

# LEE

*George Fox  
University*

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## Dave's To-Do List

*President Dave Brandt and the board of trustees have created a three-year agenda for strengthening the university*

**T**o-do lists are useful things. We take them to the store to ensure we bring home a light bulb for the dark hallway and milk for our morning cereal. We scribble them to track our weekend household chores. Lists help us decide what's most important and let us chart our progress.

George Fox University President Dave Brandt and the board of trustees this fall agreed on a type of to-do list for George Fox University. At the end of the recently adopted *Strategic Plan for George Fox University* are six goals. They are more formal and comprehensive than a to-do list President Brandt might make around his home. But if it were that type of to-do list, it might look something like this:

1. Go to the bank
2. Discuss community standards with neighborhood association
3. Finish projects around the university
4. Call the nurse
5. Check out property for sale next door
6. Meet with landscaper and architect about future additions

Here's what President Brandt and the university will be working on during the next three years:

### 1. Go to the bank

*(i.e., Goal I: Establish and improve the financial health of the university)*

Growth in graduate programs has helped George Fox weather the economic downturn, but the budgeting process has been bumpy in recent years because of fluctuations in traditional undergraduate enrollment.

"George Fox is not a wealthy institution," says Brandt. "We can't smooth out budget problems with income from a large endowment fund. The university functions with money it receives from tuition each year."

The plan lays out three areas of financial focus: stabilizing traditional undergraduate enrollment, centralizing marketing efforts, and building and maintaining relationships with major donors.

Brandt's top priority for the university will be eliminating the recent spikes and plunges in the numbers of enrolling freshmen. While overall university

enrollment has grown each year, the numbers in incoming undergraduate classes have fluctuated unexpectedly over the last five years, stressing the budgeting process. The strategic plan calls for small increases the next three years, resulting in a traditional undergraduate student body of approximately 1,500 by fall of 2005.

### 2. Discuss community standards with neighborhood association

*(i.e., Goal II: Develop an operational definition of quality)*

George Fox has undergone dramatic growth in enrollment and programs over the last decade and a half. The strategic plan states that the traditional undergraduate college will remain the core identity

of the university. However, George Fox is a complex institution offering dozens of types of degrees in multiple locations in two states. No matter where students take their classes, all graduates receive a diploma that says George Fox University.

The strategic plan calls for the university to set a standard of quality that will be applied to all programs. This will be accomplished by evaluating and setting goals for the university's programs, people, facilities, and equipment in the light of George Fox's academic and Christian mission. "When a program is at this established level of quality, we will know it," says Brandt. Areas to be considered could include faculty research,

*"The challenges and opportunities have never been greater for George Fox University. We will address each issue in a deliberately Christian way."*

— Dave Brandt, President of George Fox University

GEORGE FOX

JEROME HART

## The Vision

**T**he creation of George Fox's six strategic goals were guided by a vision laid out in the *Strategic Plan for George Fox University*, from which the following is adapted:

What does it mean that George Fox University is Christ-centered and how will we know that we are? Christ-centeredness is the process, for those who follow Jesus, that brings coherence to life. Today's American culture emphasizes specialization and individuality. The university claims the gospel intends that people's lives make sense — that work, family, worship, and leisure

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## George Fox Graduate Dies in Terrorist Bombing in Bali

She believed “all plaids match.” She loved to travel, the color purple, and cheesecake. She wanted to be a professional photographer. She was also George Fox’s first victim of terrorism.

Megan Heffernan, 28, was among more than 180 people killed in a terrorist bombing in Bali, Indonesia, Oct. 12.



Megan Heffernan

The 1996 George Fox graduate, who had been teaching English at a college in Korea, was on a brief holiday with four friends at Bali’s Kuta Beach. After scuba diving during the day, the two men in the group went back to their hotel, while Heffernan and two girlfriends went to a shopping area near where the blasts occurred. All three were killed, although it was three weeks before Heffernan was identified. Her body was returned to her hometown of Eagle River, Alaska.

A memorial service was held Nov. 23 at George Fox, where Heffernan’s friends gathered to pay tribute to her free spirit and struggled to make sense of her death. As they reminisced, a portrait emerged of a young woman who was cheerful, daring, fun, a little eccentric, and a devout Christian.

Her friends laughed as they recalled her practical jokes, such as the time she sent a gift set of Spam to a friend in America. They remembered her love of

learning that spurred her to read nonfiction books and take an afternoon language class while on vacation in Thailand. They marveled at her sense of adventure that saw her try skydiving, earn a black belt in Hapkido, and scuba dive without a license.

As a friend in Korea wrote in a Web site tribute to Heffernan, “If you were planning a trip to Jindo Island [Korea], Megan was game. Thinking about mountain climbing? Megan was interested. Going rock climbing? Megan wanted to try it. She lived her life actively seeking new experiences, and preferably, she wanted to take her camera with her.”

This same friend recalled the first time she met Heffernan shortly after arriving in South Korea: “I crashed her birthday party and discovered that she was friends with just about everyone. She was friendly, interesting, and articulate. When she later hosted a party at her house, so many people came that there was no place to sit. Yet she made everyone feel welcome.”

It was Heffernan’s ability to connect with others that was the source of her wanderlust, according to Gregg Lamm, George Fox University’s campus pastor.

“She loved to travel,” he says. “Some people travel for the experiences, but she traveled to meet people.”

And wherever she went, she had her camera.

Heffernan’s father says she was saving money to go to photography school in Paris or London. The day before she



Heffernan with “The Soul Trolley,” her wildly painted car with a leaky roof and broken windshield wipers.

left for Bali, she told a friend, “I have to become a photographer. It’s just too fun.” She had spent the previous weekend taking pictures at a mask festival, and in “classic Megan form,” leaped up on the stage reserved for professional photographers and shot 10 rolls of film. Upon her return from Bali, she planned to visit airline magazine offices and show them her portfolio.

Now that such dreams will never be fulfilled, those who loved Heffernan are left to grapple with how God wants them to respond to the loss of their friend.

Lanette Smith, a former college roommate of Heffernan, tells how she found herself moved to tears as God led her to pray for the terrorists after the Bali attack — and how she learned three days later that her friend was missing as a result of the bombings.

“God, you knew,” Smith recalls say-

ing to the Lord. “You were preparing me personally through my prayer time to have compassion for these people.”

Chris Benham relates a conversation he had with his 4-year-old daughter, Naomi, to whom he’d been explaining the realities of life and death. He and his wife, Charity, both George Fox graduates, taught English in South Korea with Heffernan.

As Naomi was taking a bath one evening, she announced to her father:

“I love everybody, even strangers, but I’m kind of mad at them.”

“Why are you mad at strangers?” Benham asked her.

“Because they made Mommy’s friend die.”

“But you still love them?”

“Yeah,” the child replied, “because Jesus said we should love everybody.”

And that, Benham told Megan’s friends at her memorial service, is what God calls his followers to do.

— Anita Cirulis

Tributes to Heffernan, along with some of her photographs, have been posted to a Web site by her students at Pusan University: [www.pusanweb.com/community/memorial.htm](http://www.pusanweb.com/community/memorial.htm)

### LIFE STAFF

#### Editor

Anita Cirulis

#### Contributing Writers

Blair Cash  
Anita Cirulis  
Rob Felton  
Barry Hubbell

#### Photographers

Anita Cirulis  
Jerome Hart  
Kirk Hirota

#### Designer

Collin Miller

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## PRESIDENT'S PEN

### Dave’s Mission Statement

A completed institutional strategic plan seldom reflects the time, energy, and assumptions necessary to create the finished product. The George Fox University plan reported in this issue of *Life* has been several years in the making, with input from employees, students, alumni, and the university board. But what are the basic principles and the “drivers” behind this plan?

