse of how members of our community are engaging the human need they see around them, both corporately and individually.

Shirley Grew

Shirley Grew is a 2011 alumna of Northwest with a Master of Arts in International Care and Community Development (ICCD).

Shirley lived in the Seattle area for most of her life, spending the past 10 years on Vashon Island. She decided to pursue the ICCD program at Northwest in 2009. That was also the year she first traveled to Uganda and began to love its people. Throughout the ICCD program, she remained deeply committed to finding the best way to serve God while helping the people of Uganda. She completed the ICCD program in the fall of 2011, and in January 2012 received the opportunity she had been praying for.

As the country director for a non-governmental organization called Soft Power Health, Shirley now works at a rural health clinic in Kyabirwa village, close to the river Nile near Jinja, Uganda. Her responsibilities include day-to-day management of the clinic, and coordination of four outreach teams for malaria education and family planning; she helps to manage a team of 25 indigenous staff.

“Defining ‘empowered engagement with human need’ is complex as there are many facets and contexts. For the kind of work I do, to successfully empower engagement with human need one must think carefully about the process of addressing individual or community needs before rushing in,” Shirley said. “Part of this process is first listening to the people involved and learning from them, before attempting to teach. It is a side-by-side engagement, a balance between actively doing and just sitting still, listening, and learning, all the while respecting each other.”

Shirley explained, “The mottos of SPH are ‘Knowledge Is Power’ and ‘Mukagwa Twekembe,’ which basically means ‘My friend, let us join hands and work together.’ We carry out these philosophies every day.” She continued, “We listen to the rural communities and then help them to take their health into their own hands, by providing them education and training along with primary and preventative care. Our indigenous staff members are the providers and trainers of their fellow Ugandans both at the clinic and when doing outreach in villages… Our clinic charges 5,000 Ugandan shillings, about $2.20, to be seen by a doctor and receive medicine. During our malaria outreach, we sell our mosquito nets for just 3,000 Ugandan shillings. We have found that cost sharing works extremely well as another means of empowerment. It helps Ugandans to take responsibility for their own health and to change their own behavior instead of just reacting and receiving treatment.”
Twin brothers, David and Dean, natives of Tacoma, Washington both graduated from Northwest with a degree in Youth Ministries, David in 1990 and Dean in 1991. Dean also served on the Northwest Alumni Board and the Board of Directors.

David Curry has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Rescue Mission since 2005. Founded in 1912, The Rescue Mission has grown to become one of the finest organizations in the country for reaching the needs of the homeless, hungry, and addicted. With six different locations around Pierce County, the Mission serves 30,000 meals each month to hungry people. Each night approximately 600 people sleep in beds provided by the Rescue Mission. In addition to emergency services, the Mission has a drug recovery program called the New Life Program, which serves single adults and families. The goal of all Rescue Mission programs is to see lives transformed.

"Every day we serve 1,000 meals to hungry people in Pierce County. In addition we have over 600 people sleeping in our facilities each night. My goal is to see that we are helping to elevate suffering, despair, and hopelessness in my part of the world. For me it's not just about the practical services, but about the transformation of the whole person—body, mind, and spirit.”

Dean Curry is the lead pastor at Life Center church in Tacoma. Dean is a nationally sought-after public speaker, motivator, teacher, and mentor who is passionate about extending Jesus’ message of hope. In 2006, he co-founded the Global Neighbor Project, a compassionate, community-based outreach to the region of Lesotho, Africa.

Dean offered his definition of empowered engagement: "If you believe God created everyone with intrinsic value, then there are two major implications. First, you have something to give, and you won't become everything you want to be without serving others. Second, other people have something to give. Empowered engagement is me pulling the best out of you and you pulling the best out of me. It's helping people become who they were meant to be, building them up, helping them see their strengths and overcome their weaknesses. It's defining people not by their worst moments, but by their best. And in that process, I believe we all become who we were meant to be."

