

The magazine of George Fox University | SUMMER 2022

George Fox

JOURNAL

'Here is Water'

An engineering class turns
into an impromptu baptism

Page 44

STORIES OF

Faith, Grit and Joy

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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: Recent graduate Zack Lyda recreates his impromptu baptism by professor Pete Rusaw.

Photo by Chris Low

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Reflections on Our Journey With Students

Many years ago, George Fox launched a new program called Juniors Abroad. Back in the late '80s the idea of traveling abroad for three weeks with a faculty mentor was something students immediately embraced, as they do to this day.

Over the years, I have taken part in six trips with students. Some may wonder why a president would spend time on a student trip. We certainly aren't traveling in style, our hotels are modest, and we use our legs and public transportation to move in the cities we visit. The answer is quite simple: I get to know students intimately over three weeks. We live and travel from place to place together. We learn each other's stories, play together and worship together. Students and faculty become known to each other on Juniors Abroad – even the president.



This May, I took part in a trip through Ireland and the United Kingdom. What did I learn about our students? First, they are genuinely good people. They listened well and engaged in thoughtful conversation with each other and the people we met. Second, they were willing to explore – to do and try things that they had never done before.

Finally, we often hear how this generation is leaving both the church and the Christian faith. That may be true in some broader sense, but it was not true of the students who traveled with us. They embraced different worship experiences and found God in new circumstances. They were open to learning and risk in ways that I find uncomfortable. I did not grow up in an expressive religious tradition and several of the churches we went to, although Anglican, bordered on a Pentecostal experience. Pastors invited us to open our hands to receive a blessing or to raise our hands to acknowledge the power of God. Students embraced these calls far easier than I did. It was clear that they loved the Lord and cared deeply about what God was calling them to do.

At George Fox, we come to work every day to build a university that knows its students and teaches them about Christ and his kingdom. In order to accomplish this, we need to know them and to also understand how God is working in their lives. Faculty get to do this every day in their academic programs. Juniors Abroad allows us to enter into the lives of students even more deeply by living, worshipping and discovering together.

I hope you enjoy the stories of faith transformation presented in this issue of the *George Fox Journal*. Whether it's a three-week study abroad trip or a simple interaction on the quad, it's a privilege to get to know students, to enter into their stories, and to see them become the people God meant them to be.

Robin Baker
President

The Class of 2022 celebrates in the quad after graduation.



Physician Assistant Program Holds First White Coat Ceremony

The university's new physician assistant program reached a significant milestone in November, holding its first White Coat Ceremony for 19 Master of Medical Science students.

The celebration, attended by more than 100 friends and family, marked the transition from classroom learning to clinical rotations, where students put into practice the skills they learned during the first year of the program.

"It's a personal and professional turning of the page," says College of Medical Science Associate Dean Curt Stilp, noting that in addition to hands-on learning in hospitals and clinics, students will also continue to turn in assignments and take exams every four weeks.

The program's first cohort is set to graduate in December of 2022 after completing 11 months of clinicals.

Launched in January of 2021 to meet the high demand for medical professionals in Oregon, the physician assistant program will soon be joined by another masters-level healthcare offering, occupational therapy, set to begin in the fall of 2024.



University Breaks Enrollment Record



Despite a pandemic that complicated in-person education last fall, George Fox shattered its enrollment record in 2021-22, maintaining the institution's status as the largest private college in Oregon. In doing so, the university recorded its largest incoming first-year class, its biggest transfer class, and its highest graduate program enrollment in history.

All told, 4,295 students enrolled last September, eclipsing the previous enrollment high of 4,142, set in 2018, and marking a 5 percent increase over 2020-21. George Fox welcomed 2,284 traditional undergraduates, including 651 freshmen – a 25-percent increase over the previous year's 487 freshman total – as well as 280 degree-completion students and 105 transfers.

The university also saw a big boost at the graduate level, with last fall's figure of 1,731 representing a 6.5-percent increase over the 2020-21 enrollment of 1,627.

"Breaking enrollment records requires a complete community effort," says Lindsay Knox, vice president of the university's enrollment and marketing division. "We make a promise that matters to students. In addition to providing excellent academic programs that prepare students for professional success, we promise they will be known academically, personally and spiritually. Students respond to that promise."

The enrollment spike goes against the national trend, as the majority of Christian institutions – including nearly all of the university's regional Christian college peers – saw enrollment declines last fall.

Campus Campout: Longtime Tradition Returns



Following a two-year pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a memorable student activity reemerged in March as dozens of tents popped up on the quad.

Campus Campout, formerly called Tent City, continues a tradition where sophomores spend a night in tents on the quad in order to secure their Juniors Abroad trip of choice. Each tent of five students is randomly assigned a number, which determines the group's priority order for trip registration. Then, throughout the evening, the bottom five tents compete with each other for the chance to move their group to the front of the line.

After setting up camp, students participated in a scavenger hunt, gunny sack relays and capture the flag, and enjoyed some quality time with friends around the campfire. The next morning, they crowded into the Stevens Center to get some coffee and view monitors with the finalized lists of participants for each trip.



2022 Rankings Roundup

U.S. News & World Report named George Fox one of America's Best Colleges for the 34th year, with the highest ranking of any Christian* university in the Northwest.

George Fox also ranked among the "Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs," "Best Undergraduate Nursing Programs," "Best Online Bachelor's Programs" and "Top Performers in Social Mobility" (schools that enroll and graduate large proportions of "economically disadvantaged" students).



Money magazine ranked George Fox No. 3 in Oregon and No. 3 among Christian* universities on the West Coast in its "Best Colleges" list.

Niche ranked George Fox No. 1 in Oregon in its "Safest College Campuses" list.



WSJ *The Wall Street Journal / Times Higher Education* included George Fox for the first time in its "Best U.S. Colleges" rankings.

The Princeton Review ranked George Fox as a "Best Regional College" for the 17th consecutive year.



*Defined as Council for Christian Colleges & Universities governing members



Bruins Claim First Northwest Conference All-Sports Trophy



George Fox athletics has earned its share of team and individual titles, but the 2021-22 academic year marked a first for the university – the capturing of the Northwest Conference’s McIlroy-Lewis All-Sports Trophy, awarded to the school that accumulates the most points based on league finishes across all sports.

George Fox earned 262 total points between its 19 conference teams and led all NWC members in championships with seven. Points for the all-sports trophy are awarded in descending order for first through ninth place. The Bruins were league champs in men’s tennis, women’s golf, women’s lacrosse, and men’s and women’s track and field in the spring, after winning conference titles in men’s and women’s cross country in the fall.

“Winning the conference’s all-sports trophy is a tremendous accomplishment,” says George Fox Athletic Director Adam Puckett. “It doesn’t just represent the success of one or two sports, but rather the overall accomplishments of our entire athletics program. All credit goes to our

incredible coaching staff and student-athletes who have put in the work to elevate our programs to where they are today.”

George Fox was the only conference school to qualify all of its spring teams for NWC postseason play, and none of them finished lower than fourth in their respective final standings. In addition to their champions, the Bruins notched a runner-up finish in softball, third-place finishes in men’s golf and baseball, and a fourth-place showing in women’s tennis.

Collectively, 130 George Fox athletes earned All-Northwest Conference honors in 2021-22. The Bruins also sported three NWC Players of the Year, three Freshman of the Year, and six Coach of the Year honorees.

“This award recognizes more than the success of our talented student-athletes and coaches,” says University President Robin Baker. “It also reflects the great support we receive from our faculty, staff and community. As a university, we can enjoy this honor together.”

Top Sports Moments of 2022



Lacrosse Goes Unbeaten ... Again

It seems the only thing that can slow the women’s lacrosse team of late is a pandemic (the 2020 season was shortened to three games due to COVID-19). For a fifth straight campaign, the Bruins went unbeaten in Northwest Conference play, going 12-0 to earn a third consecutive NCAA Division III postseason berth. George Fox hasn’t lost a NWC contest since the 2016 season and has gone 50-0 in league play since 2017.

Women’s Golf Team Takes Third at Nationals

For the fifth time in six years, the women’s golf team earned a top-three finish at the NCAA Division III Championship Tournament, landing third place with a 1203 team total – the Bruins’ lowest four-round score at the national tournament in school history. Leading the way was sophomore Alison Takamiya, who earned a runner-up individual finish.

Hollen Notches 300th Win

A 3-1 defeat of conference foe Whitworth on April 15 marked the 300th victory in softball head coach Jessica Hollen’s career. The Bruins finished the year 31-12 overall and 22-6 in the Northwest Conference, marking their ninth straight winning season. Hollen now stands as the fourth-winningest coach in the history of Bruin athletics.

Baseball’s Meffert Named NWC Freshman of the Year

Noah Meffert’s play on both the mound and in the field caught the attention of Northwest Conference baseball coaches, who voted him the NWC’s Freshman of the Year. The talented newcomer also earned a second-team all-conference nod after leading the Bruins with a .375 average at the plate and winning five games, recording three saves and posting a 1.26 ERA as a pitcher.

Strickland Earns Runner-up Finish at Nationals

Senior Christine Strickland closed out her George Fox career on a high note, placing second in the javelin at the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Geneva, Ohio, in May. The Eugene, Oregon, native uncorked a throw of 146 feet, 6 inches to establish a personal record and earn All-American honors in the process.

New Podcast and Video Series Tackles Tough Questions About Culture, Politics, Theology



The university has launched a new podcast and video series, *George Fox Talks*, which invites experts in culture, leadership, theology and wellness to engage in pressing conversations from a smart and faithful Christian perspective.

This year, hosts from the George Fox community were joined by notable guests that included political commentator David French, legal scholar Erika Bachiochi, author Nancy Pearcey and New Testament scholar Nijay Gupta. Popular episodes covered topics from feminism and sexuality to citizenship and critical race theory.

“We saw a need to facilitate honest, faithful, hard conversation about what matters most in our lives during a time of social upheaval and national division,” says Brian Doak, vice president of George Fox Digital. “*George Fox Talks* represents the best of what conversations at a Christian university can be – touching on all aspects of human life and experience before God.”

In an era of polarization and rapidly spreading information, *George Fox Talks* offers an opportunity to practice exactly what the university teaches students – to think critically about the world and humbly be shaped by the experiences of others, leaning ever toward Christ as their guide.

Visit georgefox.edu/talks for links to watch on YouTube or podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeart or Amazon Music.

Portland Seminary Offers New Degree Program for Leaders Who Work Outside the Church

A new Portland Seminary degree program is addressing the need for a professional doctorate for ministry leaders who work outside the church – those in bivocational, nonprofit, marketplace ministry, counseling, social work or business-as-mission environments.

The three-year, cohort- and online-based Doctor of Leadership in Global Perspectives program features a lead mentor, Jason Clark, and includes three in-person gatherings in locales around the world.

“We live in an era of disruption, upheaval and uncertainty, and we need Christian leaders who are willing to step forward and guide our communities and organizations into a hopeful future,” Clark says.

Each week, 12 to 18 students in the cohort join a videoconference conversation with Clark and engage one another weekly on a public blogging platform. Students also regularly interact with project faculty in small peer groups each semester.

In addition, the program includes three face-to-face intensives, called “Advances,” over the course of study. Upcoming Advances are tentatively scheduled in Cape Town, South Africa (2022), London (2023) and Washington, D.C. (2024).

“This degree provides an opportunity for us to meet the needs of a wider population of Christian leaders,” says Loren Kerns, director of Portland Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry programs. “When we did our market research, we discovered very few leadership degrees that engage the discipline of leadership from a Christ-centered, theologically informed and faith-affirming perspective. The seminary is uniquely qualified and best positioned to offer such a terminal degree.”



////////// IN PRINT //////////

Ross McCullough (honors) in July will release a new book, *Freedom and Sin: Evil in a World Created by God*. The book seeks to answer the questions, “How can we sin if God is the source and end of all our actions?” and “How are we free?”

Melissa Ramos (seminary) coauthored a book, *New Perspectives on Ritual in the Biblical World*, released in June. In it, the authors present a range of methodologically innovative treatments on ritual action in the Hebrew Bible.

Phil Smith (theology) in April published *Understanding Hope*, in which he combines theology, psychology, philosophy and his own experience of personal loss to help readers understand and practice hope.

Mark McMinn (graduate psychology) teamed with a George Fox doctor of psychology graduate, Paul McLaughlin, to write *A Time for Wisdom: Knowledge, Detachment, Tranquility, Transcendence*. Published in March, the book shows readers how to rise above discord and live with detached and measured tranquility.

Jessica Ann Hughes (English) in January released a new book, *Jesus in the Victorian Novel: Reimagining Christ*. In it, she tells the story of how 19th-century writers turned to the realist novel in order to reimagine Jesus during a century where traditional religious faith appeared increasingly untenable.