Plans are forward-looking and articulate change that will take place. One of the most important features of a plan, however, is that it be clear about what must not and cannot change. This list of “don’t you dare touch” has to be clear and short. If the list is long, change becomes difficult. If the list is unclear, essentials can be lost.

The new strategic plan for George Fox University is very clear that we will continue to be a Christ-centered university working within our historic mission to “demonstrate the meaning of Jesus Christ by offering a caring educational community in which each individual may achieve the highest intellectual and personal growth, and by participating responsibly in our world’s concerns.” We look for change *within*, not outside, our mission.

Because of the rapidity of change in our society, it is more important than ever to articulate the long-term values and principles of the institution. We tend to respond more strongly and more quickly to events that are recent and local. In order not to overreact, we must make sure that long-term principles are present and clearly stated.

Another reason to keep the long-term clearly in view is that we must not forget goals that are very important, but not quickly attainable. For example, George Fox University needs to increase its endowment fund, but endowment funds grow relatively slowly. This goal must always be kept alive, even though it will take time to achieve an appropriate level of endowment funding.

The converse of the importance of long-term goals is not to sell out the present for the sake of the future. We must serve today’s students to the very best of our ability. Because of the rapidity of change, long-term is shorter than it used to be. I hope the goals of our new strategic plan will

be accomplished within several years so they will affect and benefit the current university. This means that we must both address current needs and seek stability for the future.



President David Brandt

mission in a way we can afford.

A fatal flaw with many strategic plans is that they are developed, adopted by the appropriate governing body, and then put on the shelf not to be seen again until an accrediting agency is due to visit. Sometimes this is the result of plans that are unrealistic, or plans that have not involved the people who are responsible for their implementation. The plan adopted this fall by our board of trustees is not simple or easy, but I believe it is realistic. The vice presidents responsible for implementation of the plan have been involved at every step and have bought in to these goals.

I am personally excited about the six strategic goals in this plan. Successful implementation of these goals will move George Fox University to a new level of quality and success. Many other things will occur at the university in addition to these six goals, but these goals will be the focus of my activity and efforts as president.

George Fox provides outstanding education for our students now. My goal is to build on our current strength.

*Dave*



## Dave's To-Do List

continued from page 1

job and graduate-school placement, racial and ethnic diversity, equipment, and facilities.

### 3. Finish projects around the university

(i.e., Goal III: Complete several important current initiatives)

The science and athletics departments are considering significant projects.

- Building on its current science outreach efforts, George Fox plans to create a science education center to provide support to K-12 schools in the Northwest.
- Thanks to a recent gift of land (see story on Austin property donation, below), the university plans to construct an outdoor athletics complex about half a mile from campus. The athletics fields on the central campus then will be available for future development.

### 4. Call the nurse

(i.e., Goal IV: Bring health care programs to George Fox University)

George Fox administrators and faculty will explore the possibility of offering degrees in nursing and pharmacy. The

strategic plan notes the shortage of health-care professionals in the world, as well as the program's fit with the university's mission to demonstrate the meaning of Jesus Christ. "Our mission statement not only allows for, but also begs us to offer programs in health care to students," says the plan. "Jesus was a healer when he lived on earth. For us to demonstrate the meaning of Jesus Christ to the world, we should be preparing healers of various kinds."

George Fox offers bachelor's degrees in biology and chemistry, but students desiring a health-care degree must transfer to another school.

### 5. Check out property for sale next door

(i.e., Goal V: Investigate the possible acquisition of the property belonging to Providence Newberg Hospital)

If George Fox adds health-care programs, additional space will be required for classrooms, labs, and offices. A rare opportunity to expand the campus is approaching.

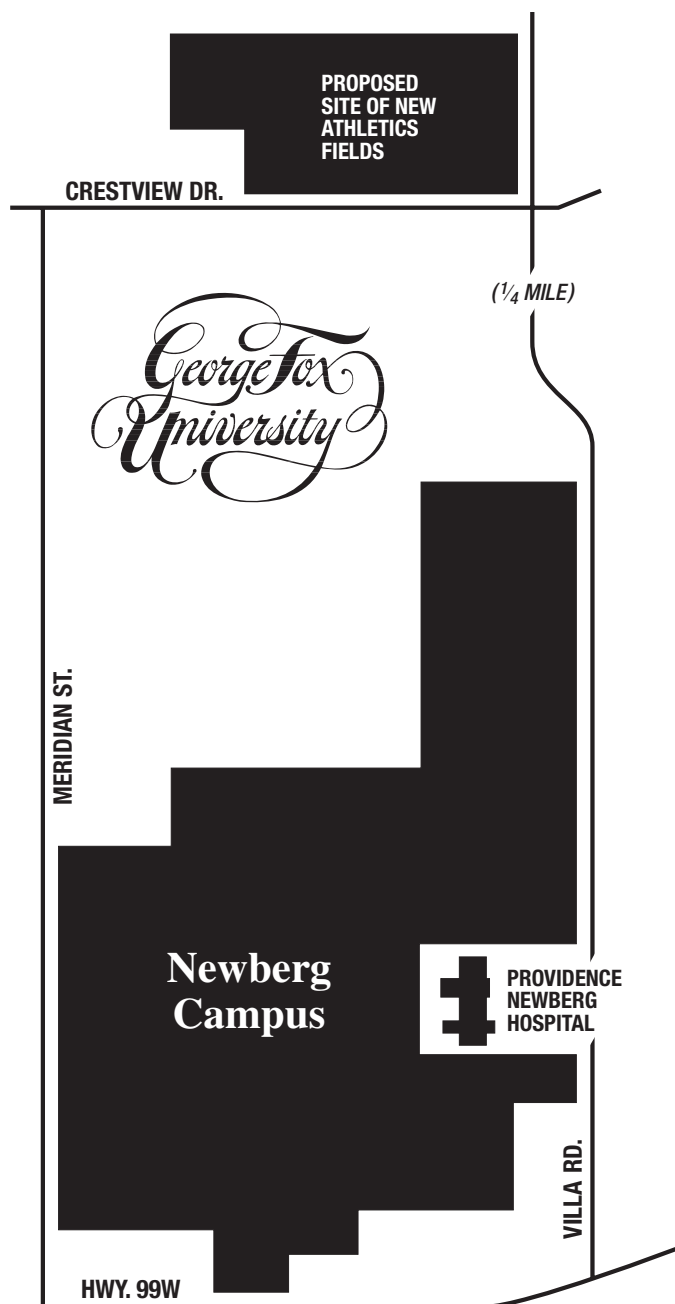
Providence Newberg Hospital borders the George Fox campus on the east. This coming fall, Providence plans to begin building a hospital at a new site in east Newberg. It is expected to open in 2005. George Fox will pursue the possibility of purchasing the current hospital property. The site could be used for health care or other programs.

### 6. Meet with landscaper and architect about future additions

(i.e., Goal VI: Prepare a new campus plan)

George Fox has nearly completed the campus master plan created for the university in 1991. Now, the university will begin designing a new comprehensive campus plan focusing on the facility needs of its Newberg campus, Portland Center, Salem Center, and Boise Center.

— Rob Felton



## Generous Neighbors

A Newberg couple makes a \$2.7 million property donation for outdoor athletics fields

Newberg business owners Ken and Joan Austin in October announced they will give George Fox 24 acres of undeveloped land in north Newberg for future outdoor athletics fields. The property is worth \$2.7 million, but is invaluable to the university because it will free up the current track facility and soccer, baseball, and softball fields for other uses. The athletics fields are located near the central part of campus.