Dean continued, "I don't see 'human need' as part of my work; I see it as part of who I am. 'Need' is the lens I see the world through. The question implies that I'm okay, and I've committed my life to a work that helps other people because I want to give back. I believe we're all in this together. We're all needy, and we're all neighbors. Jesus' idea of 'who is my neighbor' is really the whole philosophy behind the Global Neighbor Project, our community initiative and partnership with World Vision in Lesotho. We have to start looking past labels and superficial differences and begin viewing ourselves as neighbors called to help each other in our need."
Embargo
Student Ministry
Kirkland, Wash.

Embargo is a student club at Northwest that runs under the outreach branch in the Northwest University Ministry Association (NUMA). The club is dedicated to raising awareness and fighting human trafficking around the world and more specifically in the United States. Every semester, Embargo sets fundraising goals and donates 100% of the funds raised to Abolition International, an organization started by Christian singer, Natalie Grant.

According to Embargo President, Brittany Smith, empowered engagement means “to empower the community to engage in helping humans with their needs.” She continued, “This is where awareness comes in. The community doesn’t know how bad the problem of slavery is, and when they do find out, they think they don’t have any way to help because the problem is so huge. Embargo wants to explain the human need, and then give the community empowerment to make a difference in people’s lives.”

One way Embargo is engaging human need is through fundraising. Brittany explained, “The project we are currently working on is our auction which will be held on March 29, 2012. The awareness part of this project has been in asking for donations. Every time we ask someone for a donation, we get the chance to tell them about human trafficking. We also get to share where the money raised will be going. All money raised will go to Abolition International and the work they are doing to build more safe homes for rescued victims of human trafficking.”

Spencer Oswald
Student—Kirkland, Wash.

Spencer Oswald is currently a student in the Master of Arts in International Care and Community Development (ICCD) program and will graduate in May 2012.

Ever since he was young, Spencer has had a passion to make a difference in the world. The ICCD program has helped to prepare him to accomplish his goals. For his ICCD practicum he conducted a qualitative study analyzing the internal communication dynamics at Agros International. In August of 2011, he had a chance to go to Nicaragua and Honduras with Agros to interview 20 of the local people where he asked about their perspective on how the Agros development model has affected them. He also went to Costa Rica in March of 2012 with Bethany Community Church to determine if and how the church could partner with two local organizations.

“Empowered engagement starts with understanding how Jesus worked with those in need. One of my favorite quotes by Robert Guerrero concluded, ‘…[Jesus’] strategy was to partner with the weak, vulnerable and under-resourced community of disciples (his Church) in ways that they become main actors in both discussing the problem…and providing the resource…’ (2000). Empowerment is not something one can give the poor, but rather is fostered through developing partnerships of equality, collaboration, and love,” Spencer said.

“Human need can be found in more than social or economic poverty, but also in mental, relational, and spiritual poverty.” He continued, “For the past year I have been co-leading a Christian community house. The goal for the house has been to help support the housemates in their mental, relational, and spiritual needs by fostering intentional relationships. Upon graduation I hope to use my business background and what I have learned in ICCD to foster empowerment through establishing partnerships with the economic and social poor. Jesus has called us to partner with the weak, vulnerable, and under-resourced and I fully intend to answer His call.”
The Christian Fidelity Foundation (CFF) has enjoyed a long and rich relationship with various Assemblies of God (A/G) institutions throughout the United States, but their direct connection to Northwest University was a result of a long personal relationship with Dr. Castleberry and his family.

Christian Fidelity Foundation began in 1956 as a non-profit organization connected with Christian Fidelity Life Insurance Company. By creating the Foundation, the officers, directors, and stockholders of the insurance company were able to extend the charitable goals of the company. Through the years, CFF has provided millions of dollars to A/G institutions through grants, gifts, and scholarships.

When asked to define “empowered engagement with human need,” Vice President David Barnett responded, “The operative word in the phrase is ‘empowered.’ As Christians, we engage with human need on a daily basis; the real question is will we engage from a place of weakness or from a place of strength and empowerment?” He continued, “If the answer is the latter, the next question should be how do we become empowered for engagement? Empowerment comes through educating and equipping. That’s where we see our place—assisting in enabling the next generation through financial resources that help educate and equip.”