Randy Woodley (seminary) in January published the book *Becoming Rooted: One Hundred Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth*. He followed that in April with another release, *Indigenous Theology and the Western Worldview: A Decolonized Approach to Christian Doctrine*.

Kathy Heining (English) in September published her memoirs, *Working in Mysterious Ways: My Life through the Rosary*. She recounts her experiences with teaching, raising step-children, cancer and more by connecting each story to the Mysteries of the Rosary.

Sunggu Yang (theology) in September released his latest book, *Arts and Preaching: An Aesthetic Homiletic for the 21st Century*. In it, he answers the question, “In our highly sensory and interactive age, how might drawing upon various arts expand the aesthetic experience and mode of preaching?”

Tennille Hostetler (biology/biochemistry) in July 2021 published *A Guide to Greener Pastures: A Devotional Bible Study on the 23rd Psalm*. The devotional mines the depths of one of the most cherished passages in the Bible and presents it in a fresh new light.

Richard Shaw (counseling) in July 2021 published his first book, *Shame No More: A Framework for Healing Through Grace*. The book invites readers into a journey of healing, forgiveness and hope, casting aside shame and thriving in the freedom of grace.

Paul Anderson (theology) edited a book released in March 2021, *Revelation in the Fourth Gospel: And Eight Johannine Essays*. The book and collection of essays written by Gail O’Day is Volume 9 in the Johannine Monograph Series, published three years after her passing.

Holley Swanson Clough (seminary) in January 2021 published a book, *The Power of Life Coaching: A Model for Ethical Business and Leadership Development*. In it, she describes strategies for assisting personnel and teams to fully embrace and live out their mission and values.



A Time to Build

Campus has changed quite a bit in the last decade, adding a new football stadium, bridge, dining hall, engineering facility and fitness center, to name just a few. As George Fox continues to grow – this year setting an enrollment record with 4,295 total students (see page 4) – new plans have been set in place to meet the needs of an ever-growing and changing student population.

Beginning this summer and continuing through late 2024, work will begin on a new chapel, a facility for the art and design program, and a reimagining of the academic quad.



Chapel

Slated for completion in the fall of 2023, a new 7,000-square-foot chapel will serve not only as a space for worship, teaching and prayer, but as a visual representation of the university's commitment to remain deeply rooted in Christ.

Situated behind the Murdock Library where the tennis courts currently reside, the chapel will feature traditional floor-to-ceiling stained glass, an organ, and an exterior garden for prayer and contemplation.

The chapel project is a priority for President Robin Baker. "In a world of constant change, we have a deep desire for the eternal," he says. "The emerging chapel represents our effort to create a sacred place of enduring beauty, where employees, students and alumni may experience the presence of God in new ways. Student-designed stained glass windows, the use of natural elements, the soaring height of the building and the location near the wooded canyon all provide a unique experience that will connect the community with God for generations."

The chapel is being built with the support of donors. If you would like to contribute to this important project, email development@georgefox.edu or call 503-554-2115.



Art Annex

The vibrant and growing art and design program – housing the university's graphic design, studio art and arts administration, illustration, and interior design majors – will have a new home in the fall of 2023.

Featuring a large studio for pottery and ceramics, another space for glass and sculpture, and a partially covered outdoor courtyard work area – which will include a new ceramics kiln – the 6,000-square-foot facility will be located between the Engineering Maker Hub and Pennington Hall.

Reimagining the Quad

The university's academic quad will soon get its most extensive facelift in years, with work scheduled to begin in the fall of 2022 and continue through 2024. Among the many changes planned, Brougher Hall, originally constructed in 1947 and the current home of the art and design program, will be demolished and replaced by a new rose garden, opening up the quad to Bauman Auditorium.

Next, Minthorn Hall, which in 1892 was rolled across town on logs behind horses to its current location, will go for yet another ride – but this time a much shorter distance. In the summer of 2023, the historic building will be moved and resituated just a stone's throw away, then remodeled in 2024 for use by the university's growing honors program.

Meanwhile, Carlton Way, the service road that runs parallel to Hess Creek Canyon behind several campus buildings, will be closed and turned into a pedestrian area. This change, combined with the move of Minthorn Hall, will open up the quad to the chapel and create a significant amount of new greenspace for students to enjoy in the fall of 2023.





A Milestone 130 Years in the Making

Psychology major Violet Herrick becomes the university's 30,000th degree recipient

By Sean Patterson

Violet Herrick isn't big on being the center of attention, but it isn't every day you get singled out to celebrate a milestone 130 years in the making.

Days before graduating, Herrick learned she would be the 30,000th degree recipient in the history of the university, putting her in the spotlight for a surprise bash that included an appearance from President Robin Baker, Pennington the bear mascot, her psychology professors, and a handful of George Fox employees and friends.

Going into this spring, George Fox was 403 graduates shy of 30,000; Herrick was, alphabetically, the 403rd student to receive a degree or certificate in 2022.

Herrick smiled as she was presented a gift basket full of sweets and George Fox swag, as well as a custom-made framed piece of artwork based on a campus mural designed by alumna McKenzie Young.

"I don't normally like to draw attention to myself, but this was nice – I feel celebrated," she said moments after the big announcement. "I'd say this was on the higher end of all-time surprises in my life."

She was recognized again during her commencement ceremony on April 30 in front of the Stoffer Family Stadium crowd. The big event signified the start of a new chapter for Herrick, who plans to pursue a master's degree in marriage and family therapy.

"I've really enjoyed my George Fox experience, so this is a bit-sweet time for sure," says Herrick, a psychology major from Sacramento, California. "In a community like this, you get to meet so many amazing people. I loved hanging out in the quad and coming across five to 10 people I knew on any given day. I'll miss my amazing psychology professors – Kelly Chang and Jordan Fastenau were especially supportive and really helped me grow while challenging me. Be Known really struck a chord and was real for me.

"At the same time, I'm excited for the future. I have a two-year online master's program, then plan to be a marriage and family therapist, with the hope of working with adolescents."

In the meantime, Herrick and her husband Joshua will celebrate their graduation – he earned a degree in engineering from George Fox this spring – by going to Italy. They also have snacks to consume, thanks to her milestone gift-basket prize. "I might share some of it with him," she laughs.

Student-Athlete Spotlight



Chris McCoy: 'I didn't realize what I had'

The senior business administration major and football player reflects on perspective gained during the pandemic and opportunities ahead

By Sean Patterson

When he arrived on campus as a freshman in the fall of 2019, everything seemed to be going Chris McCoy's way. He was fulfilling his lifelong dream of playing college football, discovering the beauty of the Pacific Northwest on hikes, and "nerding out" with his new-found friends – "his boys," he calls them – as they binge-watched one *Star Wars* movie after another.

There was only one problem: McCoy didn't realize how good he had it.

"To be honest, I wasn't making the most of this opportunity and was taking things for granted," says McCoy, a senior-to-be business administration major. "I was quiet and timid, and there were days I questioned why I was here. I didn't realize what I had."

A worldwide pandemic in the spring of 2020 changed his perspective. Without warning, he was sent home to his native Sacramento, California, as universities across the country made a seismic shift to online learning. The carefree days of college life were, for the foreseeable future, over.

"The day I was sent home was the most pivotal moment for me," he says. "I realized how much I wanted to get back to football, school, friends and have that normality prior to COVID."

McCoy returned to campus his sophomore year determined to embrace the college experience. "I found my voice that year," he says. "I said to myself, 'This is such a short season of life. Make the

most of it.'"

The epiphany has led to deeper friendships and a desire to grow mentally and spiritually. He has also bonded with professors and excelled on the football field, helping George Fox post a 6-1 Northwest Conference mark in 2021 – the Bruins' best league record since the relaunch of the sport in 2014 – as one of the team's starting defensive backs.

McCoy's play earned him an opportunity – to be the subject of a photo shoot that will land him on university billboards across the state this summer. "It's kinda funny, because I've never been that super-aggressive, pumped-up kind of guy," he laughs, thinking back to the mean mugging and aggressive posturing the university marketing team asked for during the photo shoot. "When I make a play, I just laugh or smile."

Looking ahead, McCoy will return to campus in the fall to suit up for the Bruins and conclude his studies. After graduating he plans to open his own barbershop, continuing a business he's pursued throughout college. "I cut hair out of my apartment. It'll be nice to expand that and have my own shop," he says.

His ultimate dream: to continue playing football after college. "There are a lot of leagues out there – in Canada, Europe, the U.S.," he says. "I'd love to keep playing."

Grapes of Math



George Fox computer science and engineering students are developing an autonomous robot that could drastically change the way vineyard owners predict their harvest

By Kimberly Felton

They're calling it the Vitibot. The name isn't official, but a student designed a sticker with the name and it stuck – a clever combination of the term "viticulture" (the science of grapes) with "robot."

One of the longest-running senior design capstone projects for George Fox computer science and engineering students, the Vitibot moves closer each year to the goal – a product the wine industry surrounding the university is eager to see: a rover that can autonomously traverse a vineyard, gathering image data, to accurately predict the grape yield months before harvest.

A 10 to 15% margin of error is considered a good estimate by most wine growers. Last year, the Vitibot predicted a yield with a 2 to 3% margin of error.

A Roomba for Grapes

Every year, wine growers closely monitor their vines to predict grape yield. Weather, soil, vine disease and pests like birds and deer affect that yield – but regardless of these elements, vineyard

owners need to know if they can meet their commitments to buyers, and if they will end up with excess grapes. In the risky business of growing crops, their success hinges on an accurate prediction.

Iterations of the Vitibot have been around longer than most senior design projects, which usually begin in the fall semester and end in the spring.

"I started here in 2015, and already then it was a thing," says computer science professor Brian Snider.

Bob Harder, dean of the College of Engineering, had brainstormed with local entrepreneurs and vineyard and winery owners, developing the technology for a few years before Snider's arrival at the university.

"From the beginning, it was first and foremost a mechanical engineering project," Snider says. "But Bob knew there was a need for machine learning, and that's where I became involved."

Two teams of seniors – new teams each year – worked on parallel endeavors with the Vitibot. The hardware, or data collection,

team made up of mechanical and electrical engineering students designed and built the rover. The software, or data analysis, team of computer science and information systems students worked on the machine learning and autonomous navigation – the artificial intelligence. Finally, this year, the two teams merged into one, stitching together the mechanics and sensor data. "And that's when we got the thing to drive by itself," Snider says.

Snider and other faculty in the College of Engineering envision a rover they can sell, that has a package of sensors, and can be maneuvered by remote control or drive autonomously (currently the Vitibot uses LiDAR sensors for navigation and GoPro cameras for data collection).

"It's like a Roomba, almost, but for your crops," Snider says. "You let it navigate the vineyard rows by itself and collect data as it goes."

A Community Effort

To create a rover that could take digital images, feed those images into a machine learning model, and use the trained model to predict yield, the teams needed a testing ground. David and Jeanne Beck, owners of Crawford Beck Vineyard, willingly offered their vineyard. Scientists, researchers and educators themselves, they're equally interested and invested in the technology that can assist their vineyard, and the process of allowing students to learn.

The Vitibot's accuracy in grape yield prediction is dependent on two things: weekly photos of the vines and machine learning built into the rover's "brain."

The past three summers, a student or faculty advisor walked the rows at Crawford Beck Vineyard, carrying an eight-foot hiking stick with three GoPro cameras strapped on. Each week, from July until harvest in mid-September, they took a photo of each vine. Eighty-three plants per row, 21 rows, 10,000 images every week.

"We have an algorithm, a piece of code, that accepts as input the pictures," Snider says. "And we have code that learns relevant numerical features from the images. That information goes in; we call it training data. Then, because we're doing supervised learning, we tell it, 'Given these images, here's the correct answer you should predict.'"

The "correct answer" given to the algorithm is the grape weight at harvest. After uploading images all summer, the actual weight is added to the algorithm at the end of the season. This is where the Becks' contribution looms large.

In most vineyards at harvest, workers run the rows, dropping clusters into buckets, emptying buckets into bins, getting credit for

each bucket they pick. It's competitive and it's fast. It saves labor costs.

But to validate the rover's software, the premium no longer is on time; it is on harvest weight accuracy, not just by the vineyard, but also by the winery – in this case, Winderlea.

"They're willing to weigh all those bins of harvested grapes and give us the data," David says. "That's what ties it all together and validates the success of the software."

The process is time-consuming but absolutely necessary in order to develop an accurate model.

The Becks and Winderlea are willing.

How the Vitibot works its way from images to the final weight of the grapes, Snider cannot explain. "You don't necessarily know what features it's latching onto. Is it counting grapes? How does it know? But that's the thing; we don't need to know. We're going to let this algorithm learn what is relevant." The numbers prove that it is working.

"Their software is better than our actual measurements," David says. "We count clusters and we weigh clusters, and we gross that up by the total number of vines. We do an informed calculation, but we're making assumptions about how evenly the fruit is spread."

