

The magazine of George Fox University | SUMMER 2020

# George Fox JOURNAL

The Class  
of COVID-19

*Social distancing,  
remote learning,  
virtual graduation.  
In an instant,  
everything changed  
for the Class of 2020.*



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#### OUR VISION

To be the Christian university of choice known for empowering students to achieve exceptional life outcomes.

#### OUR VALUES

- Students First
- Christ in Everything
- Innovation to Improve Outcomes

Cover illustration by  
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## George Fox Journal

Summer 2020

- Bruin Notes 4
- What's Next for Recent Grads 12
- Friendship House 14
- Going for Gold 18
- PNW Adventures 20
- The Class of COVID-19 22
- Serving with Passion 32
- Taking Aim at the Opioid Epidemic 34
- 52 Years and Counting 38
- A Century of Mentorship 40
- Alumni Connections 42

### Be Known ... Virtually

Professor Ashley Lippard conducts her Print and Digital Layout class in an empty lecture hall, connecting with art and design students via Zoom. George Fox moved exclusively to remote learning in late March, creating a unique challenge for professors: teach and care for students, all without being in the same room.

## Maintaining our Faith Community in a Time of Isolation

It was 1973 and I was in my first year in high school in a small town in Arizona. We did not have a movie theater, the internet was decades away from development, and on our best weather days we could get one television station out of Phoenix. It was a different time that students today would barely recognize.

There were two things that drew our community together: high school sports and church. The rhythm of our lives centered on those communal gatherings. Both served essential purposes: Sports reinforced the bonds that held the community together against the "outsiders," and church worship provided us with a sense of purpose in life. Whatever problems arose, there was a sense of God's presence and purpose in the midst of the challenge.

While the culture was struggling with Watergate and the end of the Vietnam War, the 1970s were also a time of Christian revival for many people in the American West. The Jesus People movement emerged in California and a new generation claimed the Gospel of Jesus and presented it in new ways. Chuck Smith and Calvary Chapel (Maranatha Music) introduced the rock band and praise music as new worship forms in church gatherings. At the same time, the culture tried to come to grips with "Jesus" in new musical forms with the launch of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *A Rock Opera* (1970) and *Godspell* (1973). As a high school student in this era, it was considered cool to talk about Jesus.

The songs from those two musicals, although considered by some heretical at the time, still come back to my memory! The one that has been running through my mind over the past two months is from *Godspell*, and it has a haunting melody: "On the willows there we hung up our lyres ..." The lyrics are drawn from Psalm 137:

*By the waters of Babylon,  
there we sat down and wept,  
when we remembered Zion.  
On the willows there  
we hung up our lyres.  
For there our captors  
required of us songs,  
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,  
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"*

As you probably know, the Psalm was written in the context of the Israelite exile in Babylon. Jerusalem had been sacked and a remnant of the people of God were taken to a foreign land. The Psalm speaks of them gathering for worship along a river and their captors mocking them by demanding that they sing a song of their God. In the midst of their lament, the psalmist demands that they do remember Jerusalem, the place where they gathered as one in worship of the one true God.

Perhaps you are wondering what an old Psalm and *Godspell* have to do with COVID-19 and our current challenges. Well, many of us have felt like exiles and aliens over the past 60 days. At times, I too identified with the psalmist's words. Our houses of worship have been closed (and the university as well). Although we have been able to "attend" worship virtually, we know that God made us as relational beings, and that human touch and presence are essential for worship and for life itself. In a real sense, the virus has forced us to "hang up our lyres" as we isolate ourselves to prevent the spread of the pandemic. We can listen to the music online and hear the words of the sermon, but we long for something more: presence in the house of the Lord.

We are living in a time of rapid change, and it is certain that the digital world will continue to impact both the church and the university in the future. Nevertheless, whatever the future may hold, two things continue to bring me hope. First, even in difficult times we learn that God is present in our midst and at work making his will known. Second, the mission of George Fox University, expressed in the Be Known promise, will always be lived out in personal and communal form. We will have more digital course offerings in the future, but the essential nature of our spiritual formation work with students of all ages will always be personal, communal and centered on Christ.

Robin Baker  
President





## COVID-19 Pandemic Leads to Spring Semester Unlike Any Other



A rare sight: An empty campus in March after students and faculty moved to remote learning.

What started as a little-known coronavirus in December emerged as a worldwide threat by March, triggering economic unrest, necessitating the cancelation of sporting events, activities and large gatherings, and introducing the world to the concept of “social distancing.”

For George Fox students and people around the world, life had changed overnight. With Oregon Gov. Kate Brown’s March 23 order to “Stay Home, Save Lives,” the state mandated that citizens stay home except for essential work, outdoor exercise, or to purchase necessary food and supplies. Organizations that relied on in-person interaction either had to close or find a new way to conduct business.

At George Fox, the mandate required a shift in the way education was delivered. Remote learning became the new reality in late March, as students were asked to vacate campus as a safety precaution after the spring break holiday. Beyond academics, Juniors Abroad trips were postponed, NCAA competition at all levels was

shut down – including the Sweet 16 round of the Division III Women’s Basketball Tournament, of which George Fox was a part – and spring commencement celebrations were moved to a virtual format.

As university leadership worked to navigate an ever-changing landscape, it focused on innovation to meet the needs of students and deliver the institution’s Be Known promise in new ways.

**“So many in our community stepped up in very tangible ways to demonstrate the love of Christ to our students and those impacted by this event.”**

Students without computers were loaned Chromebooks. Professors, career coaches, campus pastors, tutors, librarians, counselors and others created new ways to connect with students remotely. The Bruin Community Pantry food bank remained open with enhanced safety protocols. Online Bible studies and activities were organized. And, in April, the George Fox Gives campaign raised more than \$139,000 to meet the needs of financially vulnerable students affected by the coronavirus.

In the community, the university’s engineering department 3D-printed face shields to dis-

tribute to local healthcare workers; the nursing department donated personal protective equipment to Friendsview Retirement Community; and a group of students created a website where busy doctors and nurses could sign up for free services like grocery shopping, dog walking and yard work.

“I’ve been very proud of our faculty and staff – and our entire university community – for how they responded to this crisis, the likes of which we had not seen in our lifetime,” George Fox President Robin Baker says. “So many in our community stepped up in very tangible ways to demonstrate the love of Christ to our students and those impacted by this event.”

At semester’s end, the university announced that it will be ready to welcome students back in the fall, if allowed to do so by government officials, resuming in-person classes with enhanced safety measures. “We are not blind to the dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic,” Baker says, “but we are committed to finding a safe way to provide the in-person undergraduate campus experience that is so valuable to the transformative education we provide.”

## More than \$139,000 Raised for Students Affected by Coronavirus

In the month of April, the university launched the George Fox Gives campaign, raising \$139,386 for financially vulnerable students affected by the coronavirus.

Nearly 500 donors helped the university best its goal of \$125,000 at the end of the month-long campaign, with funds directly distributed to students experiencing financial hardship due to unexpected travel, distance learning and other expenses, and also those who lost on-campus federal work-study jobs.

And while the number of donors and total dollars raised are impressive, the true success of the campaign can only be measured by its impact on the lives of individual students.

“You have changed my life,” wrote one student in a thank you message to donors. “It may seem like a simple donation, but it is something that brought me to tears.”

“Your kindness is humbling and fills me with so much hope for what we can accomplish as a society and the church when we help each other,” wrote another. “I look forward to repaying this kindness in the future to other students in need!”



## Honors Student Earns Full-Ride Scholarship to Oxford

When Cayla Bleoaja spent a semester studying abroad in Oxford during her junior year, she probably didn’t expect to return so soon – let alone with a full-ride scholarship.

Bleoaja, an honors student at George Fox who double-majored in psychology and organizational communication before graduating this spring, will now do just that, heading across the pond to England to pursue a master’s degree in sociology.

The recipient of a highly competitive Barry Scholarship, designated for American students attending the storied institution, Bleoaja will call the university’s Canterbury Institute home for the next two years, beginning this fall.

“Fox gave me a space to wrestle with hard questions and to get to know myself in a more intimate and passionate way than ever before,” says Bleoaja of her undergraduate experience. “I am leaving better equipped, challenged and deepened to keep pursuing the hard and holy things.”



## Rankings Roundup: George Fox Earns Top Spot Among Christian Colleges in Oregon

For the 32nd year, George Fox landed on *U.S. News & World Report*’s “America’s Best Colleges” list – but this time at a higher level. The university was elevated from a regional university to the “Best National Universities” category, putting the institution



in the same class as big-name schools like Stanford, Harvard and Princeton.

George Fox was the top-ranked school among Christian universities in Oregon (No. 246 overall) and also was recognized for “Best Undergraduate Teaching” (No. 61), “Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs” (No. 75) and “Top Performers in Social Mobility” (No. 80), which includes schools that enroll and graduate large proportions of “economically disadvantaged” students.

The university also made *Forbes*’ “America’s Top Colleges” list, ranking No. 1 among Christian colleges in Oregon and No. 20 among all Christian colleges in the country.

**Forbes**

**Money**

Money magazine, meanwhile, included George Fox in its “Best Colleges for Your Money” list, placing the institution No. 1 among Christian colleges in Oregon and in the top 20 nationally among Council for Christian Colleges & Universities governing members based on quality of education, affordability and career outcomes.



## Physician Assistant Program Set to Launch in 2021

In keeping with a commitment to expand its healthcare offerings, George Fox is adding a Physician Assistant (PA) program. The six-semester, 112-credit-hour course of study will launch in January of 2021, pending provisional accreditation by regional and national commissions. Upon completion, students will be awarded a master of medical science (MMSc) degree.

The program will be housed in a new 43,000-square-foot, three-story building on Werth Boulevard in Newberg, near the Providence Medical Center. The building, tentatively scheduled for a May 2021 opening, will also house the university's Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

PA students will attend classes full time and work with outside clinics as part of their training. Upon graduation, they will be prepared to diagnose illnesses, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and potentially serve as a patient's principal healthcare provider.

Not only does the program align with the university's Christ-centered mission, it addresses a glaring nationwide shortage of primary-care health professionals – an issue even before the COVID-19 pandemic placed a tremendous burden on healthcare facili-



ties across the nation. Prior to the spread of the coronavirus, the Health Resources and Services Administration outlined the shortage in a recent study, which designated more than 6,000 primary-care areas where a physician-to-population ratio of 1:3,500 or more existed. The HRSA estimated it would take an additional 8,000 primary-care physicians to eliminate the need.

In preparation for the launch, the university has hired seven professors and two staff members, including program chair Gregory Davenport, who brings more than 30 years of professional experience in the medical education field. He most recently founded two PA programs in the South – at North Greenville University in South Carolina (2016) and at Gardner-Webb University in

North Carolina (2014).

"In order for us to be successful in the future, the introduction of new healthcare programs is vital as we seek to consistently accomplish the mission of the university," says university president Robin Baker. "Introducing the PA program is the latest step in that direction. Not only does it align with our mission to produce graduates who will go on to do the work of Jesus in the world, it positions us well to help meet a great need in our community and the nation as a whole."

The PA program is the most recent healthcare addition to the university's offerings, joining nursing (2004), physical therapy (2012) and an RN-to-BSN degree-completion program (2019). The university is also exploring the possibility of participating as a significant partner in an allied and mental health college in Roseburg, Oregon.

Visit [georgefox.edu/pa](https://georgefox.edu/pa) for more information on the Physician Assistant program.



## George Fox Digital to Deliver Be Known Promise in Online Format

This fall, George Fox will launch an undergraduate online education program, George Fox Digital, which offers general education courses to students who need a remote learning option for their first year of college.

Though eager to enroll, some students are unable to participate in the university's residential experience because of pre-existing

health conditions and financial considerations due to the coronavirus. Consequently, faculty and staff mobilized to create George Fox Digital as a rigorous online academic experience that will allow students to graduate in four consecutive years.

Students will spend one year taking general education courses online from award-winning faculty

before seamlessly transitioning to on-campus learning the following year. Each of the 22 courses offered is specifically designed to be online and conforms to a prescribed format. For instance, students will never have to log into an online class at a specific time for a lecture. Instead, they can engage with the coursework during the hours they choose following a weekly rhythm of activities, which may include engaging videos, reading, assignments, and meetings with a mentor.

George Fox Digital will offer something students won't find in other online programs: the Be Known promise. Students will have the opportunity to build relationships with professors who intentionally walk with them through the freshman experience, forming mind and spirit alike as they reflect on their calling and begin to discover who God has created them

to be. Students will also have the opportunity to connect with classmates in a variety of ways.

"There's a misconception that in an online course you can't connect with other students in the class, but that's just not true," says Brian Doak, longtime professor and newly appointed director of George Fox Digital. "Our experience shows us that, in fact, students get to know each other, they get to know their professors and they get to know their readings much in the same way that they do in person."

Because George Fox Digital is fully online and does not have a residential component, students in the program will save on room and board costs, lessening the financial impact of their first year.

Visit [georgefox.edu/digital](https://georgefox.edu/digital) to learn more.



## Scott Selected as New Provost

Andrea Scott, an academic leader with extensive experience in the business world, joins the university this summer to serve as provost. She arrives from California Baptist University, where she was dean and professor of marketing in the Jobs School of Business the past four years.

Scott, a former Fulbright Scholar and a native of Kingston, Jamaica, says she was drawn to George Fox's promise that each student will be known personally, academically and spiritually. "It is a powerful commitment that has the whole student at the heart of the institution," she says. "This pursuit, in conjunction with Christ in everything, is deeply compelling and aligns seamlessly with my own commitment to doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God."

During her tenure at California Baptist, the Jobs School of Business experienced 10 percent annual growth, with program expansion including undergraduate majors, a master of science degree in information technology, and an MBA business analytics concentration.

Previously, Scott was a marketing faculty member in Pepperdine



University's Graziadio School of Business and Management for 12 years. Her business resume includes advertising agency experience with national clients such as General Mills and Wrigley at DDB and BBDO in Chicago, with NBC during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, and working as a business analyst for Honeywell, Inc.

Scott has a bachelor's degree from Wheaton College, an MBA from Emory University and a PhD in marketing from the University of South Florida. She replaces Linda Samek, who served as provost since 2013 and will remain at George Fox as a full-time faculty member in the Doctor of Education program.



## Development of Patient-Centered Care Model Puts DPT Program in National Spotlight



The adoption of a person-centered model for treatment has given the university's Doctor of Physical Therapy program national exposure and opened up opportunities for George Fox faculty members to train DPT educators nationwide.

George Fox was among the early adopters of the PROMIS (Patient Reported Outcome Measurement System) measure for clinical care, which takes into account a patient's biopsychosocial state – a consideration of the interconnection between biological, psychological and socio-environmental factors – in treatment planning. Traditionally, care typically focused only on a patient's biomedical, not biopsychosocial, condition.

Following national presentations focused on person-centered PROMIS measures, based on collaborations between George Fox and the University of Rochester – and research conducted by the University of Utah – George Fox faculty developed a series of online modules, as well as a one-day training seminar, for medi-

cal teams at the Cleveland Clinic, a nonprofit academic medical center regarded as a national leader in research, education and health information. The opportunity arose following George Fox professor Jeff Houck's presentation, with leaders from the University of Utah, to physical therapists at the profession's nationwide Combined Sections Meeting in the winter of 2019.

"By using the PROMIS measures, we are placing the person first and holding ourselves accountable for improving physical, mental and social aspects of an individual's health needs," Houck says. "A key feature

of these measures is that they provide the patient's perspective, giving patients a voice in their care."

George Fox presented its person-centered approach to care at the Oregon Chapter of the American Physical Therapy's annual meeting last year, and faculty members have collaborat-

ed with Providence Newberg Hospital and other physical therapy practices in the area to provide training to future doctors.

In the classroom, the shift to a more integrated biopsychosocial model has pushed faculty to develop training and competencies that include interviewing/communication skills, psychological models, and discussions of personal values. As a result, graduates will be better prepared to integrate psychological approaches when caring for patients who have experienced acute injury and those living with chronic pain or other chronic health conditions.

"Evidence suggests psychosocial factors are equally or more important than biomedical factors, yet providers typically don't measure psychosocial outcomes," Houck says. "PROMIS measures assist providers in recognizing when psychosocial factors are impeding a person's progress, and deter providers from seeing the patient as a 'disease' or 'a set of medical problems.'"

On a higher level, the emphasis on person-centered care reflects the university's Be Known promise.

"What's happening in the last few years is a paradigm shift from simply considering the biomedical and biomechanical to understanding the whole person, taking into consideration the fact their physical pain is often connected to things like fear, anxiety or depression," says Daniel Kang, an associate professor of physical therapy at George Fox. "PROMIS gives us a more complete picture of what the patient is going through in the disease process, and allows us to more holistically address their treatment plan."

The adoption of PROMIS measures also positions the physical therapy department to collaborate with faculty in the Doctor of Psychology program to offer state-of-the-art training and develop specialty certificates.

**George Fox faculty developed a series of online modules, as well as a one-day training seminar, for medical teams at the Cleveland Clinic.**

## Recent Recognition



George Fox will induct six individuals and one team at its annual Sports Hall of Fame ceremony, tentatively scheduled for this fall.

Three of the inductees – head coach **Marty Hunter** and players **Bo Thunell** and **Matt Wyckoff** – helped the Bruins win a Northwest Conference

baseball championship in 2009. They will be inducted together, along with the entire title-winning team, as part of the 2020 Hall of Fame class.

Joining them will be fellow inductees **Dawn (Hartwig) Smith**, a 1996 graduate who starred in

cross country and track; **Blair Cash** (Meritorious Service Award), who will be honored for his longtime work as a sports information director; and **Roy McConaughey** (Legacy Award), a 1966 alumnus who starred on the football field.

The university's theatre program received recognition from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival this spring. Professors **Rhett Luedtke** (directing) and **Bryan Boyd** (scenic design) joined costume shop manager **Kimberly Hergert** (costume design) in winning Meritorious Achievement Awards for outstanding work in a specific category in main-stage productions, while students **Hope Bellinger** (first place, directing) and **Araya Glancy** (meritorious award, stage management) were KCACTF Region 7 award recipients. In addition, student actors **Luke Peters**, **Reid Arthur**, **Bellinger** and **Glancy** received Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship nominations, and **Hergert** and student **Elyssa Winsheimer** shared a meritorious award in costume design.

The university's cinematic arts program claimed a number of awards this spring from the Broadcast Education Association's Festival of Media Arts, a national competition. Professors **Matt Meyer** and **Jacob Salsbury** each received an Award of Excellence in scriptwriting (short subject) and animation, respectively, while students **Austin Carrero** (second-place tie, student scriptwriting/short subject) and **Rob Thompson** (Award of Excellence, student scriptwriting/television) were also recognized.



Politics professor **Mark David Hall's** book *Did America Have a Christian Founding?*, published last fall, earned a spot on *World Magazine's* "2019 Books of the Year," considered "vivid and insightful new releases for better understanding America, world events, history, science, and theology," according to the publication's website. Hall's book made the short list of "Best History Books."



Art and design professor **Ashley Lippard** was honored, along with her colleagues, for her work with the Community Wellness Collective, named the Volunteer Organization of the Year by the Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce. Lippard serves on the board and works as a brand and marketing manager for the group, dedicated to providing mental health and addiction services in Yamhill County.



Twenty-seven students, along with art and design professor **Patrice Brown** and adjunct professor **Luke Zimmerman**, were presented a "Proclamation of Appreciation" from the city of Carlton, Oregon, in the spring of 2019, honoring the group for "helping shape the aesthetic and function of our new City Hall structure," according to the proclamation. Team members combined to offer help in the areas of space planning, programming, design thinking and process.



## Faculty Members Honored as Top Teachers, Researchers for 2019-20

George Fox honored four of its own this spring with the presentation of teaching and research awards for the 2019-20 academic year. Jillian Sokso and Debby Thomas were recognized as the top researchers at the undergraduate and graduate levels, respectively, while Todd Curtis and Jennie Harrop won the corresponding awards for teaching.

**Jillian Sokso**  
Undergraduate Researcher of the Year



Sokso, a professor of art and design and chair of the art department, says she was “terribly honored and humbled” by her selection, which

honored her work with two associations – Accessible Hope International and the Artist Mother Podcast Community. For the former, she has traveled twice with students to Sierra Leone to train locals in the art of processing native plants into paper, which are then made into stationery and journals and sold for a living wage. “I’ve been a papermaker for 16 years, so being able to work with students in that setting, using the arts and crafts to promote social justice, is particularly gratifying,” she says. With the podcast project, started in 2019 by alumna Kaylan Reynolds Buteyn, Sokso has served as a guest speaker and online mentor to budding artists around the world. “I’m extremely proud of that association, because it began out of a real need for supporting a demographic lacking support and resourcing,” she says.

**Debby Thomas**  
Graduate Researcher of the Year



Business professor Thomas was recognized for her multifaceted research projects, including a series of articles she’s written on biblical studies and leadership, in which she applies exegetical research from the Bible that applies to current

leadership theories and situations. Her most recent work revolves around an experimental way of teaching business classes, Classroom as Organization, in which the classroom essentially becomes an organization. “It is a powerful teaching methodology, particularly well-suited for teaching business topics, that can enliven students’ learning experience while giving them the opportunity to practice and develop workplace-related skills,” she says. The model gives students the authority to teach in an active learning style, provide meaningful feedback, encourage and monitor team development, and essentially run a fictional organization. Her present research agenda is furthering the topic as she is finding ways to apply it to the university’s Doctor of Business Administration dissertation process and its MBA program, including online options during the COVID-19 crisis.

**Todd Curtis**  
Undergraduate Teacher of the Year



Physics professor Curtis needs just one word to describe what he enjoys most about teaching at George Fox: “Everything.” He requires a few

more to express his love of teaching. “I think the transformation I’ve been able to be a part of is what stands out,” he says. “I’ve had many students who were afraid of science, thought they were bad at science, and those who feared science was at odds with faith. Aiding, encouraging and empowering them to overcome these fears – to work through and persevere through their failures and come out not only better at scientific problem solving, but with a new view of their own abilities as learners and workers for

the kingdom of God – is what I am most proud of.” His subject matter, students, colleagues and the university’s mission fuel his commitment. “I love students, my colleagues and being at a place where I get to integrate my love for God with my love for physics,” he says.

