



NORTHWEST
ACADEMY

Welcome to the
Class of 2020
Commencement

Sunday, the 7th of June, 2020
Portland, Oregon

The Class of 2020

Daniel Christopher Alberto

Ryan Felicia Alberts

Jebanne Lucia Antonio

Isabel Sydney Yee-Ping Aqui

Ellia Verne Baldwin

Jason Andrew Batchelor

Alexander Tecumseh Cain

Lily Elizabeth Cohn

Olivia Grace Dunn

Harrison Edington

Marion Lois Guinnee

Philip Hyatt

Octavo Maran

Genevieve Eryn McRae

Megan Mendyke

Marguerite Sabina Neiberg

Claire Philomena Marie Smith

Sofia Stagnitti

Malcolm Courage Terry

Mackenzie Todd

Ezra Aswin Tolzmann

Oliver Vander Ploeg

Mission Statement

Northwest Academy is committed to inspiring students to discover their intellectual and artistic voices in a creative and supportive atmosphere fueled by curiosity and constructive challenge.



About Our Speaker



Michael Curry

Owner/Founder

Michael Curry Design

Michael Curry owns and operates Michael Curry Design—a full-service design and production company—and is an award-winning visual and concept designer known for his broad work in theater and live events. Curry is sought out by the world’s top entertainment organizations, such as The Metropolitan Opera, Universal Studios, Cirque du Soleil, and the International Olympic Committee to create large-scale spectacles. He has brought his vision to countless shows for Disney, including *The Lion King* on Broadway. Michael is a leading expert on character and scenic design, specializing in kinetic movement, puppetry, and costumes. Despite working at a global scale, Curry embraces local styles, techniques, and artists to fully integrate his creations into the communities and cultures he designs for. Curry has not only proven himself as a designer, but also as an artistic leader, even working with Northwest Academy middle school students during the 2018-19 school year on their *Suessical!* set design. Michael Curry also sits on the Northwest Academy Advocate Council.



Faculty e’ Staff

Chris Schuck, Head of School

Bonnie Auguston

John Babbott

Lee Barbara

Wendy Bell

David Berkson

Melissa Bertran

Rich Brown

Hau Bui

Tyler Buswell

Julia Cain

Sean Cain

Ryan Campbell

Jack Ciolli

Simone Coker-Kamna

Doug Cornett

Randy Davis

Thu-Tam Doan

Felicia Doni

Dan Dunning

Julie Ellington

Rosalind Fell

Caitlin Gibb

Cris Gilman

Camille Gluskoter

Katie Grekin

April Haddock

Russell Hanes

Chris Heckman

Inge Hoogerhuis

Kate John

Nia Johnson

Joanne Kim

Lilly King

Morgan Kunze

Kate Legere

Mark Lighthiser

Tamara Lindsay

Yumin Liu

Nathan Lucas

Paul Mallon

Raz Mostaghimi

Lisa Notman

Lon Nowak

Julie Osburne

Tamara Pellicier

Kelli Pennington

Jada Pierce-Mellor

Kailey Rhodes

Linda Rosinski

David Schonfeld

Erin Shannon

Erich Simon

Katie Staggers

John Storhm

Molly Sultany

Ava Swanson

Sara Tam

Rachael Torchia

Andrea Van Hagen

Kristin Van Sickle

Kathy Veenhuizen

David Wagstaff

Sharon Weir

Revan Williams

Wade Willis

Board of Trustees

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Jim Riswold

Andrew Rowe

Ron Sauer

Arlene Schnitzer (d)

Jordan Schnitzer

Albert Solheim

John Thomas



Class of 2020 College Acceptances

**attending colleges in bold*

Adelphi University
Bard College
Bennington College
Brandeis University
California College of the Arts
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo
Carroll College
Clark University
Colby-Sawyer College
College of Charleston
College of Wooster
Columbia College Chicago
DePaul University
Drew University
Georgia State University
Goldsmiths, University of London
Goucher College
Kenyon College
Knox College
Lawrence University
Linfield College
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University New Orleans
Mariist College
Marymount Manhattan College
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences
Occidental College
Oregon State University
Pacific Lutheran University
Pacific Northwest College of Art
Parsons The New School of Design
Polimoda International Institute of Design e3 Marketing