Like most wine growers, Jeanne handles grape yield prediction herself. It is tedious, time-consuming and not as accurate as she would prefer.

"As for the margin of error that winemakers want, the answer is zero!" she says. "That not being possible, we strive for both labor conservation and maximal accuracy. Given this inherent inaccuracy, some growers opt for optical assessments, walking the rows

and estimating by eye. This is not satisfactory, so we constantly search for better methods.

"And that is the beauty of the work the George Fox students have done. Their estimation was within 98% of the harvest amount. Mine was only 72% of the harvest amount. Add to that the labor savings and you can see how impressive this is."

The Vitibot isn't ready for market yet, but the software has consistently produced accurate yield predictions, and this year was able to drive autonomously. "Now that we've broken through that wall, the next step is to get it out

to the vineyard every week and train it to drive in an actual, real-life environment," Snider says. "And we're pretty optimistic that next year we'll get there."

Visit georgefox.edu/vitibot to see the Vitibot in action.



From left to right, students Trey Moen and Jared Perry, along with professor Brian Snider, test the Vitibot with vineyard owners Jeanne and David Beck.

"You don't necessarily know what features it's latching onto. Is it counting grapes? How does it know? But that's the thing; we don't need to know. We're going to let this algorithm learn what is relevant."



Color Run

Student events at George Fox have changed quite a bit over the years – most notably the addition of dances, an activity that wasn't allowed on campus until 1995. But one thing hasn't changed: the lasting memories made when students get a chance to set academics aside for a few hours and have a little fun with friends.



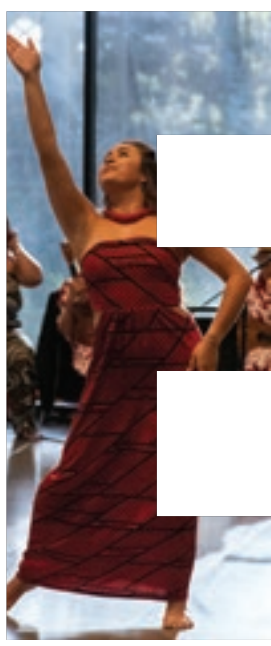
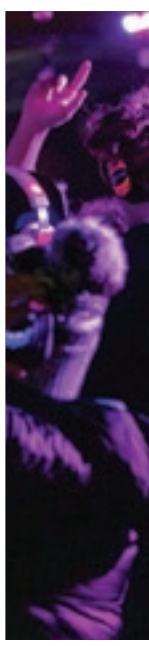
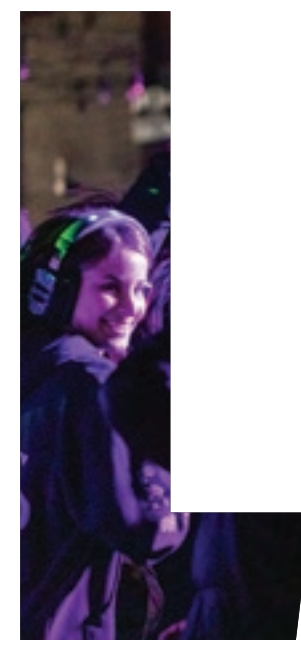
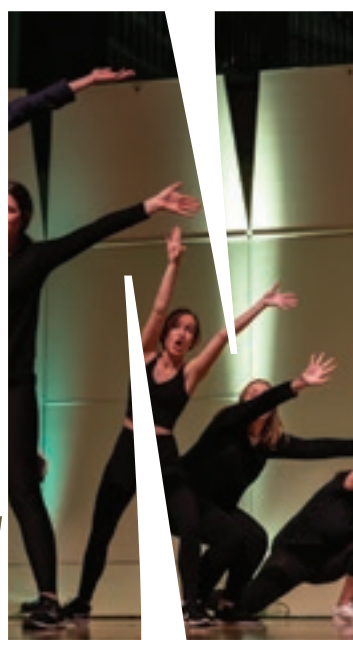
'80s Dance



Welcome Back Bash



Finals Week Puppy Room

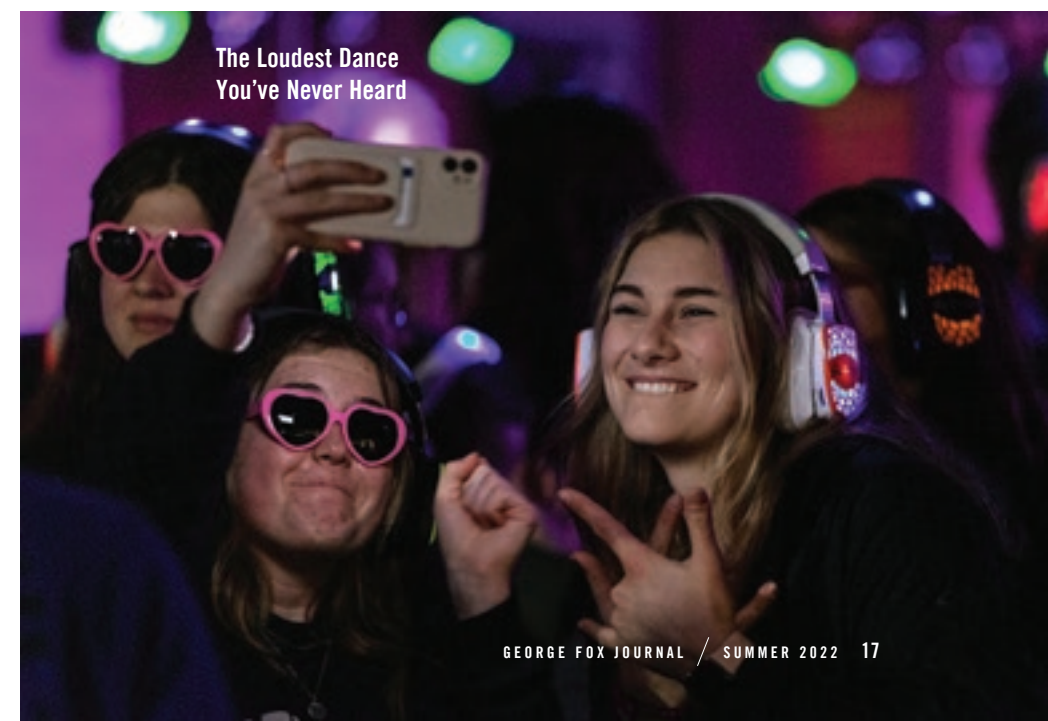


Hoedown

This balance of academic and career pursuits, spiritual growth and service – seasoned with a healthy dose of fun and human connection – has been a hallmark of the George Fox experience for years, whether it's racing a makeshift raft down the Willamette in 1972 or running through explosions of bright-colored powder in 2022. Here's a taste of what student life at George Fox looks like today.



Lip Sync Battle



The Loudest Dance You've Never Heard

TITLE IX: STILL CHANGING LIVES, AND CULTURE, 50 YEARS LATER

Five decades ago a federal law was passed, creating opportunities for countless women to do what many had long been denied – the chance to compete

By Sean Patterson

MaryJo McCloskey remembers the day her beloved sport was cut. A member of the University of Oregon women's golf team, she was deflated to learn that the game she loved – a passion instilled in her by her father and nurtured by a nun – had been eliminated because of budget constraints.

But McCloskey, who today serves as head coach of George Fox's highly successful women's golf team, wasn't about to abandon her dream of competing at the collegiate level.

"They decided to cut women's golf after my first year, but I stayed and fought for the program," she reflects. "Fortunately, they reinstated it the following year, thanks to Title IX support. That experience – and my love for sports and all the benefits from competing – is why I continue to fight for more opportunities for women in sports today."

McCloskey, and all the female athletes and coaches of her generation, owe a debt of gratitude to a congresswoman from Hawaii, Patsy Mink, who authored a legislative draft that ultimately became Title IX, the federal civil rights law passed as part of the Education Amendments of 1972. It prohibits sex-based discrimination in any school or education program that receives federal funding, and has since paved the way for equal opportunities for women in education and, as a byproduct, sports.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the law – a seminal event that revolutionized the athletics landscape. You see it in the explosive growth of girls' and women's sports, the popularity of the

"Our goal as a program is to create an environment of personal growth – a place where every person who leaves our program is more comfortable with who they really are. That is what sports can do."

– Jessica Hollen, head softball coach



MaryJo McCloskey (center), head coach of the women's golf team

Women's World Cup, the WNBA and the LPGA Tour, and in the faces of the women who leveraged their opportunities in athletics to become household names – Serena Williams, Lindsey Vonn, Simone Biles, Alex Morgan, Michelle Wie and Katie Ledecky among them.

Although not originally drafted to address the disparity between men's and women's athletics, Title IX's impact has arguably been most profound in the arena of sports. Upon passing, many colleges' athletic programs found themselves out of compliance, requiring they reallocate resources to offer equal opportunities for women to compete.

The numbers tell the story: Today, women make up 44% of all NCAA student-athletes. In 1971, fewer than 30,000 women played sports at the collegiate level, representing just 15% of all student-athletes – and many colleges offered few or no women's teams.

Ahead of Her Time

At George Fox, women athletes had a champion in Marjorie "Doc" Weesner long before the law passed. In fact, eight years prior to Title IX, Weesner, coach of the college's volleyball, women's basketball and softball programs – yes, simultaneously – led all three of her 1964-65 teams to conference titles. Combined, they lost just one game.

"Marjorie was definitely the matriarch of women's athletics at George Fox, and a tireless advocate for equal opportunities

for women in sports," says Craig Taylor, the university's athletic director from 1988 until his retirement in 2017. "Even prior to 1972, Doc fought fiercely for the opportunities that Title IX eventually mandated. The success we enjoy today in women's athletics was built on the foundation Doc laid."

Weesner, an alumna from the class of 1953, campaigned for her athletes to receive better coaching; access to quality practice facilities; competitive schedules; equitable opportunities to travel, compete and earn athletically related financial aid; and press



Marjorie "Doc" Weesner

"Even prior to 1972, Doc fought fiercely for the opportunities that Title IX eventually mandated. The success we enjoy today in women's athletics was built on the foundation Doc laid."

coverage.

All the while, she was highly supportive of men's athletics as well. "Her approach was never to reduce men's opportunities, but for the institution to step up and offer the same opportunity for female student-athletes," says Taylor, whom Weesner hired to teach and to serve as coach of the college's women's basketball and softball teams. "She did not refer to herself as a feminist, but as an advocate for fairness and doing the right thing for all. Title IX reinforced and codified her message: 'Be fair and do the right thing.'"

Weesner served as George Fox's women's athletics director and helped form and chair the Department of Health and Human Performance. She retired in 1993 after 31 years of service to the university. "She was, without question, the single most influential person in my professional life," Taylor says.

'My Life Would Look Incredibly Different'

Although born long after Title IX was passed, Elise Trask believes it steered the course of her life.

"Title IX is about so much more than equality – it's about opportunity," says Trask, the university's associate athletic director and a member of the 2009 Bruin team that went undefeated en route to an NCAA Division III national championship. "Without Title IX, my life would look incredibly different. My entire world has

been shaped by athletics and the opportunities that have come with the privilege of participating.

"I tell people all the time that basketball was the vehicle that brought me to Fox, but it was the relationships here that transformed my life. Without basketball, I may not have a college degree, I'm not sure that I would have a relationship with Christ, and there's no way that I would be an associate athletic director at any level."

With that said, Trask believes "we still have a long way to go" when it comes to giving women equal opportunities in athletics. "Sometimes I wonder if the previous generation would be proud or disappointed in where we are now. A lot has happened in 50 years, but there's still work to be done. I'm so thankful that I get to serve in a role where my everyday work has the ability to continue to move the needle forward."

The Cultural Impact

Jessica Hollen, George Fox's head softball coach the past 14 years, echoes Trask's belief that the opportunity to compete is a springboard to bigger things. Ultimately, the chance to take the field develops character, results in lifelong friendships, and opens up career opportunities the pre-1972 generation could only dream of.

"Sports reveal character, but you quickly find that they give more opportunity to succeed and fail on a larger stage, so if you do it right, you can use those opportunities to build your character into who you are really called to be," says Hollen, who led the Bruins to a 23-5 league record and Northwest Conference regular-season title in 2021. "Our goal as a program is to create an environment of personal growth – a place where every person who leaves our program is more comfortable with who they really are. That is what sports can do."

As a ripple effect, Title IX's passage helped change cultural expectations and beliefs. Gone are the days when women had to choose between pursuing a career and raising a family – a common misconception in the post-World War II era.

Hollen can relate to the tension between balancing a coaching career and a home life. As the mother of two, she admits that being a mom, a mentor to young women and a coach at the collegiate level isn't easy



Associate athletic director Elise Trask

– but possible.