The donated land is bound by Crestview Drive, Villa Road, and Mountainview Drive. A future extension of Center Street will form the western boundary of the property. The gift was part of a 36-acre donation intended to solve a university need and promote community partnerships between George Fox, Newberg Public Schools, and Newberg Christian Church. The three organizations will share parking and site development costs. A new elementary school will be built on the land donated to the school district. The entire Austin property donation is appraised at \$3.9 million.

The Austins are the owners and founders of A-dec dental manufacturing company and are longtime supporters of the university. Ken is a member of the George Fox board of trustees.

Plans for the fields are being created. The timeline for construction will, in part, be determined by fund raising.

## Essig Wins Woolman Award

As a business professor at George Fox, Bill Essig never abandoned his first love: helping others. Even while teaching, he traveled to Azerbaijan, Albania, Kosovo, and Afghanistan.



Now back in international relief and development work full time, he is the recipient of the university's 2002 Woolman Peacemaking Award.

Essig, vice president of international programs for Northwest Medical Teams International Inc., joined the George Fox faculty in 1995. He taught in both the undergraduate and graduate business programs for five years, then half time in the M.B.A. program until last spring. His teaching specialties are leadership and international business.

Essig describes himself as a relief and development entrepreneur. "I'm always looking for opportunities to help people and also to expand the reach of the organizations I've worked for," he says.

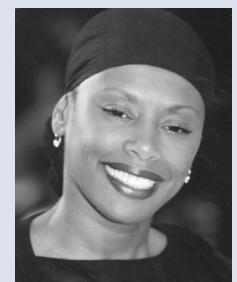
Since 1980, he has lived, worked, or traveled in more than 70 countries while serving with World Concern and Mercy Corps International. His most recent work with Northwest Medical Teams includes mobilizing counseling teams in New York City after 9-11 and organizing relief and rebuilding efforts in Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

"Practical service like this is at the heart of effective peacemaking," says Ron Mock, director of the university's Center for Peace Learning. "We think Bill is, in his own way, living a John Woolman kind of life."

Woolman was an 18th-century American Quaker who challenged slavery, worked for fairer treatment of Native Americans, and questioned the justifiability of war.

## Dizer Receives "Achiever" Award

M.B.A. student Brenda Dizer in November received an "Achiever" award from Astra Society International, a nonprofit agency that promotes women in business. Dizer is manager of the supplier diversity program at Nike. Dizer previously has been honored by The Northwest Minority Business Council with their Minority Business Advocate Leadership Award. She also has received the Corporate Award from the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs for outstanding service and commitment to Oregon's minority business community.



## Bruins Score Well in Battle of Brains

Three teams of George Fox students placed in the top 25 at the Pacific Region Programming Contest. "That's phenomenal for a school our size," says Brent Wilson, assistant professor of computer science. Sixty-seven teams of three students each had five hours to solve computer problems. Stanford University was the only other university to place three teams in the regional top 25.

## The Vision

continued from page 1

time fit together to form a "whole cloth." At the heart of the university is the ongoing, never-completed effort to coordinate all parts of one's life.

Employees will deliberately seek coherence in their own lives and will then work to help students be whole persons. The faculty will teach all disciplines from the perspective of a Christian framework for life and will seek all truth as God's truth. Employees who supervise student workers will seek to share how their faith commitments affect their vocation. Administrators will manage according to principles consistent with a Christian worldview. Such behaviors will help students develop their own noncompartmentalized, coherent lifestyle.

To combat rampant individualism, the university will seek to foster community among students and employees. The challenge we face is how to obtain community as we grow larger and more diverse. We have the potential to be a community because we have at least one thing in common — our faith commitment to Christ. It is unlikely that our community will come through governance that depends on the "community as a whole." We need to seek other ways to be joined to each other. Each vice president will work in his or her area to generate ideas for what it means for the university to be a community.

A major goal of all universities is to prepare students for careers. The Friends (Quaker) heritage of George

Fox has always considered career to be a vocation — a calling from God. All employees of the university will deliberately support and help students to find their call to life's work. Calling is not only for those who enter "ministry" careers; it is for all those who follow Jesus.

Ultimately, the university is about spiritual formation — we exist as an arm of the body of Christ. The university will evaluate existing structures and systems intended to help students pursue spiritual maturity. If these are not effective, we will change our systems and try new ways to enable both students and employees to become spiritually mature so we can all be effective servants of Christ in the world.



# Handle With Care

*The renovation of Wood-Mar Hall triggers the complex move of a 600-pound century-old Quaker artifact*

**G**eorge Fox University's historic William Penn tapestry has survived — one more time.

The 127-year-old tapestry has a new home on the Newberg campus after more than 70 years of being encased in the main hallway of Wood-Mar Hall.

The 8-by-12-foot linen tapestry, weighing 600 pounds in its frame, emerged unscathed following its blocklong journey across campus to its new location in the Murdock Learning Resource Center, the university's library.

The safe move took place in October and brought a sigh of relief from George Fox officials, who were prepared for the worst: that the rare tapestry might crumble to bits of cloth and dust if shifted in its case, where it is held in place by a sheet of plate glass.

The tapestry is believed to be one of just three William Penn tapestries in the world, each woven in 1875 for a display at the U.S. centennial celebration in Philadelphia in 1876.

A four-man work crew spent a combined 80 hours moving the tapestry and case. The plan included crating the case in plywood, removing it from its Wood-Mar location, and then transporting it across campus on furniture dollies.

Upon arrival at the tapestry's new location, entrance doors to the library were removed, along with obstructions such as the security sensors and overhead lights. The tapestry was hoisted to the library's second floor through an atrium before it was moved down the hall, around a corner, and down stairs to a landing area. Some of the move involved maneuvering with less than an inch of clearance.

The unusual tapestry was a gift to Pacific College, George Fox University's predecessor, at the end of the 19th century. The beige and black tapestry depicts a milestone in U.S. history: a treaty between William Penn and the Lenni-Lanape, Mingo, and Shawnee tribes.

Four people are represented on the tapestry: Penn, a Quaker associate, and



Above: The art in the middle of the tapestry depicts the ceremony between Pennsylvania Quaker William Penn and the Native Americans. Below: A quote from author/philosopher Voltaire illustrating the unique quality of the Quaker treaty.



two Native Americans. Above them are two crossed American flags on both sides of an eagle above a banner with the word "Excelsior" (upward/heavenward). Below the figures are a crossed peace pipe, spear, arrow, and tomahawk.

Commemorated in the tapestry is the signing of an agreement at Shackamaxon, a Native American meeting ground, in 1862. Penn pledged to treat the Native Americans as if they were a part of his body. A wampum belt was exchanged. French author/philosopher Voltaire extolled the virtue of the agreement by proclaiming it "the only treaty never ratified by an oath and never broken" — words that appear on the tapestry.

Who initiated the idea of making a tapestry for the centennial exhibition is uncertain. The original tapestry apparently was woven of silk and linen by J.N.

Richardson, Sons and Owden Ltd., with headquarters in Belfast and London. While the pattern was set for the display tapestry, two linen tapestries also were created.

In the early 1890s, Newberg physician Elias Jessup, a former Yamhill County senator in the Oregon legislature, took the lead in soliciting funds for the newly founded college. The task of fund raising took him to Quakers in England. There, he encountered Stephen Richardson, head of the Bessbrook mills. Richardson, perhaps in lieu of a monetary donation, gave Jessup the Penn tapestry.