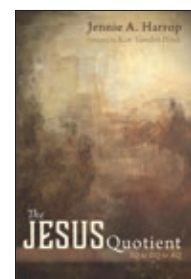
**Jennie Harrop**  
Graduate Teacher of the Year



Harrop, chair of the Department of Professional Studies, could easily take pride in her resume. In 2017, she authored the university’s first open

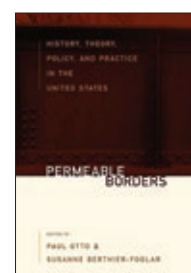
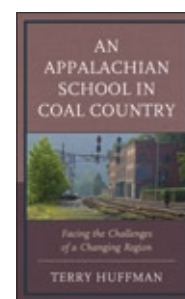
textbook, *The Simple Math of Writing Well: Writing for the 21st Century*, and in 2019 she published a ministry book, *The Jesus Quotient: IQ to EQ to AQ*. With terminal degrees in creative writing, English and ministry, she is knowledgeable in a wide range of disciplines. And yet, her greatest sense of fulfillment comes not from her accomplishments but in seeing her students overcome doubt and ultimately thrive. “Negativity and a lack of confidence are common in the adult classroom, where our students frequently have shouldered years and even decades of failed attempts at school before joining our department,” she says. “Students at all levels come to us broken by the world and tentative about their own abilities. The greatest gift we can give them is the assurance that they will be seen and heard for who they truly are – God’s perfect creations.” Harrop has built and taught a number of new courses, ranging from Writing for Adults to The American West in Film and Fiction, and says she “enjoys the challenge of creating a safe place for students to think deeply, critically and creatively.”

## //////////////////// In Print //////////////////////////////////////



**Jennie Harrop** (Adult Degree Program) published a book, *The Jesus Quotient: IQ to EQ to AQ* (Wipf & Stock), last summer. In it, she addresses the idea that, as leaders, our capacity to hear is often muddled by an inability to acknowledge our own insufficiencies and emotions.

**Terry Huffman** (education) published *An Appalachian School in Coal Country: Facing the Challenges of a Changing Region* (Lexington Books) last fall. The book examines the struggles and triumphs of Creekside Elementary School, which, despite being in one of the poorest counties in the United States, is achieving unprecedented academic success.



**Paul Otto** (history) published this spring *Permeable Borders: History, Theory, Policy, and Practice in the United States* (Berghahn Books), coediting the volume with Susanne Berthier-Foglar of Université Grenoble Alpes. The essays in the book

explore the ways that historical and contemporary actors in the U.S. have crossed borders, whether national, cultural, ethnic, racial or conceptual.

**Mark David Hall** (politics) published the book *Did America Have a Christian Founding?* (Thomas Nelson Books) last fall. In it, he debunks the assertion that America’s founders were deists who desired the strict separation of church and state and instead shows that their political ideas were profoundly influenced by their Christian convictions. Also last year, Hall coauthored, with Daniel L. Dreisbach, the book *Great Christian Jurists in American History* (Cambridge University Press), which profiles 19 of America’s most influential

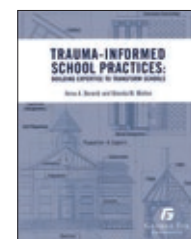


Christian jurists from the early colonial era to the present day.

**Javier Garcia** (William Penn Honors Program) released a book, *Recovering the Ecumenical Bonhoeffer: Thinking after the Tradition* (Lexington Books/Fortress

Academic), last winter. It explores the possibilities for Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s theology to revitalize interest in the ecumenical movement and Christian unity today.

**Brenda Morton** (education) and **Anna Berardi** (counseling) released last fall an open access textbook, *Trauma-Informed School Practices: Building Expertise to Transform Schools*.



The text identifies trauma-informed educator competencies and how these advancements invite systemic change involving all who are committed to K-12 education.

**Sarita Edwards** (Christian studies) coauthored a book, *Breaking through the Boundaries: God’s Mission from the Outside In*, published last fall (Orbis Books). The volume features insights from four experienced missiologists, who draw upon biblical narratives to highlight key roles played by those outside established Jewish/Christian religious tradition in the service of God’s mission.



**Nijay Gupta** (seminary) collaborated with eight masters-level students to publish a free book, *Shall Be Bright at Last: Reflections on Suffering and Hope in the Letters of Paul*, on the university’s Digital Commons network last winter. The publication



features a series of sermon-style reflections on suffering and hope in Paul. In addition, this year he published a book, *A Beginner’s Guide to New Testament Studies: Understanding Key Debates* (Baker Academic), in which he helps readers sort out

key views on the most important debated issues in New Testament studies. A third Gupta book, *Critical Introductions to the New Testament: 1 and 2 Thessalonians* (Zondervan Academic), was released last summer, serving as an up-to-date guide on academic discussions and debates surrounding these biblical texts.

**Kent Yinger** (seminary) released a book, *God and Human Wholeness: Perfection in Biblical and Theological Tradition* (Cascade), last October. In it, he argues that God intends flourishing and wholeness for his human creation rather than “perfection.”



**Sunggu Yang** (Christian studies) published a book last summer, *King’s Speech: Preaching Reconciliation in a World of Violence and Chasm* (Cascade Books), in which he recalls Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s timeless messages on violence and reconciliation rooted in his theological foundation of a universal, yet personal, loving God.

**Bill Jolliff** (English) published a book, *Heeding the Call: A Study of Denise Giardina’s Novels* (West Virginia University Press), this spring. In it, he offers the first book-length discussion of West Virginia writer and activist Denise Giardina, perhaps best known for her novel *Storming Heaven*, which helped spark renewed interest in the turn-of-the-century Mine Wars.



**Lydia Taw**

Computer Science,  
2020  
Software Development  
Engineer



By Jeremy Lloyd

"I was mind-blown. I didn't know how to respond."

It was August of 2019, and Lydia Taw had just completed a summer internship at Amazon.

"My manager sat me down in a conference room on my last day and said, 'Here's your performance review, here's your evaluation, and by the way, we'd like to offer you a job.'"

It's rare enough to receive a job offer before your senior year of college, let alone a highly coveted software development engineer position at one of the largest technology companies in the world.

For Taw, it was the culmination of a journey she almost didn't begin. As a sophomore with no coding experience, she decided to change her major after struggling with a Data Structures course, known by computer science students as the "weed-out class."

"I got about halfway through that class and I was like, 'Everybody knows more than I do. I have no coding experience whatsoever. I'm obviously not smart enough to be in this field,'" Taw recalls.

She dropped the class and the major, but her professors wouldn't have it.

"They encouraged me to look beyond what I thought I was capable of," she says. "They literally took me from ground zero to Amazon. My professors played a major role in helping me believe in my ability to do this and developing my confidence."

Now, after graduating in May, Taw begins a new chapter this summer as a full-time employee at Amazon's headquarters in Seattle, bringing with her both the confidence and the unique Christian perspective on career and calling that she learned at George Fox.

"I think it's such a unique opportunity for a Christian to be in a place where they can influence a major corporation," Taw says. "I'm interested in someday leading teams and being able to influence the direction the company takes. I know that's a pretty big dream considering that it's Amazon, but all I've ever learned at Fox was to dream big."

**What Lydia Does (as explained to her grandma)**

"Grandma, you know about Amazon. Everyone knows what Amazon is, but very few people realize the work that goes into making every single aspect of the website work. The customer only sees a webpage of pretty pictures and colors, but there's a whole ton that goes on in the background. I'm one of the people who write code to make sure all the pretty pictures show up, you get what you bought, and you get the best deal possible."

**Advice for Future Bruins**

- 1 Connect with your professors. They want to get to know you!
- 2 Be well-rounded in your interests. Don't just focus on your major.
- 3 Be confident. Reach out for what you want.
- 4 Do little things that push you out of your comfort zone.

**What she'll remember most about George Fox**

"It's the people. It's the friendships that I've made. It's the connections that I never thought were possible. George Fox creates an environment where it seems normal to ask a question like, 'How is your soul?' That doesn't happen in most places."

**Kevin Tshilombo**

Management and  
Marketing, 2020  
Product Marketing Manager



Kevin Tshilombo excelled as a business student at George Fox, earning his diploma this spring with a double major in management and marketing. But that wasn't the only reason he was swooped up by Microsoft more than eight months prior to graduation.

Tshilombo, who at the time had just completed a summer internship at the software giant's Redmond, Washington, headquarters, thinks it was his ability to connect with a wide range of people that ultimately got him the job.

"I feel I might have separated myself from some of my peers by actively trying to engage with people who are different than me," he says. "Whether it be culturally, different walks of life, different backgrounds, I really tried to make those true connections, and then I always made sure to stay true to myself in whatever I did."

It's something Tshilombo got a lot of practice at during his time at George Fox. Whether it was participating in student government, cohosting the annual lip sync competition, representing the university on a billboard, or painting his chest and cheering on the women's basketball team, Tshilombo squeezed every last drop out of his George Fox experience, connecting with people from all walks of life along the way.

The ability to connect with others and a diverse set of interests will serve him well in his new position as a product marketing manager, where Tshilombo will work with a variety of teams and people to create a positive and seamless experience for end users.

"It's a little bit of writing, a little bit of design, a little bit of coding. Just knowing enough about everything to communicate with everybody," he says.

And while the varied roles of his new job appeal to Tshilombo, it's not what he's most excited about.

"I just love learning," he says. "I think I can do a lot of learning at Microsoft and apply what I learn to my role in the outside world. That's the biggest thing I'm looking forward to: using the platform that I have to affect my community in a positive way."

**Advice for Future Bruins**

"Be involved and be engaged. Get involved with a club, be involved with the community around you, know what's going on in society. And then engage when you're in the classroom. Don't just be another person who fills a seat in the desk. Engage with the professor, your peers, and really soak in the knowledge and words that you're hearing because they can really affect you more than you can imagine."

**What he'll remember most about George Fox**

"It's got to be the community. I really felt I was alone coming here, but the guys in my freshman hall just welcomed me with open arms. They took me to play basketball, toured me around the school, answered all my questions. I'm still great friends with all of them."

**Fun Facts**

- 1 Plays the ukulele
- 2 Loves grilled cheese sandwiches
- 3 Tie fanatic
- 4 Action movie fan

# Friendship House

Adults with disabilities and George Fox students are living together, serving together and growing together

By Kimberly Felton

It all began with bread-baking, two years ago.

Six ingredients: water, flour, salt, yeast, olive oil and honey. It's a recipe passed down from student leader to student leader of Shalom, a student-led chapel at George Fox University.

Four women: two with disabilities that make it impossible for them to live on their own, and two freshmen, their curiosity piqued both about the bread and the women baking it.

The space was a little tight, which can bother Emily Young sometimes. They met in a tiny on-campus dorm kitchen – more of a kitchenette with barely enough room for four adults to squeeze past each other – where they mixed and kneaded dough before running it to the second-floor kitchenette to bake.

Now 31, Young was born with a complicated combination of challenges that impact her hearing, her cognitive development and her musculoskeletal system. She calls it simply “an intellectual disability.”

“It has a lot to do with the brain,” she says. Because her hearing is impaired, Young wears hearing aids when she leaves her house – but her hearing is not always the problem.

“I just have a harder time understanding things,” she says. “Sometimes I have to ask people to repeat themselves, and sometimes it's not because I didn't hear them; it's because I just didn't understand. I sometimes feel like people will get kind of upset with me when I try to ask them to repeat themselves. And it's like, ‘I can't help it. It's just who I am.’”

But the bread-baking is right up her alley. She enjoys the camaraderie and is happy to mix ingredients, but dislikes the feel of dough under her polished nails.

Katy Strong, on the other hand, delights in the feel of kneading that dough, working in more flour until the stickiness gives way to springy firmness. Strong, 33, was born with Rett syndrome. She hears and understands everything but struggles to make her mouth speak her thoughts. Friends sitting on the couch with her may use pillows to help prop her up when her body starts to slump. Yet she takes care of herself, makes her meals, vacuums and dusts. Those who listen learn to understand her words.

Meghan Donohue, one of the freshman in that kitchenette two years ago, has come to know and love – and live with – Young and Strong, in a place called Friendship House, located a few blocks from campus.

## Baking Bread, Building Community

Baking bread for the Tuesday evening chapel on campus, Shalom, has been a ritual since it began. The women of Friendship House joined the tradition three years ago when the home was established in Newberg, and their presence at the chapel now is as expected as the bread itself.

After two years of baking bread together each week, Donohue, a junior social work major, applied to live in the house in the fall of 2019. “I was drawn to deepening these relationships,” she says. “I love these ladies I get to live with and wanted to be part of that.

→ From left to right: Friendship House residents Meghan Donohue, Katy Strong, Dani Hillenbrand and Emily Young.



↑ Every Tuesday night, residents of Friendship House and friends get together to bake bread for Shalom, a student-led chapel at George Fox.



The mission of this house ... it really strives to help and integrate these ladies into the Fox community.”

Friendship houses have begun appearing on or near school campuses across the country. Inspired by L'Arche communities, they partner with academic institutions that welcome the residents to live and serve with them. Duke Divinity School hosts a friendship house, as do Vanderbilt Divinity School and others. The house connected to George Fox University is an easy walk from campus.

Dani Hillenbrand, a nursing major, was the fourth member of the house in the fall 2019 semester. “I had met Katy and Emily at Shalom, so I already knew them, and then I came to make bread with them one time last year and was like, ‘I really like this community,’” she says.

She has two nephews on the autism spectrum but had not lived with adults with special needs. “That was a learning curve for me, learning how to communicate and knowing each other's needs without offending each other, because the communication aspect is really important,” she says.

Communication is usually the most challenging part, and one of the many ways Mark 2 Ministries supports the residents of Friendship House.

**The students are not there as caregivers, but friends. The success of the home is in their complicated yet simple strategy of making space for each other.**

## No One is in This Alone

Mark 2 Ministries is the nonprofit that established Friendship House in Newberg, connecting with George Fox to help provide the resources necessary to make the house a success. Licensed by the state to work with adults with developmental disabilities, Mark 2 bought and renovated the house to accommodate the needs of two adults with disabilities, plus three students.

They knocked out internal walls to create open gathering spaces – spaces that facilitate the house mission: “Eat together. Pray together. Celebrate together.” Contractors donated labor and others donated supplies, painting the walls in coordinating magnolia colors. And in this space of clean floors, live plants, comfortable furniture and a sign on the wall that reads simply “thankful,” brief interactions become points of connection.

“One thing I really like about Friendship House is it is just that: a house,” says Mandy Lofdahl, on staff with Mark 2. “It is a place where people are living together in friendship, not in a dichotomy of those giving care and those receiving care.

“Most individuals with disabilities don't get the opportunity to have those kinds of relationships and to work through them and to understand two-





Strong (left) and Young (above) have become ingrained in the George Fox community during their three years at Friendship House. It's not uncommon to see them at chapel services, football games and dances. They even volunteer at the university's annual Serve Day.



↓ Like many George Fox students, Donohue and Hillenbrand first learned about Friendship House at a Shalom worship service.

way relationships and communication. That's one of the greatest gifts."

The students are not there as caregivers, but friends. The success of the home is in their complicated yet simple strategy of making space for each other.

Young and Strong thrive with set schedules, which have altered little in their three years at the house. Strong exercises at the pool weekly and has a regular appointment to walk around the neighborhood. Mark 2 staff, on duty every day from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. – often later on chapel nights – accompany both women on these events, and take Young shopping or to have her nails done. Donohue and Hillenbrand have their own full schedules of school, work and commitments.

Yet as friends and housemates, they make space for relationship.

"Here we're a lot more intentional with what we ask, because small talk isn't really going to get us anywhere," Hillenbrand, a junior, says. "It's not, 'I'm asking you about your day because I feel like I need to ask a question; I'm asking you because I care and because I want to know what you've been up to.'"

As in any home, tension happens.

"It's not always happy and easy, but it's just part of life," Young says. "You have ups and downs, and sometimes you have a hard time with someone."

**"Our communities, I believe, need people with special needs in them, rubbing shoulders with the rest of us, because they make us better. They encourage us, they inspire us, they show us the heart of God."**

"One unforeseen challenge was understanding communication patterns in a house with people who all communicate differently, have different speeds, different levels of communication," Donohue says. As house resident assistant, Donohue carries her school load while also leading house discussions and planning roommate outings. "It's hard to navigate sometimes through communication, making sure everybody is included and heard and able to share. But it's a good thing to learn about living with people and working with people who are maybe not on the same pace as you."

"Maybe sometimes I just want to go slam my door and just be done," Young says. But she doesn't go. She doesn't slam the door. She sticks with the conversation because she is committed to these relationships.

Strong will pull aside a roommate and ask, "Can we chat?" And once a misunderstanding or hurt feelings are cleared, will say that the problem is now "out the window" or "down the drain" or "given to Jesus."

While Mark 2 staff are available to help resolve differences – primarily through helping Strong and Young find the words to express their thoughts and emotions – usually the housemates work through challenges on their own.

"We just talk through it as you would with a friend, through something that is a struggle," Donohue says. "We work on communicating better, sharing feelings with each other and being honest."

The friendships made at Shalom and other gatherings help the women of Friendship House the same way any friend expects friends to help. The students of George Fox are a community supporting them – friends who listen and validate the challenges of life together.

"I don't think you really understand the life they've gone through until you've lived with them," says Donohue, who serves as student chaplain of Shalom. "Everybody has a challenging life, and they have different struggles than you do. Understanding that everyone has a different perspective helps in general in how you act with all people. It's not necessarily just people with disabilities."

### House of Friends

So for three years, the women of Friendship House, along with students they meet at Shalom, have baked bread for chapel every Tuesday evening, playing Spicy Uno while the dough rises. Once baked, they take the bread and go set up for chapel, greeting students as they come, handing out song sheets, smiles and hugs. Friendships are rooted and grow.

They attend another evening chapel on Wednesdays, host a pizza and movie night every Friday, often inviting friends, and reserve Sunday afternoons for the roommates to share a meal and

afternoon together. They go to football games, dances and other campus events, and are regulars at trivia night at the store Social Goods in downtown Newberg, where they are known by name.

Young and Strong, sometimes with their housemates and sometimes on their own, have found a number of ways to serve in the community they call their own. They work alongside students on the university's Serve Day, helping throughout Newberg. They've joined James Project, a George Fox group that volunteers every weekend in the community. And they attend dinners on campus, helping set tables beforehand and clearing them after.

Mark 2 hopes to partner with George Fox for three more houses: two for men and one more for women. But first, they're working to get it right with this one.

"Our communities, I believe, need people with special needs in them, rubbing shoulders with the rest of us, because they make us better," Lofdahl says. "They encourage us, they inspire us, they show us the heart of God."

"I see people like Meghan who are getting a chance to live with them, and their lives change. Sometimes it isn't comfortable, but sometimes that's the place where we're given opportunity to choose to grow. For Katy and Emily, they've developed real relationships. They know that Meghan and Dani genuinely like them, not just want to help them. People at Shalom know their names and ask how they're doing. Their lives are enriched by relationship. You wouldn't trade that for anything."



# Going for Gold

Adin Williams' persistence in the pool has resulted in five American para-swim records and put him in position to achieve his ultimate dream – the 2021 Paralympic Games in Tokyo

By Sean Patterson

Adin Williams can't pinpoint the day he knew swimming would transform his life. He simply recalls moments of watching the Olympics with his family and thinking, like so many young dreamers, how cool it would be to be on that television screen representing your country.

There was only one problem: Williams couldn't swim more than 25 yards before tiring out. Born with a type of dwarfism known as hypochondroplasia – a condition that affects the conversion of cartilage to bone – he had both mental and physical challenges to overcome. It appeared his dream of being an Olympic athlete had little chance of becoming a reality.

But Williams wasn't your typical kid. Giving in or making excuses weren't in his nature. Even as he struggled to make it from one end of the pool to the other, an inner voice encouraged him to press on and chase the impossible.

Today, the 19-year-old George Fox freshman is reaping the benefits of all that persistence and hard work. He is the recipient of 11 national gold medals and owns five American records for his classification. And, after a five-gold-medal performance at the U.S. Paralympic Swimming Championships in Dallas in December, he was named to the 2020 U.S. Paralympics National Team.

Next summer, Williams hopes to compete at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo in August, an event originally scheduled for

this year but postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak. The U.S. Paralympic team will be named after the U.S. Paralympic Swimming Trials next year.

"I'm just excited about how far I've gotten and the things I've been able to accomplish," says Williams, an accounting major from Happy Valley, Oregon. "No matter what happens – whether I make the U.S. team or not – I'm happy for the opportunities I've had and the chance to train at the U.S. Olympic Team headquarters."

Williams has reason to be grateful. Though he began swim lessons at age 3, he didn't pick up competitive swimming until age 12 – and even then it was a struggle, as he tired quickly and could only master freestyle and backstroke events. Williams found his stride in high school, winning eight state titles in his classification over the course of his Gladstone High School career. He followed that up by winning three golds each at the U.S. Paralympic Swimming Championship meets in 2017 and 2018.

An intensified training regimen – he went from swimming four hours a week in high school to training 20 or more hours a week in college – has built his stamina, strength and confidence since entering college. He has added the butterfly to his arsenal of strokes, and though his primary strengths are the 50 and 100 races, he excels at longer distances as well.

"It's just like anything else – you have to be willing to put in the

time and effort to be successful," Williams says. "I didn't suddenly become a successful swimmer. I gradually got better and better as I spent more and more time in the pool on a weekly basis. I have to admit, though, I was surprised at how well I did at nationals in Dallas. I didn't see that coming."

It was there Williams won five events and set American para-swim records in the 100- and 400-meter freestyle. More recently, he set three more national records – in the 50-yard freestyle, the 100-yard freestyle, and his own mark in the 100-yard butterfly – at the Northwest Conference Championships in February. As it stands, he currently holds the American Paralympic records for his classification in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle, the 100-yard butterfly, and the 100- and 400-meter freestyle.