"We had many women who chose not to pursue coaching long term because of the family sacrifices it takes to make it happen – and the guilt of feeling like you are either not doing enough for your team or not doing enough for your family," she says. "But I feel it's important that our athletes see and know that they can pursue a career – whether that is in coaching or not – and be a mom if that is what they want. It is OK and pretty amazing to do both."

To honor the legacy of Title IX, Hollen says the female athletes of today have a responsibility to "carry the torch" by financially supporting women's sports and pursuing coaching positions. "Buy the tickets and the jerseys, and chase the dream of coaching if that's what you're passionate about," she says.

Room for Improvement

Members of the George Fox women's golf program are most likely unaware of the fact that a Catholic nun is partially responsible for their success.

Years before they were born – in the early days of the post-Title IX era – Sister Jean Rose took an eager St. Mary's Academy high school golfer under her wing. The player was McCloskey, and the lessons she learned in those formative years have stuck with her to this day.

"Because of my competitive nature, she instilled in me a lot of great things about emotional resilience and humility, and helped me become a better player –

and person," McCloskey says of her former coach. "She also taught me that you don't have to be a professional golf instructor to be a great coach."

Sister Jean Rose was among the few women high school head coaches back then – a pioneer of sorts. And although great strides have been made in the area of women's athletics in the last 50 years, McCloskey believes there is still plenty of room for improvement.

"I must admit, I have been a little disappointed that it actually has taken so long for programs to establish women's teams," says McCloskey, who has led the Bruins to 12 straight Northwest Conference titles and six top-four finishes at the NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championships. "In the NWC alone, men's golf teams had been around for 30 to 40 years before women's golf teams were formed in the late '90s. What took so long? Universities have also been slow to follow the lead of George Fox in terms of hiring more female coaches."

It's true: Golf coaching continues to be primarily dominated by men. That's slowly changing, though, and McCloskey credits Title IX for that change. "I'm so appreciative of Title IX for giving me – and all women – the opportunities to continue to play in college and to coach as well," she says.

In turn, her players have turned opportunity into success: One of McCloskey's players qualified for a pro tournament, the Cambia LPGA Portland Classic. Another competed on a Golf Channel TV show and fared well. Still another, Makensie Toole, won the 2021 NCAA D-III individual golf championship – the university's first individual NCAA national champion outside of track and field. Toole went on to play in the U.S. Women's Amateur in New York last August.

"We don't know anyone's potential unless we give them the opportunity," Trask says. "Title IX has forced the hands in power to equally provide and fund opportunities for girls and women over the last 50 years. And the impact? Women are breaking down barriers and shattering expectations. Can you imagine if we were never given the opportunity? We would never know our potential."

Inside the Medical Sciences Building

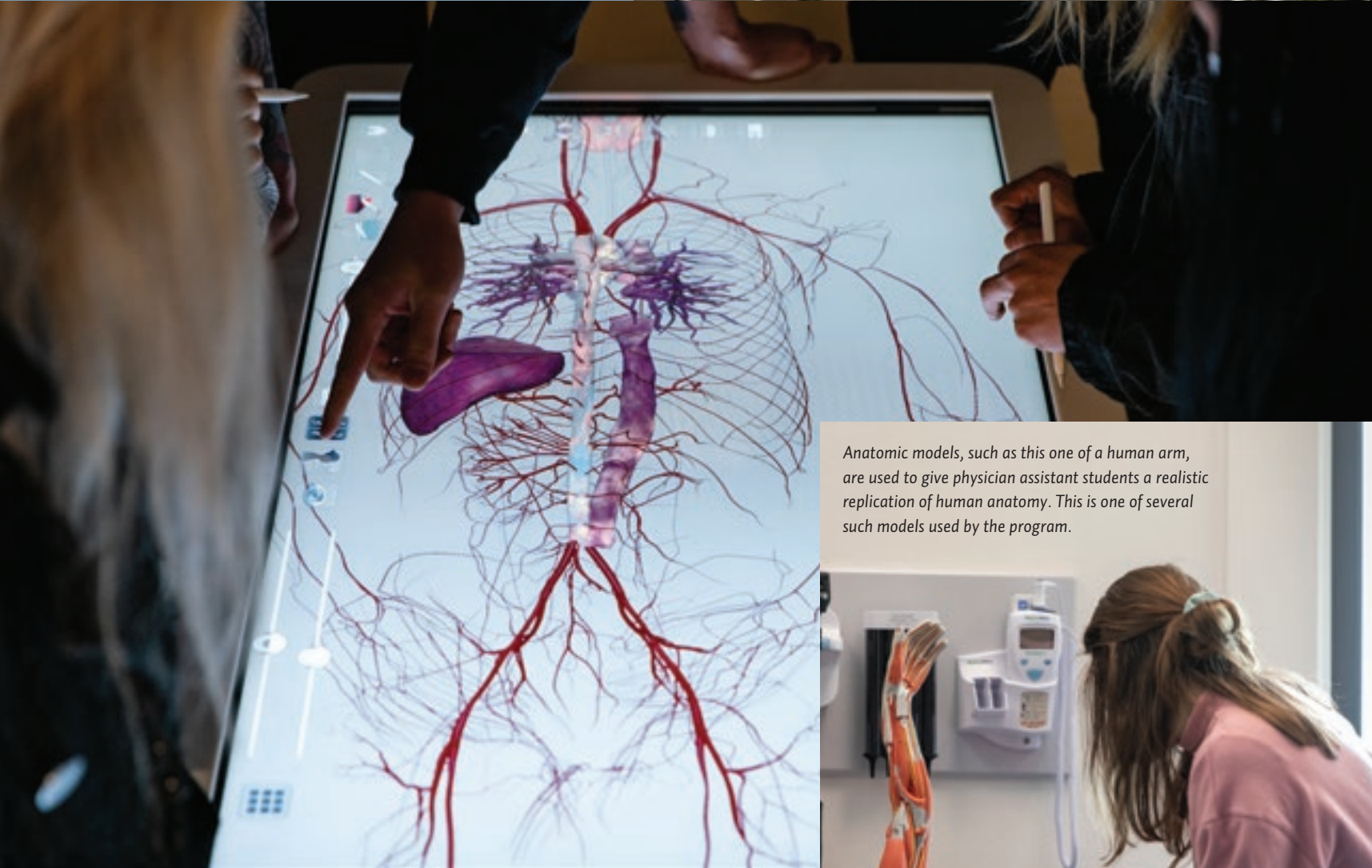
The university's commitment to becoming a regional leader in educating future healthcare practitioners took a giant step forward last fall with the opening of a brand new 43,000-square-foot, three-story facility near the Providence Newberg Medical Center on Werth Boulevard in Newberg.

A dedication ceremony in September marked the opening of the Medical Sciences Building, home to George Fox's physician assistant (PA) and physical therapy (DPT) programs. Featuring state-of-the-art classrooms and technologies, the facility provides a space where students are equipped to address the glaring regional and national shortage of primary-care health professionals.

Looking ahead, the university will add yet another health-care offering in 2024, when a masters-level occupational therapy program is scheduled to launch.



Physical therapy clinic director Jaydee Romick utilizes the PT program's three-dimensional motion capture biomechanics lab in the assessment and treatment of a patient. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the physical therapy program's launch in 2012.



Anatomic models, such as this one of a human arm, are used to give physician assistant students a realistic replication of human anatomy. This is one of several such models used by the program.



Physician assistant students consistently practice skills utilized in clinical care, such as applying a leg cast as part of the program's casting and splinting lab.

Curt Stilp, associate dean of the College of Medical Science, oversees the instruction of physical exam techniques. The six-semester, 112-credit PA program awards a Master of Medical Science (MMSc) degree, with the option to also earn a Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) degree.

Professor Profile

Get to know Professor of Art and Design **Tim Timmerman**

Specializes in painting, sculpture, glass and assemblage sculpture

Featured in more than 25 solo exhibitions nationally

Has led nine study abroad trips with nearly 200 George Fox students

Q: What inspired you to teach?

A: College was not an easy time for me. I felt underprepared and out of place with many of my fellow students. The faculty in the art department gave me a home and welcomed me into their lives. Also, the wisdom and thoughtfulness of my professors in literature, German and Bible, as well as an amazing psychology prof, embodied for me what being a man of character and integrity looked like. I had never been surrounded by such a loving group of mentors who cared for me academically and also on a personal level. They gave me hope, encouragement and direction for my life, and also modeled for me how to be an honest, creative and loving man of God. I thought to myself that if someday I could do the same for others, I would be honored to walk alongside the next generation in the same manner.

Q: What is your favorite class to teach and why?

A: I teach a wide range of classes, from sculpture, painting and illustration, to Latin American art history, to a faith and integration class we call "Art and Christ." It's hard for me to pick out a favorite course, because simply, I love to learn and what I'm asked to teach always provides for me an opportunity to keep honing my skills, as well as making new discoveries. My favorite type of assignments to give are those that combine a variety of methods of ideation and influences to get to a creative outcome. This could be an assignment in painting where we look at how artists current and past solve creating a narrative painting, as well as having students read contemporary poets. The assignment then may be creating a work that embodies the wisdom of the methods employed by the artists, but the content of the work is to be inspired by a poet that the student found a passion for. I love seeing students make connections, learn new skills, find a broad range of influences and push themselves further than they thought they could go.

Q: What is your biggest hope for students?

A: My biggest hope for George Fox students is that they find their voice, what they are passionate about, and aren't afraid to pursue who God is calling them to be.



Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.
 — 1 Peter 4:10



HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN

Students in George Fox University's Servant Engineering program design solutions that lead to a better life – one human at a time By Jeremy Lloyd

Brandon is 19 years old. He likes to play video games, make fried Oreos with his foster care provider, and go to the movies. His favorite character? Iron Man.

Brandon also lives with cerebral palsy, which makes it difficult to manipulate objects with the fingers on his right hand. A surgery that fused the bones in his wrist further complicates matters, making daily tasks that require the use of both hands nearly impossible.

That's where the "gauntlet" comes in. A synthetic fiber glove married to a tension-assisting exoskeleton strengthens Brandon's finger movements, allowing for greater extension. As a result, he can use both hands for his favorite activity, video games, and much more.

The gauntlet is hand-sewn and 3D printed – the outcome of

months of trial, error, research and observation. It's a one-of-one design, much like Tony Stark's first Iron Man prototype. And when Brandon wears it he feels like a superhero. Or, in his own words, "awesome."

The Servant Engineering team at George Fox University wouldn't have it any other way. Because it's not just about the device – it's about the human wearing it.

Established in 2010, Servant Engineering is a required course for all junior engineering and computer science majors. Some projects seek solutions to greater humanitarian needs. But in many cases, such as Brandon's, students are paired with a single "client." One team of student engineers. One faculty advisor. One full academic year.

At any given time more than a dozen projects are in motion. A

Above: The "gauntlet" is a synthetic fiber glove married to a tension-assisting exoskeleton that strengthens Brandon's finger movements.

Top: From left to right, the Servant Engineering team of Bryce Turnipseed, Dawson Willems, professor Todd Curtis and Klayton Rhoads with Brandon.

Above: A specially designed stylus allows Brandon to use a computer trackpad or tablet with his right hand.

postural assist device for students at the Oregon School for the Blind. An accessory that allows a client with hemiplegia – a condition that prevents the use of half his body – to use a wheelchair. A series of solutions for a young girl with a rare genetic disease called Bruck syndrome to independently eat, clean her teeth, and use a computer mouse.

In each case, the process begins with a simple but powerful concept: human-centered design.

"In the first three to four weeks of the class, I don't want students to think about a single solution," says professor Todd Curtis, faculty advisor to the team that created Brandon's gauntlet. "I only want them to understand the problem, to get to know the client, to empathize with the client."

In the case of Brandon, who sometimes has trouble articulating his needs, that meant hours of observation – and some creativity. "Part of the process of project discovery is what we call empathy exercises," Curtis explains. So, student engineers taped a sock over their dominant hand for a weekend to experience what it's like to live without the use of their fingers.

Just as important, they took the time to get to know Brandon as a person. "At first we looked at devices to help Brandon in the

kitchen," recalls senior Dawson Willems. But that didn't spark much excitement. "Then one day we discovered that he really enjoyed playing video games."

Brandon loves tech, from his PlayStation to his tablet and smartphone. "Our goal was to simply get him using his right hand a little bit more," explains Willems. "That way some of the muscle atrophy could hopefully over time be reversed." And so the solution became clear.

In addition to the gauntlet, they created a specially designed stylus that allows Brandon to use a computer trackpad or tablet with his right hand. Both solutions help Brandon live a better life while over time strengthening his hand.

But the Servant Engineering program benefits more than just the client. Willems' ability to articulate what he learned over the course of the project helped secure an internship with Intel, with a possible full-time offer forthcoming. Wherever he lands, the lessons he learned from Brandon will last a lifetime.

"Using your engineering skills to help real people, to solve open-ended problems, is something you can only learn by doing," Curtis says. "These experiences are priceless for our students."