David explained how CFF is engaging with human need, “Rather than engaging in meeting human need directly, we see our function as empowering the engagers. Many of our grants fund special projects at A/G colleges and universities, such as the Creatio Project at Northwest University. Projects like Creatio are an important resource for training and equipping the future generations of those who will give their lives to others in ministry and service. We have made significant investments in next-gen technology at several A/G schools, including audio, video, and music computer labs. We have also contributed to the development of a worldwide distance-learning computer infrastructure for Global University. Finally, we provide a variety of scholarships each year to students at various A/G schools; we see that as a tremendous investment in perpetuating the Kingdom.”
We have all heard the Chinese proverb: “Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day, teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime.” After a devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked Haiti two years ago, Convoy of Hope’s Dr. Jason Streubel became a key player in the rebuilding process. To continue the metaphor, what Convoy is doing is showing the people of Haiti how to build a sustainable fishing industry!

Organizations such as Convoy of Hope (based out of Springfield, Mo.) had been feeding the children of Haiti for many years, but the earthquake provided an opportunity to do more than just provide nourishment. Since that tragic day, Convoy of Hope has expanded their mission to include educating the Haitians in nutrition, health and medical care, microbusiness, and agriculture.

After earning degrees in Missions and Environmental Science from Northwest University, Jason received his doctorate from Washington State University (WSU) in soil science last year. Only eight days after graduating, he was hired by Convoy of Hope to work with local farmers to teach them how to maximize the soil and growing conditions for optimal crop output. Instead of buying food in the United States and shipping it to Haiti, Convoy is able to stimulate the economy by buying from these farmers and helping the community serve its own members who are in need.

Jason developed a heart for ministry while at Northwest, serving on the ACTS summer ministry team. He unites his passions for ministry and science through his work with Convoy of Hope.

Jason’s understanding of “empowered engagement” as it relates to him and his work includes being empowered not only by God, but also by academics. Without his time at Northwest and WSU, he said he would not be impacting lives on a global level and using the passions God has put in his heart.

And without this empowerment, Jason feels that we as Christians are not able to engage on the level we can and should be. “We need to be meeting people where they are in life, not where we think they need to be,” he said.

Over the last year, Jason has visited Haiti seven times and has begun to understand the lives of the Haitian people. While on site, he works with farmers and the leaders of their cooperative organizations to lend scientific aid, but also to minister and provide encouragement. On his most recent trip, Jason brought along another alum and soil scientist, Chad Kruger (class of ’97). Chad got to know Jason in their classes at Northwest and also helped him get into the Soil Science program at WSU. Together, Jason and Chad were a part of an Agricultural Summit in Haiti that is building towards self-sustaining agriculture within the next 20 years. Currently, Chad is the Director of the Washington State University Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources.
This year, Jason is working with Northwest University to involve students in the work he is doing in Haiti. Dr. Eric Steinkamp, Professor of Life Sciences, will be bringing environmental science students as well as several nursing students to gain field experience. “The science department requires all science students to do a cross-cultural trip to assess their own cultural tendencies, and observe and embrace other cultures to develop understanding, highlight universal truth, and build Christ-honoring relationships. Jason Streubel exemplifies this approach to maturity, openness, acceptance, and trust with native peoples. When I am around Jason I am reminded that God has special and beautiful people everywhere and that I can easily find them,” stated Dr. Steinkamp.

In addition to his work in Haiti, Jason is also meeting with farmers and agricultural experts in Kenya to aid in their farming efforts. Convoy has sent him to Africa three times in the last several months to conduct meetings and research and he is hopeful that God will continue to open doors around the world.

The integration of faith and science, and of meeting people’s spiritual needs along with their physical and societal needs is exciting. Please pray for Jason as he travels around the world.

Jason and his wife Mary (maiden name Clark, class of ’97) recently settled in Springfield, Mo. Their three children Macuen (11), Joash (7), and Maizy (5) keep Jason and Mary very busy, yet Mary still finds time to work with mothers in El Salvador teaching them about nutrition and health. Jason also teaches as an adjunct professor at Evangel University while continuing to feed his passion for long distance running.