The cloth was put into storage for several years. In 1904, a cleaning woman discovered the tapestry on one of the dormitory floors, where students were using it as a throw rug. It was recovered and hung on a dormitory wall.

Then Pacific College president Levi Pennington became involved. He expelled a student who was found sticking his knife into the tapestry, and the tapestry was rehung in the president's office for several years to protect it from further harm. As a still greater precaution, Pennington later folded the tapestry and placed it in his safe. Unknown to him at the

time, linen, when folded for long periods of time, tends to crack.

To Pennington's dismay, he later discovered the tapestry broken along its folds. He took it to Meier & Frank weavers in Portland, where the torn areas were skillfully repaired. In 1932, the tapestry was placed in its seven-decade location in Wood-Mar Hall.

The move to a new location was forced with a renovation now under way that is changing the lower two floors of the building to new offices and to new engineering classrooms and labs.

After searching for an appropriate new home, the Murdock Learning Resource Center stairwell was chosen because of its available height, easier public access, and proximity to the university archives and Quaker Reading Room.

— Barry Hubbell

## Ochsner Honored at Book Awards

1992 George Fox graduate Gina Ochsner in November was awarded the H.L. Davis Award for Fiction at the annual Oregon Book Awards.

Ochsner, a writing/literature major, won the award for her collection of short stories called



*The Necessary Grace to Fall*. Her book previously won the Flannery O'Connor Award, and individual stories in the collection have won national and international awards.

"Gina Ochsner writes with courage, confidence, and a lush poetic style that draws me into the familiar world her people inhabit," said fiction judge Chris Offutt.

## McKee Named Alumni Director

George Fox University's new director of alumni relations has a head start on getting to know alumni: she's a sister to five of them.

When Penny McKee graduated from George Fox in 1998, she was the sixth sibling in her family to attend the university.



"There was no question in my mind I would go to George Fox," says McKee, who remembers visiting campus as a first-grader and staying overnight in Edwards Hall

with her oldest sister, a college sophomore. "I knew this is where I wanted to go to school."

Sheri Philips, the university's director of alumni, parent, and church relations, says McKee is a natural leader chosen for her "confident, gracious nature and the way she connects with people."

"I'm very excited about working with her," Philips says, citing her new colleague's experience in event planning as another reason she was hired.

For the past two years, McKee was the events specialist for members of Portland's Multnomah Athletic Club. She also led intern orientation training and workshops while the director of communications for the Teacher America summer institute in Houston, Texas. And as a George Fox student, she spent three years as the events coordinator for the student government Activities Committee.

McKee joined the George Fox staff in December. "I had a really amazing experience here as an undergraduate," she says of her new role, "and I'm looking forward to serving the university in this way."

## Family Members Get a Glimpse of College Life

**B**eds were made and dorm rooms looked a bit tidier during the first weekend of November when more than 750 parents, grandparents, and siblings of George Fox students visited the Newberg campus during the university's Family Weekend.

The annual event attracted record numbers of family members who came to spend time with their student, meet friends and professors, participate in workshops, hear lectures, and enjoy performances by university musical and theatrical groups.

New this year was an hour set aside for parents to pray for their children and the university. Participants shared prayer requests, prayed, and explored the university's Web page where student and parent prayer requests are posted ([www.georgefox.edu/parents/services/posted\\_prayer.html](http://www.georgefox.edu/parents/services/posted_prayer.html)).

As is typical, the popular Family Weekend luncheon Saturday noon was sold out.

"For me, the crowning jewel of the weekend was the worship service on Sunday morning," says Sheri Philips, executive director of alumni, parent, and church relations.

Sandy and Frank Hanson, George Fox parents from Coos



Bay, Ore., spoke about raising and releasing godly children. The Hansons' daughter, Kristina ('01), works in the university's student life office; their son, Jonathan, is a freshman at George Fox.

Next year's Family Weekend is scheduled for Nov. 7-9.



# Second Language, First Degree

*Despite working full time and having to learn English along the way, Chinese-American Youqing Ma earns a George Fox bachelor's degree*



JEROME HART

"I learned how to deal with people more effectively, to work with them in a collaborative way, as a part of a team," says degree-completion graduate Youqing Ma, who recently led a trade mission to her home country.

**T**hink it's tough earning your college degree while working full time? Try doing it in another country — in a language other than your own.

That was the challenge facing Youqing Ma when she entered George Fox University's degree-completion program in June of 2000. Born and raised in China, she came to the United States in 1996 after meeting and marrying her American husband while he was teaching English at Zhengzhou University.

Five years later, she is a college graduate with a bachelor's degree in management and organizational leadership. She is also the manager of China trade for the International Trade Division of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

While Ma and her husband knew she would have more opportunities in America, that didn't make the transition any easier. Arriving in Portland, she experienced culture shock, the adjustments of a new marriage, and homesickness.

Like many Chinese who have studied English in China, Ma could understand the language but not speak it very well.

"One of the biggest frustrations was I couldn't get my message across," she remembers. "I had a great level of difficulty, because I'd get information in English, translate it in my head to Chinese, then back into English, and then

speak. I was always 10 seconds slower than everyone else. And my vocabulary was not big enough for me to fully be able to express myself."

Such difficulties, however, didn't keep her from landing her first job processing checks for a bank — a good job for her at the time, she says, "because I didn't have to talk so much."

As her English improved, she moved on to jobs with firms involved in international exports and began taking classes at Portland Community College.

"I strongly believed going to college would be a shortcut to get to know this society, to get to know the language, and to get to know this country better," she says.

And, like her American classmates, it was important to her to earn a bachelor's degree. Her parents and an older sister are college-educated. Ma felt internal pressure to complete her degree.

When her mother-in-law was checking out college degree-completion programs, Ma noticed a brochure for George Fox University and attended an informational meeting.

"I really felt this was doable," she says of her choice. "It was a perfect fit for me."

Ma's decision to complete her college degree paid off immediately. She graduated in December 2001 and started her current job Jan. 2. Now she helps her agency establish and promote Oregon

businesses and their products overseas, specifically in China. In November, she led a trade mission to China, working in Oregon to organize the trip and serving in China as the delegation leader.

Ma recognizes the preparation she gained through George Fox University's professional studies department.

"A college degree was not a pressing requirement for the job," she says, "but all the people who work in our division either have a college degree or a graduate degree. Now, looking back, I think having a college degree was automatically required. Having a college degree definitely put me in a better position than not having one."

Ma appreciates the leadership training she gained from the program.

"I learned how to deal with people more effectively," she says, "to work with them in a collaborative way, as part of a team."

She also cites the values that are part of the program.

"I'm not religious, but I appreciated the religious value I learned so much from George Fox," she says.

Recalling her professor's challenge to do the right thing even when other people aren't watching, she says, "We all have a tendency to present ourselves well in front of people but don't do it when we're alone. I'm trying to be the same person when I'm alone."

— Anita Cirulis

## Death Claims Three Influential Alumni

In the last two months, the university has lost three alumni who made significant contributions to George Fox.

### Marge Weesner

Longtime professor and coach Marge Weesner died of cancer Nov. 10 in Battle Ground, Wash., at the age of 72.

A 1953 graduate of George Fox, Weesner received nearly every award given by the university. She spent 31 years teaching and coaching at her alma mater, retiring in 1993 as professor emerita. During her tenure, she helped form and chaired the health and human performance department, established a physical education scholarship for women in 1973 prior to federal legislation requiring equity in sports, and helped organize one of the first women's athletics conferences in the Pacific Northwest.