A New Approach to Nursing Education



Nursing students treat a “patient” actor in one of the Fox Health simulation rooms.

Fox Health allows nursing students to gain invaluable real-world experience in a controlled environment

By Jessica Daugherty

A man hobbles barefoot down the hallway in a mint-green gown. One hand clutches two flimsy pieces of fabric that keep the garment from flying open in the back while the other firmly grasps the doorway of the room he is about to enter. Above his head, the faint, familiar buzzing of fluorescent lights can be heard. Climbing onto a bed, the patient gives a thumbs-up to the long, rectangular mirror directly across from him. Like clockwork, two nurses walk in. The man smiles at the nurses and proceeds to show them what appears to be a deep, colorful gash in the middle of his left shin.

After noting that the patient’s pain level has risen from a three to a six, one of the nurses places a few pills into a cup. Suddenly, the patient leans back into his bed and grimaces. His whole body constricts as he bites down on his lip and his hands grip the sheets. Immediately, the nurses jump into action, taking vital signs and scribbling down notes before stepping aside and talking with each other. They think the man is beginning to develop a staph infection.

In the neighboring room, a woman sits behind multiple computer screens, peering through the one-way mirror into the patient’s room. She nods in approval, adjusting her glasses while leaning into a microphone on her desk. She utters a few words and the patient immediately relaxes, his smile returning as he hops off the bed and walks straight out the door.

‘Immersed in the Simulation’

While this plot twist may seem like it’s straight out of a movie, it’s actually part of a simulation for George Fox nursing students. Housed in the university’s Roberts Center – which, ironically, used to be a hospital – a new state-of-the-art facility called Fox Health allows nursing students to experience real-world healthcare scenarios under the watchful eye of professors.

Fox Health is made up of three separate facilities: the Skills Lab, the Home Health Room and the Simulation Center. Each is meant to provide students with an immersive learning experience, which is why every aspect of Fox Health, down to the handrails and floor tiles, was designed to replicate a real-life hospital. There is a nursing station and a fully stocked supply closet. Even the patient rooms are outfitted with all the knobs and gadgets that would be used in an actual hospital.

“We wanted to make it as realistic as possible,” says Pam Fifer, dean of the College of Nursing, whose 25 years of experience in the nursing profession proved invaluable to the design of the facility. “We want students to feel like they are immersed in the simulation – that they are a part of a real functioning hospital.”

In a “sim,” students have the opportunity to be in charge – to ask questions, take vitals and develop their clinical judgment skills. Fox Health is centered around this idea of ownership, which is often in sharp contrast to clinicals, the portion of nursing school where students are placed in hospitals to gain hands-on experience.

Sometimes, due to the nature of a real operating hospital, nursing students can be pushed aside or overlooked entirely. There can also be a great deal of apprehension as a student nurse works to apply knowledge gained in the classroom to an actual hospital setting for the first time. Unlike clinicals, sims allow students to be the sole decision makers for their patients, and if those decisions are wrong, to fail, learn and try again – all with a safety net.

The Human Element

While the Fox Health Simulation Center boasts several high-fidelity simulation rooms with high-tech equipment, it’s the presence of patient actors that makes the experience seem real.

In each room, “patients” are instructed to describe specific symptoms, such as coughing, physical pain, cuts or bruises. And because the sims are comprised of three to four scenarios, students learn to see the consequences of their actions.

Nursing students debrief with a professor and the “patient” after a simulation.



If a student misses a patient’s blood pressure dropping, then suddenly spiking, the subsequent simulation will result in that patient going into septic shock. It’s the job of the simulation operator, usually a clinical instructor who observes from a control room, to direct how the scenarios play out according to the student’s actions.

For future nurses, understanding the consequences of each action is key to gaining confidence and growing in their knowledge and clinical judgment. “I am able to learn because I am the one taking responsibility for what is going on,” says Whitney Mayworth, who will enter her senior year in the program this fall.

Sims also allow professors to gain insight into a student’s thought process and to either affirm or correct it. “Sometimes we watch students do the right thing, but if we don’t ask them why then they may be doing it for the wrong reason,” Fifer explains.

That’s why each sim is followed by a debriefing session, during which students explain and reflect on their decisions, diving deeper into the consequences of each action with a professor.

For Mayworth, the sims and subsequent debriefing sessions are

irreplaceable. “While the patients are not real, I know that whatever I am doing now is going to affect the care I give a real patient later, so each time I feel like I should be doing my best,” she says.

At the Fox Health facility, students benefit not just from doing, but from watching their classmates participate in sims and taking part in the debriefing discussion afterward.

“Sims get you comfortable asking the really hard questions,” says Claire Williamson, a 2021 nursing program graduate. “It’s also a great space to see how your peers handle things and to be able to learn from everyone else.”

Beyond the Simulation Center

The Simulation Center isn’t the only environment within Fox Health where future nurses can practice what they have learned in a safe environment. Located right next door, the recently redesigned Skills Lab is outfitted with nine beds that allow students to practice their bedside manner, professionalism and assessment skills.

Here, students can act out scenarios with each other or can use one of many mannequins that can simulate breathing, crying out,

vomiting, bleeding and more. By practicing their skills on the mannequins, students are able to develop the critical muscle memory required of certain procedures before practicing on real patients.

“In the Skills Lab, we can guarantee what students are going to see, as opposed to off-campus clinicals which are more haphazard because we don’t know what kinds of patients they are going to encounter,” Fifer says.

Creating controlled scenarios that were previously left to chance at a clinical location allows Fox Health proctors to curate specific scenarios that they deem most important for learning. This became especially important during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in limited clinical placements, making it a challenge for students to meet the clinical hours needed to graduate. Now, with access to the Simulation Center and revamped Skills Lab, students can gain the hands-on practice they need to develop clinical competence – ensuring the pipeline of future nurses does not stall.

Likewise, the Home Health Room allows nursing students to experience a wide variety of potential settings and scenarios within the profession, such as telehealth, home visits and hospice care. It

also gives them the opportunity to work through a wide variety of micro-ethical issues, like how to handle stressful family dynamics that are often a part of in-home care.

“We must prepare students well for their profession, which has a high turnover and burnout rate, while they are still protected and have a safety net,” Fifer says.

Looking to the Future

From classroom theory to simulation, to feedback and group discussion, to practicing new skills and asking hard questions, all elements of the Fox Health facility come together to create an environment where nurses are prepared to not just survive, but thrive in their profession – at a time when they are needed more than ever.

Considering the high rate of turnover and burnout for nurses, Fifer sees these sims as essential to preparing skilled nurses who not only stay in their profession, but become leaders in it.

“We want our students to treat every patient with dignity and respect – to treat them as Christ would,” she says. “After all, sooner or later they will be taking care of all of us.”



STORIES OF

Faith,

Grit

AND

Joy



Eight George Fox students and alumni, eight different stories,
one common theme: *God is faithful.*

Anthony Pasion

**‘God is
always going
to be there’**

By Jeremy Lloyd

It was 2019 and Anthony Pasion was living his dream playing college football. Then a sophomore defensive lineman on the George Fox football team, he earned All-Northwest Conference Second-Team honors and was coming into his own not only as a player but as a person.

“Being on the football team has been the best time of my life,” he says. “Just being able to have guys that are brothers and going to be lifelong friends, that’s the biggest joy I’ve had since being at Fox.”

Then, in an instant, football was taken away.

“My vision started going blurry, and I wasn’t really sure why,” Pasion says. “I ended up going into OHSU and they found out I had this thing called optic neuritis, which is inflammation of my optic nerves.”

The cause: an anti-MOG disorder in which the immune system mistakenly attacks healthy proteins in the eye. Pasion first felt the effects in his left eye at the end of his sophomore year, then as a junior in his right eye as well. More trips to see specialists and heavy doses of medication followed.

“I was scared,” he says. “I didn’t really know what to do, I didn’t know what was going on, and I didn’t know if my sight was ever going to come back.”

Worse yet, in the winter of 2020, at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pasion’s family felt the full force of the deadly virus, as his father, mother and sister all tested positive.

“My mom was in the hospital for two weeks, and then my dad was in the hospital for a month,” he says, reliving the horrific experience.

On Christmas day, his father passed away.

“That was the hardest thing I’ve ever had to go through in my life,” he says. “I’m still trying to deal with that every day. I was like, ‘Why would God do this to me? Why would he take away my dad?’”

Even though he wasn’t playing, Pasion leaned on his teammates, coaches and George Fox family like never before.

Head coach Chris Casey checked in on him “all the time.” So did defensive coordinator John Bates. And every week, like clockwork, there was a phone call or coffee

visit with campus pastor Jamie Johnson. Then there were his “brothers” on the football team, who rallied around him with friendship and support when he needed it most. During this time, Pasion also palpably felt the impact his father had on his life.

“Even though my dad wasn’t there in the present, I always felt him with me,” he says. “Everything he taught me, I tried to carry on.”

He thought about what would make his father proud: to be a good student, to graduate, to be a good man. And as he slowly began to heal, so too did his relationship with God.

“It was hard to keep my faith at first,” he says, thinking back to the darkest times. “But as the months went on, I felt my faith grow stronger.”

And after all that was taken away, something was returned: the ability to play football again. A new medication has subdued the optic neuritis, improving his vision and allowing Pasion to return to the field next semester for one last season before the fifth-year senior graduates in the winter of 2022.

“Sports is something that I’ve loved my entire life,” he says. “If I wasn’t able to play football again, I’d be pretty devastated. Thank the Lord that he gave me my sight back!”

A business management major who may someday pursue a career in coaching or athletics administration, Pasion now looks to the future with a renewed sense of hope and a trust in God that can only be gained through trial by fire.

“Each time I’ve gone through something hard, I’ve grown from it, I’ve become stronger because of it,” he says. “The main thing that stands out to me from this experience is God is always going to be there. You may not realize it in the moment, and it may not feel like he’s always there, but he’s always going to be with you.”

Dayana Caamal Perez

‘Capable of a lot more than I imagined’

By Jeremy Lloyd

If recent graduate Dayana Caamal Perez could go back in time and talk to her freshman year self, she’d have a lot to say. But first, “I’d give myself a hug.”

A first-generation college student with a heart for others, Perez felt that she had been called to George Fox for a purpose. But when she arrived on campus, self-doubt set in.

“My freshman year, it was very hard to see anything positive,” she says. “There were a lot of changes, and also I didn’t really know who I was in this new space. I knew that God had called me here, but I didn’t really know what that would look like.”

Struggling with low self-esteem, Perez felt that she would never be good enough to pursue God’s purpose for her life.

“I always saw God through a conditional lens,” she says. “I thought you had to do certain things before you could meet with God or before you could be good enough for him to use you. I honestly didn’t think that God could have used me in any way. I didn’t think there was anything to me.”

It wasn’t until she applied for an internship with the university’s spiritual life office her sophomore year that Perez began to understand what she was capable of.

“I was scared to go into the spiritual life office, but I knew I had to get work experience somehow,” she says. “They poured into me in various ways, unpacking some of the beliefs that I had about God that were untrue.”

And as Perez began to grow in her relationship with God, she also gained confidence in her abilities and learned to face her fears head-on. A self-described servant leader who would rather be in the background, Perez got her first opportunity to preach in chapel her senior year.

“It was very scary, but it was also very life-giving because I was able to see that I could use my strengths and deliver the message God wants me to say in that moment,” she says. “I’ve been able to see myself in a different light, with confidence, because I understand who I am.”

And even more important, she’s understands how God sees her.

“I now genuinely believe that God sees me with compassion and grace, but also capable of a lot more than I imagined,” she says.

As Perez enters this next chapter of her life as a new college graduate, the path ahead is once again uncertain. She may pursue grad school and a career in counseling – “In the church, we need more people who can help with mental health,” she says – or she may put her marketing degree to work in the business world.

“I do know that helping people is going to be the primary focus of whatever I do,” she says. “I didn’t realize how much I loved others until I got to Fox. I’ve discovered it’s an actual gift that I have – to be able to listen to others, to understand where they’re coming from. It’s one of the skills that I’ve definitely grown into.”

Whatever the future may hold, Perez now looks to the unknown with hope and excitement.

“It’s going to be scary, but I’m excited for the growth and to see where I end up going,” she says. “God’s taken me this far. I believe he’s going to take me farther.”

STORIES OF *Faith, Grit AND Joy*

Abigail O'Grattan

'I can trust him with the things that are most precious'

By Jeremy Lloyd

Even before she arrived on campus for the first time, Abigail O'Grattan had her college experience all mapped out.

"When I was looking at colleges, I was looking at three things," she says. "I wanted to be able to swim, I wanted to be able to study the Bible, and I wanted to take ancient languages as part of that education."

A competitive swimmer in high school who has always felt a call to vocational ministry, O'Grattan was able to check all the boxes as a biblical studies major at George Fox.