"To walk away with five golds was satisfying enough, but to set two American records on top of that was totally unbelievable," he says of his nationals performance.

Williams competes at the S6 level. Para-swimmers are divided into 14 classes, from Class S1 to Class S14, based on their degree of functional disability, with the most severely affected being Class S1. And while he admits hypochondroplasia has brought challenges into his life, he also recognizes the opportunities it has afforded him.

**"To walk away with five golds was satisfying enough, but to set two American records on top of that was totally unbelievable."**

"I've made friends who have the same condition as me and gotten to travel all over the country and even the world," says Williams, who traveled to Ireland in 2018 for a competition. "So, yes, it's a challenge to live with. But I choose to focus on the positives it has brought into my life."

Williams is quick to credit his George Fox swim coach, Natalie Turner, for inspiring and motivating him. "She has definitely been a big part of my success," he says. "Before the season even started, she made a commitment to be my coach for the national meet, which meant taking time away from the team while the season was going on. That was a huge thing to do and showed me that she genuinely cares about me and wants me to become a better swimmer."

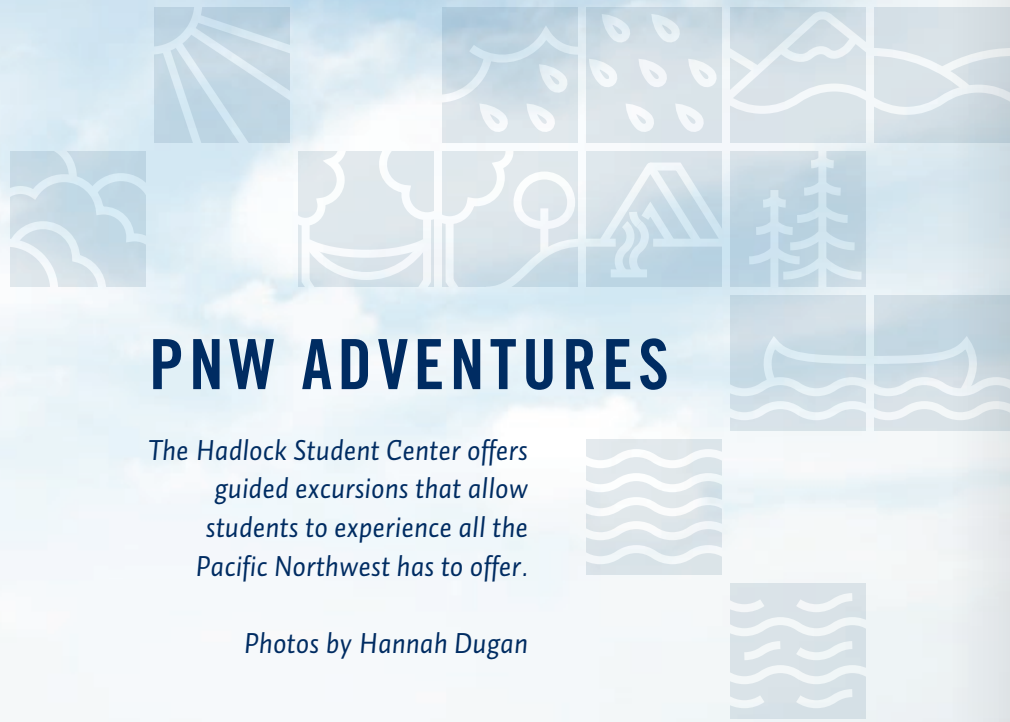
Turner's interest in his career – and the university's friendly and accommodating environment – convinced Williams that George Fox was the best fit for him. "As I started to break down colleges, I decided a Division III school in Oregon would be best for me," he says. "That way, not only could I compete for the collegiate team but also be someplace where I could make friends and navigate my way around campus easily. Of all the options we looked at, we found George Fox to be the best."

Turner has been impressed with his continued improvement. "A lot of athletes will have ups and downs," she says. "Adin just kept going up and up and up. Every meet we see improvement in his times and technique. I am incredibly proud of the work he's done this year. He is such a great addition to our team, and I know he will go on to do great things."

Williams hopes one of those "great things" will be traveling to Tokyo next summer. Unlike the Olympics, for which athletes qualify based on times and placements at the national meet, the Paralympic swim team is selected by committee based on overall historical performance, taking into account swimmers' efforts at nationals, the U.S. trials and other competitions.

"This is my dream, and if it doesn't happen next year, that's fine," Williams says matter-of-factly. "Either way, I'll definitely try making the Paralympic team as long as my career lasts."





## PNW ADVENTURES

The Hadlock Student Center offers guided excursions that allow students to experience all the Pacific Northwest has to offer.

Photos by Hannah Dugan



In addition to learning knot-tying techniques and camp stove basics, students get a chance to relax, unplug and connect with one another without distractions.



↑ A student takes in the rugged natural beauty of the Mount Jefferson Wilderness area.

↑ In September, a group of George Fox students got to experience Smith Rock, well known for its challenging climbing routes and spectacular views.

↓ Students learn advanced climbing techniques from Assistant Director of Campus Recreation Keith Schneider.



↑ Students enjoy a 14-mile round-trip hike in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness area, led by Director of Campus Recreation Rob Simpson.



In the Northwest, there's adventure to be had year-round. In January, students and staff went snowshoeing in the Willamette National Forest, stopping at the Mountain View Shelter to warm up before heading back down.

# The Class of ~~2020~~ COVID-19

By Jeremy Lloyd

It happened in what felt like an instant.

One day campus is buzzing with activity; the next, an eerie silence.

One day students pass each other on the quad, smile, say hello and make plans for the weekend; the next, they are confined to their homes.

One day professors and students meet face-to-face after class, discuss an upcoming assignment and talk about life; the next, it's a pixelated video call over Zoom.

One day seniors make plans to start jobs, get married, travel and celebrate graduation with family; the next, those plans are canceled.

But still, life goes on. Classes must continue. Assignments must be completed. Seniors must graduate. Essential personnel like nurses must finish course requirements and clinical training so they can enter the field when they are needed most.

Above all, students must be cared for. Resources like counseling, tutoring and academic coaching must be made available remotely. Financially vulnerable students must be helped with unexpected living expenses. The local community must be served in new and innovative ways. Bruins must stand together like never before.

It's a messy story. A story in which the final chapters have yet to be written. But also, it's a story of hope. A story of rising up together to meet a challenge we never imagined.

This is the story of the Class of COVID-19.



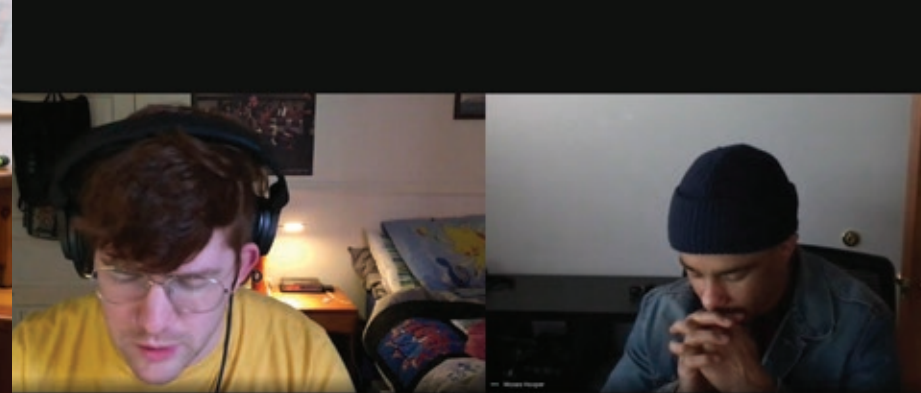
**A new reality:** As news of the spread of COVID-19 became more prevalent, students began practicing social distancing and other safety precautions in the classroom. In late March, campus was closed to comply with Oregon's "Stay Home, Save Lives" mandate.



**Sign of the times:** A traffic sign on highway 99W reminds drivers coming into Newberg to avoid large group gatherings.



**Strength in community:** While campus was closed, the Bruin Community Pantry food bank remained open, with enhanced safety protocols, to ensure that no George Fox student went hungry.



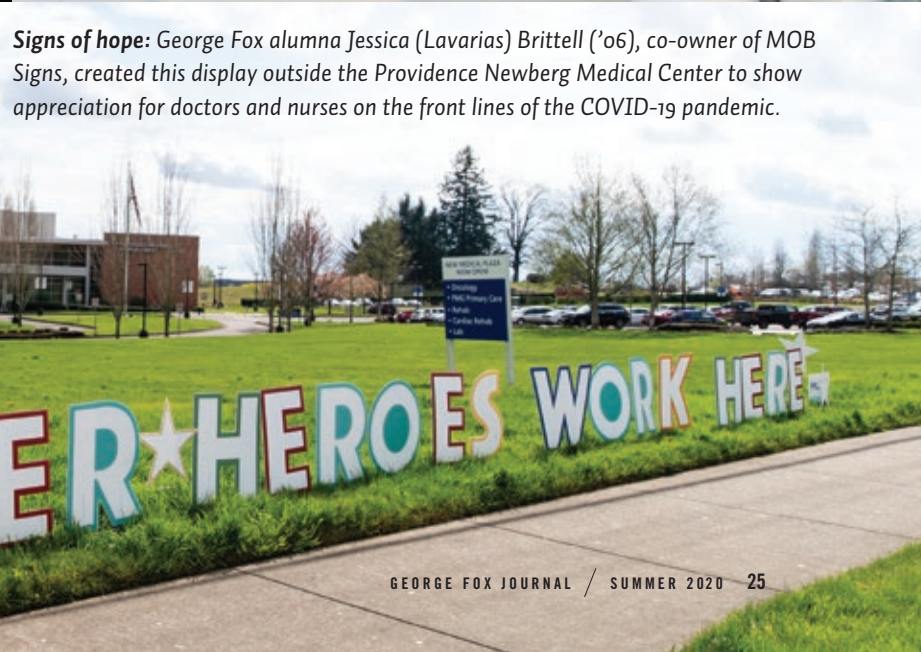
The university that prays together... Jake Thiessen and Moses Hooper from the marketing communications department pray before a virtual meeting.

↑ **Home/work:** English professor Jessica Ann Hughes leads class from a makeshift home office.  
→ **Deep cleaning:** A Jani-King employee disinfects one of the residence hall bathrooms.  
↓ **Virtual classroom:** Biblical studies professor Brian Doak finds a creative way to engage with students.



↑ **Social distancing:** A student sits alone in the university's outdoor amphitheater. As students moved home to begin remote learning, sights like this around campus became much more common.

↓ **Meeting of the minds:** The university leadership team, including President Robin Baker, connects via Zoom to discuss how best to care for students in a remote learning environment.



Signs of hope: George Fox alumna Jessica (Lavarias) Brittell ('06), co-owner of MOB Signs, created this display outside the Providence Newberg Medical Center to show appreciation for doctors and nurses on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

# ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL

While the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the flow of nursing education, it did little to diminish the resolve of students to finish strong and enter a field where they are desperately needed

By Sean Patterson

This wasn't the way it was supposed to end. With seven weeks left in the semester, there were critical exams to prepare for and clinical placements to complete. And, for those graduating, there was the highly anticipated pinning ceremony to look forward to – the culmination of four years of toil, when family and friends would gather round, cameras in hand, to celebrate this most impressive of accomplishments.

Then, almost without warning, plans changed. The threat of COVID-19 triggered an international call to stay home. Businesses closed. Sporting events and social gatherings were canceled. And students across the nation – including those in George Fox's highly hands-on nursing major – were asked to give up in-person instruction and master remote learning. For senior nursing students, the urgency to graduate and enter the field was greater than ever.

"Student nurses are considered essential personnel during the COVID-19 pandemic," says Pam Fifer, director of the university's School of Nursing. "Our goal all along was to continue providing a high-quality nursing education in a remote format for the majority of the semester. It was vital that nursing students continue to progress so we could supply new nurses for the workforce."

It wasn't easy. "Alternative instruction plans were made, then more restrictions came, so plans had to be altered again," Fifer says.

The first priority was to ensure senior nursing students could complete their final capstone clinical practicum. Those students worked one-on-one with a nurse in a precepted environment, practicing the full scope of the RN role in that setting. And, as part of a contingency plan, virtual simulations, including multiple patient scenarios,



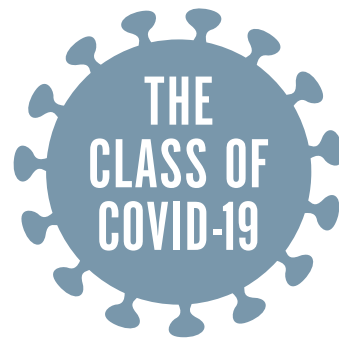
Before the storm: Senior nursing students gather for a group photo at the beginning of the academic year, long before the term "social distancing" had entered into our collective lexicon.

were offered.

All the while, strict safety measures were followed. Students in clinical rotations were permitted to complete their required assignments, but in a restricted



Senior Hannah Avila is surprised with an impromptu pinning ceremony at the Willamette Valley Medical Center Birthing Center, where she completed her clinical placement.



capacity. The School of Nursing did not allow them to directly care for COVID-19 patients or those suspected of having the virus, nor were they permitted to care for patients requiring personal protective equipment (PPE).

In order to ensure enough senior capstone placements, the decision was made to move all remaining sophomore and junior clinical rotations to a virtual format. Students had virtual access to their instructors via phone, email and Zoom, and if a student wished to meet with an instructor on campus, extensive safety measures were taken. Beyond that, faculty arranged to provide alternate clinical experiences for these students by incorporating virtual simulations, case studies, and instructor-led clinical judgment seminars.

## A Heart for Service

Beyond changing the dynamic of nursing education, the pandemic resulted in



Sophomore Emily Roos helps deliver personal protective equipment from the nursing department to Friendsview Retirement Community.

opportunities for student nurses to serve the community. Nursing staff and students went through their labs to collect PPE and donate it to the Friendsview Retirement Community, the Willamette Valley Medical Center and the Yamhill County Public Health Department. In all, more than 80 gowns, 1,000 gloves and 1,000 surgical masks were donated. Additionally, the nursing program donated more than 100 homemade masks to Friendsview and the Chehalem Health and Rehab Center.

Two senior students in particular, Dawn Miller and Annalise Carrillo, went above and beyond for the cause. "When everything was in transition and being moved to remote and virtual education, they were willing to do whatever was needed, from photocopying, to cleaning labs, to moving equipment," Fifer says. "They kept coming back to the office and asking, 'What next?' They could have been anxious about the changes that were coming, but instead they demonstrated flexibility, calm, resiliency, initiative and a willingness to serve."

Through it all, George Fox found a way to make it work. This spring, 43 nursing students graduated. Upon passing the NCLEX-RN licensing exam, they will embark on their nursing careers at a time when their services are in demand more than ever.

"Because we are one of the first nursing programs to graduate each spring in Oregon, our students are the first to join the ranks of RNs and begin caring for any and all patients, including patients

with COVID-19," Fifer says. "Our graduates enter the RN workforce at a critical time. They will work in all areas of nursing, whether directly caring for patients with COVID-19, caring for other patients, screening patients and visitors, preparing additional beds to handle the pandemic, or educating the community about proper hygiene and physical distancing. If you are a nurse, you are involved in some way."

## A Time to Celebrate

And while the pandemic did prevent George Fox from hosting a live pinning ceremony – the capstone event for nursing students – the nursing department teamed with the university's media services division to create a virtual pinning ceremony. All portions



Professor Lorretta Krautscheid was among faculty, staff and alumni who sent messages of encouragement to George Fox nursing students.

of the event were prerecorded and then streamed on the pinning date, complete with awards, recognition, speakers and the acknowledgement of each student. A loved one could then pin each person as he or she was announced during the ceremony.

Graduates also received a personalized pinning box – with stole, pin, pinning program, nurse's Bible, nurse's pledge, a



A new reality: Senior Taylor Oswald gears up for her clinical rotation at the Providence Newberg Birth Center.

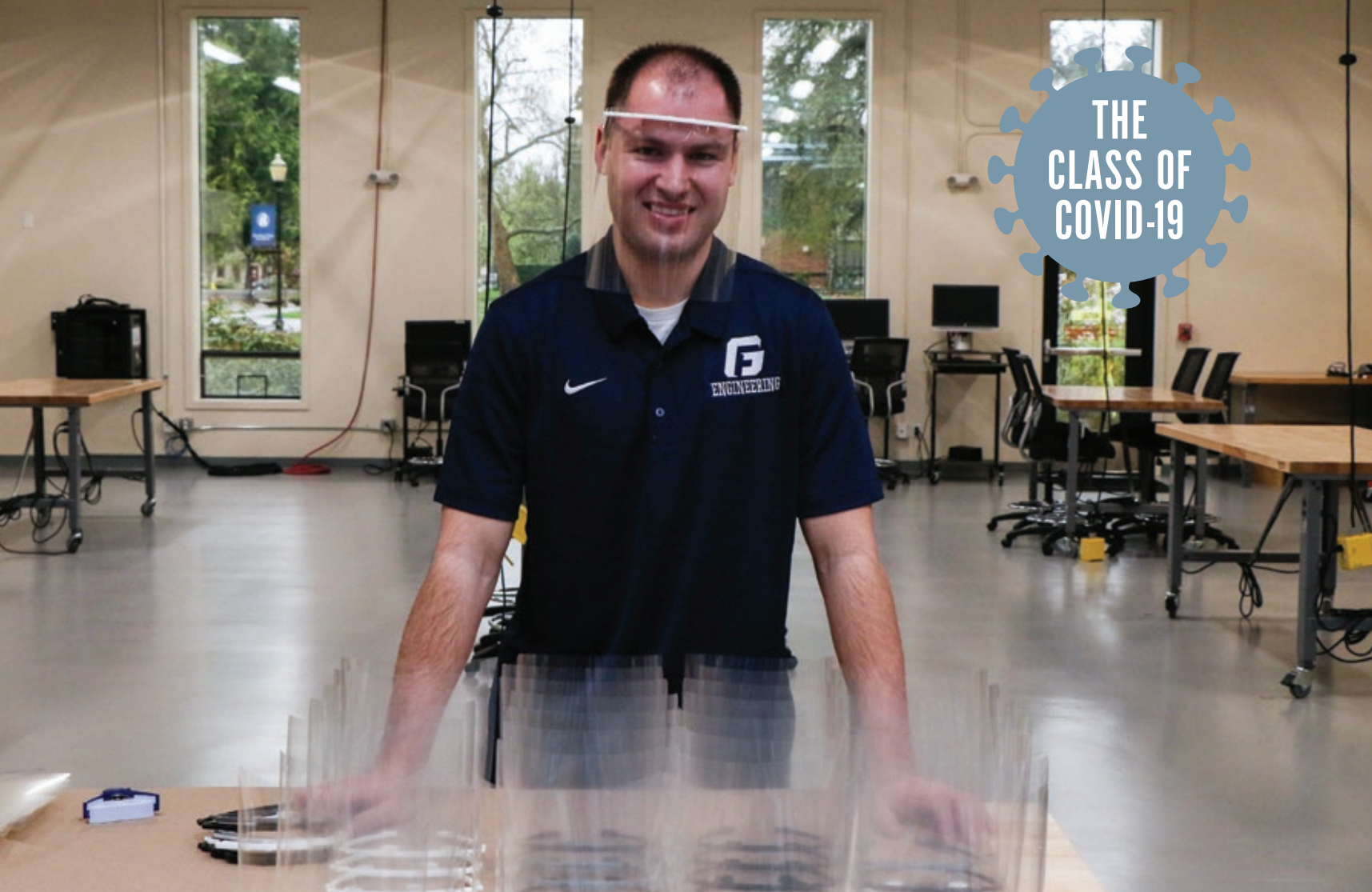
wooden plaque and edible treats. "Each box was packed with love and sealed with a specific prayer for the intended student," says Caroline Wildhaber, the nursing program's clinical compliance coordinator and organizer of the pinning ceremony.

"Our staff went above and beyond to make sure this year's pinning ceremony was just as special to honor our graduates," Fifer says.

One mother of a nursing student was overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness of the pinning box. "When the box arrived, I had a bit of a cry and a very grateful heart for the efforts being made to make our students feel special and for including their parents and other family members in this great celebration."



A pinning ceremony is a significant milestone in the life of any nursing student. Because students couldn't celebrate their achievement in person, the nursing department sent graduates a personalized pinning box.



THE CLASS OF COVID-19

## ENGINEERING A SOLUTION

The College of Engineering creates critical face shields for local healthcare workers battling the coronavirus pandemic | By Kimberly Felton

*“What we like about this design especially is that it’s light,” says Maker Hub Manager Nick Sullivan. “Yes, you always have a film in front of your face. But it’s not heavy; it doesn’t get in the way.”*

In March, as students headed home for the remainder of the school year, the College of Engineering took up a new, if temporary, vocation: creating plastic face shields for healthcare workers – eight hours a day, sometimes more.

As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in Oregon, all manner of personal protective equipment became scarce. From disposable cloth painter’s masks to medical-grade N95 respirators, the store shelves – both virtual and brick-and-mortar – were empty.

Soon news organizations began reporting that hospitals, clinics, first responders, and other healthcare professionals were on the verge of running out of personal protec-

tive equipment, critical for keeping medical personnel healthy while treating those who may carry the virus.

Meanwhile, workers in retirement and assisted living facilities, caring for those most vulnerable to COVID-19, could not find the necessary gear to protect residents.

That’s when College of Engineering dean Bob Harder received an email that changed everything. It was from a friend, asking if the engineering team at George Fox might be able to make some of those desperately needed masks.

Harder immediately reached out to a group spanning several university depart-

ments, engineering faculty and staff, and even an alumnus serving as VP of engineering at a local medical equipment company.

The group began to brainstorm how they might help. They had at their disposal the Engineering Maker Hub – a 16,000-square-foot facility used primarily by engineering students for fabrication, design and prototyping. Now that students had been sent home, this spacious facility – perfect for accommodating a new concept that had recently come into vogue, social distancing – was available for a new purpose.