She was a member of the inaugural class of inductees in the George Fox Sports Hall of Fame in 1996, and in 2001 was named Alumna of the Year. Also in 2001, she was awarded the university's Woolman Peacemaking Award. The award recognized her service as president of Yamhill County Mediators, and for her work with female prisoners and with abused and neglected children.

Weesner's passion for justice made her "willing to be the answer to the prayers she prayed," says former colleague Jo Helsabeck.

When Weesner earned a doctorate in education at the University of Oregon, she initially was the only woman with a doctorate on the George Fox faculty.

"She was demanding and fair and straightforward and funny," says Becky Ankeny, a former student and now professor of English at GFU. "She was a good role model of a Christian woman in Christian higher education."

### Frank Cole

Frank Cole, a George Fox alumnus, administrator, board member, and volunteer, died Dec. 7 in Newberg. He was 94.

A 1930 graduate of Pacific College (George Fox University's predecessor), Cole was the university's Alumnus of the Year in 1974 and was inducted into its Sports Halls of Fame in 1999. He joined the George Fox administration in 1963 after serving a decade as a member of its board of trustees. After retiring, he served as university archivist in the 1980s and 1990s.

In his other volunteer roles, he was president of the alumni association, a member of the university's Centennial Planning Committee, and chair of the alumni portion of the Century II fund-raising campaign.

### Curtis Morse

Former George Fox athlete and longtime athletics booster Curtis Morse died Dec. 10 in Newberg at the age of 97.

A native of Newberg, Morse graduated in 1933. He returned to his hometown in 1973 after his retirement and, with his wife, Margaret, became an avid supporter of the Bruins athletics program. The school's baseball, softball, and soccer fields were dedicated as the Curtis and Margaret Morse Athletic Fields Complex in 1989, honoring the couple who had funded the project to upgrade and develop the playing fields. Both were inducted for meritorious service into the university's Sports Hall of Fame in 2000.

## Applications Due Feb. 1 for Alumni Association Scholarships

**A**pplications for student awards and scholarships funded by the George Fox Alumni Association are due Feb. 1, 2003. Applicants must be traditional undergraduate students during the 2003-04 academic year and the children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren of George Fox University alumni.

The GFU Alumni Association recognizes as alumni those who have completed one year or more of academic work or who have received a degree from George Fox University (formerly Pacific College and George Fox College), George Fox Evangelical Seminary (formerly Western Evangelical Seminary), or Cascade College (provided alumni from the latter institution have had their alumni status transferred from Seattle Pacific University to George Fox).

Application forms are available from the university's alumni, financial aid, and admission offices. Returning students must submit their applications to the alumni office, while new and transfer students should turn in their applications to the undergraduate admission office.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. The granting of Alumni Awards and Alumni Scholarships follows the regular application and award practices of Student Financial Services. The alumni board's Scholarship Committee selects the recipients.

For more information, contact Sheri Philips, executive director of alumni, parent, and church relations, at 503-554-2114 or sphilips@georgefox.edu.



# The Vagabond

Rolf Potts ('93) has a well-worn passport, a new book, a growing reputation as a literary travel writer, and no permanent address

Rolf Potts is 32. He doesn't have a respectable 9-to-5 office job. He doesn't have a wife or a car. He certainly doesn't have a mortgage. Rolf Potts has a Web site (rolfpotts.com), a pen, and the road.

Middle-class American respectability isn't on the horizon for Potts — who's been traveling nonstop through more than 30 countries since 1998. He's become an award-winning travel writer and an advocate for "the ethic of vagabonding." He's written an advice and philosophy guidebook about extended budget travel. It urges readers to pursue not material wealth, but a simpler life rich in personal and spiritual experiences found in travel and outside the sterile world of package vacations. *Vagabonding: An Uncommon Guide to the Art of Long-Term World Travel* is being published this month by a division of Random House.

Those who knew Potts at George Fox might have expected something countercultural like this from the longhaired runner who wrote a satirical column in the student newspaper. Potts' column, *Standing in the Shower, Thinking*, ran next to a photo of himself standing bare-chested and unsmiling in a shower stall. His column comparing George Fox's homecoming to prostitution by the school led to a heated memo exchange with then-President Ed Stevens. Potts describes the dialogue as ultimately constructive. "While I said a lot of things [in the column] that people didn't like, I'll still assert that I was always humorous, never slanderous, and I most always had a serious point to make," he says.

Former classmates tell him now he scared them. Potts' longhaired, grunge-dressed friends, his organization of underground off-campus dances, and a series of campus pranks established him as a self-described black sheep. It was a misperception he encouraged. "I invested most of my time into studying and running, and my reputation as a ne'er-do-well was largely a rumor."

A native of Kansas, Potts was a straight-A student and the son of teachers. His father, George, taught biology in high school and at Friends University and wrote wildlife guidebooks. Potts' mother was a grade-school teacher who, he says, "once led a fearless campaign to make the salamander the Kansas state amphibian."

## The Renegade Runner

Potts transferred to George Fox as a sophomore, pursuing a screenwriting career by majoring in both writing/literature and communication/video production. His older sister, Kristin ('91), was already at George Fox. Both were key runners for George Fox's nationally ranked cross country and track teams. He raced his way into the Bruin record book, becoming one of the school's all-time top-10 fastest cross country runners and an NAIA All-American Scholar-Athlete.

Potts says his George Fox friends and the camaraderie and excellence in the track and cross-country teams helped shape him. Intellectually, his religion and philosophy classes provided his most affecting classroom experience. "I arrived at George Fox kind of burned out on what I perceived to be evangelical phoniness, and my religion classes helped me discover a whole new depth and integrity to the Christian faith," he says.

After graduation, he briefly worked as a landscaper to fund an eight-month, 38-state road trip with friends. "At the time, I thought that this would get travel out of my system before I went on to a more respectable life." It didn't. After a couple years doing odd jobs in Kansas and a failed attempt to write a book about his U.S. travels, he joined a small migration of George Fox young alumni who went to Korea in the 1990s to teach English.



CATHRINE WESSEL

BOOK COVER COURTESY VILLARD BOOKS

Rolf Potts was a straight-A student-athlete with a renegade reputation. Since graduating, he has run out of water in the Sahara, caught cholera in Laos, been drugged and robbed in Istanbul, and lived to write about it all. His essays have appeared in *National Geographic Adventure*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Islands*, and on National Public Radio's *Savvy Traveler* program. Potts' first book, *Vagabonding*, comes out January 2003.

"Those early months in Korea were a low point for me, since I sort of considered myself a failed writer," he says. "But it turned out that Korea was just what I needed. Teaching in Korea was hard work, but I learned how to operate and interact in a foreign culture — which became invaluable to me later as a traveler. I also did lots of reading and dreaming about travel. My plan was teach for a couple years, travel as long as I could on my savings, and then figure something else out."

In the spring of 1998, Potts e-mailed several essays from his failed U.S. travel book to online magazines. The most prominent of the e-zines, *Salon.com*, published his Las Vegas chapter. Flush with success, he began writing essays about Korea; *Salon* published five.

When school ended, Potts set out across Asia. He decided — motivated by "a kind of traveler's angst" — to infiltrate the restricted island where Leonardo DiCaprio's movie *The Beach* was being filmed. Potts' midnight boat assault failed, but his essay *Storming The Beach* landed on the front page of *Salon* and in Houghton Mifflin's annual *Best American Travel Writing*.

*Salon* promoted him to be its "Vagabonding" columnist. Having written less than a dozen travel stories in his life, he now was appearing alongside Garrison Keillor and other established writers. "Nobody knew I was just some schmuck with a backpack wandering around Asia."