"Fox was the perfect fit for me because I could play my sport, I could study what I wanted to study, and I could participate in the honors program," she says. "Plus there were so

many bonuses – it was just beautiful and I fell in love with the campus."

But just months into her freshman year, O'Grattan's plans quickly began to unravel.

"The first couple months of the swim season were hard because it's a college sport, but it was also really fun," she says. "But pretty quickly I realized I was having some severe neurological symptoms. I was losing vision when I was racing, and I was really dizzy all the time. It was getting to the point where I wasn't sleeping and I had chronic migraines. My brother, who also goes to Fox, would come

to my dorm and walk me to my classes because he was worried I would fall and not be able to get back up."

That first semester on campus was marked by MRIs, multiple trips to the ER and even a visit to an optometrist. Nothing was conclusive, and the symptoms kept getting worse. Finally, a trip to a specialist revealed the culprit: severe mold poisoning.

"I had been exposed when I was really young," she says. "When you have any amount of that in your system, it can get triggered really easily, especially in a beauti-

ful wet climate like Oregon. I ended up having to stop doing any cardio activity because it just pumps it through my system."

A lack of cardiovascular activity combined with a special diet and a well-filtered dorm room reduced her symptoms almost immediately. But that also meant no more competitive swimming – an activity O'Grattan had not only loved, but found her identity in, for more than 12 years.

"When I realized I wouldn't be able to play my sport anymore, I was really angry," she says. "I was like, 'I'm being obedient,

God. You told me to go here and I knew it would be hard, but I said yes. Why don't I get to swim?"

"My whole worth was wrapped up in how well I performed, and if I wasn't a very fast swimmer, I wasn't worth very much in my mind."

Just four months into her college experience, O'Grattan had lost her identity as a student-athlete, her health, and the sense of community she had felt with the swim team. She considered giving up and just staying home, but her dad – her biggest fan at swim competitions – encouraged her to keep going.

"I remember him telling me that Fox and my college experience is so much bigger than four laps in a pool," she says.

Soon, a new community began to develop around her. There were O'Grattan's "big sisters" in the honors program, who provided encouragement and a sense of belonging. There were her swim teammates, who continued to stay in touch. And there were her theology professors, who "cared super deeply about what I was going through." She also started serving at her church, "which has been a huge source of strength in community."

Along the way, O'Grattan has learned to trust in God like never before.

"Especially the last three years, it's changed from me having my own plans and dreaming without God to inviting him into that, knowing that his plans are better," says O'Grattan, who graduated this spring. "I can trust him with the things that are most precious to me."

This summer, O'Grattan will begin to pursue a career in ministry with an internship at Portland Seminary's Institute for Pastoral and Congregational Thriving. She can't wait to discover what God has in store.

"I'm excited because I know that I love to teach and that I love Scripture," she says. "I've seen spaces where the Lord has given me permission to steward his presence in a space, and I've seen people changed by that. To get to do that is just the most exciting thing ever."

STORIES OF Faith, Grit AND Joy

Sharing Culture Through Worship

“ I grew up in a community in California where the population was majority Latinos. Growing up in church, I learned to pray, sing, and listen to the pastor preaching in both English and Spanish. In my city, there were fruterias and carnicerías galore, people blasted mariachi and banda from their stereos, and salsa was eaten with every meal. This was my home, this was my comfort zone, and I loved it.

I knew coming to Fox would be a shift in environment for me. However, I wasn't prepared for how big a shift it would be – especially during worship. Latino churches can be very different from most churches. At my home church we are used to getting loud and rowdy during worship. Preaching can often feel more intense, and engaging with God with all of our hearts, bodies and emotions is strongly encouraged.

Because my upbringing was very different from the majority, I believed the way I acted or served God might be looked down upon. I thought I had to change who I was to be a part of the group. To combat this, I joined a Life Group specifically for Latinos on campus

organized by pastor Stephanie Lopez. God used pastor Stephanie and the Life Group to show me that I didn't have to act like someone else on campus. God gave me my heritage and background for a reason. He wanted me to embrace it. He wanted to use it for his glory. So I gave it over to him.

That same semester I joined the Vespers chapel band. I remember the first time I led a song in Spanish, a Latina student came up to me and expressed how special it was for her to be able to worship God in her first language.

I believe we need more opportunities like this on campus. Just as I have found some of the practices my non-Latino friends take part in to be life-giving, I know the way the Latino community worships can be a blessing to so many as well. This upcoming semester I have the privilege of being a spiritual life intern. I hope to make more opportunities for the Latino community and others from different backgrounds to pursue and experience God, both in new ways and in the ways they have experienced him back home.” – Saturn Macias



Isabela Flores

Trusting God in the Unknown

“ Due to financial troubles, my family and I couldn't afford tuition the fall semester of my sophomore year. I struggled to understand God's plan at that moment because I felt deep in my heart that this was the place God called me to, and yet I was faced with having to leave the very place I grew to love and call home.

As I left class that morning with a heavy heart and so many questions, I found myself walking to the spiritual life office to see a campus pastor and talk things through. I met with Jamie Noling-Auth, and it was that day and that moment that I truly felt the Be Known promise – that I felt seen.

Jamie sat with me, she heard me, she provided spiritual guidance, and she offered resources to help with the transition. I was a scared 19-year-old and not so sure what was next. Jamie reminded me that God is present and near. She reminded me that in all things, God has a plan, even when we don't understand it. One thing I will never forget is how she so confidently believed that I would walk across that stage one day.

A semester later, God opened the door for me to return, and Jamie got me a job as a campus chapel greeter to help get me on my feet.

This spring, I graduated from George Fox. I am so thankful to Jamie for her compassion and prayer. My faith was tested and challenged, but Jamie showed me what it looks like to truly trust in God – even in the unknown.” – Isabela Flores



Saturn Macias

Growing in Community

“ A way that I have grown in my faith this year is through community. I am a transfer student and this was my first year at George Fox. During my freshman year at another university, I struggled to make meaningful friendships, and it was a very lonely time in my life. I decided to transfer, and I knew that I wanted to go to George Fox.

Over the summer I prayed almost every day asking that God would provide me with meaningful friendships that would help me to become more like Christ. It was honestly difficult for me to pray that prayer after my freshman year of college because I did not have a ton of hope.

When I got to George Fox I was welcomed with open arms. I have met some incredible people here. I meet with two of my best buddies once a week, where we check in on each other and challenge each other in our walks with the Lord. We ask each other intentional questions, and it has been a great opportunity for me to grow.

Brian and Grant are two guys I know I could talk to about anything – they have truly been friends that have spurred me on to be more like Christ. On the first day of class this year, I wrote down prayers I wanted God to answer. Meaningful, Christ-centered friendships was the top one. I recently went back to my journal and put a big checkmark next to that prayer request!” – Kade Sorenson



Kade Sorenson

Annika Pears

‘Nothing was going to stop me’

By Rachel Brumfield

There’s something that happens on your deathbed – a clarity about what’s important in life and the things you want to accomplish.

Take it from Annika Pears, a graduate of the George Fox Adult Degree Program. In 2015, she was hospitalized with a severe stroke that changed the course of her life.

Pears was eleven weeks pregnant with her second child and living in Kansas, where her husband was stationed in the military. They were just months away from a dream they’d invested hours of time and most of their savings in – opening a coffee shop together.

Then, in an instant, it was all wiped away. “I remember looking at the MRI and the entire left side of my brain was just completely black,” Pears recalls. “It was just dead. I had to start from the very beginning. Our life literally took a 90 degree turn.”

It took weeks for her memory to start to come back. She had to relearn how to recall certain words, manage her emotions and navigate daily life. Eventually, stroke rehabilitation brought the Pears back to Oregon to be closer to family support. There were numerous appointments and therapies, not to mention a 3-year-old and a newborn to care for.

“The first time I said my ABCs, I was so slow. It was like pulling them from the very recesses of my brain,” Pears says. “My emotional center was wiped out, so I was basically a 2-year-old in terms of my emotions. Once you realize what you’ve lost, you can’t imagine that anything is going to get better. The stroke wiped the slate clean, but it also broke me down to this point where I had to build back up.”

An important step in her journey to healing came through helping others who had suffered a similar fate. When a friend’s mom had a stroke, Pears quickly offered to meet with her. Then, through another friend, she was connected with a pastor who had suffered two strokes and lost the ability to speak.

“There’s something about connecting with someone who’s on the other side of it,” she says. “I know what it’s like to be trapped in your mind and how frustrating it is to not be able to get words out.”

“Through these two scenarios, I realized, ‘Wow, I have a story that can actually really help people. So why wouldn’t I?’”

As she began to come to terms with her stroke, Pears made an important promise to herself: to go back to school and get her bachelor’s degree.

“You realize that you don’t want anything to hold you back,” she says. “I could either let this stroke completely stop me, or I could become the best version of myself. I decided my two daughters, my husband – and really myself – deserve nothing less than who I knew I was supposed to be. I knew I was supposed to finish my degree. Nothing was going to stop me.”

As a teenager, Pears hadn’t considered herself qualified to pursue college.

“College was always something I really wanted to do, but like a lot of people I didn’t think I could do it,” she recalls. “I didn’t think I was smart enough. A lot of my friends were really smart, and I didn’t see myself that way. Now I know that’s a lie.”

“It was a process to overcome these lies I’ve been telling myself for years. They were embedded and entrenched. I think the stroke helped, because I had to rewire my brain.”

Part of stroke recovery is helping the brain make new connections to circumvent pathways that were damaged – a process called neuroplasticity, or “rewiring the brain.” A close friend encouraged Pears to see rehabilitation as a way to “rewire her brain for God’s truth.”

“It doesn’t matter what anybody thinks. You’ve got to do what God is asking you to do,” Pears says. “I don’t want my girls to think that anything can hold them back – that they’re not good enough or smart enough. I want them to know that they can do it.”

In 2020, Pears enrolled in the Adult Degree Program to pursue a bachelor’s degree in social and behavioral studies. Like many adults who return to school, it was a daunting experience – but for Pears, even more obstacles stood in her way.

“I had no idea everything that 2020 would hold,” she says. “Literally, I was diagnosed with cancer, we opened a new business, and there was a pandemic. I also had two kids at home, so I was trying to figure out Zoom and homeschooling, too.”

For the next 16 months, Pears persevered through surgery, brain fog from radiation, schedule changes due to the pandemic, and the demands of parenting two kids with schools shut down – all while completing presentations and assignments for her program.

“The Lord uses all of these things to continue to heal my mind – to push me, even when I don’t want to push myself,” she says. “Getting my degree showed me that I was always worth it. God used George Fox to instill that belief in me.”

In April of 2021, despite all the obstacles, Pears graduated with her bachelor’s degree.

“I want it to be a stake-in-the-ground moment for my girls,” she says, “so they can look back and think, ‘My mom finished her degree, and she did it when it was so hard. How can I let anything stop me?’”

Pears firmly believes that God guided her steps and brought her to this place for a reason. “I did this with the Lord. He led me, and I did it – with a stroke brain, in the middle of a pandemic, with wildfires and an ice storm, while homeschooling two kids and helping launch our new coffee business.”

“I feel so much more capable now. Nothing can stop me from the places that I know the Lord wants to take me. It’s a belief that has taken root so deep inside – I know that I’m capable of whatever I want to do next.”



A George Fox Digital camera crew, on hand to record a class project, captured the moment Patrick was baptized.

'Here is Water'

A professor and three students chose to answer God's call, turning an engineering class into an impromptu baptism

By Kimberly Felton

Mathematics professor Pete Rusaw remembers frost on the windows that August morning. The water would be chilly, and he didn't know if anyone would accept his invitation to step, fully clothed, into a metal trough to be baptized.

The students in his engineering statistics class did not expect this invitation from their professor. Instead, they were prepared to sail their newly designed concrete canoes in the trough as part of a class project.

Rusaw didn't know what would happen, but he knew he had to be faithful. He grabbed one towel from the linen closet on his way out the door, thinking it may be one too many.

So when, three hours later, a clear, confident voice responded to his invitation with, "I want to," Rusaw, somewhat startled, searched to identify the source.

An Unlikely Volunteer

The response was immediate. Usually reserved and quiet in class, the voice belonged to Emma.

"She stepped forward and I was like, 'Whoa, OK,'" Rusaw recalls. "I said, 'Why do you want to do this?' And she said, 'My life's been hard and it's time.'"

That's all it took to make Rusaw's faithfulness worth it – though he would say faithfulness does not require results.

The former pastor and current professor had not planned baptisms into his class schedule that morning. Looking back, he shrugs and says maybe the idea of turning an engineering canoe competition into a baptism service stirred the night before, during the three hours it took to fill the 150-gallon trough with two hoses connected to faucets inside the university's Engineering Maker Hub.