They considered cloth masks first. “The best designs in a DIY format filtered 75 to 85 percent,” says Maker Hub Manager Nick

Sullivan. This option was a vast improvement over unfiltered air, but time-consuming to make, and the research on its effectiveness was inconclusive.

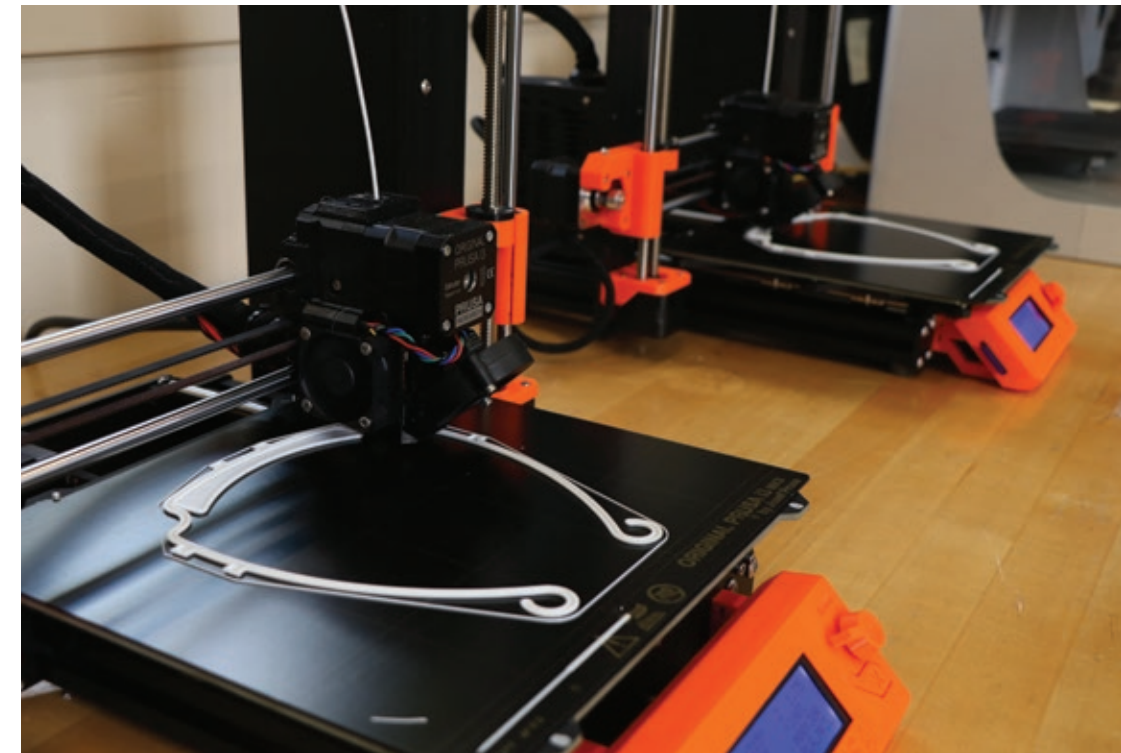
More research led to 3D-printed respirator masks. The trouble with this solution, explains Sullivan, is the mask must mold to a person’s face. With a wide variety of face and jaw shapes, sizing correctly would be challenging.

Finally, the team came upon just the right solution: a design for 3D-printed face shields from a group halfway across the globe in Sweden. When worn over a cloth mask or respirator, these shields prolong the use of a face mask by blocking larger particles. In a world strapped for PPE, this would help.

In just over a week, they had a plan in place and were ready to start production.

A call to the Yamhill County health commissioner opened the market; they would take as many face shields as the university could produce, distributing them to organizations around the county, including ambulance services, retirement centers, urgent care facilities, Providence Medical Group, clinics and dental offices.

“This was one of the pieces of PPE we had some of the least of,” says Paul Myatt, public health emergency preparedness coordinator for Yamhill County. “When you’re taking airborne precautions, they’re just as important as the N95. The fact that we could come in with PPE that was in such a shortage, they were very grateful to receive that.”



The engineering department has 3D-printed more than 1,000 face shields so far, distributed to 16 organizations in Yamhill County and beyond, not to mention several individuals in the healthcare industry who requested them.

Engineering staff prototyped and adapted a 3D-printed frame that clasps just above the ears. Six pegs along the frame hold a plastic sheet in place – none other than the transparencies common in classrooms. A three-hole paper punch, punched twice on each transparency, made the necessary holes. After rounding off the plastic corners so they weren’t sharp, the shield was ready

to go. The process was tedious, but quick.

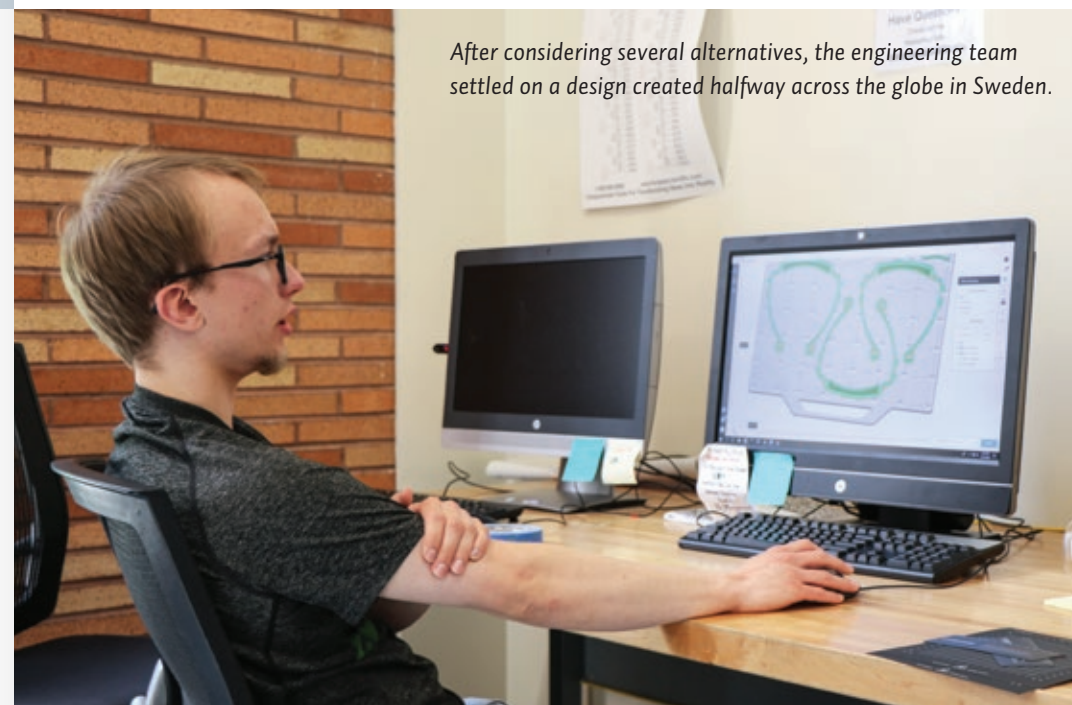
Local schools and university departments donated transparencies, online donations climbed above \$5,000, and Harder approved the budget to purchase eight new 3D printers to increase production.

“For a solid four to five weeks, we pretty much did nothing but churn out face shields,” Sullivan says.

In a typical eight-hour day, a crew of seven could assemble 70 to 150 shields, increasing output as they gained efficiency. Other volunteers came in weeknights and weekends to continue the work.

To date, 1,090 face shields have been produced, almost all of them distributed to healthcare workers who desperately need them.

“Eventually, we had other duties we had to get back to,” Sullivan says. “Thankfully, the demand started to lessen a little bit. It’s been an honor to know our face shields have been able to help.”



After considering several alternatives, the engineering team settled on a design created halfway across the globe in Sweden.

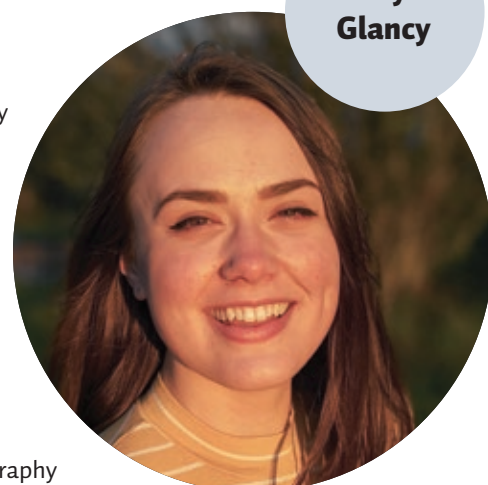
# COVID-19 Through the Eyes of Students

All students were affected by the closure of campus, but none more so than graduating seniors, who had to finish their final weeks at George Fox without the milestones, goodbyes and celebrations that mark the transition from college to the next step in life. Through it all, they remained resilient and finished strong. Before they graduated in May, we asked the Class of 2020 to describe their transition to remote learning and reflect on their time at George Fox.



**Hannah  
Dugan**

“Remote learning is a struggle. Keeping my inbox straight is a daily battle. Emails are like a binder with all your syllabi, except all the pages are out of order and half of them are out of date. But I’m so grateful to my professors for coming alongside and seeking to support me however they can. I’ll never forget how much empathy and grace they held for their students during this time, while simultaneously working tirelessly to come up with a plan to finish strong and keep teaching.”



**Araya  
Glancy**

“This transition is hard, to say the least. I miss my community. As a theatre major, our whole world is built around face-to-face, genuine interactions. I can’t wait for the possibility to see all my friends again. I miss them deeply.”



**Coleman  
Weimer**

“I miss walking across the quad with my photography class while on break, visiting Bill Jolliff during office hours, my short but sweet interactions with the Bruin Den staff, and the cinematic arts department faculty and facilities. I miss being in the presence of each other – the fellowship.

My closest professors have sent check-in texts. They have been gracious and understanding if I am falling behind on assignments. When I receive calls from any of the offices in Stevens, we talk more about how I am doing than actual business stuff. Hi Student Accounts – you all rock!”

“This year has been a challenge for sure. With my senior season being canceled and having to transition to remote learning, the hardest part has been scheduling and finding ways to fill my time that isn’t sports. I have been really supported, especially by those in the communication department. Professors Courtney Anderegg, Shannon Scott and Kevin Jones especially have been amazing in terms of being there for me and considerate of the challenges that our world faces right now.”



**Alex  
Namba**



**Joshua  
Bell**

“I greatly miss being able to go to class and see my friends, peers and professors, and to be able to work together with others in person. Remote learning has left me feeling ... remote. Distant. I may be an introvert at heart, but I still miss the people and experiences that attending school on campus provided. One positive, though, is getting to get up a few minutes before morning classes begin and attending Zoom sessions in bed. It’s cozy.”

**Drake  
Dawson**



“The transition to remote learning has been bizarre to say the least. It has caused me to appreciate my community of faculty and peers so much more. It’s difficult not being able to make silly jokes, ask tough questions, or access crucial facilities. However, it has provided a lot of opportunity for intentionality. Little texts, cards in the mail, and care packages mean so much more to people.”



**Jenna Leigh  
Richards**

“I miss studying with friends and the community that campus offers. The thing I miss most about campus is the feeling of belonging to a community and knowing that I am truly known here. Not to be cliché and use the tagline, but it’s true. You can’t duplicate what Fox does. From professors, classmates and student life, I miss the people and the sweet, sweet time I had being a part of that community.”

“My transition to remote learning has been challenging. Motivation is hard. Life feels unreal. But in the strangest way, I have felt God’s presence so prominently. I have felt a peace that is so blatantly beyond me.

I am still disappointed in the loss of celebration, the milestones and markers to acknowledge our four years here. It aches to think of ending such a monumental time this way. However, through the care of others, I have seen and felt his love. It does not erase the sadness, but it does provide a lightness and hope to carry through.”



**Rachel  
Leong**



**Adam  
LaFountain**

“The transition to remote learning has honestly been tough, but it’s also made me appreciate little things so much more. Right now for one of my Zoom lectures, the first few minutes of class are taken to do a student check-in just to have some normal non-school conversations.

I’ve felt very supported by professors emotionally and academically through email or prayers at the end of a lecture. I definitely miss being able to walk across campus and experience the community that is George Fox.”



# Serving with Passion

By Jeremy Lloyd

Photos by Moses Hooper

Each summer, a group of George Fox Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students, faculty and alumni travels to Uganda, treating hundreds with injuries and disabilities.

Last summer marked the sixth year the DPT team has made the journey to the capital city of Kampala, where they served in two boarding schools for children with special needs, then made the eight-hour journey to a medical center in the remote town of Paidha to work alongside Ugandan physicians and medical technicians.

The results have been life-changing: Children who were once wheelchair-bound can now walk. Adults with painful injuries from years of hard work receive relief. And the George Fox students who take part in the experience grow exponentially as clinicians and people.



↓ Ed Cheng and Rachel Lineback modify and repair a pair of orthotics. When this patient arrived at Kireka School she was unable to lift her head or walk. With training and guidance, she is now holding her head up, smiling, and even walking with assistance.



← Rachel Cundy acquired a shoe to address a leg length discrepancy due to this student's cerebral palsy. This created a special bond between the two of them.

↓ Kara Oshiro and George Fox alumna Katie Porter, a pediatric physical therapist, treat a child with cerebral palsy who has a foot deformity. Once up and standing for the first time, she became very motivated to walk.



↑ At a physical therapy clinic in Paidha, a village in northern Uganda, Ed and Kevin Coriano work with a local translator to treat a man with back pain.

↑ A student in the life skills course at Kireka School shows Lindsey Klemmer her strategies for bead work. She has visual impairment, and together they are thinking up strategies to be more accurate when threading a needle. Older kids often return to their home communities and help earn for the family using the skills they've gained at Kireka.



↑ The mother of a young child with cerebral palsy seeks guidance from Kevin and Katie.

← Caleb Zimmerman draws with one of the Ugandan students. Due to her inability to perform fine motor work with her hands, she verbally guided Caleb to create the drawing of a zebra. He was also able to modify the crayons to allow her to hold them in her mouth.


↑ This 16 year-old-girl was wheelchair-bound until last year. She can now walk with assistance and also has the support and encouragement of her classmates to push her wheelchair and walk with her.



# Taking Aim at the Opioid Epidemic

Empowered by a \$1.2 million federal grant, George Fox doctor of psychology students provide grace-driven care to vulnerable communities in Oregon

By Andrew Shaughnessy



Jeri Turgesen, a primary care psychologist at Providence Newberg, is a graduate of the George Fox Doctor of Clinical Psychology program.

**O**n the day that Cara Bell\* walked through the doors of the Providence Medical Group building in Newberg, she was at the end of her rope. Plagued by a history of trauma, abuse and methamphetamines, Bell was homeless, in and out of jail, and addicted to heroin. For a long while, she simply accepted this as her reality – just the cards that life had dealt her.

But when Bell discovered that she was pregnant, it turned her world upside down.

“She came in immediately,” says Dr. Jeri Turgesen, a primary care psychologist at Providence Newberg and a graduate of the George Fox Doctor of Clinical Psychology (PsyD) program. “She had so much guilt and shame around the fact that she was using heroin. That was a line she told herself that she would never cross. And the fact that she was now pregnant and harming another life was something that she really struggled with.”

Right away, Turgesen worked with the director of family medicine at Providence Newberg to get Bell started on Suboxone, a drug used to treat opioid addiction. But that was only the beginning of a long journey of recovery. Turgesen worked with Bell for three years, providing a constant, stable source of support and human connection. For years, drugs had served as Bell’s primary coping mechanism – her way of dealing with anger, fear and pain. Without the heroin, she had to learn to navigate her emotions in a healthier way.

“We did a lot of work,” Turgesen says.

Today, Bell’s life has completely changed.

“Her baby is 2 years old, and he’s adorable,” Turgesen adds.

“She’s been sober for all of his life, plus eight months of his pregnancy. She’s working full time ... and is no longer homeless.”

Turgesen still sees Bell about once a month, helping her work through her history of trauma and set long-term goals. “Watching her with her baby boy is incredible,” Turgesen says. “She’s an amazing mom and so devoted to her kiddo.”

Since graduating from George Fox in 2012, Turgesen has dedicated herself to providing holistic psychological help in a primary care setting. Working side-by-side with her colleagues at Providence Medical Group, she cares for countless people just like Bell.

“Most of our patients don’t know how to call a psychologist,” Turgesen explains. “Many times, I’m their first face of mental health. I love having the opportunity to be in a space where people go when they’re in crisis – to be able to respond in that moment is such a meaningful opportunity. It can sometimes be dirty and messy and hard, but the wins are incredible.”

Turgesen got her start at Providence a decade ago as a practicum student in George Fox’s PsyD program. Today, she trains students in that very same program – equipping the next generation to care for the hurting and vulnerable.

It’s meaningful work, and makes a real, tangible impact on people’s lives. Yet, in high-need communities like Newberg, there is a shortage of primary care psychologists equipped for the task at hand: trauma-informed, culturally competent care for people with opioid or substance abuse disorders. Just as troubling, local residents often lack the resources to access the help they need.

Now, armed with federal funding, George Fox and Providence

\* The name and some identifying information about this patient have been changed.

Medical Group are tackling the opioid crisis head on, training the next generation of clinical psychology professionals and bringing free treatment to underserved populations. And Turgesen is right in the thick of it.

### A Very Particular Set of Skills

It's no secret that Oregon is struggling with a statewide opioid crisis. Some Oregonians, prescribed opioid pain medications after a surgery, get hooked on pills. Others turn to illegal drugs like fentanyl or heroin. Though policy changes have brought some progress of late (opioid prescriptions have steadily declined over the past few years), massive challenges remain and the human toll is all too real. Fentanyl overdose deaths are up, and according to the Oregon Health Authority, an average of five Oregonians die from opioid overdose every week.

In October of 2019, George Fox received a \$1.2 million federal grant aimed at combatting Oregon's opioid crisis. The grant provides stipends for eight students in the university's PsyD program over the next three years, allowing them to provide free care for people with opioid and substance abuse disorders. Four provide care at the Providence Medical Group facility in Newberg – where Turgesen supervises and trains the students – and four more serve at the Chemawa Indian School primary care clinic in Salem, Oregon.

"This is an emerging field," says Mary Peterson, director of the university's PsyD program. "We already had substance abuse training in our doctoral program, but not specific training for opioid use disorder. Working alongside other providers in a medically assisted treatment model requires specific skills."

Through the grant, George Fox students receive specialized training and experience in trauma-informed care for opioid and substance abuse as well as in telebehavioral health – key for expanding access to mental health care services in underserved populations.

"The vast majority of our patients come in in the middle of addiction and active use, and then our plan is to help them safely withdraw from substances and then start on medication and treatment," Turgesen explains. "Our goal is to get them as comfortable and stable as possible, with a medication-assisted treatment regimen. Then we can work on the emotional components of chemical dependency and psychosocial stresses. It's really making sure we come up with an individualized plan for each patient that's going to help them be most successful."

### Bridging the Gaps

Though the potential for life-changing impact is great, the challenges to providing quality care to people with opioid abuse disorder are daunting. According to the Oregon Department of Human Services, Newberg is considered a "poverty hotspot," with 25 percent of residents living in poverty and struggling to make rent or

consistently pay for food and utilities. These economic factors end up impacting people's health care in significant ways.

"Let's say a patient only has \$5 left in their bank account," says Turgesen. "They have to make the choice to buy food or fill up their tank with gas to come in for their appointment. These are huge barriers that our patients are navigating."

Through telebehavioral health, Turgesen and the students she trains harness the power of technology to conduct remote appointments with patients in their homes, saving both time and money, and expanding access to those who would otherwise be unable to seek care.

Navigating the mental health system, finding childcare, and overcoming the stigma associated with opioid and substance abuse disorders also present significant challenges. By offering cost-free services in a primary care setting, George Fox doctoral students help bridge these gaps all in one fell swoop.

"Let's say a patient comes in to see their OB-GYN; they can see our graduate students right there at no charge," Peterson says.

"They don't have to pay. They don't have to navigate the mental health system. They don't have to worry about going to some psychologist's office and feeling uncomfortable as they're sitting in that waiting room, so it reduces stigma. Oftentimes they don't have to arrange childcare, because they can come in for a half-an-hour appointment during the day and can bring their children with them. That's huge!"

One of the eight graduate students benefiting from the grant is Joanna Harberts. Before going back to school to earn her doctorate in clinical psychology from George Fox, Harberts spent a decade as a licensed marriage and family therapist.

"One of the things that was important to me when I started at Fox was that I wanted a new and different experience," Harberts says. "I got plugged into women's health care, and I found that there were all these women who had no idea there were services available to them. They would be so overwhelmed, but they were able to come see their doctor. Many times the doctor would pull me aside and say, 'Hey, I want you to come meet this client right now.'"

"That warm handoff is probably one of my favorite things," Harberts adds. "When someone is in a moment of crisis, and you're able to go in and be that safe space for them right then and there."

Four weeks into her time at Providence Newberg, Harberts is getting her fill of experience. She shadows Turgesen, taking patient histories, helping them sort through their stressors and triggers, and works with them to manage mental health issues. Over the next three years, she will work at Providence Newberg two full days per week and see a minimum of 12 patients per week.

"Before my training here, I didn't have much experience working with addiction," Harberts says. "This has all been brand new for me, but I've found that my training has prepared me to handle anything that comes into my office."

**"Our goal is to serve the underserved. We take God's love and grace to the most vulnerable of our community."**

### Cultivating Empathy

Of all the skills these budding clinical psychology professionals learn, the most important may be empathy – seeing and treating patients as human beings made in the image of God, each with a unique story.

"Nobody asks for substance abuse disorder," Peterson says. "Nobody starts a prescription thinking, 'I want to get hooked.'"

When our entire experience of opioid abuse comes from the news – stats and stories about rising rates of addiction, wrecked lives, and drug-fueled crimes – it can be all too easy to lose sight of the human beings behind the numbers. Peterson hopes that George Fox's program will cultivate empathy among students, helping them see the person behind the addiction and learn to look for and value their story and perspective.

"The vast majority – I would say 100 percent – of my patients have a significant history of trauma," Turgesen says. "Either adverse childhood experiences, recent trauma, or some combination of the two."