Traveling through Asia, Europe, and Africa can be dangerous. He's been stranded in Siberia. A pair of Moroccans in Turkey stole his money

and passport after giving him a crème-sandwich cookie laced with a date-rape drug. A leaky water bottle turned his quest for serious solitude in the Sahara into a forced march for safety. Each adventure appeared in *Salon*.

Adventure to Potts isn't seeking danger; it's being

open to the unexpected. Rather than mountaineering or kayaking, "you can have a truer adventure simply by taking a bus to an unfamiliar village on the map, going for a stroll through some untouristed corner of a big city, or patiently using your phrasebook to understand the wacky old man who chats you up in the local market."

By 2000, five of his *Salon* essays had been published in award anthologies. His increased visibility led to better-paying work for several glossy travel magazines.

## The Monastery-Disco Mix

Travel writing is not an escape from work; it requires both travel and the solitary discipline of writing. "Mixing these two elements, again and again, is like working in a disco while living in a monastery," he says. "Unless you can sequester yourself into a room or a library for days and weeks and focus on your craft, you aren't going to write in a way that stands out from the other millions of people who want to be travel writers." Travel writers also face unrealistic expectations. "People get confused and disappointed when they find out that you don't make very much money, you can't swing from tree to tree on vines, and you sometimes get lost in your own hometown," he says.

Potts says he's a confirmed bachelor. "I've probably had enough doomed relationships with European and East Asian lasses in the last six years to write a 'Cross-Cultural Romance for Dummies' book."

He's recently been writing in Thailand, where — along with Oregon, Kansas, Egypt, and Korea — he says he feels vaguely at home. Still, he's having too much fun to stop traveling.

"I get the privilege of learning or seeing something new every day," he says. "Sometimes I feel like a mad scientist who forgets to eat or change his clothes because he's always obsessing on some new equation. I'm so wrapped up in the ongoing experience of travel, writing, and research that I don't dwell much on settling down or earning a more reliable income. I'm sure I will in time, but I'm certainly not going to force the issue now."

Potts thinks he might have a future in teaching. He taught a travel-writing seminar in Paris last summer. For now, he has plenty of writing projects to keep him busy. A second book about his travel through the Orient is scheduled for print in 2004.

Oddly, Rolf Potts is sounding rather respectable.

— Rob Felton

### You Must Be Filthy Rich ...

Interestingly, some of the harshest responses I've received in reaction to my vagabonding life have come while traveling. Once, at Armageddon (the site in Israel, not the battle at the end of the world), I met an American aeronautical engineer who was so tickled because he had negotiated five days of free time into a Tel Aviv consulting trip that he spoke of little else as we walked through the ruined city. When I eventually mentioned that I'd been traveling around Asia for the past 18 months, he looked at me as if I'd slapped him. "You must be filthy rich," he said acidly. "Or maybe," he added, giving me the once-over, "your mommy and daddy are."

I tried to explain how two years of teaching English in Korea had funded my freedom, but the engineer would have none of it. Somehow, he couldn't accept that two years of any kind of honest work could have funded 18 months (and counting) of travel. He didn't even bother sticking around for the real kicker: In those 18 months of travel my day-to-day costs were significantly cheaper than they would have been back in the United States.

— from *Vagabonding* by Rolf Potts, © 2003 by Rolf Potts. Printed by arrangement with Villard Books, a division of Random House Inc.



# ALUMNI NOTES

**Delbert Rice** (GFES55) has written a book titled *The Quiet Ones Speak: Testimonies Concerning Christian Beginnings*. He is the executive director of Kalahan Educational Foundation Inc. in Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines.

**Stephen Ross** (G57) in June was a member of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges team viewing the application for candidacy of American University in Yerevan, Armenia. He is a professor emeritus in the linguistics department at California State University, Long Beach, Calif.

**Charles (Chuck) Mylander** (G64) is the new executive director of Evangelical Friends Mission, Arvada, Colo.

**Gordon Crisman** (G69) has been appointed manager of the Tigard branch of Eagle Home Mortgage. He has been active in the Oregon Mortgage Brokers Association and the Oregon Mortgage Bankers Association.

**Gary** (n75) and **Irene (Jacques)** (n75) **Merritt** live in Palm City, Fla., where he is executive pastor of the New Hope Fellowship Church. Irene leads special events for women's ministry and directs children's programs.

**Nancie Thompson** (G77) and **Ian Reschke** (G96) were named district soccer coaches of the year in the Tri-Valley League at Wilsonville High School, after guiding their teams to league championships.

**Melanie (Watkins)** (G82) and **Mark (G84) Erickson**, live in Wolf Point, Mont., where Mark is the manager of Clayton Memorial Chapel, and Melanie is a paraprofessional at the grade school where their two daughters attend. Mark carried the Olympic Torch through Billings, Mont., on its way to Salt Lake City, Utah, for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

**Kelley (Duncan)** Brewster (G83) has been promoted to associate vice president of Norris, Beggs and Simpson, Portland.

**Darci (Nolta)** (G92) and **Kirk (G93) Vandenhoeck** live in Hillsboro, Ore., where she is a crime scene technician with the Hillsboro Police Department. He works for Northwest Medical Teams as a manager for the mobile dental unit.

**Jonathan Huwe** (G94) is assistant athletic trainer at Portland State University. He oversees women's volleyball and softball and travels with the women's basketball team.

**Rodney Robbins** (G94, MA96) is the owner/director of First Step Adolescent Center, with offices in Hillsboro, Ore., and Tigard, Ore. The agency is a state-approved outpatient chemical dependency treatment center.

**Anne (Basden)** Dunlop (G95) and her husband, Chris, have returned from teaching in northwest Kenya, where they worked with the Turkana tribe and an American missionary school. They were affiliated with Christian Missionary Fellowship.

**Lanette Smith** (G96) has been the children's pastor at Tualatin Foursquare Church since 1997. She is currently working on her master's in Christian ministry at George Fox Evangelical Seminary.

**Michelle (Quaas)** Whitmire (G96) has started a motivational speaking business, Up2U, that promotes purity to teens and young adults.

**Jennifer (Mardock)** (G97) and **Matt (G01) Lusk** live in Springville, Calif., where Matt is the camp manager of Quaker Meadow.

**Nathan** (G97) and **Angela (G98) White** live in Great Falls, Mont., where Nathan is stationed at the Malmstrom Air Force Base and was promoted from 1st lieutenant to captain. They will be moving in the spring for a new assignment at Buckley Base in Denver, Colo.

**Bryan Bredell** (MBA98) has been promoted to vice president, branch manager for the Business Bank of California's Petaluma office, San Bernardino, Calif.

**Scott Goodwill** (MBA98) is managing principal and technical marketing leader for EYP Mission Critical Facilities Inc., in New York City. His company provides design, consulting, and management of critical facilities. His responsibilities include client and project management, business development and marketing, and technical design review.

**Jason Miller** (G99) was part of a 22-person team that went to the Siberia region of Russia on a dental mission trip in May 2002. He is in the process of creating a documentary on the trip, which will include their work in a prison and a Bible college.

**Ben Smith** (G99) and his wife, Heidi, are now stationed at Fort Hood, Texas.

**Casey** (G00) and **Kristin (Herkelrath)** (G01) **Jones** reside in Tigard, Ore., where Casey is manager of T-Mobile Cell Phones in Portland, and Kristin is assistant manager of Nordstrom's in Tigard, Ore.

**Jason Schilperoort** (G00) has reached his \$1 million career sales milestone as district manager of Vector Marketing Corps' Beaverton operation, based in Lake Oswego, Ore.