Rusaw had borrowed the six-foot-long metal tank from a local church that uses it as its baptismal. When he asked to borrow it for the canoe project, the pastor offered the heating element as well. Rusaw turned him down. After all, canoes don't need warm water.

But then something happened the morning of the competition. Rusaw was up early, as usual, listening to the coffee drip and inhaling the aroma, taking time to be with God with no agenda. That's when Acts 8 came to mind, where Philip shows up just as an Ethiopian in a chariot wondered what the Scriptures about Christ meant. As Philip showed from Scripture that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Ethiopian looked up, saw water, and said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" (Acts 8:36).

Rusaw drank his coffee and pondered, "Here is water – what can stand in the way?" He wasn't sure anyone would do it, but the idea of baptisms pressed on his heart and mind, and he was sure he needed to offer the opportunity.

Faithfulness Matters

At 8 a.m. Rusaw welcomed his first class gathered outside the Maker Hub, wearing jackets and sweatshirts to stay warm. Each team brought a foot-long canoe constructed primarily of concrete. They waited to see which of their designs, propelled by a powerful fan at the end of the trough, would float and carry a load and which ones would simply crumble and sink.

Rusaw opened his Bible to Acts 8 and read the story of Philip and the Ethiopian. He told the class that after the competition they would have the option to be baptized. Then the competition began, with cheers and groans, success and defeat.



Emma was the first to volunteer to be baptized

“Look, here is water.

What can stand in the way of my being baptized?”

— Acts 8:36

At the conclusion of the class, Rusaw said again, “Here is water. Does anyone want to be baptized?”

No one accepted.

“And it was like, ‘Hey, it’s OK; nothing wrong with that,’” he says. “It may have been a link in someone’s faith chain in the first class, but they weren’t ready. It reminded me that faithfulness to the

Spirit’s voice cannot put conditions on God’s answer.”

The lack of response in the first class was a neutral outcome, Rusaw says, neither good nor bad. “But even if it turns out badly, it doesn’t necessarily mean we didn’t act in obedience and faith.”

Still, he considered skipping the baptism invitation at the next class. “There

was a slight temptation to say, ‘No one will respond anyway. You’re running a little late and you don’t really need to do this,’” he says.

But faithfulness matters.

Opening the next statistics class, Rusaw again read Acts 8, telling his class that they, like the Ethiopian, had the opportunity to use this water. Again they held the compe-

tion, and again Rusaw gave his invitation.

Zack, another student in class that morning, was debating his own response when Emma accepted the invitation. “She generally is a quiet and reserved person, so the fact that she was the first one to volunteer was a little bit of a surprise to me,” he says. “It was also a little bit motivating. She kind of helped tip me over, like ‘Yep, I’m definitely going to do this.’”

As Emma handed off her jacket, phone and shoes to a classmate, Rusaw remembered the crumbled concrete canoes scattered at the bottom of the trough. It would hurt to step on that in the midst of a baptism.

Zack and others helped pull out the canoe remains. He distinctly remembers getting his sleeve wet, but before long the wet sleeve wouldn’t matter.

With Emma ready to be baptized, Rusaw asked her, “How do you think this might give you a place to stand that’s new?”

“For myself,” she said, “I think it’s more that I’m not putting it off any longer.”

The dunk in the chilly water was quick, and she came out grinning.

Rusaw handed Emma his one towel, looked out at the class, and said, “Here is water. Would anyone else like to be baptized?”

“I would,” Zack said.

“As soon as he mentioned baptism, I felt like God put it on my heart that I should do this,” Zack recalls. “It had been in the back of my mind. I knew it was something I wanted to do. At some point I was going to. But the moment had never just shown up

and presented itself until that time.”

Zack was in his dress clothes, ready for work later that day. “My initial thought was, ‘This sounds like a bad idea logistically,’” he says. “But that voice did not win out. I’m glad it didn’t, because it was a very good experience. I’m very glad I did it.”

Zack laughs when he hears he could have stepped into heated water that morning. “The water was pretty chilly, but I didn’t notice it much,” he says. “I had a little bit of adrenaline going.”

As Zack swiped at his wet skin with the damp towel Emma handed him, yet another student, Patrick, separated from the crowd and walked forward. “I was baptized as an infant, and I really was just waiting for the right time,” he told Rusaw. One more set of soaking wet clothes. One more grin emerging from the water.

Not even a corner of the towel was dry.

The Courage to be First

Rusaw grinned, seeing puddles form under the dripping students. “This is kind of where you live, right?” he asked the class, motioning to the Maker Hub behind him, where engineering students spend hours working on projects and interacting with classmates. “So this is kind of your home? And this is kind of your family, right? I think that in this world, there are all these opportunities – but because it’s tough to have courage, sometimes somebody wants to do whatever it is that God wants them to do, but they need somebody else to step first.”

For Zack, the baptism signaled the beginning of God leading him into greater courage.

“I’d come to the realization that, in certain areas of my life, I’d been letting fear drive me instead of letting God guide me,”

he says. “I hadn’t seen that for what it was until last semester. I realized that is not how I want to live, nor is it healthy.

“Before the semester started, I had been praying, ‘God, if there’s anything, any development I need to have in my life, if you could have that happen sooner than later, that would be great.’ The baptism was part of that, that I didn’t foresee at all, but it definitely was part of it.”

Seeming to forget the courage he himself chose to exercise, Rusaw, months later, still expresses wonder that in a class full of confident, vocal undergrads, it was the quiet one who stepped forward first. The lion, he says, who looks like a lamb.

“She’s the kind of person who is in engineering because she has resolve. It took more courage to do what she did than even what the other two people did. She’s just one of those students who’s like, ‘I’ve got to do what I’ve got to do.’”

Courage breeds courage, Rusaw says. “Some people are given a measure of faith to go first, and that encourages others who may have wanted to obey but not had quite enough courage to step forward. Few are willing to step up first, but many want to and are waiting for the lions to exercise their gift.”

Rusaw holds with some reverence the trust the students put in him, allowing him to dunk them in the tank that morning, to be a significant part of their faith story.

“That means that ‘being known’ is starting to happen – it has to be,” he says. “Otherwise, they wouldn’t put forth that kind of trust. More important, they’re saying, ‘Jesus is worth trusting. I need to follow him into what he’s calling me.’”

Much like Rusaw did that chilly August morning.



← Mathematics professor Pete Rusaw prays with Zack, a 2022 graduate.

Lasting Legacies

Five retiring employees reflect on what kept them at George Fox a combined 137 years

By Sean Patterson



Dave Adrian

41
Years

When someone has worked at one place for more than 40 years, you can forgive them if they lose track of how many titles they've held. Such is the case with **Dave Adrian**, the development officer who retired last December after dedicating his entire adult life to the mission of George Fox University.

After graduating from George Fox with a degree in Christian ministries in 1980, Adrian got the opportunity to work at his alma mater when Maurice Chandler, director of development, hired him as a "development associate."

"I was a product of the Be Known promise before we ever officially adopted that brand," Adrian says. "Maurice saw something in me that matched my talents and passions with the school's needs and opportunities. As a result, I enjoyed a career of matching donor passions with university needs. I thank the Lord I was given the opportunity."

Since those early days, he's held a variety of titles – director of development, vice president of development, director of planned giving, and senior development officer among them. "After 41-plus years, I can't remember them all," he laughs. Common to all was a desire to help the institution flourish by generating gifts and

maintaining healthy relationships with the university's financial supporters.

Adrian's love of George Fox comes honestly. During his college years he played basketball and sang in both the school choir and Dayspring, a touring ensemble. Along the way, he interacted with fellow students, alumni, church leaders and potential givers, making him uniquely qualified to join the development staff right out of college.

"I firmly believe in the mission, values, vision and promise of the university, and, as an alumnus, this is my school," he says. "As such, I wanted to help all students have the same experiences I had, being challenged academically, socially, athletically and spiritually."

He did so by connecting donors to what they were most passionate about. "Endowed and annual scholarship calls were always enjoyable for me, because we allowed donors to set the scholarship criteria based on their academic interests, geographical locations, extracurricular activities or denominational background," he says.

Over the past 10 years, Adrian was instrumental in raising money for athletic facilities, including the soccer/lacrosse field,

Stoffer Family Stadium, and making improvements to the baseball and softball fields. "As a former Bruin athlete, I thoroughly enjoyed calling on former Bruin athletes and those passionate about athletics," he says. "It was a personal joy for me."

He says he'll miss two things the most: the longtime donors who became friends and the many colleagues "who believed in and encouraged me." But Adrian doesn't plan to go away. You will still see him at university events, athletic contests and his weekly "geezers" lunch on campus. He and his wife Pat also plan to travel more extensively.

"I was a product of the Be Known promise before we ever officially adopted that brand."

for philosophy under the tutelage of longtime professor Arthur Roberts, who "gave me a model of the Christian intellectual life and a sensible approach to epistemology that valued the senses, rational thinking and intuition," he says of his mentor.

Smith went on to pastor a Friends church in Portland in the 1980s, while concurrently teaching part time at his alma mater. Later, after earning a PhD in philosophy from the University of Oregon in 1991, he decided to teach full time in 1992. Since then, he's taught a wide range of philosophy and religion courses, as well as one health class, Introduction to Marathon Training, in which the "final" was to run a marathon or half-marathon, reflecting another of his life's passions: running.

In a word, "community" kept him at George Fox all these years. "We seek to become an educational community that demonstrates the meaning of Jesus Christ," he says. "I like the emphasis on 'seeking to become.' We are not there yet. We are on the way, which is an ongoing mark of Jesus' people. We seek to be learners – all of us, including the professors – and we want our learning to honor Christ. For me, that has been an inspiring vision; I'm grateful to be part of such a community."

Even as he "retires," Smith will teach two courses, Logic and Virtue Theory, in the spring of 2023, and is considering teaching on an adjunct basis in future years. He also plans to shift his writing focus from philosophy to fiction, with the first project being a revision of his science fiction novel, *Castles*.

Phil Smith retires this summer after teaching full time at the institution for 30 years, but the past three decades represent only a fraction of his George Fox journey.

In truth, Smith's connection to the college began in the summer of 1965, when, between the fourth and fifth grades, he joined pastors from his church to attend the Yearly Meeting on campus. Years later, his impressive test scores in high school prompted numerous recruiting letters from colleges, but they fell on deaf ears: He had already made his choice.

"I applied to just one college," says Smith, a 1977 George Fox alumnus who describes himself as a "GFU lifer." "To be clear, I do not recommend this as a strategy for choosing a college!"

During his undergraduate years, Smith discovered a passion



Phil Smith

30
Years



Eloise Hockett

24
Years

She's traveled the world on behalf of George Fox, establishing educational partnerships in Kenya and presenting research both domestically and internationally, but College of Education professor **Eloise Hockett's** most indelible memory in her 24-year career is the story of one student.

A few years ago, she learned of an undergraduate struggling to complete the requirements to earn a teaching license. As department chair, Hockett creatively crafted a plan to help him get on track, part of which involved setting up weekly accountability meetings.

"At first I was skeptical if the student would succeed, but he rose to the challenge and through sheer grit, determination and perseverance, met all of the requirements," Hockett recalls. "I became a coach, mentor, mom, cheerleader and whatever was needed to help him maintain forward progress. I cried at graduation and his achievement."

The alumnus, now teaching near his hometown and considered family, was one of the first people Hockett called to share the news of her retirement this summer.

Hockett began at George Fox in 1998 as supervisor of student teachers. In 2001, she became director of field services – the office that places student teachers into area schools – while continuing to teach on an adjunct basis in the Master of Education program. She became an assistant professor in 2006 and in recent years served as co-chair of the College of Education and director of undergraduate teacher education.

In addition to her teaching duties, Hockett frequently traveled

to Kenya, where she helped develop a peace curriculum for Quaker secondary schools, delivered professional development training for teachers, and promoted education efforts for girls and women in rural areas.

"It's also been so amazing to watch students work toward their goals, achieve those goals, and then go out into the world and make a difference for students in the field of education."

On her George Fox experience, Hockett says she "truly enjoyed my colleagues" and that "the students kept me going."

"I have gained lifelong friendships, especially from those who have mentored me along the way," she says. "It's also been so amazing to watch students work toward their goals, achieve those goals, and then go out into the world and make a difference for students in the field of education."

In looking to the future, she plans to return to Kenya to continue her work and allocate more time for family, friends and travel.

For 22 years, **Melissa Terry** committed to several administrative positions on campus, most recently serving as chief of staff in the president's office. She announced her retirement last fall, ending a career that left a lasting impact both logistically and relationally.

Fellow employees will recall her role as coordinator of numerous faculty conferences and commencement ceremonies, as the person who helped launch Serve Day and the Women's Leadership Development Initiative, as co-leader of the Welcome Weekend planning team during the two pandemic years, and as organizer of

the university's 125th anniversary celebration.