Convoy of Hope discusses Jason’s work in their article “Working Towards Sustainability,” which can be found here: [www.convoyofhope.org/go/headlines/entry/working_towards_sustainability/](http://www.convoyofhope.org/go/headlines/entry/working_towards_sustainability/) and Jason’s blog also addresses his work in Haiti: [streubel.wordpress.com/](http://streubel.wordpress.com/).
Alumni Updates

1940’s

Eva Wangen (’44) continues to be active at Calvary Christian Assembly with shut-in visitations, prayer chains, and as the Homemaker WM group President. She is also involved in the NU Alumni Board in addition to being a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother! E-mail: evawangen@uptime.org

1950’s

Ronald DeBock (’53) started a business named Rainier Rentals in 1975 to manage homes for missionaries and others. He sold that business last month after 36 years on the same corner in Puyallup.

Harry Leid (’54) is now semi-retired after 54 years as a Home and Foreign Missionary with AGWM. Harry is planning another trip to Asia in March 2012. E-mail: leid77@aol.com

1960’s

Larry Howell (’62) is retired after 33 years of teaching math to middle school kids. He now substitutes at the local school district for high school and middle school kids. Larry has been pastoring a non-denominational church for 30 years. He has traveled to Indonesia as a missionary and more recently to Pakistan. Larry and his wife, along with the church they pastor, have helped to build a church in Karachi, Pakistan.

1970’s

Bernhard Bjornsen (’73) graduated from the University of Minnesota in August of 2011 with a Masters of Security Technologies. E-mail: bernhard.j.bjornsen@us.army.mil

1980’s

Bill Davis (’77) is the author of Twice Dead Now I Live, published by Hope Harvest Publishers. Bill has pastored churches, pastored youth, mentored pastors, and is now traveling, preaching, and making his book available. E-mail: w.hdavis@hotmail.com

Vernon Gillespie (’80) is currently working as a computer desktop technician at a large hospital in Vancouver, Washington.

Tim McGee (’82) has been serving at the Wilderness Recovery Center this past year and loves working with drug and alcohol addicted adolescents. He feels God is doing a great job reaching hearts there. E-mail: timothymcgee_1@juno.com

Leslie Engelson (’85) moved to Murray, a small town in Western Kentucky, and is working at Murray State University. E-mail: leslie.engelson@gmail.com

Heidi Oberfranc (Kennedy, ’86) is a homemaker and homeschool mom who also owns her own businesses: Heidi’s School of Dance and Oberfranc Martial Arts. She has been teaching dance out of her own studio since 1989 and Martial Arts since 2007. She has a black belt in Taekwon Do and Wu Wei Gung Fu. Both of her sons also have black belts in Taekwon Do and sometimes help her teach class. Heidi plays the electric bass guitar and sometimes sings on her church worship team and her oldest son plays drums on the team as well. Her husband, Patrick (married since 1990), works for the National Park Service. E-mail: heidi.oberfranc@yahoo.com
1990’s

Byron Gerard (’95) and Heather (Moen, ’96) moved to Bellingham, Washington in 2005. Byron works as a school administrator at Mt. Baker Jr./Sr. High School and Heather serves as an administrative assistant at Roosevelt Elementary School. They both enjoy their family, community, church, and the kids and families that they serve at school. E-mail: Bgerard@mtbaker.wednet.edu

2000’s

Tim Lucas (’01) has published two kids e-books under the pen name Theodore Allen Lightfoot. Both books were edited by NU’s own Julia Young. The first, Tiger and Mouse: The Gift of Helping Others, is a heartwarming story of a rambunctious tiger cub and a hard working mouse whose paths cross one day in the jungle. The second, The Hippo Campus, is a fun, rhyming, interactive book where children learn about the properties of buoyancy by visiting a campus populated entirely by hippos! E-mail: timothyalucas@gmail.com