**Carrie Breithaupt** (G01) was accepted this fall to Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine in Portland.

**Yolanda Karp** (DPS01) is president/CEO of Hacienda Community Credit Union, Portland. The credit union offers savings accounts, wire transfers, car loans, secured loans and seminars for the Latino community.

**Barbara Baker** (G02) has been hired as senior vice president of human resources at Umpqua Holdings Corporation in Portland.

**Ryan Dearing** (G02) has been awarded a graduate teaching assistantship through the history department at Purdue University. He is working on an article based on the hardships that faced the Chinook Indian tribe of the Pacific Northwest upon the encroachment of settlers on the Oregon Trail.

**Kristal Trevino** (G02) will teach math at Grandview Middle School to students in sixth through eighth grades.

## MARRIAGES

**Phil Barnhart** (G81) and Jill Jaacks, Aug. 17, 2002, Squaw Valley, Calif.

**Shannon Killeen** (G98) and Christopher Lilienthal, June 1, 2002, Norristown, Pa.

**Elise Barrero** (G99) and Brian Mathews, Jan. 19, 2002, Portland.

**Rebecca Larson** (DPS99) and Vincent Hofarth, Aug. 31, 2002, McMinnville, Ore.

**Bethany Sonerholm** (G99) and Craig Simpson, June 29, 2002, Beaverton, Ore.

**Jared Hinkle** (G00) and **Shannon Vandehey** (G02), June 15, 2002, Newberg.

**Casey Jones** (G00) and **Kristin Herkelrath** (G01), Sept. 1, 2002, Issaquah, Wash.

**Ryan Kroll** (G00) and Amy Fisher, July 14, 2002, Longmont, Colo.

**Michelle Merrick** (DPS00) and Christopher Cate, July 27, 2002, Troutdale, Ore.

**Beth Randall** (G00) and Travis Armstrong, July 27, 2002, Lynden, Wash.

**Darren Weidman** (G00) and **Tracey Hyde** (G00), Aug. 10, 2002, Greenleaf, Idaho.

**Aaron Fuller** (G01) and Syun Kim, Oct. 30, 2002, Seattle.

**Terry McGrath** (DPS01) and Firouzeh Naraghi, Sept. 14, 2002, Eugene, Ore.

**Kim Reimer** (G01) and David Hale, Aug. 10, 2002, Dallas, Ore.

**Nicole Balensifer** (G02) and Adam Brown, July 13, 2002, Hammond, Ore.

**Tanis Culver** (G02) and Scott Trapp, July 27, 2002, Sequim, Wash.

**Matthew Petersen** (G02) and Heather Frazier (G02), Aug. 16, 2002, Portland.

**Ryan McWayne** (student) and Leslie Kring, Aug. 2, 2002, Salem, Ore.

## BIRTHS

**Tim** (G88) and Lori **Oppenlander**, a girl, Rachel Grace, June 20, 2002, Portland.

**Susan (Barnett)** (G90) and **Todd** (G91, MEd 97) **Bos**, a boy, Benett Aaron, Aug. 9, 2002, Newberg.

**Paul** (G91) and Maureen **Huizinga**, a boy, Nathaniel Winston, Aug. 26, 2002, Richmond, Va.

**Christopher** (G91) and **Pamela (Bowton)** (G93) **Kilpatrick**, twins: a boy, Braden Christopher, and a girl, Emily Nicole, Sept. 29, 2002, Portland.

**Jonathan** (G93) and Sara **Wright**, a boy, Carson Andrew, Sept. 11, 2002, Boise, Idaho.

**Margaret (Adolfo)** (G94) and Tom Wethor, a boy, Nathaniel Grant, Dec. 2, 2001, Hillsboro, Ore.

**Herberd** (G94) and Naedene **Duran**, a girl, Brianna Jean, May 14, 2002, Hillsboro, Ore.

**Edward** (G94) and Angela **Meyer**, a girl, Madeline Elizabeth, Oct. 20, 2002, Medford, Ore.

**Shannon (Garvin)** (G95) and **Mark** (G97) **Hartley**, a girl, Margaret Anne, Aug. 13, 2002, Silverton, Ore.

**Chris** (G95) and **Kristen (White)** (G97) **Schlitzkus**, a boy, Michael Basil, Sept. 2, 2002, Forest Grove, Ore.

**Myrna (Bonar)** (G95) and **Scott** (G96) **Jensen**, a girl, Jilene Myrna, Sept. 28, 2002, Minneapolis, Minn.

**Laura (Adolfo)** (G96) and George Moore, a girl, Emily Grace, March 5, 2002, Hillsboro, Ore.

**Jeannie (Ford)** (G96) and Shane Lansford, a boy, Jacob Shane, July 20, 2002, Lemoore, Calif.

**Michelle (Migneault)** (G97) and James Shipley, a boy, Josiah Thomas, July 20, 2002, Portland.

**Christina (Stenstadvold)** (G97) and Steven Johnson, a boy, Ethan Hezekiah, Sept. 4, 2002, Oregon City, Ore.

**Shannon (Winter)** (G97) and Jonathan Moritz, a boy, Ethan Michael, May 20, 2002, Klamath Falls, Ore.

**Morgan Anderson** (MBA00) and Dorian Salz, a girl, Kaelyn Renee, July 10, 2002, Portland.

**Monika (Mizsei)** (G01) and Christopher Thompson, a girl, Kyra Eva Teresa, Sept. 13, 2002, Fort Campbell, Ky.

**Karen** (MEd01) and Mike **Prigodich**, a girl, Annela Katherine, April 23, 2002, Oregon City, Ore.

## A SEASON TO REMEMBER

### Homecoming 2003

January 31–February 2

All alumni are invited to "come home" to George Fox University during homecoming weekend

#### Friday, Jan. 31

*Shaun Groves in Concert*

Bauman Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Alumni \$8 (through Jan. 23)

\$13 at the door

#### Friday, Jan. 31, and Saturday, Feb. 1

*Bruin Basketball*

vs. *Whitman (Fri.) and Whitworth (Sat.)*

Women, 6 p.m. • Men, 8 p.m.

Tickets available at the door

*A Piece of My Heart*

presented by

University Repertory Theatre

Wood-Mar Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets available beginning

Jan. 16 at 503-554-3844

(Contains strong language and mature themes)

#### Saturday, Feb. 1

*Alumni Honors Brunch*

Meet George Fox University's

honored alumni for 2003

Klages Dining Room, 11 a.m.

\$10 tickets by reservation only,

call 503-554-2131

*Class Reunions*

1963 • 1973 • 1978 • 1983 • 1993

*Affinity Reunions*

Football alumni

Alumnae from all women's

sports programs

1:30–4:30 p.m.

Locations available at registration table

#### Sunday, Feb. 2

*Alumni and Student Worship Service*

Bauman Auditorium, 10 a.m.

Register and pay online at

[www.georgefox.edu/alumni/](http://www.georgefox.edu/alumni/events/homecoming)

[events/homecoming](http://www.georgefox.edu/alumni/events/homecoming)

## Key

**G** Traditional graduate

**n** Traditional nongraduate

**DPS** Department of Professional Studies graduate (MHR, MOL, and MBIS majors)

**GFES** Seminary graduate

**PsyD** Doctor of psychology graduate

**MAT** Master of arts in teaching graduate

**MBA** Master of business administration graduate

**MA** Master of arts graduate

**MEd** Master of education graduate



# A Change of Heart

*Bruin basketball player Jered Gritters shifts his focus after doctors warn of a potential heart attack*



JEROME HART

Diagnosed with a heart condition that prevents him from playing competitive basketball, senior Jered Gritters still has a role on the team. "I was confused about my place with the team at first," he says. "But the players and coaches have made me feel welcome and comfortable with ways I can help out."