When it comes to helping patients overcome addiction, tapering off a chemical dependency with a drug like Suboxone is merely the beginning. The bulk of the work done by Turgesen, her Providence colleagues, and the George Fox graduate students is more focused on helping patients learn to identify and manage their emotions in a healthy way through practical tools and strategies. Just as important is the time spent on making meaning out of trauma, addiction and chemical dependency – reframing addiction as part of a patient's experience rather than as the thing that defines them.

"So much of the language that we use when we talk about chemical dependency is very stigmatizing and pejorative," Turgesen says. "Society asks: 'Are you clean or are you using? Are you dirty?'"

That can be so impactful and dehumanizing for patients – as if to be an addict is to be a bad person. But they have a life and a story and a history, a whole narrative on how they got to this space."

"Sometimes with my patients I'll try to think back to who they were before they used for the first time," Harberts adds. "Often they're born into situations where they didn't have a choice. They did the very best they could with what they had."

Working with people suffering from chemical dependency is not an easy calling. Yes, there are stories like Bell's, stories of beating the odds and turning a life around. But there are also stories of struggle and pain and failure, of mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, relapsing over and over and over again, letting down the people they love, tearing themselves apart at the seams. Their stories are messy, and they don't all have happy endings.

And yet, even amidst the brokenness and the heartbreak, there is the potential for incredible transformation.

"Our goal is to serve the underserved," Peterson says. "We take God's love and grace to the most vulnerable of our community. We take our stellar academic and clinical training and use it to make a difference in people's lives."

Peterson calls it a "sacred space," this meeting between practitioner and patient, this beautiful entering into the messiest parts of a person's life. As America continues to reel under the weight of a nationwide opioid crisis, our communities need more people like Turgesen and Harberts – highly trained individuals, equipped with a unique combination of head and heart, dedicated to caring for the vulnerable and hurting, people with the grace to look for hope in the cracks of broken lives.

George Fox and Providence are building those people.



*In November, congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici visited Providence Newberg to learn more about the unique partnership between Providence and George Fox.*

# 52 YEARS AND COUNTING ...

## Longtime employee Mike “Biggs” Wirta’s love for George Fox has kept him on campus for more than five decades

By Sean Patterson

He arrived on campus as the Vietnam War raged, the Beatles released *The White Album*, and the nation reeled from the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy.

It was the fall of 1968 when Mike Wirta, an unassuming kid from Newberg, enrolled at George Fox College. Just months before, he didn’t intend to go to college – “I didn’t think I was smart enough ... never was the brightest light bulb in the room,” he laughs – but here he was, setting foot on campus with a plan to, perhaps, one day be a history teacher.

He didn’t know it then, but he would never leave.

### The Memories

Fast forward to 2020: Wirta, more than five decades into his George Fox tenure as a student (1968-74) and custodian (1974 to present), is reclining on a couch in the Wheeler Sports Center lobby, his eyes lighting up as he reflects on the memories.

Laughter breaks out as he recalls the pranks: The time students TP’d the library ... released parachuted mice in chapel ... hid the dining hall’s silverware in an attic ... flashed Bruin Junior during chapel, prompting “half the guys to up and leave on the spot,” he recalls. And, of course, the “greatest prank of them all,” when “some goofballs” snuck into Hoover one night, removed 40-plus doors off their hinges, and stashed them on the roof. “Ya gotta hand it to those guys,” he chortles. “That’s a great prank.”

His mind and wit sharp, the 70-year-old Wirta relates the stories with such detail it’s as if they happened yesterday. This is his life. Fox is his family. And each memory is a vivid reminder of why he loves this place and remains committed to it.

### ‘The Lord Was Working on Me’

Wirta wasn’t a Christian when he arrived on campus. In fact, when his Newberg High School counselor suggested he check out George Fox, he was incredulous. “Fox? I don’t want to be a minister or missionary!” Still, he was intrigued upon learning he could get a liberal arts education. He enrolled without a real plan, struggling as a student and nearly flunking out his freshman year. If not for the encouragement of his peers – and two men in particular – he might have done just that.

Ron Crecelius, the college’s chaplain in 1968, took the young Wirta under his wing, as did the dean of students, Harold Ankeny. “Those two men shared their testimony with me and prayed for me,” he says. “The Lord was working on me long before I accepted him, putting these great Christian people in my life. I finally accepted Christ in 1970.”

Even as he found hope in salvation, Wirta was adrift. He enlisted in the U.S. National Guard, prolonging his college stay, and found work on campus as a custodian. But as graduation day approached, he had no clue what he wanted to do. “I enjoyed being here so much I didn’t want to leave,” he says.

As fate would have it, a chance offer meant he wouldn’t have to.

### ‘A Clean and Tidy Guy’

Wirta is a self-confessed neat freak. It’s no surprise, then, that he gravitated toward custodial work as a student – and why Everett Cook, head of custodial services in the early 1970s – offered him a full-time job as he was about to graduate. “I’m a clean and tidy guy, so it was a perfect fit,” Wirta says. His primary responsibility over the years: cleaning and maintaining Wheeler, including an annual resurfacing of the facility’s gym floor.

He does own a house in Newberg, but campus has always been home. “The Lord told me long ago I was gonna stay here and I was gonna like it. If it weren’t for George Fox, I wouldn’t be where I am today. I probably wouldn’t be a Christian. I just fell in love with the place and never left.”

He credits people – Ankeny, Crecelius, and best friends Dave Adrian and Bob Dexter, among countless others – for making his life rich. Friendships are the primary reason Wirta negotiated to stay on part time after the university elected to outsource its custodial department in 2019 – and why he has no plans to retire anytime soon. “I may cut down to a couple hours a day,” he says. “But what am I going to do if I retire? Sit around the house? My friends are here.”

### The Streak

Wirta has always been good with numbers, so when the opportunity to do stat keeping at men’s basketball games came up, he jumped at the chance. He missed two games in 1972 for boot camp. He hasn’t missed a home game since. In fact, he didn’t miss a game, home or away, for 30 years – 818 straight contests – before deciding he would no longer travel with the team in 2015. In all, he’s witnessed more than 1,300 games, well over half of those played in program history.

For Wirta, one game stands out: an NAIA District 2 championship tilt against Willamette in 1990, when a Rich Schlachter three-point shot at the buzzer sent the game to overtime in an eventual 98-95 victory. “Anyone who was there will never forget it. Best game I ever saw,” he says. “I’ve watched it a few times on tape over the years.”

He has also volunteered on scoreboard and scorebook for the baseball team since 1996. In fact, his other most indelible sports moment came in 2004, when, in a dugout in Appleton, Wisconsin, Wirta watched as the Bruins won a NCAA Division III World Series title. “I was practically in tears because I was thinking about 1968, when *The Oregonian* wrote that we just might be the worst college baseball team in the country. We lost 30-0 to Pacific that year and went 0-19. That was on my mind as I watched us win a national championship.”

For his devotion and commitment to athletics, Wirta was inducted into the university’s Sports Hall of Fame in 1998.

### ‘Biggs’

Spend time with Wirta and you will inevitably hear it: “Biggs!” It’s a nickname he inherited from a buddy in the early 1970s after Wirta

shaved his head. “I was working custodial at A-dec in 1972 and heard that some of their conservative employees didn’t like my long hair, so I took it all off.”

The result: A bald head that, according to his friend, made him look like the “Biggie Rat” character from *The King and Odie* 1960s cartoon series. The name eventually morphed into “Biggs.” To this day, some people mistakenly believe it’s his last name.

### ‘A Nice, Warm Sunset’

Wirta gets a bit emotional as he watches the sun lower over the trees outside Wheeler – a sight he’s taken in for more than half a century. All this reminiscing has evoked some sentiment, and the moment inspires a poignant observation.

“This is my home,” he says, his voice cracking. “I’m entering the sunset of my life, and it’s going to be a nice long, warm sunset.”



← Wirta has been a courtside fixture at home basketball games since the Nixon Administration. Among his most indelible memories: a postgame brawl in 1970, when he broke his glasses trying to intervene in the melee.

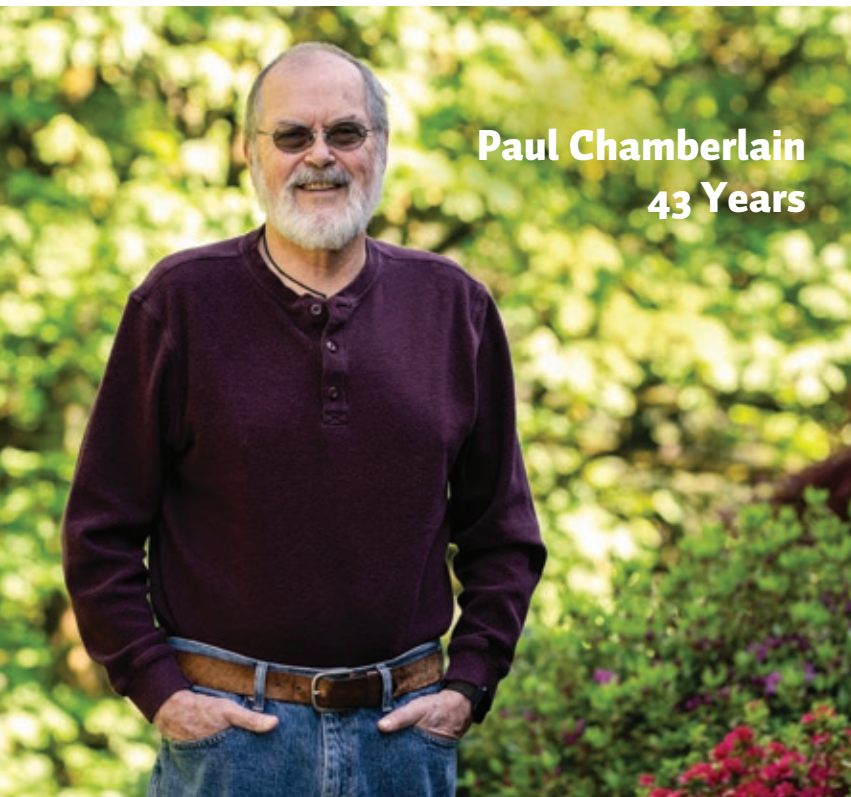
↓ Upon seeing a prototype for the DeLorean in 1976, Wirta, a self-confessed sports-car lover, had found his “dream car.” Sixteen years later, in 1992, he purchased one. He still drives it today, and its license plate advertises his lifelong passion.



# A Century of Mentorship

Professors Paul Chamberlain, Steve Grant and Tim Tsohantaridis retire this summer after teaching at George Fox a combined 113 years

By Sean Patterson



**Paul Chamberlain**  
43 Years

As a college student in the early 1970s, **Paul Chamberlain** never intended to teach at the collegiate level – or even pursue an advanced degree, for that matter. But an organic chemistry professor took it upon himself to mentor the young scientist and, in turn, change the course of Chamberlain’s life.

The influence of a caring professor forever impacted him.

“I would not have gone on to graduate school and ended up teaching at George Fox but for the mentoring of that professor,” Chamberlain reflects. “I trust that I was able to carry on that legacy while at Fox with my students, and that my interaction with them has made a difference in their lives personally, professionally, and most importantly, spiritually.”

Chamberlain is retiring from the university this summer after serving at George Fox for 43 years – the first 37 as an organic chemistry professor and the last six as director of the Center for Study Abroad. He also directed the Juniors Abroad program for 23 years. Between mentoring opportunities in the classroom and his experiences with students abroad, his memory bank is full.

One such memory makes him chuckle. In preparation for a Juniors Abroad excursion to East Africa in 2004, a student kept pes-

tering Chamberlain to get on the trip, which was full. The student’s girlfriend was already booked, and he was No. 1 on the wait list. After several visits to Chamberlain’s office, the professor finally relented and let him join.

“Unbeknownst to me, they had some interesting plans for their trip to Africa,” Chamberlain recalls. “They ended up graduating on Saturday, getting married on Sunday, and leaving for their honeymoon on Monday to East Africa with 19 other students, spending much of their time in tents. When I asked them about this very unusual honeymoon, they reminded me that George Fox was paying for half of the cost.”

Chamberlain’s favorite class to teach was organic chemistry, “because I enjoyed helping students come to grips with very conceptually difficult material, seeing most of them survive, and watching some actually come to love the subject,” he says.

His reasons for remaining at George Fox for more than 40 years? Chamberlain provides three: the interactions he had with students both inside and outside the classroom, the close relationships he developed with colleagues, and the freedom he had to share his Christian faith in the classroom.

Looking ahead, Chamberlain says he’s looking forward to four activities: “travel, backpacking, woodworking and, of course, naps,” he laughs.

When asked what kept him at George Fox for nearly four decades, **Steve Grant** is quick to offer a quip: “The opportunity to become filthy rich,” he laughs. But “rich,” by his definition, has little to do with monetary gain.

Rather, it has more to do with the wealth that comes from memorable experiences and friendships – the kind of things money can’t buy. “I got ‘rich’ by being surrounded by amazing faculty who value their ministry and by being around wonderful students, many of whom have become great friends,” says Grant, who retires this summer after 38 years as a George Fox faculty member. “I was blessed to have spent 34 of my 38 years as a coach working with not only great athletes, but more importantly, great people – and being inspired by seeing so many of them living as a testament to the grace of Jesus in their lives.”

Grant arrived at then-George Fox College in 1982 to teach in the health department, serve as an assistant men’s basketball coach – a position he held until 1995 – and coach the women’s volleyball team. His 1984 and 1987 women’s squads won National Christian College Athletic Association titles, and he retired from the program in 2015 after amassing more than 600 career wins. His teams post-



**Steve Grant**  
38 Years

ed a winning record 13 straight seasons, from 1987 to 1999, and he was named NAIA District 2 Coach of the Year in 1984 and 1990. In 1998, Grant was selected Northwest Conference Coach of the Year after leading the Bruins to a 31-8 record, a league championship and an NAIA National Tournament berth.

On the administrative side, he served as associate athletic director (2007-14) and as chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance (2003-20). In the classroom, he especially enjoyed teaching two classes – Comprehensive School Health Program and Ballroom Dancing.

“I enjoyed the former because I was working with highly motivated students who would use what they learned to improve the health of our children,” he says. “In the ballroom class, I loved seeing many who thought they wouldn’t like the class leave with a deeper appreciation for what they were capable of learning and using what they had learned, often at their own weddings.”

Asked what he loved most about his George Fox career, Grant simply says “the fact that it lasted so long.” As for what’s next, he looks forward to spending time with family and friends, having time to travel, and perhaps finding a hobby he can do well – “obviously, that’s not golf,” he says. He also plans to continue learning, read more and volunteer.

With so many fond memories – from introducing students to his native Greece on Juniors Abroad trips, to coaching soccer, to performing in chapel skits – **Tim Tsohantaridis** is hard-pressed to pinpoint his favorite George Fox moment.

An easier task is identifying the reasons he remained at the university for more than three decades: his love of the Bible, students and colleagues.

“Those three things kept me here all these years,” says Tsohantaridis, an associate professor of biblical studies and Greek in the College of Christian Studies who retires this summer. “I love my students and felt a call from God to do so, and I appreciate the friendships I’ve made. I also enjoyed introducing students to a deeper understanding and love of the Bible.”

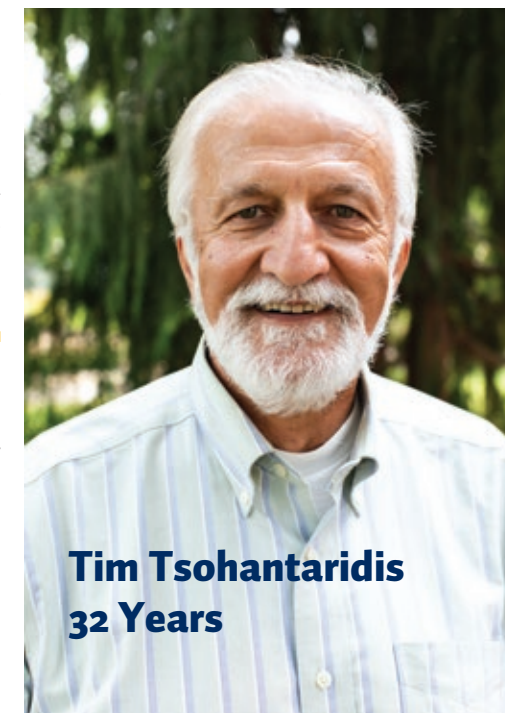
As a native of Thessaloniki, Greece, Tsohantaridis has always been fascinated by the Apostle Paul’s Macedonian call, and he relished the opportunity to teach the value of Greek – the language in which the New Testament was written – in an individual’s devotional and pastoral life. He had the opportunity to do so not only in the classroom, but also as a chaplain at the university from 1985 to 1990.

Among his other loves is soccer, a sport he grew up playing and one he coached at the high school and collegiate levels. He arrived at George Fox in 1985 and served as an assistant men’s coach for one year before taking the reins of the program and ultimately leading the Bruins to a National Christian College Athletic Association title in 1988. In his four seasons as head coach in the 1980s (1986-89), George Fox qualified for the NCCAA National Tournament three times. On both the soccer pitch and on Juniors Abroad trips, Tsohantaridis developed a particularly close working relationship with fellow coach and professor Manfred Tschan.

Aside from a three-year hiatus in the early 1990s, when he pastored the Greek Evangelical Church of Boston, Tsohantaridis was a fixture on the Newberg campus – and often in unconventional settings. His role as chaplain allowed him to act with student chaplain George Myers in chapel skits, playing the part of a Christmas tree one year and that of “Tex” – a singer/guitarist with no musical ability – another. On another occasion, he performed a Greek folk dance with his sons Demetrius and Thaddeus in a Mr. Bruin pageant.

Academically, his favorite classes to teach were Greek, Bible Survey, Contemporary Religious Life, and Between the Testaments. “It was a joy to introduce new students to God’s redemptive plan, from Genesis to Revelation,” he says of the Bible Survey class. “And the Contemporary Religious Life course gave us a chance to explore the issues of the day from a biblical perspective.”

As for the future, Tsohantaridis plans to spend time in New England with the Greek community in Boston, on the beaches of Rhode Island, and at Newport Evangelical Friends Church. He also looks forward to seeing more of his children, grandchildren and friends on both coasts.



**Tim Tsohantaridis**  
32 Years

## 1960–69

**Cap Hensley** (G64) is in the Ukraine as a volunteer educator, primarily teaching English at public schools and a university. After 24 trips since 2007, he now plans to make it his permanent residence. He works independently in ministry and with Servants of Christ International. Holding a PhD from the University of Liverpool, he previously was a college professor in Colorado.

**Edgar Amilcar Madrid** (G65) in January reached 25 years with Radio Verdad in Chiquimula, Guatemala, now serving as general manager. For 12 years, until 1992, he was a professor of a variety of subjects at the University of San Carlos.

**Thomas Norton** (G66) authored *South Korea: My Adventures and Sermons*, published by Fromm Verlag in Germany, in which he writes of his 15 years on the mission field. In June he moved from Switzerland, which had been his home since 1973, to McMinnville, Oregon.

**Pete McHugh** (G67) is a new member of the Scappoose (Oregon) City Council, appointed in December as one of six members guiding the city of 7,000. A former school administrator in Beavercreek and Scappoose, Oregon, he was named Northwest Oregon Elementary Principal of the Year in 1989 and selected Citizen of the Year by the St. Helens-Scappoose Chamber of Commerce in 2001.

**Kent Thornburg** (G67), in Australia in November, received the highest honor given by the International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD): the David Barker Medal. The award is given every two years to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the scientific development and broader leadership in the DOHaD field, which researches how the seeds of chronic disease are sown before birth. Thornburg, at Oregon Health & Science University since 1975, is M. Lowell Edwards Chair of Cardiovascular Research at OHSU's Knight Cardiovascular Institute, a professor of medicine in the School of Medicine, and director of both the OHSU Bob and Charlee Moore Institute for Nutrition & Wellness and the Center for Developmental Health in the Knight Cardiovascular Institute. He was honored as George Fox's alumnus of the year (Heritage Award) in 1999.

## 1970–79

**Stuart Willcuts** (G72), as president and CEO of Air Serv International, based in Warrenton, Virginia, is highly involved in the response to the Ebola pandemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The humanitarian organization is providing air transport to outlying areas for the World Health Organization, Doctors Without Borders and other organizations.

**Michael Lindsey** (G73) is in his 44th year with Missions Door, serving as director of Urbacad Printing and Distribution for the last 20 years. Last summer he moved back to Portland from upstate New York, where he was directing a program that provided interactive training tools for local churches to disciple new believers and train promising church leaders.

**Randy Winston** (G73) is national director of scholar recruitment with SCS Noonan Scholars, a Los Angeles-based program that helps high-achieving, low-income underrepresented students get into and graduate from top colleges. He started in 2018 after previously serving as educational adviser for 15 years with Volunteers of America, guiding a Think College Program that provides assistance to low-income and first-generation students in inner-city Los Angeles.

**Dan Hull** (n74) is in Arizona, where he started in July as chaplain/bereavement coordinator with Prime Hospice in Phoenix. For 43 years, until 2018, he was in California as a Church of the Nazarene minister, the last 31 at Ventura First (now Powerhouse) Church of the Nazarene.

**Paul Fodge** (G77), professor of mathematics at George Fox for the last 10 years, was featured in *Recumbent & Tandem Rider* magazine in the fall. The article details how George Fox's servant engineering program undertook a project to build a custom wheelchair tandem bicycle to allow him and his granddaughter to go for rides together.

**Kathleen (Norton) Carroll** (G77) in early 2018 became assistant director/lead teacher at Growing Green Panda, a Portland childcare center. She previously served as a preschool teacher.

**Steven Hockett** (G77) was selected as the 2019 Employee of the Year by his peers at

Integrated Services Inc. He is in his 30th year with the company, 27 of which he's worked on the sales staff. Based in Portland, ISI has 65 employees and is the nation's leading fast lube software provider.