Charla Summit (Newby, ’02) and husband Jeff (’03) live in Gig Harbor, Washington. Jeff is living his dream job as a game warden. Charla works as a part time dental assistant and stays home with their son. E-mail: csummit@hotmail.com

Jacob Young (’02) is continuing to enjoy lots of travel and adventures. He is grateful to his friends and family for supporting him as he starts a new venture in Alchemy Tours. E-mail: jacobmyoung@gmail.com

Sara Adams (Nielson, ’03) and Rob (’03) have been married seven years and are thrilled to be expecting their second child, a son, in April! Their daughter Grace is 3½ years old. E-mail: sarabethadams@yahoo.com

Justin (’04) and Katie Pike (’05) baptized their son, Jason James Pike, on September 2, 2011 at St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Everett, Washington. The Pikes make their home in Mill Creek. E-mail: justinpike@hotmail.com

Lindsay Fosner (’05) was married to Cameron Anderson on November 5, 2011. She is now the proud step-mom to Brayden (12) and Blake (11) and is about to graduate from NU again with a Master of Arts in International Care and Community Development. Cameron and Lindsay currently work for Community Dinners (www.communitydinners.org) and are also starting a social enterprise called The Belgian Waffle Co. this summer (www.thebelgianwaffleco.com).

Evan Muxen (’05) and his family live at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In February, Evan began a 12-week Information Operations Training Course at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. After he completes that course and the kids have finished school, the family will pack up their lives and move to Fort Drum, New York, located in the upstate New York area. They expect to stay at Fort Drum for up to four years and Evan will most likely deploy overseas again from Fort Drum. E-mail: evan.mark.muxen@us.army.mil
John Quick ('05) has been married to his best friend Heidi (Stynsberg, '03) for seven years and they have two amazing kids. John currently co-owns and is the COO of three businesses that have four locations: Anthem Coffee and Tea, Elements Frozen Yogurt, and Joeseppis On the Go! He is also on two boards, one as the Board President of Sports Leadership, which is an international nonprofit that works hand and hand with Nike-owned U.S. Sports Camps. The other one is All Girls Allowed which is a human rights organization founded by Nobel Peace Prize nominee Chia Ling. The Quicks attend Soma which is an Acts 29 church in Tacoma, Washington.
E-mail: johnquickslm@gmail.com

Christianna Johns (Woods, '07) and her husband Micah moved to Oregon in May 2011. Micah got a job in the Portland area. Christianna started working at New Creation Church in Canby, Oregon as their Worship Leader/Outreach Coordinator in November 2011.
Email: sanctus.crux@gmail.com

Cody Hamar (Crane, '07) became a full time kindergarten teacher in Carnation, Washington (where she previously student taught) after graduating with a B.A. in Elementary Education and minors in Business and Christian Education. In 2008 she graduated from Northwest with her Master in Teaching degree. In 2009, she completed a Seattle Pacific University program and achieved Professional Certification. In 2010, she began the National Board Certification process and is currently awaiting results. On August 13, 2011, she married Kyle Hamar, who is now a student at NU pursuing a degree in communications. “Life is wonderful: teaching, being a wife, and serving the Lord!” E-mail: thecrame84@gmail.com

Derald Porter ('09) started a new position in March 2011 as a Leave of Absence Administrator in HR Services at Amazon. He is continually thankful for his business administration cohort.
E-mail: woodway77@gmail.com

2010’s

Clara Phillips (Unger, ’10) married the love of her life on September 24, 2011 and moved to Lexington, Kentucky where her husband is a student/ baseball player at the University of Kentucky.