It was going to be an outstanding senior season for Jered Gritters. The George Fox Bruins' 6-5 post player closed out his junior year with some of the best basketball of his career. He was one of the top rebounders in the Northwest Conference with 5.9 rebounds per game. He eagerly anticipated an even better 2002-03 season for himself and the Bruins.

And then the basketball floor caved in under him.

## A Devastating Diagnosis

Concerned that he was tiring far too easily during early summer workouts at home in Oregon City, Ore., Gritters visited his family physician. The doctor's diagnosis — heart trouble — stunned him.

"During the season, I had noticed some occasional muscle spasms," recalls Gritters, "but it really hit me hard in the summer. I couldn't catch my breath, I had to take frequent long breaks, and I was sleeping a lot because I was so tired all the time."

The problem was twofold. First was a ventricular septal defect, a small hole in the heart that allows blood to pass back and forth between two chambers, instead of allowing the heart to channel the blood to the proper veins. The second was ectopic focus, a group of cells oversensitive to adrenalin that was causing his heart to beat too fast.

"The first is not too serious right now," says Gritters, "but the ectopic focus, coupled with the other, could be dangerous. My heart was racing at about 220 beats per minute when I was working out, my blood pressure would drop, and I would get very light-headed and dizzy because no blood was getting to my muscles or brain. The doctors told me I was at serious risk for a heart attack."

The first question Gritters wanted answered was how the situation would affect his basketball playing. He was told he should be able to continue working out and playing — as long as he didn't go full speed.

... Yeah, right.

"I can jog, play 3-on-3 games, do moderate workouts, nothing too strenuous," says Gritters, "but playing college ball — well, there's no way you can do that without playing hard."

## Wrestling With Changes

The late-summer loss of their starting center forced the Bruins coaching staff to reevaluate their options for the upcoming season.

"Losing Jered when we did was a painful blow to our team," admits head coach Mark Sundquist. "We were really counting on him for strength and toughness inside, and had even drawn up some specific plays for him. Obviously, we had no time to recruit other big men, so we had to rethink our game plan. We will prob-

ably be more perimeter-oriented than we had anticipated. We were looking for an outstanding senior season from him, but of course his health is a more important concern than basketball."

News of his condition was a painful blow to Gritters.

"Initially, it was pretty hard to take; I just didn't want to believe it," Gritters admits. "Basketball has been one of my passions for the last eight years; if I wasn't practicing or playing during the season, I was conditioning in the off-season to get ready for the following year. To have my senior season, my very last year, cut off so suddenly, really hurt."

For two months, Gritters wrestled with this unexpected twist in his life, wavering back and forth between trying to play anyway and cutting the ties to his college playing days completely.

"I really believed God had blessed me with the opportunity to play ball at George Fox and to enjoy the fruits of my hard work," he says. "But now I was questioning why, after all I had done to prepare for this, suddenly I had nothing. It took time, but I finally realized that God was not out to 'get me.' Instead, he simply had other things for me to do, and this was the time to begin making changes."

## Focusing on New Priorities

Gritters is going full speed off the court. He is a house manager for one of the George Fox campus houses. He is teaching a Sunday school class on his favorite topic, the theology of the final events before the return of Christ. With a major in biblical studies, he is aiming for seminary — Fuller or Princeton are his top choices right now. He's considering pursuing a Ph.D. and a career as a professor.

And even though he isn't a member of the varsity team anymore, Gritters still makes his presence felt around the Bruin basketball team.

"I was a little confused about my place with the team at first," Gritters says. "I attended some early preseason practices but quickly realized that I had to completely separate myself from basketball for a while or I'd go crazy. But the players and coaches have made me feel welcome and comfortable with ways I can help out."

He leads the team's devotionals before home games and plays "dummy defense" at practices, where he simulates the next opponent's players for defensive drills.

"Sure, I'll always miss basketball, but there have certainly been some positive side benefits," Gritters says. "I've discovered that I have more time for developing personal relationships with others, more time for my studies, more time for sleep. The Lord just has new things for me to do, and now is the time to get started on those new directions."

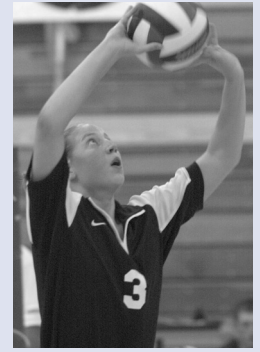
— Blair Cash

## BRUIN SPORTS

### Volleyball

By nearly every measure, the 2002 season was one of the best ever. The Bruins compiled a 9-1 season start, a 20-6 overall record, a third-place finish in the Northwest Conference (NWC) at 11-5 behind two nationally ranked teams, and a No. 22 ranking in the American Volleyball Coaches Association/NCAA Division III national poll.

The season was the Bruins' 12th 20-win season in the last 19 years, all under head coach Steve Grant, whose career record after 21 years is 470-277 (.629).



Senior setter Mindi Cotner

Setter Mindi Cotner, a senior from Keizer, Ore., and middle blocker Shelly Schultens, a senior from The Dalles, Ore., were named First Team All-Conference. Outside hitter Nicole Bostic, a junior from Lake Stevens, Wash., was Second Team, and outside hitter Brandy Mailer, a senior from Honolulu, Hawaii, was Honorable Mention. Cotner led the NWC and ranked 24th nationally in digs (5.24), and Schultens led the NWC and was 16th nationally in blocks (1.60).

### Men's Soccer

Although the George Fox men's soccer team finished with a 4-13-1 record (3-10-1 NWC, 7th), they were competitive throughout the season, losing six games by a single goal. With only four seniors, the Bruins were a young team.

Defender Chris Waters, a junior from Boise, Idaho, earned Second Team All-Conference honors. Midfielder Jesse Johnson, a senior from Grants Pass, Ore., and goalkeeper Ron Besser, a junior from Kennewick, Wash., received honorable mention recognition. Johnson led the team in assists (4) and tied for most total points (12). Besser led the conference in saves (109).

Head coach Manfred Tschan completed his 14th season at George Fox with a 164-103-11 record (.610). He has a 20-year career record of 228-132-20 (.626).



Senior midfielder Jesse Johnson

### Women's Soccer

With his arrival on campus late in July and no time to recruit, new coach Andy Hetherington knew the 2002 season might be a bit of a struggle. It was. But the 1-15 record (1-13 NWC, 8th) didn't reflect a team that showed improvement as the season progressed.

Goalkeeper Cori Wulf, a senior from Salem, Ore., was named



Coach Andy Hetherington

First Team All-Conference after leading the league in saves (186). She also scored the goal on a penalty kick to defeat Whitworth 1-0 in overtime in the next-to-last game of the season. She played in every game, sitting out only 30 minutes during her four-year career.

Midfielder Brooke Pitner, a junior from Vancouver, Wash., was Second Team All-Conference after leading the Bruins with nine points.

### Cross Country

Michael Owen, a senior from Nashville, Tenn., earned All-Region honors with a 29th-place finish in the NCAA Division III West Regional, and Janelle Goeres, a junior from Gold Hill, Ore., was All-Northwest Conference, finishing fifth in the conference race.



Senior Michael Owen

The Bruin men finished eighth in the NWC championships and the women were ninth, capping off a season characterized by youth (the men's team had the only two seniors) and lack of depth (18 total athletes on both rosters).