Portland Community College
Reed College
Rhodes College
Rider University
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Seattle University
Skidmore College
St. Edward's University
Temple University
The American University of Paris
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of California, Davis
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Denver
University of Edinburgh
University of London, Birkbeck
University of New Hampshire
University of Oregon
University of Oregon, Clark Honors College
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of Rhode Island
University of San Francisco
University of Vermont
University of Victoria
Wagner College
Wesleyan University
Western Washington University
Whitman College
Willamette University

Commencement 2020

Welcome.....Chris Schuck, Head of School

Welcome from Board of Trustees.....Jason Matusow, Chair

Commencement Address.....Michael Curry

Student Speakers.....Lily Cohn,
 Marion Guinee, and Octavo Maran

Presentation of Diplomas.....Chris Schuck
 and Dan Dunning

Recessional.....Graduates



Guests are invited to join us for a car parade after the ceremony to cheer on our seniors.



Special Thanks to Ingrid Lam, Sam Swartley, Ezra Tolzmann, and Mark Lighthiser for their rendition of Pomp & Circumstance.



Thesis Titles and Capstone Projects

Daniel Alberto

Fall Thesis - Eden's Snake Eating Its Own Tail: A Society in Decay, an Infrastructure Soon to Crumble, and the Devastation of American Liberty

Spring Capstone - Teenager: A Brief Exploration of a Unifying Coming of Age.
Dispatches from the Internet: An Eclectic Travel Guide Through the Weeds of the Internet

Ryan Alberts

Fall Thesis - The Elephant in the Room: An Exploration of the History, Harms, and Applications of Speciesism

Spring Capstone - Crocheted Farm Animals: A Not-So-Soft Exploration of Animal Agriculture

Jehanne Antonio

Fall Thesis - Blurred Faces: Exploring How the Media Influences Rampage Killers and Serial Killers, and Examining Killer Groupies and Fans

Spring Capstone - Artistic "SAT" Booklet/Collages: Exploring Multiple Intelligences Through Different Artistic Mediums and Learning Styles

Isabel Aqui

Fall Thesis - A Picture Doesn't Speak A Thousand Words, But It Can Certainly Enhance Them (exploring visual literacy in education)

Spring Capstone - A Farewell to Childhood and an Exploration of the Self Through Dioramas: A Documentation of the Process Behind My Final Set of Dioramas

Senior Acknowledgements

Daniel...

Thank you to my sister, without whom, I never would've ended up in Portland; my parents, without whom I wouldn't be so happy, healthy, and existent; NWA: an amazing place, and my friends, without whom high school would've been a boring nightmare. I love all you guys.

Ryan...

Thank you to Wade and Erin for fostering my performing arts growth through middle and high school. Thank you to Julie for being the chilliest teacher ever, dealing with me in French class, and being my go-to fiber arts lady. Thank you to Molly for being my science teacher for three years and always being someone I can rely on for help. Thank you to Jada for inspiring me to write about things I probably wouldn't have in genres I didn't even know existed. Thank you to Tamara for always helping me out with supplies and compost-related issues and always being there to greet me first thing in the morning. Thank You!!

Jehanne...

Thank you to my mom, Julia Cain, and Molly Sultany for helping me navigate through this entire process of getting through school and getting into college. They have been amazing friends, mentors, supporters, and have helped me develop passion and interests for what I want to do in my future.

Isabel...

I would like to acknowledge all the teachers and staff who have been so kind and helpful to me during my time here. I appreciate everyone who took the time to check on me and help me during my four years here. I learned so much and will take this knowledge, as well as these examples of patience and understanding with me as I leave NWA. Special shout-out to Molly Sultany, David Wagstaff, David Berkson, and Julie Ellington. Thank you.

Senior Acknowledgements

Ellia...

Thanks to everyone who helped me along the way! Especially Julia, my mom, Kyle, and Addie for helping with college portfolio submissions. I couldn't have done it without you.

Jason...

Big thanks to Julia Cain for always supporting me.

Alexander...

I would like to thank my mother and father (honorable mention, my brother) for their unwavering, loving and caring support these 18 years. I would like to thank a few teachers who helped along the way: Ms. Levine (fifth grade teacher), Erin Shannon, Roz Fell, David Wagstaff, Molly Sultany, Chris Heckman, Doug Cornett, Wade Willis, Melissa Bertran, Julie Ellington, and Dan Dunning for their accommodating and supportive guidance over the years. I would also like to thank my friends, who have helped me through tough times and made sad days infinitely better (and for being good friends), thank you all.