Ashley Ollila (‘11) will be applying for grad school at UW, Northwestern, and NU. She hopes to get into UW and start the program in the fall of 2012. In the meantime, she will be selling insurance and working, and will enjoy a break from homework.
E-mail: Aollila07@gmail.com

Becky Therres (Anderson, ’11) is working with the marginalized communities of Sao Paulo through Solidarity. They will be gathering, training, and moving toward transformational relationships within marginalized communities, cultivating love, belonging, and significance among all who are involved. They are working with the street kids of Sao Paulo and also partner with other ministries that focus on street kids.
E-mail: beckytanderson@gmail.com

Future Alumni

Andrea Miles (Beck, ’99) and Noah (’97) welcomed daughter Abigail Joy into their family on March 12, 2012. Abigail joins big sister Bethan (4). The Miles family recently moved to Spokane, Washington after 14 years living in the Bellevue. E-mail: noahmiles@msn.com

Chelsea Yochum (’07) and her husband Tom are proud to announce the birth of their sons, Asher Michael, February 2, 2010, and Caleb David, September 22, 2011.

Allison Dolliver (Bunten, ’08) and husband Chris welcomed a daughter, Charlotte Anne, on July 25, 2011.
Remembering Recent Student, Masayuki Konishi

“The Bible says that overwhelming joy and hope lie ahead beyond current pain and sufferings.” Northwest University alum Masayuki (Masa) Konishi made this confident declaration in his 2011 testimony for Seattle’s Japanese x Jesus ministry.

Several years earlier, Masa had plans to leave his hometown of Nara, Japan to pursue a college education in America. But soon before his departure, while being examined for a snowboarding injury, doctors discovered that Masa had polycystic kidney disease (PKD). Upon learning that PKD is hereditary and incurable, Masa felt helpless and hopeless, even contemplating suicide. But with encouragement from family and friends, he decided to keep his plans to go to America and moved to Seattle two years later.

As Masa pursued his associate’s degree at Edmonds Community College, he made some new friends who invited him to church. Though he was raised Buddhist, he attended periodically, searching for answers and struggling to deal emotionally with his illness. After hearing a sermon about the power of prayer, he sensed God’s presence and knew that God was speaking to him and would give him the strength to deal with this disease.

After accepting Christ, Masa transferred to Northwest University to be part of a Christian community. “It is very important to have a community to be in,” he said. “You can’t live by yourself. . . . it is a great thing to have people to share with and pray for you.”

Despite undergoing dialysis treatments for his PKD, Masa’s kidneys began to fail in early January. He once again received the support of family, friends, and acquaintances as over 1,500 people around the world prayed for him and his family, flooding the “Pray for Masa” Facebook page with prayers and encouragement.

On January 5, Masa suffered an inoperable brain hemorrhage and lost consciousness. At age 27, Masa left behind his pain and suffering for the overwhelming joy of heaven on January 7, 2012.

Those who knew Masa will miss his contagious smile and joyful attitude. Former NU student TJ Duffy described Masa as his first friend at NU and a “genuine, warmhearted man of God.”

In memory of Masa, Northwest University has created a scholarship award of $1,000 that will be presented to a Japanese student. “We are grateful for the honor of participating in Masa’s life,” said President Castleberry, “and our faith promises us that we will see him again in God’s Kingdom.”

NORTHWEST ALUMNI

Send Us Your News and Photos
Help us—and the entire Northwest University community—keep up to date on what’s happening in your world.

Online Update Form
This is the easiest way to keep us updated. Just log on to our website, www.northwestu.edu/alumni/update, and fill out the online Alumni Update Form.
You can also send an email to alumni@northwestu.edu.

Dustin Shirley
Alumni Director
Phone: 425.889.5352
Twitter: @dustin_shirley
facebook.com/nualumdirector
If you visited Drs. Weldyn and Barbara Houger and asked them about the legacy they hope to leave, you’d quickly discover that they have a dream of building positive, vibrant multi-cultural relationships in a global society. Throughout their marriage they built and nurtured, only to start over again in another community of people. This vision inspires their lives daily.

Weldyn and Barb arrived on the campus of Northwest University in 2007 to teach students wanting to serve people from cultures other than their own. The Hougers’ one-year assignment extended into five years of continued teaching and assistance in program development, resulting in a new Bachelor of Arts degree in Intercultural Studies.

Weldyn and Barbara were called to missions at an early age. They met at Northwest and together found a lifetime call to serve, teach, inspire, and encourage others. They are ministers, educators, administrators, and gifted leaders with the ability to build genuine relationships and effective learning opportunities.