**Chris Steiger** (G78) works as a financial planner for pastors and missionaries and is a retreat speaker following his retirement from pastoral ministry after 40 years, the last 20 of which he spent at Rose Drive Friends Church in Yorba Linda, California, where he was associate pastor and later pastor of operations and congregational care.

## 1980–89

**Christine (Hockett) Stanfield** (n80) and **Jeff Stanfield** (G89), after 30 years as missionaries in Africa with World Gospel Mission, are working at its headquarters in Marion, Indiana, assisting and equipping missionaries through caring, encouraging and training in their role as area member health leaders for Africa. They began in July 2019 after eight years in Uganda and 22 years in Kenya.

**Ken Schumann** (G81), after 36 years with Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, has announced his retirement effective June 30. He started in 1984 as an assistant men's basketball coach and sports information director before being promoted to associate athletic director and head men's basketball coach in 1992. He served 13 years in that capacity before becoming AD for 16 years.

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**David Case** (G83, PS96) is now the lead pastor of the new Northwest Christian Church, a merging of his 1,200-member Newberg Christian Church with 250-member Adventure Christian Church in McMinnville, Oregon, and the 180-attende Tigar (Oregon) Christian Church. Case also is teaching pastor, using video technology and in-person contact to serve the three-campus church. He is in his third decade with the church.

**Doug Petersen** (n83) and **Lori (Willcuts) Petersen** (G83) have turned a personal tragedy into a means to help others. They instigated a plan to honor and remember their son, Page, who took his own life in January 2015. In a ceremony at Newberg High School in August, a new Newberg-Dundee Police Department car was unveiled, assigned to the high school resource officer. It has a unique paint job, stickers and multicolored flashing lights. The sides include messages of hope and encouragement to reach out for help, including the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. The rear deck lid features a short tribute to Page. The project follows an earlier program to honor Page in the form of college scholarships for Newberg High students.

**Dixie (Schoonover) Downey** (G85) is now assistant to the director and office manager in George Fox's plant services department, now in her 13th year at the university. Her husband, **Scott Downey** (MBA00), is in his 24th year as program manager with Mentor Graphics Corp., a software electronic design automation firm in Wilsonville, Oregon. They live in Aurora, Oregon.

**Robin (Merchant) Varwig** (G85) is completing her third year as director of education at Riley Behavioral & Educational Center in Huntsville, Alabama, where she works with children on the autism spectrum. She left a 28-year career at Crestline Elementary School in Hartselle, Alabama, where she was principal for 13 years after 11 years as assistant principal.

**John Votaw** (G85) is a sales and marketing field account representative with Imprint Group, composed of 10 publishing companies that produce trade books and gifts. He is in his eighth year, living in Fallbrook, California, while servicing California, Arizona, Oregon and Nevada. He previously worked as a West Coast account executive for seven years with Thomas Nelson Publishing.

**Dan Hyatt** (G87) is now an Emmy award winner. He is the producer for the Portland Trail Blazer basketball organization's pregame, postgame and halftime shows. Last June in Seattle, his production team won the 2019 award for Best Sports Program – Live Event or Game, given by the Northwest Chapter of the American Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Now in his seventh season, Hyatt watches TV monitors during the games, showing the views of seven to 17 cameras, and chooses what will air while coordinating a dozen employees.

**Christine (Belnap) Thiessen** (G87) is now an annual giving officer with the Providence Child Center Foundation in Portland. She started in November after nearly five years with Multnomah University in Portland, where she served as executive assistant for the vice president of advancement.

**Wayne Hurty** (G88) is a cardiology specialist with the new Willamette Heart and Family Wellness in Carlton, Oregon. He previously opened a practice in Newport, Oregon, and has been affiliated with Willamette Valley Medical Center and Providence Newberg Medical Center.

## 1990–99

**Bradley Clark** (G90) is now principal planner for the city of Grants Pass, Oregon, beginning that role in June after serving as a subarea planner with King County, Washington, for which he worked in Snoqualmie for nearly five years after 17 years in planning positions in Idaho.

**Nancy (Edmison) Swarat** (G90) is president of the Oregon Council of Teachers of Mathematics. In the middle of a two-year term, she endeavors to bring a sense of community to state teachers. She teaches mathematics at Umatilla (Oregon) High School.

**Rod Aust** (G91, MBA15) in September became chief executive officer, moving up from chief operating officer after nearly two years, of ORM Fertility, a fertility and reproductive medicine center in Portland.

**James Carlson** (MDiv91) and **Colleen Butcher** (DMIn13) have moved from Vancouver,

Washington, back to Spokane, Washington, where he continues as regional director of Black Sheep Harley Davidsons for Christ, a motorcycle-rider outreach ministry, responsible for the states of Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota. She is a project manager at Gonzaga University, starting in August after three years at Clark College as an IT senior project manager.

**Dan Rude** (G92) is director of human resources at The Allison Inn and Spa in Newberg. He started in 2016 after 12 years in HR positions with hotels and inns in Portland and San Francisco, following 10 years with First Consumers National Bank in Portland.

**Randall Fultz** (ADP93), after retiring from positions with the Oregon Employment Department and in human resources with Rainbow Optics in Eugene, Oregon, is in Springfield, Oregon, where he is completing the recording of an hour-long CD of original Christian music, titled *Wake UP!*

**Glenda (Crabtree) Baker** (PS94) and **Stan Baker** (MDiv94) last summer became new pastors at Crossroads Christian Fellowship in Corvallis, Oregon, where he is senior pastor and she is executive and Christian pastor. Both are ordained elders in the Free Methodist Church and previously served in Newberg, Salem and Falls City, Oregon. He

*Continued on page 45*

## KEY

<b>G</b>	Traditional graduate
<b>n</b>	Traditional nongraduate
<b>MA</b>	Master of arts
<b>MS</b>	Master of science
<b>MAT</b>	Master of arts in teaching
<b>DMgt</b>	Doctor of management
<b>DBA</b>	Doctor of business administration
<b>MBA</b>	Master of business administration
<b>MDiv</b>	Master of divinity
<b>DMIn</b>	Doctor of ministry
<b>MEd</b>	Master of education
<b>EdD</b>	Doctor of education
<b>EdS</b>	Education specialist in school psychology
<b>PS</b>	Portland Seminary (formerly George Fox Evangelical Seminary)
<b>PsyD</b>	Doctor of psychology
<b>DPT</b>	Doctor of physical therapy
<b>ADP</b>	Adult Degree Program



## Art and Entrepreneurship

For George Fox graduates  
Greg and Kirsten Johnson,  
creativity and commerce  
go hand-in-hand

By Andrew Shaughnessy

When George Fox art alumni **Greg** (Go5, MAT10) and **Kirsten** (Go8) **Johnson** approached their alma mater with a proposal to create custom-made backpacks for Bruin student-athletes, it represented a big win for both parties. Kaution, the couple's startup outdoor gear and apparel company, would add a big client and an order for hundreds of bags, while student-athletes would benefit from a superior product that was tailor-made to meet their needs.

"We hosted a focus group with one athlete per sport," Kirsten says. "They brought all of their backpacks in, and we gave them a survey where they had the opportunity to tell us what they hated about their current backpack."

The athletes loved it, giving extensive feedback that helped Greg and Kirsten design a tough pack with just the right features: straps for baseball bats, pockets for wet swim gear, and clips to hang cleats or goggles. A few prototypes later, Bruin athletes had a backpack that met all their needs – one they had helped design.

While the deal was a home run for the couple's budding business, neither Greg nor Kirsten fits the typical entrepreneur mold. They're lifelong artists who rely on a mixture of creativity and innovation as the formula for their success.

### Solving Problems

Like so many great ideas, Kaution was born out of a healthy sense of creative dissatisfaction.

Greg always had a love for the outdoors – surfing and wakeboarding were his particular passions – but he was frustrated with how hard it was to find a bag tough enough for his adventures.

"What do I want in a bag?" Greg asked himself. "What would I make for myself?"

Among the items on his wish list: a bag that was waterproof but wouldn't mold, hardy enough that it could stand being tossed around and wouldn't blow out, thick enough that his gear wouldn't punch holes in the fabric. No one seemed to have quite what he was looking for.

Despite having zero experience in the apparel or outdoor gear industries, Greg set out to design his own bag. In 2015, he and Kirsten cofounded Kaution.

The process of designing a viable product took years – a slow burn of incremental progress and figuring things out as they went. Greg read books and watched YouTube videos to learn to sew. Kirsten taped photocopies of bag blueprints onto their sliding glass door, tracing the

design and redrawing changes. Prototypes failed. Pitches went unanswered. They struggled, but they kept on creating.

"People see these final products tied up in a pretty little bow," Kirsten says. "They don't see all the failures along the way."

The first iteration of what has become Kaution's signature Lazarus dry bag was only slightly superior to other products offered by competitors. But each new design took the product a step further, and slowly, the company grew.

### From Starving Artists to Creative Entrepreneurs

These days, Greg and Kirsten are living their dream. In addition to growing Kaution, Greg teaches ceramics in Tigard, Oregon, while Kirsten runs her own creative agency, Reverie. But their road to success wasn't a quick or smooth one. They've done their time as struggling artists.

"We're 37 and 33," Kirsten says. "We graduated so long ago and we're just now in this place. I just started Reverie two years ago. I would never have been able to do that right out of college. I spent three and a half years teaching preschool for \$15 an hour. You have to figure out what you're willing to sacrifice and if you really want it ... and at the beginning of all this, what we wanted wasn't starting Kaution, it wasn't starting Reverie. It was to be debt free."

They spent their first three years out of school paying off their debts. Greg went to grad school to earn a master of arts in teaching degree while continuing to work, and Kirsten worked two jobs. They moved into a trailer for three years, sold everything they had, and "Craigslisted" their Christmas gifts to make ends meet. Eventually, they were able to pay off their debts, build their own house, and develop the space, experience and client base to start their own creative companies.

"It took about 10 years of very, very hard work," Greg says. "That's the artist's path. But it's all possible. It's all worth doing."

### Looking to the Future

Kaution's partnership with George Fox marked a turning point for the company, helping establish credibility and opening up opportunities for similar custom projects with other organizations.

"The fact that they could be part of designing something, be face-to-face with the people making their bag, that's something that really excites people," Kirsten explained. "Especially when you come in with a competitive price."

Now, Greg and Kirsten are working on updating Kaution's products – always honing, improving and perfecting. Seeing their businesses succeed is satisfying, to be sure. But for the Johnsons, it's the process – the act of creation and the building of relationships along the way – that they love the most.

"For me, art is worship," Greg says. "It just flows out of me. ... It feels like that's why I've been put on this earth – to make. This business is just a way to perpetuate that."

*Student-athletes helped design bags to meet all their needs: straps for baseball bats, pockets for wet swim gear, and clips to hang cleats or goggles.*



also is president and CEO, for six years, of Baker Seed Technologies in Corvallis, which develops grass seed coated with fertilizers for agricultural, professional and retail applications.

**Valarie (Doakes) Pearce** (G97) received an MED from Concordia University in Portland in 2019 and in the fall began as a teacher at De La Salle North Catholic High School in Portland. Previously, she was a community educator and engagement specialist with the Black Parent Initiative in Portland for nearly four years.

**Erika (Denny) Lasater** (G96) is a communications manager with the Port of Morrow, located on the Columbia River near Boardman, Oregon. She started in 2018 after 17 years as a multimedia specialist with the InterMountain Education Service District in Pendleton, Oregon.

**Eric Muhr** (G96) is a part-time pastor at the Silverton (Oregon) Friends Church, now a member of the Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends. He preaches two or three times a month and travels to Silverton weekly for meetings and conversation. This is in addition to his part-time role as publisher and CEO of Barclay Press in Newberg, a position he started in 2016.

**Christy Bright** (MAT97) was featured in a September issue of the Woodburn (Oregon) *Independent* newspaper as she began her 22nd year at Washington Elementary School, where she teaches fifth grade. Her career has included teaching first grade for nine years, then third and fourth grades.

**Angie Edwards** (G97), after 13 years as a counselor with the Mountain View School District in Idaho, has left the position to open her own private practice as a licensed clinical social worker in her hometown of Grangeville, Idaho.

**Jodi (Brubaker) Gill** (ADP97) in the fall became international student affairs administrator at George Fox. The previous three years she was CEO of GIDE USA, a consulting business she founded that focuses on international program development for K-12 schools.

**Greg Hodges** (ADP97) in September was named managing director of institutional sales by MassMutual in Centerville, Utah, responsible for California, Hawaii and Alaska. He moved from a position as West Coast regional director of sales with Newport Group in Salt Lake City.



**Jimmi Sommer** (G97) in May 2019 was named supervisory general services officer with the U.S. Department of State, with her assignment at The Hague, Netherlands. She was George Fox's 2007 Outstanding Recent Alumnus.

**James Anderson** (ADP98), who holds a master's degree in systems engineering from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, is in his second year as a systems engineer with Boeing in Seattle, following 11 years as a staff operations engineer with United Technologies Aerospace Systems in Phoenix.

**Tim Hoffman** (G98) received the Unsung Hero Award for 2019 at Front Range Community College, where he is a pathways (academic) advisor. The award is given for outstanding contributions to the division of student affairs. Living in Fort Collins, Colorado, he has been with the five-location college since 2007.

**Adam Kohl** (G98) and his work as founder and director of Outgrowing Hunger was featured in a lengthy article in the *Gresham* (Oregon) *Outlook* newspaper in September. He started the nonprofit in 2011 with the goal of transforming unused public and private land into productive resources for fighting hunger by growing healthy food. More than 85 percent of the gardeners are refugees or immigrants from Asia, Africa and Central America.

**Scott Spurlock** (G98) in September was named professor of Scottish and early-modern Christianities at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, moving from a position as senior lecturer in Scottish religious cultures. He has been at the university since 2013 after receiving a PhD in ecclesiastical history from the University of Edinburgh.

**Monica (Scharn) Darnall** (MAT99) in the fall became the first bilingual principal of Chenoweth Elementary School in The Dalles, Oregon, which has 51 percent Latino students. She moved from a five-year position as an ESL specialist with the Washington School District in Saint George, Utah.

**Dan Foster** (G99, MBA04) is in his second year as vice president/principal coach with Building Champions Inc. in Portland, an executive coaching and leadership development firm where he previously worked as an executive coach for eight years.

**Adam Hieb** (G99) is president of the Sacramento, California, division of KB Home, named in January 2019 to head operations,

which includes land acquisition, construction, sales and marketing in Central California and Nevada, with 10 new-home communities underway. He moved from a position with Shea Homes in San Francisco, where he was vice president for sales and marketing for more than nine years.

**Nancy Newton** (ADP99) in April was announced as the new city manager for Springfield, Oregon, providing overall management and administrative oversight for the city of 63,000. Until her appointment, she was assistant county executive/chief operating officer for Sacramento County (California), in her fourth year following 16 years with Clackamas County (Oregon), where she was deputy county administrator her last seven years.

**Kristy (Burns) Piedra** (G99) is a fourth-grade teacher, completing her 14th year at West Hills Christian School, a first- through eighth-grade nondenominational school in Portland.

**Joshua Smith** (G99), after 10 years with Yahoo! in Hillsboro, Oregon, the last three as payments escalation engineer, started in 2019 at ModSquad in Beaverton, Oregon, as brand representative/streaming tech, involved in live technical support at the on-demand digital customer support firm.

**Joe Thouvenel** (G99, PS09) in August became an organizational transformation consultant with Providence Health and Services in Portland, working with its leaders and teams to build capacity for change and transformational growth. He left George Fox after two stints at the university, the first as an admissions counselor for four years, ending in 2003, then as a career and academic planning coach in the institution's IDEA Center, ending in 2019.

## 2000–09

**Sara Black** (Goo) is in Kampala, Uganda, beginning in July teaching math at Acacia International School, which serves missionary and non-governmental organization families so they can remain in country knowing their children are receiving a Christ-centered education. She is serving as a missionary with Africa Inland Mission.

**Hayley (McGregory) Cummings** (Goo) joined Evergreen Home Loans in West Linn, Oregon, as a mortgage loan officer after nearly eight

years as a mortgage planner with Paramount Partners Group in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

**Todd Hammans** (Goo) is an executive sales representative, in his second year, with Takeda, a global research and development pharmaceutical company in Portland. He moved from executive sales specialist with Shire, a Portland neuroscience business.

**Josh McPherson** (Goo) is lead pastor of Grace City Church in Wenatchee, Washington, which he and others planted in 2008. Now meeting in the Numerica Performing Arts Center downtown, it is developing a \$10 million first-phase complex north of the city to be a mixed-use collaborative campus that houses for-profits and nonprofits and features a 900-seat lodge to function as a public auditorium and a venue for worship services.

**Brenda (Andersen) Edmunds** (Go1) is an educator at Yaquina View Elementary in the Lincoln County (Oregon) School District, where she is in the ESL department assisting teachers with small groups and materials while also working as a bilingual tutor.

**Matthew Henshaw** (Go1), who just completed his 12th year with Spokane (Washington) Public Schools in 2019, earned a doctor of education degree from Washington State University. He has been a principal for the last two years after five years as director of elementary curriculum. Previously, he held principal and assistant principal positions.

**Andrew Krupp** (Go1) started in October as a project specialist with La Clinica in Medford, Oregon, a nonprofit that offers medical, dental and mental health care for low-income residents and others at 21 sites in Jackson County. He switched from a position for two years as a master production scheduler with Laminate Technologies in Medford.

**S. Renee Mitchell** (MBA01), a former columnist for *The Oregonian* newspaper, had a lengthy "In My Opinion" piece, "What a Black Teacher Brings to the Classroom," featured in the paper in June. She was a communication and multimedia journalism teacher for three years at Roosevelt High School in Portland, ending in 2018. She now is self-employed with I Am M.O.R.E. (Making Ourselves Resilient Everyday) in Portland, while enrolled in a doctor of education program at the University of Oregon.

**Robert Nava** (MAT01) is in his first year as dean at Montana State University in

Billings. He moved in July from a position as associate dean of the School of Education at Metropolitan State University in Denver.

**Kraig Sproles** (MAT01) is now one of two assistant superintendents with the Salem-Keizer School District, Oregon's second largest with 40,000 students. He assumed the role in 2019 after a title change from director of academic achievement. He started in that position in 2018 after serving as principal of three elementary schools, two in Albany, Oregon, for four years prior to moving to Salem.

**Cheryl Wierenga** (Go1), in her eighth year with the Red Lion Hotel on the River in Portland, last year became assistant director of sales after six years as a senior sales manager.

**Neil Cantrall** (Go2) and **Kelsey (Baron) Cantrall** (Go3) are on home leave in Oregon for a year after moving back from seven years in Peru, where he served as a school administrator/director with International Christian School of Lima for six years. He now works part time at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, teaching in the ESOL department while enrolled in George Fox's Doctor of Education program.

**Heather Cramer** (Go2), after 15 years as a certified athletic trainer with El Dorado Physical Therapy in Folsom, California, completed a doctorate in athletic training in 2017 and now is a certified athletic trainer with the sports medicine and injury prevention division in the United States Marine Corps. She is a civilian contractor assigned to First Marine Expeditionary Forces in Twentynine Palms, California.

**Brent Hiebert** (Go2) is an endodontist, one of two dentists in a partnership at Yamhill Valley Endodontic Specialists, with offices in McMinnville and Newberg, Oregon. He previously was a dental officer in the U.S. Navy for five years.

**Rebecca Watkins** (ADP03), after nearly 22 years with Wells Fargo Bank in Boise, Idaho, in September started with Key Bank in Boise as a senior vice president and relationship manager.

**Angela Weece** (Go3) in October received a 2019 Lester Crown Distinguished Teacher Award from the Chicago Museum of Science & Industry, given to teachers from high-needs schools who have made a commitment to improving instructional

practices in core sciences. She attended five teacher professional development courses at the museum while teaching at Whittier Elementary in Waukegan, Illinois. This year, in her fifth year of teaching, she is a third-grade dual-language Spanish teacher at Woodland Intermediate School in Gurnee, Illinois.

**Collin Cambridge** (Go4), after serving in positions in Las Vegas, is a program sales coordinator with Sysco in Portland, starting in August. He received a master of science degree in management and leadership in November 2018 from Western Governor's University.

**Andrew Haehlen** (Go4) is a senior business intelligence analyst with Boeing in Tukwila, Washington. He started in July 2016 after earning a master's degree in marketing research from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, in 2016, and an MBA from PLU in 2015.

**Mark Johnson** (Go4) is owner and head roaster of Intent Coffee Roasting, which he started in Gresham, Oregon, in 2012 with the purpose of creating relationships between farmers and coffee drinkers. Thirty percent of profits go toward community development projects in coffee-growing regions.

**Rodney Larson** (ADP04) is an equipment/property technician with the Multnomah County (Oregon) Sheriff's Office.

**Theresa Scott** (ADP05, MBA07) has moved to Idaho, where she is a customer service representative with Citi (Citigroup) in Boise. She moved to Kuna, Idaho, from Newberg, where she was owner and principal of Tech-Tale Media for two years.

**Brice Tennant** (PS04) is a marketing and program manager with the Center for Innovation at Northeastern University in Boston. He is in his sixth year with the entrepreneurial arm of the university, which transforms use-inspired research into commercially viable solutions.

**Matthew Tibbs** (Go4) is now an assistant professor of sound design at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, moving in 2018 from Ball State University (Indiana), where he was an assistant professor of sound design for five years. He also owns Matthew Tibbs Sound Design, started in 2007, and since 2012 has been a sound designer for the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona, Minnesota.

**Katy (Dieker) Zia** (Go4) is a first-grade teacher at R.E. Jewell Elementary School in the Bend-La Pine (Oregon) School District, where she is in the process of starting a dual-language program, using Spanish every day with English Language Learner students and communicating with students and families new to the United States.

**David Tussing** (Go4) is senior director of corporate audit and risk management with Nike, in his second year in the role but 10th with the Beaverton, Oregon, firm. He has had four previous positions, the most recent as director of consumer direct and geographies – audit and enterprise risk.