Lily...

Thank you to my parents, for making my fancy private school education possible; for supporting me on detours I took along the way; for helping me edit essays; for shaping me into the person I am today; and for loving me unconditionally. Thanks to my teachers for making my education fruitful and fun, especially Julie, for helping me learn how to trust myself; Wade, for helping me learn how to be okay with making mistakes; Julia, for helping me get into college and having an office to cry in; Jada, for helping me improve as a writer and person; and John Luna, for helping me realize my love for art. And thanks to my friends, for making high school bearable and sharing a huge part of your lives with me, and to Pogo, for being cute.

Olivia...

My family, my mentor, my friends, and the wonderful NWA faculty.

Thesis Titles and Capstone Projects

Ellia Baldwin

Fall Thesis - Without Language, I Was No One to Them: Exploring Language and Identity, and Investigating the Eradication of Indigenous Languages as a Tool in U.S. Colonialism

Spring Capstone - Creative Apparel Design: Documentation and Explanation of My Process in Creating Six Garments

Jason Batchelor

Fall Thesis - Musical Emotions: Exploring the Emotions of Music

Spring Capstone - Oregon Beauties: An Adventure Documentary Through a Few of Oregon's Natural Wonders

Alexander Cain

Fall Thesis - Can We Better Understand the Problem With Child Stardom by Looking Through Past and Present Examples of Fame at Such a Young Age?

Spring Capstone - Chicago: Making A Musical. A Behind the Scenes Glance at the Work that Goes into Putting Together a Musical

Lily Cohn

Fall Thesis - Openhearted: An Exploration into Home, Family, and Love

Spring Capstone - *Searching for Voice*: Short Stories Exploring Voice

Olivia Dunn

Fall Thesis - That's Not All Folks! An Analysis of Queer Representation in American Cartoon Animation

Spring Capstone - Stupid Magical: Creating, Writing, and Directing a Cartoon Pilot

Thesis Titles and Capstone Projects

Harrison Edington

Fall Thesis - The Science and Psychology of Climate Change Avoidance, Denial, and Politics

Spring Capstone - The Hit: A Thriller About a Girl Named Gwen Trying to Rise in Power Through the Family. However, this comes with consequences.

Marion Guinee

Fall Thesis - Reeducation on AIDS Through Theatre: Understanding How Theatre Fought Against AIDS and the Social Education of the 1980s and 1990s

Spring Capstone - Cutting The Beat: Three Dimensional Paper Art Inspired by Music

Philip Hyatt

Fall Thesis - Ballad of A So-Called Menace: An Exploration of the Glorification of Toxic Masculinity and Violence in Rap Music

Spring Capstone - Who is the G.O.A.T? A Look into the Greatest Portland Trailblazers of All Time
My Air: The History of My Flight

Octavo Maran

Fall Thesis - 'Being' in a World Beyond the Self, and Finding Beauty and Terror in the Void

Spring Capstone - On Being, and How it Feels. A film Project Exploring the Themes of my Thesis, 'Being' In a World Beyond the Self, and Finding Beauty and Terror in the Void

Delays, Delays, Delays: Design, Fabrication, and Firing of a Paraffin/GOX Hybrid Rocket Engine.

Senior Acknowledgements

Harrison...

Thanks to my mom for always wanting the best for me and working hard to keep a roof over our heads. My aunt Robin and uncle Chuck, and my dad. Thanks to my photography teachers, Melissa and Kelli, and Molly Sultany for always keeping me interested in science. Thank you to My Mema and Papa, my Papa Gene and Nana, and all of my friends for being some of the best people in my life. Thanks to David Berkson for getting me to be so comfortable on stage. Thanks to Wade Willis, Wendy Bell, and Julia Cain. And lastly, Northwest Academy for being the best high school I could ever ask for.

Marion...

Thank you to my parents for moving to Portland to allow me to pursue an amazing education and school. Thank you to Walker, Julia, April, and all my teachers for supporting me for the last seven years. Thank you!

Philip...

Thanks to my amazing friends and family that have supported me through all of my seven years at Northwest Academy.

Octavo...