“We want to help students hear what God is saying to them so they can find fulfillment in their call. We see ourselves as promoters of the potential in their lives,” the couple explained. “We don’t hold back from asking, ‘how can we help you accomplish your call using the talents you’ve been given?’ We hope to unveil their potential and encourage intercultural learners in their missions calling.”

In 1972, the couple began their service in Alaska, where they served for seven years. In Haines, Alaska they ministered to the people of the local Assembly of God, including the Tingit Indians in Klukwan. Through their time in Alaska they continued building relationships with people living in other remote towns. In Bethel with the Yupik Eskimos they helped establish a Bible school and a church. Indigenous churches were formed in Glennallen and Klukwan.

By the time the Hougers left Alaska, they were known across the state for their success in cross-cultural ministry and the formation of vibrant, caring communities. Following a period of pastoring in a smaller community in Montana, the Hougers shifted their ministry to serve cultures outside the United States.

Landing in Indonesia in 1985 was a fulfillment of God’s promise that they would minister to people in that culture. Language school was one of their harder experiences, but it was a joy to be able to speak with the people in their own language. After language school they moved to Medan, North Sumatra to assist the Batak people, where they worked in a Bible school. Weldyn served as Assistant Academic Dean and they both served as lecturers. They formed a School of Ministry out in villages, where they taught courses, held services, and helped start new churches. Later they served in the Jakarta Bible School as campus pastors and lecturers, ministering and teaching in the churches in the areas of leadership and Christian education.

In the middle of their commission in Indonesia, a year was spent in Vietnam because visa problems forced them to leave Indonesia for a period of time. In Vietnam, the Hougers helped start three orphanages, worked with drug rehab centers, and started the process to build health clinics.

In 1996, they returned to the States. Weldyn served as Missionary in Residence at Trinity Bible College in North Dakota. “It was a great experience to help plant a vision for missions in the hearts of students,” he said. Currently, the students Weldyn taught are serving all over the world, from Indonesia and Thailand, to China, to Chile.

For a number of years the Hougers served as Bible school and educational consultants with the Asia Pacific Education Office, working with leaders in Mongolia, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Cambodia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Samoa, and American Samoa.

After 2000, new missions opportunities opened for Weldyn and Barbara in Singapore, where Weldyn served as President and Academic Dean of the Assemblies of God Bible College, and Barb as Registrar. During this time, they also taught classes at the school before finally coming to Northwest University.

Wayde Goodall, Dean of the College of Ministry, commented on the Hougers’ contribution to Northwest: “Drs. Weldyn and Barbara Houger are having a tremendous impact on our NU students generally and specifically in their leadership in the Intercultural Studies major. Their unique expertise with various cultures, religions, and worldviews has been communicated...
Joni Welk-Campbell is the Executive Director of the Northwest University Foundation. In addition, she is a Certified Stewardship Director, CFRE, and has earned a Masters in Business Administration. Her expertise in the area of estate consultation and planned giving spans 23 years. Over these years she has served Northwest University donors assisting them in designing family and ministry legacies through endowments and planned gifts.

The University’s Intercultural Studies program offers concentrations in four global areas and focuses on serving multicultural environments. This year, six students completed their study abroad program and experienced work with underprivileged children, youth at risk, victims of human trafficking, and HIV/AIDS victims depending on the countries they were in. Over 50 students are enrolled in the program this year.

One student, Nicole Sanstad (’09) chose to serve her semester abroad in Chiang Mai, Thailand. She also spent time in Cambodia and Vietnam. In May she will be returning to Cambodia to work with Chab Dai, an organization that focuses on uniting Khmang nationals and internationals on the issue of human trafficking. Two other alumni, Joshua (’08) and Vicki (’09) Mathews, have been working in the Dominican Republic (DR) for the last three years under the Student International Organization. They have had a tremendous influence in the lives of local youth and North American youth coming to the DR for short-term mission assignments.