**Brett Yeager** (Go4) and **Mark Gayman** (Go5), four-year basketball teammates at George Fox, continue as teammates, now together as firemen for Clackamas County (Oregon) Fire District 1. Gayman started his career as a volunteer with the Newberg Fire Department in 2007, was hired full time in 2010, then moved to Clackamas County in 2015. In 2019, he was promoted from firefighter to lieutenant. Yeager also started in Newberg before joining the Eugene/Springfield (Oregon) department and moving to Clackamas in 2017. Last year, he was promoted from firefighter to apparatus operator.

**Jonathan Apuan** (ADP05), after nearly 25 years with the Salvation Army, last serving as a chaplain, is in his second year as development systems coordinator with Discovery Institute in Seattle, a politically conservative nonprofit think tank that advocates for the concept of intelligent design.

**Charity Edwards** (Go5) lives in Oceanside, California, where she opened her own business, Agape Editing, two years ago, helping authors with professional editing services and self-publishing so they can spread the gospel. She also is an administrative assistant/internship coordinator with OPEN USA, a consulting agency that connects interns from the U.S. and Canada with businesses overseas.

**Nicholas Forrest** (Go5) is now pastor of Northside Community Church in Newberg, starting in December with the Free Methodist church after serving earlier with Foursquare Mission International and Youth With a Mission.

**Stacy (Keogh) George** (Go5), in her fifth year at Whitworth University in Spokane,

*Continued on page 50*







Washington, where she is an associate professor of sociology, in August had her book, *Ring by Spring: Dating and Relationship Cultures at Christian Colleges*, published by Wipf and Stock, Cascade Books. It is described as part guidebook and part sociological critique of the observation of students' desire to find a partner and become engaged before they graduate college.

**Sean McGeeney** (Go2, MATo5, EdD18) was one of 25 educators in the nation selected for the 2019 class of Emerging Leaders, chosen by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. The program recognizes and prepares young, promising educators to influence education programs and policy locally and nationally. McGeeney started in 2018 as executive director of P-12 programs with the Yakima (Washington) School District after three years as a principal with Tacoma (Washington) Public Schools.

**Evangeline Pattison** (PSo5, DBA14) is now an associate consultant, starting in July 2019, with the FOCUS Group, a fundraising consulting firm, leaving a position as associate director of on-campus engagement at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington.

**Avery Smith** (MAo5, DBA14), with 27 years' experience in technology management, in August became clinical assistant professor at Washington State University-Vancouver, where he started as an adjunct professor in 2006. He started as a business intelligence program manager at HP in Vancouver, Washington, in 2017 after holding a similar position at Oregon Health & Science University.

**Dane Coppini** (Go6), in the U.S. Air Force for 13 years and now a U-28A Evaluator Pilot, Air Force Special Operations Command, in November was promoted to major. Now in Clovis, New Mexico, he served for four years as an enlisted security forces member and nine as an officer in special operations command as a pilot.

**Cory Ann (Crooks) Imhof** (Go6) is a chiropractic physician with Heresco Chiropractic & Associates, now in her eighth year with the Corvallis, Oregon, firm after receiving a doctor of chiropractic medicine and human biology degree from the University of Western States in Portland in 2009.

**Kevin Kopple** (Go6), after 13 years as an assistant, moved up to head George Fox

baseball coach last summer. He led the Bruins to an 11-4 record before the spring season was canceled. The former Bruin catcher joined his coach Pat Bailey as an assistant the year after he graduated, then stayed with the program through the 12-year tenure of coach Marty Hunter.

**Brandon Rupp** (Go6) is back on campus as director of game management and as a full-time baseball assistant coach after two years as an assistant coach at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, while also running his own business, Yard Baseball Academy, which he started in 2008.

**Anders Sorestad** (Go6) is an accounting controller with Curtis Homes in Hood River, Oregon.

**Michelle Livingston-Dickson** (Go7, MATo8) started in January as an art teacher at North Salem (Oregon) High School. She moved from Sydney, Australia, where she was a high school visual arts teacher since 2016.

**Brittany (Spencer) Jilek** (Go7) in October was named a 2019 Support Star, recognized for excellence in her role as an administrative assistant and bookkeeper with the Power Zone program of Falcon School District 49 in Peyton, Colorado. She has served in the position for nearly three years.

**Melissa Schafer** (ADPo7) has been promoted to human resources manager at Hawley Troxell, a Boise, Idaho, business law firm with 67 attorneys. She joined the 88-employee firm in 2002 as a support clerk and has risen through five positions, the last as support services supervisor for nearly three years.

**Jordan Stacy** (Go7) is completing his first year as a technical account manager with Amazon Web Services in Portland, where he provides recommendations and best practices for cloud-architected solutions. Previously, he was in several IT management positions in Portland.

**Solomon Wang** (Go7) is an adjunct professor at two Southern California universities: Loma Linda, where he started in January as an online instructor in a doctoral marriage and family program, and Hope International University in Fullerton, where he is an adjunct assistant professor, in his fourth year teaching psychology courses. For nearly 10 years he was a research and teaching assistant at Boone Center for the Family in Malibu, California, while earning master's degrees

from Pepperdine University and Fullerton Theological Seminary and a PhD from Loma Linda in 2017.

**Evan Burt** (Go8) in October was promoted from patrol officer to major crimes detective with the McMinnville (Oregon) Police Department. He is assigned to the special investigations unit, working on major person crimes, especially crimes against children.

**Tyler Hale** (Go8) is now the associate director for community standards at the University of Portland, starting last fall after previously working as an associate director of residence life for two years and as a residence hall director for four years.

**Chris Hammond** (Go8) was named the George Fox College of Engineering's Outstanding Alumnus for 2019. He is vice president of engineering at TZ Medical in Portland, where he guided the design and launch of the company's first line of mobile cardiac telemetry devices, which now have helped diagnose arrhythmias in hundreds of thousands of patients.

**Stephanie (Francis) Pietz** (Go8) started in December as a localization engineer with Welocalize in Portland, which prepares digital files for transformation and translation for clients to reach customers. This follows nearly 10 years in a similar position at CTS LanguageLink in Vancouver, Washington.

**Samuel Provoast** (Go8) in July started as a marketing and system designer with Lewis Audio Video in Newberg. He is a front-end developer, sales engineer and pre-sales specialist working with business owners and executives. Previously, he owned his own businesses: ProvoastMedia for 10 years and Red Hills Rerun for nearly four years.

**Lauren (Schuetze) Reese** (Go8) is in McKinney, Texas, working as vice president of products with Adroit Health Group, an insurance marketing agency where she has been for three years.

**Ashley (Stallman) Sonoff** (Go8) and **Kevin Sonoff** (Go8) are both in government positions in the Portland area. In November, she started as the sponsorship and partnership coordinator with the Lake Oswego (Oregon) Parks and Recreation Department, leaving a three-year position as an administrative analyst with the city of Gresham, Oregon. He works in Portland as a public affairs officer with the United States Attorney's Office in the District of Oregon, in the position since 2015.

**Ellen Abell** (Go9) graduated from residency at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 2018 and now is specializing in family medicine at Family Health Center in Lakin, Kansas, with another office in Wichita, Kansas, affiliated with Via Christi Hospital.

**Jessica (Johnson) Chaney** (Go9) is a triage registered nurse with Childhood Health Associates in Salem, Oregon.

**Kristen (Shielee) Cromie** (Go9), after nine years of teaching in Washington and Oregon schools, this last year became a mathematics teacher at Worthington Middle School in Worthington, Minnesota. She also has a small business sewing doll clothes.

**Joshua Graves** (MBAo9), with Catholic Community Services in Salem, Oregon, for 20 years, is now its chief executive officer, assuming the role in January. For the last seven years he has been a chief strategy officer, a chief operations officer and the deputy executive director for the 80-year-old social services agency.

**Chelsea (Walker) Haines** (Go9), ordained through Church of God Ministries since 2015, is now associate pastor for children and families at Parkgate Community Church in Pasadena, Texas.

**Violet Read** (Go9), after three years as director of family outreach at the Methodist Children's Home in Killeen-Temple, Texas, started in October as center director at Urban Strategies Refugio in Waco, Texas, which serves unaccompanied refugee children.

## 2010-19

**Johnathan Casey** (G10) is a senior aquarium biologist and aquatic disease and quarantine specialist with Waikiki Aquarium in Honolulu, completing his fourth year after nearly four years as reef life supervisor at Sea Life Park in Waimanalo Beach, Hawaii. He was featured in an article, "My Job: Aquarium Biologist," in the September issue of *Hawaii Business* magazine.

**Jonathan Ciraulo** (G10) is in his second year as an assistant professor of systematic theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in Rockport, Indiana, following receipt of a PhD from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

**Erin Lee** (G10) is back in her hometown as an English Language Learner teacher at Maplewood Parent Cooperative School in Edmonds, Washington. She started in August after working five years as a para-educator in the school district.

**Kate Spencer** (G10) in August started as a heart failure/heart transplant pediatric nurse practitioner at Seattle Children's Hospital. She is in her 10th year at the hospital, most recently as a family nurse practitioner.

**Carl-Eric Tangen** (G10) is in his third year as a publicist for Americana, folk and roots artists with Hearth Music in Seattle. He left a four-year position as creative arts minister at Maple Park Church in Lynnwood, Washington.

**Joanna (Cox) Woods** (G10) is on the staff of International Students Incorporated, living in Newberg and co-leading student leadership retreats, coordinating yearly spring break trips for international students, and presenting the organization locally. She has been with ISI since 2012.

**Heidi (Goetz) Butler** (G11) started in November as project manager with Fisher Investments in Camas, Washington, after three years as project manager with Epiq, a legal system solutions firm in Portland.

**Nathan Hickok** (G11) gained national attention last June when *USA Today* sports headlined an article, "No. 1 MLB Draft Pick Adley Rutschman's High School Coach Says He'll Live Up to the Hype." Hickok, a former Bruin baseball player, now is head baseball coach at Sherwood (Oregon) High School, where he coached Rutschman, named last year's National Player of the Year by *Baseball America* after a standout career at Oregon State, then signed by the Baltimore Orioles.

**Matt Hilgers** (MAT11) is the new athletic director at Taft High School on the Oregon Coast, part of the Lincoln County School District where he's taught since 2014, mainly at the middle school. He has coached the high school's football, basketball and baseball programs.

**Michael Kinkade** (ADP11) concurrently serves as fire chief for two Oregon cities, Forest Grove and Cornelius, and as chief for their surrounding rural fire districts, as well as the Gaston Rural Fire Protection District. He started with Forest Grove in 2008 and added Cornelius in 2011. Previously, he was a division chief in Lebanon and Corvallis, Oregon, for 12 years.

**Amber (Cate) Magnuson** (G11) and **Andrew Magnuson** (G11) live in Hillsboro, Oregon, where she is a receptionist with Cornell Road Veterinary Clinic and he is a music teacher at Minter Bridge Elementary in the Hillsboro School District, finishing his seventh year.

**Brady Mordhorst** (G11) is an event creator and organizer for his own company, E37, founded in Newberg in 2016 to provide leadership for creative and memorable fundraising events for clients. His creations have included the Newberg Turkey Fumble, the Wilsonville (Oregon) Fun in the Park for 10,000 attendees, and private VIP six-digit fundraisers.

**Jessie Pick** (G11) is an on-call registered nurse in the emergency department at Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital in Ridgefield, Washington, in that role since 2018 after nearly three years as a registered nurse in the emergency department with Steward Health Care in Boston.

**Vicente Pintor** (G11, MAT13) has worked as a Spanish/humanities/ELD teacher at Chehalem Valley Middle School in Newberg for two years. The last three summers he has traveled to Kenya to help plant churches.

**Josh Shambaugh** (G11) and **Kendyl (Tarbell) Shambaugh** (G11) live in Portland, where she was recently promoted to learning and development manager in Employee and Career Development at Nike in Beaverton, Oregon. She has been with the firm for eight years, most recently as talent development and culture manager. He is completing three years as partner and studio director with Slabtown Creative, a design studio specializing in content creation, creative strategy and brand experience.

**Lydia Shepard-Kiser** (G11, PS15) is associate pastor of Evergreen Christian Center, a Foursquare Gospel church in Hillsboro, Oregon, in her third year after two years as an assistant pastor and young adults pastor.

**Jennifer (Barram) Zaganiacz** (G11), after eight years at George Fox as operations manager for housing and residence life, left the position last summer to become a senior content specialist with fast lube software provider Integrated Services in Portland, working in marketing from her home in Wilsonville, Oregon.

**Josh Couch** (G12) and **Emily (Fakkema) Couch** (G13) live in King City, Oregon, while both have new positions in the Portland area. He

*Continued on page 53*



## Not a Spectator

### Nike Greene's lifelong quest for community transformation leads to new role with Portland's Office of Youth Violence Prevention By Andrew Shaughnessy

**Nike Greene** (MA10) has worn many hats over the years: basketball coach, pastor, graduate student, therapist. As a family engagement coordinator with Portland Public Schools, she worked to bring free mental health services to students and families at Roosevelt High School. Working with Portland's Center for the Arts, she fought to increase access to arts programming for students in Title I schools nationwide. Now, she has accepted a new role as director of Portland's Office of Youth Violence Prevention.

At first glance, it sounds like a wildly diverse resume, but what these roles all have in common is Greene's big heart, uncommon drive, and unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on her community – a commitment rooted in experience.

Greene still remembers the day that two of her neighbors were shot and killed. She was just a kid then, growing up in a north Portland neighborhood that was fast becoming the city's gang violence epicenter. She faced other challenges, too: racism, sexism on the basketball court, a high school suicide attempt. Her mother, a Danish immigrant, struggled to help her daughter navigate her new country's complicated education system.

Well-intentioned ministries and organizations would parachute in on occasion, looking to connect with kids like Greene, taking them away to Trail Blazer games or the movies.

"It was like there was this weird, euphoric world that I was missing out on," Greene recalls. "The messaging, purposeful or not, was always 'get better and get out.'"

Not Greene. She stayed, cultivating change where her roots were planted.

Greene and her husband, Herman, still live in that same neighborhood. As co-pastors of a local church, they have actively ministered to the community for years, organizing summer programming and support groups for mothers, helping residents in need with food and rental assistance, and doing prison ministry. They did great work, but over the years Greene realized that, all too often, her community's mental health needs were being overlooked.

"Many in my community have an old-school belief that therapy is for white people who have money, not for us people of color," she says. "I wanted to be more equipped to help."

When Greene decided to pursue her master's degree in marriage and family therapy at George Fox in 2007, it was just one more step on her quest for change.

In October, she was selected by Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler to oversee a citywide effort to make a tangible, transformative dent in the violence that has plagued her community for generations. Partnering with local NGOs, Greene's office seeks to



prevent, intervene in and interrupt youth violence in Portland. Street-level gang outreach workers show up in violence hotspots, building relationships and working to prevent retaliation. Others sniff out systemic inequities that stoke desperation-fueled violence, reach out to shooting victims to talk them out of gang life, and set up high-risk individuals with life coaches and mentors.

"We have this opportunity to actually do something, to leave a legacy," Greene says. "I want people to remember: There was a pivot. There was this group that said, 'Enough. We're going to be part of the solution, not spectators.'"

From the basketball court to Portland's public schools to the hardest challenges of her neighborhood, Greene has never been a spectator.

"I don't have to be seen," she says, "but I definitely have to be in the game."

started last June as assistant project manager at Vestas, a wind turbine manufacturer, taking that position after three years as a senior mechanical engineer with JHI Engineering in Portland. In January, she started as the response to intervention coordinator at Forest Hills Elementary School, part of the Lake Oswego (Oregon) School District, leaving Dayton (Oregon) Grade School after nearly five years as a first-grade teacher.

**Joshua Garcia** (G12, MBA13) and **Keri (Moore) Garcia** (G12, MBA13) live in Hillsboro, Oregon, but work in different cities. In December, he became a senior search engine marketer with Vacasa, a Portland-based vacation rental management company. In May, she started as an executive assistant/event coordinator with Mission ConneXion in Beaverton, a nonprofit that connects local churches and individuals to missions efforts. She previously was with the city of Hillsboro for eight years, the last five as a police training program specialist.

**Heather (Orr) Lee** (MAT12), a teacher in her sixth year with the Kitsap (Washington) School District, was given a 2019 Outstanding Educator Award, presented by the Alpha Sigma Kitsap chapter. Recipients are nominated by administrators, fellow teachers, parents and students and are selected on the basis of exemplary teaching, student success in the classroom and leadership in education.

**Nick Luchterhand** (G12, MAT13) and his Canby (Oregon) High School marching band were the center of attention at the 2019 Portland Rose Festival when the band encountered a problem that gave them media coverage – and an even bigger opportunity to perform. Prepared to march in the Starlight Parade the week before the main Grand Floral Parade, the band's bus did not arrive to take them to the first parade, leaving the group dressed and stranded in the school's parking lot. The situation drew major regional attention and had a happy ending when Rose Festival officials heard of the plight and invited Luchterhand and his band to march in the big event the next week. He has been with the Canby School District since 2014 as a middle school music teacher and director of the band at his hometown high school.

**Alena (Van Dyke) Bard** (PS13) is in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she has two businesses. She is founder, mystic director and podcast host for Miniphanies, for which she seeks to redefine Christianity as a spiritual

life practice, and is founder/operator of Alena Swanson, an event and wedding planning business.

**Brian Frasier** (MBA13) is now in Medina, Ohio, where he is in his second year as director of global compliance, guiding RPM International Inc., a manufacturer of coatings, sealants and specialty chemicals. He moved from San Antonio, Texas, where he was regional director of ethics and compliance with Rush Enterprises Inc. for four years.

**Carissa (Hoffman) Gobble** (G13) works from home in Damascus, Oregon, writing, marketing and event coordinating. She is a video and event coordinator through her business Gobble Productions and Consulting, now in its sixth year, and is a part-time program director with Classical Conversations. She is the author of *I'm from ... Earth?: How Understanding Third Culture Kids Can Connect a Divided World*, a 135-page paperback, released in February, that draws from her background of growing up in four countries and four states before the age of 12.

**Steve Kenyon** (G13) was ordained as a priest in the Archdiocese of Portland Catholic Church in June 2019 following a year as a diaconate, when he served as a deacon at St. Anne Parish in Grants Pass, Oregon, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Aloha, Oregon.

**Angela Lasley** (DMin13) is the care pastor at Hillvue Heights Church, a Southern Baptist church in Bowling Green, Kentucky, with 8,000 involved each month.

**Noemi Legaspi** (MA13) has been elected to the Woodburn (Oregon) School Board, completing the final two years of the term to which she was appointed to fill a vacancy in 2018. She is in her seventh year as a marriage and family therapist in her own practice in Woodburn since 2013. She also is a community networker and academic advisor in Woodburn for Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon.

**Rachel (Milligan) Loven** (G13) is now a producer with IV Studio in Nashville, Tennessee, in her second year after five years with Rudy Title & Escrow. The studio animators and illustrators partner with businesses to produce animation that shares aspirational product stories to convert customers.

**Brandon Luthy** (G13) is an assistant purchasing manager with Aviatrix Inc., a manufacturer of aircraft parts and equipment in Sherwood,

Oregon. He assumed the role in early 2019 after working as a senior buyer for the company for nearly three years.

**A.J. Mendoza** (G13) in November became a communication specialist with Portland Jobs With Justice after more than two years with the organization as a campaign organizer. In October, he was elected president of Communications Workers of America Local 7901, after serving as the 650-member organization's legislative chair.

**Heather (Smith-Clifton) Pelzer** (G13) is a franchise owner of Wine & Design in Tigard, Oregon, which offers private and public paint and sip parties with artists who teach painting skills.

**Heather (McGuire) Sprague** (MBA13) in July became manager at Aldrich Group in Lake Oswego, Oregon. A CPA, she was promoted from audit senior, a position held for three years at the three-state headquarters of the accounting, employee benefits and investment management firm.

**Josh TenHaken-Riedel** (G13), after receiving a master's degree in higher education and student development from Taylor University in 2015, joined the staff of Belmont University as an assistant director of spiritual formation. The Christian college in Nashville, Tennessee, has 8,000 students.

**Brittany Bechtel** (M14) is an assistant team leader and event coordinator with Aveda Corporate Experience Centers, a cosmetics and cosmetology training firm in Portland.

**Mark Condo** (PS14) is the new pastor of the Reedwood Friends Church in Portland. A recorded Friends minister, he has served Friends meetings in Virginia and Ohio, including West Park Friends in Cleveland/Akron.

**Abigail Cordova** (G14) in 2019 joined Joules in New York City as an electronic data exchange and onboarding specialist with the British clothing and lifestyles company.

**Reid Davidson** (G14) has become the first chiropractor/medical professional to open an office in St. Paul, Oregon, his hometown of 450. He is one of four chiropractic doctors with the Performance and Spine Chiropractic Center in Tualatin, Oregon, after receiving a second bachelor's degree and a doctorate in chiropractic medicine from the University of Western States in Portland.



**Scott Delbridge** (MA14) has been deployed to Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar – twice – and has been a church pastor – twice – but says his current position is the most meaningful. He is in the National Guard, as Oregon state chaplain, and also is a counselor for the department of Veterans Affairs at the Salem Vet Center. Nearing his 40th year in the National Guard, he plans to retire in 2021. With an MDiv from Nazarene Theological Seminary, he pastored first in Springfield, Oregon, for seven years, then in Molalla, Oregon, where he currently lives, for six years until leaving in 2007 to become state support chaplain with the National Guard. He joined the Veterans Affairs department in 2014 as a readjustment counselor and now is director.

**Heather (DeRosa) Hernandez** (G14) is starting her third year as a senior communications specialist with the Washington State Department of Transportation in Seattle, following two years with the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, as a marketing communications coordinator.

**Kristina (Trindle) King** (G14) started in August as a community resource navigator with Wenatchee Valley College in Washington.

**James McGee** (MA14) is the new principal at Grant High School in Portland, named in April. He moves from a position as principal of Lincoln High School in Portland, where he started as a counselor in 2014 and then became vice principal in 2018. Before moving into education he was with two youth-supporting organizations in Portland: New Portland House of Umoja and Friends of the Children.