Thank you to, well, I mean, everyone! Every one of my teachers inspired me to develop deep interests in the things that excite them — that's what great people do. My peers have been unwavering partners in and, I hope, for life. And thanks to my parents, of course, for being inhumanly human through the plentiful ups and downs.

Genevieve...

Thank you to my aunt and uncle and to my friends and their families.

Senior Acknowledgements

Megan...

Thank you to every teacher, friend, and family member who has supported me through my journey here and helped me to become more confident in myself. Your encouragement is the reason I have felt free to pursue as many artistic and academic endeavors as I have these past several years. I am eternally grateful for all of you.

Marguerite...

First and foremost, I would like to thank all the teachers I've had in my time at NWA as well as all the faculty and staff. Y'all are amazing. I would also like to thank all my friends, new and old, who have been there for all the laughter and tears. Thank you to my family for not only paying for school, but also for helping with school work and always encouraging me to do my best. Finally, thank you to all my previous high schools for helping to lead me here. I have so many more people to thank but Dan gave us a line limit.

Claire...

Thanks to my family, teachers, and friends who love and support me.

Sofia...

Thank you immensely to my parents for providing me with ample opportunities in the last four years. Thank you for supporting me through every major decision and significant life change. Your support means more to me than you know. Also, thank you to all the people at Northwest Academy for welcoming me in my senior year. I am so grateful to be a part of the NWA community!

Thesis Titles and Capstone Projects

Genevieve McRae

Fall Thesis - I Sci-spy Society's Biggest Fears

Spring Capstone - Paintings in Progress: Exploring and Imitating Painting Styles to Find my Own

Megan Mendyke

Fall Thesis - The Composition of Culture: On the Relationship Between Music and Morals

Spring Capstone - *An Atmosphere of Mystery*: A Murder Mystery One-Act Script and Recorded Reading (over Zoom)

Marguerite Neiberg

Fall Thesis - The Worst Game of Solitaire: Examining Racism in the Oregon Prison System and the Effects of Solitary Confinement

Spring Capstone - What Makes Us Human: An Examination of Emotion and Behavior Through Black and White Film Photography

Claire Smith

Fall Thesis - Simulacra: A Narrative Exploration of the Entwined Development of Religion, Witchcraft, and False Gods

Spring Capstone - Romanticism: A Quilt, a Garden, and the Spaces Between

Sofia Stagnitti

Fall Thesis - Never Enough: The ways in Which Society Reinforces Eating Disorders and Invalidates Trauma Survivors

Spring Capstone - Soled Out Shoe Designs: Handmade Platform Sandals Accessible to Every Gender, Race, and Shoe Size

Thesis Titles and Capstone Projects

Malcolm Terry

Fall Thesis - The Connection Between Carl Jung's Dream Archetypes and the Work of David Lynch

Spring Capstone - Caffe Di Bugia: A Film Noir

Mackenzie Todd

Fall Thesis - "I'm Glad You're Here": A Look into the Evolution of Video Games as a Storytelling Medium

Spring Capstone - Strands: An Album of Chill Lo-fi Beats

Ezra Tolzmann

Fall Thesis - The Evolutionary Progression of Extreme Sports

Spring Capstone - Getting Lost In Getting Lost: How to Survive in the Wilderness With Nothing

Oliver Vander Ploeg

Fall Thesis - So Long And Thanks For All The Fish: An Exploration of Our Struggles With Coming to Terms With the Future, Consumerism, and the Climate Crisis

Spring Capstone - Frontier: A Many Faceted, Two-Player Board Game With a Goal of Island Domination



Senior Acknowledgements

Malcolm...

I'd like to thank my family and all of my teachers, especially David Wagstaff! And my best friend, my twin sister, Stella.

Mackenzie...

Thank you to my parents, for always standing by me, and pushing me to try harder and go further. Without them, I would not have found all of the incredible opportunities that I have. Thank you to my teachers, for believing in me and teaching me incredible things, whether in person or online. Your dedication to us students is inspiring, and I'm so thankful to have been able to spend time with you. And, thank you to my friends, for all the laughs, the serious conversations, the shared glances in class, and for the inside jokes.

Ezra...

Thank you to the dope people who support and challenge me.

Oliver...

Thanks to the teachers who could change learning from monotony to enjoyment. To my friends who could usually think of something stupid enough to enjoy the most boring days. And to my family without whom I wouldn't know of all the wonders that life has to offer.