The Hougers continue to travel to Asia as directors of the Asia Pacific Education office, which works alongside around 100 Bible schools. Weldyn and Barb are also board and committee members of the Asia Pacific Theological Association. Weldyn serves on the newly-formed World Alliance for Pentecostal Theological Education, which connects Pentecostal/Charismatic accreditation associations around the world and is the educational arm for the Pentecostal World Fellowship (PWF).

“What we hope to pass on to our students is a willingness to be transparent, vulnerable, and a participant with the people they will be ministering to,” the Hougers explained, looking to Christ’s own ministry as the ultimate example. “He broke through barriers, he crossed over differing cultures, and we should do the same. This is the fervor we desire to ignite in all those with whom we can have an influence.” The Hougers have faithfully served Northwest University for the past five years as missionaries in residence and faculty. At the end of the 2011-2012 academic year they will transition to the role of adjunct faculty with plans to return to Asia Pacific in May 2013. To learn more about their ministry and how you can pray for the Hougers, please visit www.hougerhome.com.

Supporting Intercultural Students

Friends and alumni of Northwest University support intercultural studies students through memorial or honorary endowed scholarships. The Operation World Finke Scholarship, established by Mrs. Janice Finke LeCrone in memory of her late husband, William (Bill) Finke (’63), is an award that honors Bill’s love for people around the world. His life was devoted to missions work. He had a strong compassion for people living in countries yet to be reached with the salvation message. Each year, an Intercultural Studies student receives a scholarship, reducing the student’s loan amount. Other scholarships that help Intercultural majors are the Robert and Mildred Tangen Memorial Scholarship, King’s Circle Missions Scholarship, and the Ann Selstad Salvesen Memorial Scholarship.

To learn more about helping students with a life mission to serve in multi-cultural communities, please visit: www.northwestu.edu/scholarships, e-mail: foundation@northwestu.edu, or call 425-889-5203.

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BUILDING ON OUR CALLING

For nearly 50 years, Northwest University’s Butterfield Chapel has served as the center of spiritual life on our campus. Generations of students have worshipped, prayed, and listened to God’s word there. They heard God’s direction for their lives. Some even came to know Christ for the first time.

But the Chapel was designed for a different era. In faithfulness to the call God has placed on our hearts, it is time to transform how we use this building.

We have an inspiring vision for our future:
To powerfully engage with human need and spiritual poverty on a scale we have never before imagined. To grow in our ministry of transforming students who go on to transform their communities. To embrace the broken and forgotten as we take the Good News of Christ to the overlooked places of our nation and the world.

The Butterfield Chapel will be our training ground. We need your help: walk alongside us as we transform this important space into a global media and ministry center.

For today’s digital generation, we will create a space where digital ministry thrives. We will create worship music, sermons, lectures, and videos, and share them with the world. We will train the next generation of recording artists, music industry professionals, missionaries, worship pastors, and YouTube ministers. We will leverage the latest technology to give our students and faculty the tools they need to minister on a truly global scale.

The new Chapel will also serve as the flagship studio of the Creatio Institute—Northwest’s signature recording arts program. Once finished, our new space will include a sophisticated sound stage and control booth, allowing Creatio students to learn and practice on the same type of equipment they will use throughout their professional careers. We will equip them to take the Gospel into the entertainment industry, and create the kind of music and media that brings hope and transforms lives.

We need $1.5 million to complete our remodel, and by the grace of God and generosity of our donors we have raised about $250,000 thus far. Our goal is to raise $350,000 by May 31 – and we need your help to get there!

Your gift of any size will help us complete this important project. Though $350,000 may seem like a lot of money, thousands of Northwest graduates working together will help us reach our goal. Please walk alongside us in this new season at Northwest University, and help our students carry the call of the Gospel as they “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19).

You can visit us on the web to give a gift, share your prayers, or just follow our progress at: www.northwestu.edu/renovate
You can also contact Eric Zimmerman, our Director for Development at: eric.zimmerman@northwestu.edu or 425.889.5295
Please join us on May 5th to honor the class of 2012 and pay special tribute to the class of 1962.

www.northwestu.edu/commencement

Photos: Merlin Quiggle