**Jeffery Mowery** (ADP14) in October was named general manager and site head of the Copenhagen, Denmark, facility of AGC Biologics, a global manufacturing firm that develops and manufactures biopharmaceuticals from pre-clinical to commercial. He previously was with Juno Therapeutics in Seattle.

**Timothy Porter** (EdD14) is now superintendent of the 2,500-student Scappoose (Oregon) School District, stepping up last summer from superintendent for three years in the 1,500-student South Umpqua (Oregon) School District.

**Justin Weatherford** (G14) and **Alexandra (Kennedy) Weatherford** (G15) are in Dayton, Oregon, while he is a design engineer, completing his second year, with Harris

Thermal Transfer Products, for which he designs heat exchangers and pressure vessels. Previously, he was a nuclear engineer at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington, for three years. She is founder and a designer for AlexandraKDesign, started in 2014, and until last fall was a field education administrative assistant for the George Fox School of Social Work for two years.

**Levi Bowers** (G15), now in his fourth year with the firm, has been promoted to human resources manager with Merchant Maverick, a comparison site that reviews and rates credit card processors, software companies, shopping carts and mobile payment services. He lives in Veneta, Oregon.

**Bailie Bowey** (G15) is in Spain as a student ministries coordinator with the Semester in Spain language immersion study abroad program hosted by Trinity Christian College (Illinois) in Seville. An alumna of the program, she now is facilitating the spiritual and cultural growth of current students.

**Jacob Flaherty** (G15) is using his music degree as director of music ministry at Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene in Vancouver, Washington, a position started in September after working in direct sales for three years with Lange Estate Winery in Dundee, Oregon.

**Mark Fountain** (MBA15) is the new president of Food Northwest, one of the nation's largest food processing trade associations. He was named last spring after nearly 20 years in the food industry, most recently as vice president of operations at Oregon Fruit Products in Salem, Oregon.

**Ariel Hortert** (G15) in October was promoted to senior account manager with ScribeAmerica in Austin, Texas. She has been with the firm, which provides trained personnel to help physicians document their activity, since 2015 and was promoted from associate regional manager.

**Ryan Ladner** (DBA15) in July was named dean of Soderquist College of Business at John Brown University in Arkansas, where he had been associate professor of marketing and director of graduate business programs for two years. He joined the university in 2015 as an associate professor after teaching at Palm Beach Atlantic in Florida and Bryan College in Tennessee.

**Katelyn Lowen** (G15) is now a music therapist with Earhtones Northwest in Portland, which offers music, horticultural and art

therapy. Previously, she taught kindergarten through fifth-grade music in the Salem-Keizer (Oregon) School District for four years.

**Erin (Kays) Marantette** (G15) is an art director with Soma Games in Newberg. With the firm since 2014, and moving to her current position in 2017, she manages a team of 10 artists, whose most recent release was “The Lost Legends of Redwall: The Scout Act 1.”

**Leif Nordstrom** (G15) is in his second year as an engineering specialist at STV in Lake Oswego, Oregon, an employee-owned corporation that provides engineering, architecture, planning and construction management services.

**Elizabeth (Detter) Trautwein** (MA15) is a licensed professional counselor offering therapy for couples and those impacted by narcissistic abuse. She has her own practice, Cultivate and Flourish, in Tigard, Oregon, and also is an adjunct professor with Lewis & Clark College's Graduate School of Education and Counseling in Portland.

**Caleb Turner** (G15) is in Kandern, Germany, where in August he became athletic director at Black Forest Academy, moving from a two-year position as a guidance counselor and earlier as a resident assistant for a year.

**Derek Brown** (EdD16) was the subject of a feature article in October in the *Wallowa County Chieftain* newspaper, highlighting an upcoming concert in his hometown of Enterprise, Oregon. His full-time career, since 2017, is with the Newberg School District, now as director of teaching and learning. He is a trained classical and flamenco guitarist who has studied in Europe and has won numerous awards for his playing.

**Lauren (Haga) Burke** (G16) and **Zandin Burke** (G16) are living and working in Portland, where she is a civil designer with KPFF Engineers, starting shortly after graduation, and he is a structural engineer with VLMK Engineering + Design, with the firm since 2018 after a position as a structural designer with Structural Solutions in Medford, Oregon.

**Andrew Comfort** (G16) is back in Newberg, where in September he began as short-term teams coordinator with One Collective, a faith-based missions effort helping with food and other assistance to those in need globally. He is continuing to fundraise for a two-year term in Quito, Ecuador.

**Casey Dudek** (G16), after living in Los Gatos, California, while preparing for the monastery,

has moved to Lake Oswego, Oregon, where he started in November as a technical writer with Accretech SBS, a precision measuring equipment firm in Portland.

**Aliyah Jackson** (G16) started in 2017 as director of bands at Aloha High School in the Beaverton (Oregon) School District.

**Andrew Lehti** (MBA16) started in August as a stretch therapist and chiropractic assistant with Indigo Wellness Center in Salem, Oregon. In December, he also established his own business, The War Room PNW, a gym in Salem offering group classes, personal training and stretch therapy. He plans to give youth 18 and under with a 3.0 GPA or higher a free membership to train.

**Cassie Pauley** (G16), after being a freelance social media manager and copywriter since graduation, in early 2019 joined Adidas in Portland as an assistant manager in digital publishing.

**Gizelle Polanco** (G16) is now a program administrator with SMART Reading in Portland, a nonprofit that matches children with adult volunteers who read with them once a week. She started in July after four years facilitating health education workshops in Portland for the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic.

**Marguerite (Meyer) Redelfs** (MAT16) is a middle school teacher with Horizon Christian School in Tualatin, Oregon, a school of 550 founded by Horizon Community Church.

**Andan Rempel** (ADP16) is in his second year as an assistant project manager (moving from project assistant, starting in 2016) at the Hillsboro, Oregon, site of Rosendin Electric Inc., a national electrical contractor firm.

**Malia (Rosenlund) Schlecht** (G16) is an emergency department nurse/sexual assault nurse examiner with St. Luke's Boise (Idaho) Medical Center, completing her third year.

**Jamie Watson** (G16, MA19) is with SeaMar/Community Services Northwest in Vancouver, Washington, as a mental health therapist, counseling uninsured and underinsured clients and homeless residents of Open House Ministries. This follows earlier counseling and clinic positions and the operation of a childcare center for 12 years.

**Bryan Fosmire** (G17) and **Stephanie (Owens) Fosmire** (G17) are in Newberg while he is a drafting engineer at Solid Form Fabrication in

McMinnville, Oregon, in his fourth year. She started in September as a health and science teacher at French Prairie Middle School in Woodburn, Oregon. She has been assisting at the Volunteer Community Connections program of Providence Newberg Medical Center for three years while earning an MAT from Pacific University in 2019.

**Ruth Gaitan** (G17) started in October as the extended program coordinator with Floyd Light Middle School in Portland, while also enrolled in the online cosmetic science certificate graduate program at the University of Cincinnati.

**Ryan Hance** (G17) started in June at Boeing in Everett, Washington, as an electrical systems design engineer (avionics engineer – thrust management/performance) shortly after receiving a master's degree in aerospace, aeronautical and astronautical engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder.

**Matthew Hansen** (MDiv17) in August had his book *An Undoing: A Pastor's Story of Resilience* published by Wipf and Stock, telling the story of his walk away from everything he knew to rebuild himself anew through resilience and faith. A church planter for the Free Methodist Church who started two churches in Austin, Texas, he moved in 2017 to Galesburg, Illinois, where he and his wife started Knox County Brewing Company, with a goal of it being a platform for charity and community, helping the local economy.

**Rebecca (Landis) Kastelic** (G17, G19) in August became a certified pediatric nurse after two years at Randall Children's Hospital in Portland. She started in 2007 as a registered nurse at Northwest Pediatric Gastroenterology, which merged with Randall in January of 2019.

**Dalton Moe** (G17) and **Erica (Ward) Moe** (G18, G19) live in Gladstone, Oregon. He is an electrician apprentice with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, starting in 2018, and she is a registered nurse, starting in April 2019 at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland.

**Samantha (Biever) Reynolds** (G17) is a campaign development specialist with Autodesk Inc., in Portland, which makes software for architects, engineers and construction workers. She started in December after more than two years with Viewpoint in Portland, ending as an associate marketing manager.

**Emily (Mavrakis) Schwichtenberg** (G17) and **Geoffrey Schwichtenberg** (G17) work and live in Beaverton, Oregon, where she is in her fourth year as an executive assistant at Compassion First, a Christian organization providing long-term solutions for survivors of sex trafficking. He is in his fourth year as a software design engineer with Tektronix.

**Emily (Wilson) VanBergen** (G17) and **Erich VanBergen** (G17) are both teaching in the Woodburn (Oregon) School District, where she has completed three years as a third-grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, teaching bilingually in Spanish and English. He started last fall as a mathematics teacher at Woodburn Success High School (an alternative high school) after earning an MAT in May from Pacific University's program in Woodburn.

**Corrine Van Ostrand** (G17, MSW19) in June became the new resident services coordinator at Friendsview Retirement Community in Newberg, helping with resident-run committees, coordinating trips and planning social events. Previously, she was an intern at Friendsview and studied in Lithuania.

**David Ween** (G17) is a graduate teaching assistant in philosophy at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, where in August he started a master's degree program in philosophy.

**Hunter Bomar** (G18) is completing his first year as a religious affairs specialist for the Oregon State Support Chaplain organization in Salem, Oregon. Previously a reporter with the *Salem Keizertimes*, he continues as a specialist, in his sixth year, in the Oregon Army National Guard.

**Charan Cline** (EdD18) starts in July as the new superintendent of the Redmond (Oregon) School District, which includes 7,500 students in 13 schools. With 19 years as a school administrator, he moves on after eight years as superintendent of the 1,200-student Yamhill-Carlton (Oregon) School District.

**Darian Forbes** (G18) and **Sarah (Baker) Forbes** (G18, MA19) both are employed in Hillsboro, Oregon, where he is a CMP technician with Intel Corporation, starting a year ago in April. He also is an avionics technician with the Oregon Air National Guard, in that role for six years. She started in August as a client care coordinator with Home Instead Senior Care.

**Alanis (Arnold) Gomes** (G18, G19) and **Thomas Gomes** (G18) live in Clackamas, Oregon. She

*Continued on page 57*



## Art with an Impact *Alumna Karisa Keasey's art amplifies the voices of local refugees* By Andrew Shaughnessy

**Karisa Keasey's** (G13) artistic gifts were born of pain. Her childhood was sometimes chaotic, and art was an escape. Trauma not only sparked her lifelong love for art, it also gave her a heart for the broken. Years later, as an art student at George Fox, Keasey wrestled with how to reconcile her creative talent with her desire for social justice. She could paint beautifully, but what good did that do?

Not long after graduating, Keasey ran across an article about the Syrian Civil War. She read about the horrific violence levied against innocent civilians, the barrel bombs and gas attacks, the refugees fleeing the devastation by the millions, leaving their beloved homeland behind in search of a better life in Europe or America. It broke her heart.

She decided to contact World Relief, a global Christian

humanitarian organization that helps resettle refugees across the United States. Visiting World Relief's Seattle office, Keasey learned more about the global refugee crisis and the needs of those resettled in the U.S. There, she realized that her artistic gifts could be uniquely useful.

"Refugees are real people with real lives, not just statistics," she says. "We needed a way of getting more of their stories to the public."


Partnering with World Relief, Keasey met with refugee families in her community, visiting them in their homes to get to know them and hear their stories. Then, working from photos, she began to paint. The result was *When You Can't Go Home*, a coffee table book that follows the lives of 10 refugees alongside 30 watercolor portraits.

The process took two years of coffees, teas and countless conversations. She listened to tales of heartbreak and hope, and spent endless hours capturing smiles and sorrow with paint and brush. There was the Rwandan who escaped genocide and made it to America, and the Eritrean man who crossed the Mediterranean with his wife, risking it all for the chance of a better life and nearly drowning along the way. When Keasey showed him the book, he teared up and thanked her: "Someday I will get to share this with my kids so that they know what we fought for."

"I was very careful to portray them as people," Keasey says. "A lot of times refugees are depicted in their worst moments. Those things happened, but we are all more than our worst moments. And so I tried to depict them not as victims but as victors – not shiny and perfect, but with both the highs and the lows of their journey."

Keasey's goal is to spread awareness and amplify the voices of refugees in the Pacific Northwest, but she also wanted a more tangible impact. For every book she sells, Keasey gives 50 percent of the profits to World Relief, helping them continue their work of aiding and empowering refugees across the globe.

"For a long time, I felt like art was a useless gift," Keasey says. "But over the years God taught me that not only can each of our gifts be used to love others well, but they're really central to his plan if we choose to say yes to him."

 Visit [karisakeasey.com](http://karisakeasey.com) to learn more about Keasey's book.



is a registered nurse on the surgical floor at Providence Medical Center in Portland, starting in February after more than a year as an RN with Aveanna Healthcare. He is a manager at Fastenal, a sales company in Clackamas, in his second year.

**Rodney Hadley** (G18) and **Acarey Rosa-Hadley** (G19) are at Doulos Discovery School in Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic, where he is a teacher and athletic director and she is a school nurse for the 250-student Christian school. They started in August.

**Alaina (Danae) Hill** (G18) in January 2019 started as an advancement coordinator at Central Catholic High School in Portland.

**Lauren Hill** (G18) joined the George Fox University undergraduate admissions office in 2019 as an admissions counselor after a stint with the Opus Agency in Seattle, working in event management.

**Jessica Holder** (G18), who runs her own business, Jessica Holder Photography in Portland, was featured in the *Oregon Artswatch* newsletter in September when she had a fall showing of her work at the Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg. Titled "A Glimpse at Humanity," it featured large black-and-white digital portraits of young men and women.

**Tiffany Howard** (ADP18) is a volunteer support specialist with Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington. She is in her eighth year in the position and 12th year with the Portland-based organization.

**Janeeta (Beck) Nelson** (G18) is a client reporting analyst, in her third year with M Financial Group, a Portland-based life insurance and financial services firm advising affluent individuals, their families and companies.

**Keenan O'Hern** (G18) started in September as an undergraduate admissions counselor at George Fox after working as a marketing coordinator for Core Health & Fitness in Vancouver, Washington.

**Marci (Kuintzle) Rutz** (G18) started last June as a parish administrator at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Huntsville, Alabama.

**Emily (Olson) Warila** (G18) is a registered nurse with the Deer Park (Washington) School District, supervising three licensed practical nurses serving 2,600 students. She started in August after working as a nurse with the Salem-Keizer (Oregon) School District.

**Mary Wenrich** (G18) was featured in a March 9 article in the Salem, Oregon, *Statesman Journal*, as she launched her new gluten-free and allergen-friendly bakery, Flour & Fern. She is now located in the new Mac Market in McMinnville, Oregon, after starting as a vendor last year at the Salem Saturday Market and farmers markets in McMinnville and Newberg.

**Brittney Baird** (G19), working with Nike since graduation, in October became a global marketplace management analyst after starting as an HR data management specialist with the Beaverton (Oregon)-based firm.

**Carter Bedsole** (G19) is now a software architect for the new George Fox University Catalyst College. He started in the fall after working as a software design engineer for Tektronix in Beaverton, Oregon.

**Corey Brooks** (G19) started last July as a business development manager with Digital Current, a Portland firm specializing in digital marketing return on investment. He moved from a position as account executive with Hibu, another digital marketing company in Portland.

**Hannah Busch** (G19) started in June as a rehabilitation technician with ATI Physical Therapy in Salem, Oregon, while enrolled online to earn a master's degree in kinesiology through A.T. Still University of Health Sciences.

**Missy Downs** (G19), after four years as a marketing intern and graphic designer in George Fox's marketing communications office, has accepted a full-time role in the department as a marketing campaign and event manager.

**Clarissa Evans** (ADP19) in March was named operations manager at U.S. Bank in Portland, moving up from her position as equipment finance specialist, a position held for nearly two years. She started with the bank in 2015.

**Sarah Fankhauser** (G19) is a medical/surgery registered nurse with Adventist Health Hospital in Tillamook, Oregon.

**Taryn Girard** (G19) is a civil designer with 3J Consulting, a Portland firm specializing in civil engineering, community planning, water resources management and aerial photography.

**Joseph Harrison** (G19) is the housing and residence life operations manager in the Office

of Student Life at George Fox after working three years as an operations assistant in the department as a student.

**Mackenna Jones** (G19) is a registered nurse on Medical B at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland, starting last July.

**Emily Loyd** (G19) started in August as a registered nurse with Salem (Oregon) Health's Medical Telemetry unit.

**Kahrie Loren Cagdan Mattos** (G19) started in September as a charge nurse at Friendsview Retirement Community in Newberg.

**Rachel Nguyen** (G19) is using her biochemistry degree as a high school science teacher at Seattle Christian School in SeaTac, Washington.

**Cayla Smith** (G19) started with Salem (Oregon) Health as a registered nurse in the float pool.

**Chloe Tomlinson** (G19) is a software coordinator with Willamette Christian Church at its West Linn, Oregon, location, one of its three church sites.

**Kacie Warden** (G19) has stayed on campus as an account specialist in the university's student financial services office, where as a student she worked for two years.

**McKenzie Young** (G19), after three years running her own freelance illustration business for children's books, now is a user experience designer in George Fox's marketing communications office.

## IN MEMORY

**Leo Crisman** (n45), Oct. 21, 2019, in Newberg.

**Evangelyn (Shattuck) Fleetwood** (G45), July 12, 2019, in Mill City, Oregon.

**Beth (Hockett) Bagley** (G49), Oct. 28, 2019, in Newberg.

**M. Gene Hockett** (G51, MDiv56), Nov. 2, 2019, in Newberg.

**Elma (Stanfield) Johnson** (n51), Aug. 13, 2019, in Newberg.

**Martha (Lemmons) Puckett** (G51), March 25, 2020, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

**Harold Antrim** (n52), June 4, 2019, in Newberg.

**Lesta (Lewis) Hockett** (n52), March 21, 2020, in Newberg.



**Gerald Lemmons** (G52), Dec. 29, 2019, in Newberg.

**William Mardock** (G52), Feb. 6, 2020, in McMinnville, Oregon.

**Leland Brown** (G53), Oct. 14, 2019, in Oregon.

**Margaret (Weber) Winters** (G53), July 2, 2019, in Newberg.

**Florene (Price) Nordyke** (G55), April 20, 2020, in Portland.

**Bill Hopper** (G58), Oct. 12, 2019, in Newberg.

**Eugene Morse** (n58), Nov. 10, 2019, in Portland.

**Jack Hamilton** (n61), Dec. 1, 2019, in Central Point, Oregon.

**Bob Petersen** (G68), Dec. 19, 2019, in Chelan, Washington.

**Lloyd Roberts** (n68), June 12, 2019, in Umatilla, Oregon.

**Martin Matheny** (n70), May 29, 2019, in Tehachapi, California.

**Dennis Ankeny** (n71), Oct. 22, 2019, in Caldwell, Idaho.

**Clover Stewart** (MDiv77), Jan. 29, 2020, in Santa Cruz, California.

**Jim Friesen** (G78), March 20, 2019, in Vancouver, Washington.

**Janice (Camp) Strutz** (G79), Oct. 23, 2019, in Billings, Montana.

**Lori (Beebe) Tuning** (G80), Jan. 15, 2020, in Oregon.

**Twila (Reeser) McIntosh** (G88) Oct. 27, 2019, in Albany, Oregon.

**Belinda Garrettson** (MEd97), Feb. 5, 2020, in McMinnville, Oregon.

**Scott Wade** (G97), July 18, 2019, in Hawaii.

**Robert Waibel** (MAT03), March 26, 2020, in West Linn, Oregon.

**Julianne Kilmer** (G09), Sept. 11, 2019, in Salem, Oregon.

**Stephanie Keeler** (n14), May 26, 2019, in Newberg.

**Brian Stoll** (MDiv15), Jan. 28, 2020, in Portland.

**Sonja Myklebust**, Jan. 23, 2020, in Sebastopol, California. Cello instructor, 2016-2018.

**Maurice Chandler** (G60), April 19, 2020, in Newberg. Director of development and vice president for advancement, 1966-1985. Alumnus of the Year (Heritage Award), 2016.

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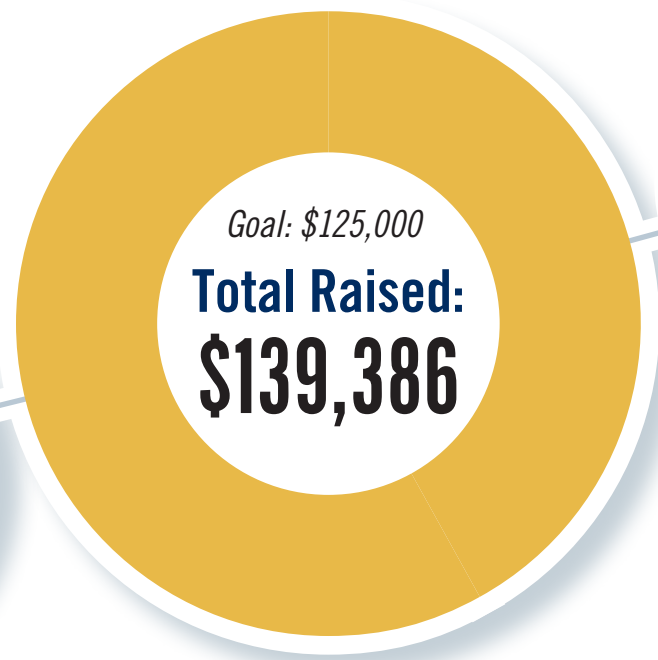
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## STILL STANDING TALL

Even Mama Bear donned a face mask as the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the country, the message inscribed in stone next to her encouraging students to be “ready, fearless, strong” more relevant now than ever before.

It was in this same spirit of strength and courage that university leaders made a bold promise to students: We’ll be ready for you this fall. Precautions will be taken, things will be different, but we will be ready. The world needs Christian nurses, engineers, scientists and social workers, and George Fox stands ready to equip the next generation of leaders for whatever God calls them to do.

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Bruins stand together.  
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