Students remember her for other reasons – for her listening ear and for the friendship she offered over dinner or tea at her and husband Mark's home. The Terrys opened their home to several students over the years and remain friends with many of them to this day.

"I enjoyed serving the university, collaborating with people, bringing them together and mentoring students," she says. "My personal mission is empowering with commitment, integrity and light. I hope I lived that out."

Terry was hired as an administrative assistant in the academic affairs office, was later promoted to executive assistant, and moved to the president's office soon after Robin Baker took office in 2007, later being promoted to chief of staff. In addition to her administrative duties, she also served as board of trustees secretary. Melissa and Mark are looking forward to more travel and welcoming another grandchild in June.



Mike Magill

20
Years

When it came to getting acquainted with his students, **Mike Magill** had a simple formula: learn their names by the end of the first week of classes, and commit to memory at least one thing about each individual, whether that be their hobby or hometown.

"It seems that if I know their name and at least one thing about them, I can start connecting faster," says Magill, who retires this summer after 20 years as a professor of mechanical engineering. "My class style is asking lots of questions. I like dialoguing with the students in class and using their names."

Magill arrived at George Fox after teaching at Oklahoma State

and Purdue. What he found – and what kept him in Newberg for two decades – was an engineering program with a Christ-centered focus that allowed him to freely express his faith and connect with students on a spiritual level. "Many years ago, I started praying out loud for my students before tests," he says. "Year after year, students have commented about how much they appreciate it, so I've never stopped."

During his tenure, Magill taught 15 different classes, served for 16 years as the engineering program's faculty point person for recruitment, and was department chair for several years. He also led eight Juniors Abroad excursions and participated in several projects

with Engineering Ministries International, including one trip that involved taking civil engineering students to Nicaragua to design a steel structure – a large horse arena – for a ministry for disabled children.

What he'll miss most are his colleagues and his students, one of whom had trouble accepting the fact he wouldn't see Magill after graduation. "In a moment of genuine emotion, I communicated to students that perhaps we might never see each other again and I would miss them," Magill says. "It was dead quiet for several seconds, then one student said, 'Dr. Magill, I'm going to come live with you.'"

Magill's plans don't include having students move in. Rather, they involve enjoying the slower pace of life in the mountains of Eastern Oregon, where he has moved with his wife Lisa, and continuing to volunteer with Engineering Ministries International.



Melissa Terry

22
Years



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ALUMNI KEY

B	Bachelor's degree
M	Master's degree
D	Doctoral degree
n	non-degree

1950-59

Marion Wilhite (n50) had his life and Navy experience highlighted in a Veteran's Day tabloid special in the Pamplin Media Group newspapers in Oregon. The headline read "Newberg sailor among few remaining WWII veterans in the United States." He served in Guam from 1945-46, just as the war ended, and was later a banker for more than 35 years, starting in Newberg.

1960-69

Brian Beals (B65) and **Janice (Kennon) Beals** (n66) received attention last summer when *The View* newsletter of Friendsview Retirement Community highlighted them during the 60th anniversary celebration of the retirement center adjacent to the George Fox campus. Both worked for Friendsview during its early years, Brian on the grounds crew to help fund his college tuition and later on the construction crew, and Janice earning income as a waitress in the dining hall. His father, Charles, was the founder and first executive director of Friendsview.

1970-79

Shirley (Roberts) Hadley (B71) and **Dale Hadley** (B72) are both continuing to work part time in their careers. She is a bookkeeper with Grace Community Church in Gresham, Oregon, and he continues with The H Group as a certified financial planner.

1980-89

Scott Wilding (B82) and **Wendy (Forman) Wilding** (n83) had their home featured in a July

article in the *Yakima Herald* newspaper, titled "Yakima Abode: A New Life in an Old House." Their 1942 house has been updated by respecting its original style.

Janelle (Puckett) Engle (B82) and **Frank Engle** (B82, M95) in April moved to Spokane, Washington, where she is continuing her private counseling practice and he has retired after 22 years with Friendsview Retirement Community, most recently as director of residency planning after serving as director of marketing.

Mike Royer (B82) in August was inducted into the Quincy (Washington) School District's Wall of Fame, chosen for bringing "honor to themselves, our schools and the community." He still holds individual basketball records at Quincy High School and was named a first-team all-state player in 1978, prior to joining the George Fox Bruins, for whom he was a standout guard for four years. Since 2014 he's been a counselor, athletic director and a girls' basketball coach at Irrigon (Oregon) High School.

Roger Watson (B82) started in August as the new chief financial officer at Friendsview Retirement Community in Newberg. He moves up from the position of controller, held for nearly two years.

Brian Barkdull (B83) retired this year after 23 years in Sierra Vista, Arizona, where he worked as CEO of American Southwest Credit Union. He took early retirement, and he and his wife left this year for a 23-month mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving as communication specialists in Asia. They are living in Tokyo.

Dan Cammack (B84) is traveling the world in his first year as the field director for Evangelical Friends Mission. During the first quarter of this year he was in Bolivia, Peru, Thailand and Ireland to visit missionaries. He is responsible for the care of missionaries and development of international fields and field support teams. He was pastor of the Tigard (Oregon) Community Church until 2012, followed by eight years as executive director of EFM in Newberg.

Darleen (Mock) Ortega (B84) has been a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals since 2003. That's her day job. Her other job is working as a movie critic, and in October she was

honored as the "Critic of the Month" for the *Portland Tribune* newspaper. She is the first woman of Hispanic heritage and the first woman of color to serve on the court of appeals. In May she was reelected for her fourth six-year term, winning 64 percent in a rare contested race.

Steven Knudsen (B85) is president of Frontier Gratings and an independent nonprofit development professional in Atlanta, in his third year. But he may be better known as a member, since 2019, of the Gwinnett County Public Schools Board, serving Georgia's largest district, with 179,000 students in 141 schools.

Matt Mount (B86) is audit partner and SEC reviewing partner with KPMG in Dallas. He's worked for the international audit and tax advisory services company for 33 years. His expertise is with healthcare entities and companies in the insurance and biotechnology fields.

Doreen Dodgen-Magee (B87) in October released her new book, *Restart: Designing a Healthy Post Pandemic Life*. It was the subject of a lengthy question-and-answer interview on Oregon Public Broadcasting on March 15. She is in her 31st year as a psychologist, based in Lake Oswego, Oregon, but with a national and international presence as an author and speaker who focuses on how technology shapes people.

Brian Gardner (B89) is in his third year as vice president of advancement with Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, Massachusetts, after two years as senior philanthropic advisor with Gordon College. His background includes advancement roles at Wheaton College, Indiana Wesleyan University and George Fox, where he was the vice president of advancement from 2012 to 2014.

1990-99

Tim Graham (B90, M98) in April was hired as the new principal of the Forest Grove (Oregon) Community Alternative Learning Center, the non-traditional route for earning a high school diploma. He is helping guide the renovation and expansion of its facility as it grows to house 160 students in



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the fall. In February, he resigned as principal of Catalyst High School in the Newberg School District, where he had been since 2017 after seven years as head of an alternative school in Oregon City, Oregon.

Darcy (Edwards) Davis (B91) is now teaching graduate-level social work classes for the University of Nevada, Reno, as an adjunct instructor following retirement from the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, for which she was a statewide emergency and disaster behavioral health coordinator.

Jon Burgi (B92) is back in the U.S. after six years in Managua, Nicaragua, directing the nonprofit Engineering Ministries International, for which he also was project leader. He is now in Sherwood, Oregon, serving as the lead project manager with McMillen Jacobs Associates, in his second year.

Rob Felton (B92) in February was named by George Fox President Robin Baker as his chief of staff, moving up from director of executive communication after nearly three years. He has been with George Fox for nearly 28 years, initially serving as sports information director, then holding several roles in marketing communications, including executive director.

Jon Hagen (B92) is vice president of operations with Custom Decorators in Portland, an in-home design and installation service company. He is completing his 10th year.

Christine (Deboy) Drazan (B93) is one of three candidates to be the next governor of Oregon, winning the Republican nomination in the May 17 Primary Election. She resigned her seat, effective Jan. 31, as a member of the Oregon House of Representatives (District 39) to make the run. A resident of Oregon City, she was the incumbent House Republican caucus leader, elected to her representative post in 2018 and reelected in 2020 to serve much of Clackamas County.

Jeff Kosmicki (B93) is the chief of police with the Newberg-Dundee Police Department, given that post in July after serving as interim chief for 14 months following the resignation of chief **Brian Casey** (B98) after 29 years with the department. Kosmicki, a graduate of the FBI National Academy, has been with the department for 25 years, 24 as captain. He won out over 13 candidates.

Mike McConaughey (B93, M09) was honored in March as Newberg's 2022 "Amazing Educator" by the *Newberg Graphic* and Pamplin Media Group. He was cited "because he fosters a nurturing environment where budding thespians and production crew members can grow." He has been at Newberg High School for seven years, teaching language arts and career and technical education classes in addition to being drama director.

Julie (Van Hook) Anderson (B94, M95), after years of research, in December published a 262-page biography of one of the chief founders of Pacific Academy, the forerunner of George Fox University. *William Hobson (1820-1891): Pioneer, Minister, and Founder of the Evangelical Friends Church (Quakers) in the Pacific Northwest* recounts the life of the man who left Iowa on a mid-life call from God to establish a new Quaker community on the West Coast. Anderson is the congregational care pastor at Newberg Friends Church.

Randy James (B94) and **Amy (Kierulff) James** (B97, M99) and their three children were the subjects of a newspaper feature in the Bend (Oregon) *The Bulletin* newspaper, which noted they "take it to another level of involvement" in area theater activity, where all are on stage or backstage helpers. The couple started when they moved to Bend and became active in theatrical dessert performances at their church. She currently is working with the Ellipse Theater Community to develop future projects and establish infrastructure, in addition to teaching at Oregon Family School, a charter school in Bend. He is with Lucidly, a software and information technology company in Bend, for which he's been director of customer experience the past three years.

Heidi (Schneider) Pender (B94) and **Rachelle Staley** (Boo, M15) have started a nonprofit organization that provides parenting education and adoption home study services to adoptive families throughout Oregon. Integrity Home Studies was launched in 2020 in Newberg. Both are co-executive directors, with Heidi directing social services efforts and Rachelle serving as managing director. Rachelle is the youth pastor at Wayside Friends Church in Newberg, started in 2017. Heidi and her husband, **Michael Pender** (B94), own and manage sev-

eral vacation rental homes in Newberg, and he is also a consultant and home renovation specialist under the name M Systems, LLC.

Wendi Upjohn (B94) is back at George Fox, starting a year ago as coordinator of the College of Business' undergraduate program. She worked the nine years prior at Bay Club of Tigard, Oregon, in positions in marketing, graphic design and pro shop management.

Ian Bingham (M95) is a 35-year global operations leader at ESCO, a manufacturer of mining and infrastructure equipment in Portland, acquired by the Weir Group in 2021. Since then, as senior director for sustainability, he has led its sustainability initiatives, including energy reduction programs.

Kenna (Yonker) West (B95) is a new member of the League of Oregon Cities Board of Directors, starting in January with the Salem-based association of 242 cities. She is in her fifth year as the city manager of Willamina, a town of just over 2,000 in Yamhill County. She also is co-owner of the Double Bar W Ranch in Amity, Oregon, started in 2007 with a focus on raising, training and racing barrel horses.

Aaron Downs (B96, M97) started last July as superintendent of the Canby (Oregon) School District after 22 years with the nearby West Linn-Wilsonville School District, where he was a teacher, principal of Wilsonville High School for four years, then assistant superintendent of secondary schools starting in 2015.

Jason Gardner (B97, M05) in February became vice president of product engineering with Gainwell Technologies in Portland, a healthcare company offering Medicaid management information systems and other services.

Larry Garrison (B97) received the award for the best original scientific research paper at the 2021 annual conference of the American Society of Extracorporeal Technology. He is chief of cardiovascular perfusion at Franciscan Health Medical Center in Indianapolis after previously serving as a product and clinical segment project manager with Transonic Systems, a manufacturer of medical devices that measure blood flow volume.



In the early 1900s, the chemistry lab was a separate building sometimes described as a "shed" and stood alone to prevent the spread of fire in case of an emergency. Chemistry, biology, botany and physics were all taught in the lab which, according to the 1906-07 course catalog, had recently been upgraded with "some splendid new apparatus."

Rachel (James) Poet (B97) recently became a partner in the business where she practices: Highland Veterinary Hospital in Redmond, Oregon. She has worked there more than 18 years after receiving her degree in veterinary medicine from Oregon State University.

David Coulombe (B98), after 20 years with the law firm Brewer & Coulombe in Corvallis, Oregon, has completed certifications for marriage mentoring and is looking forward to shifting his career focus from litigation to mediation and conciliation. He has become an advisor to local governments on land use planning and labor and general municipal matters, and is a deputy city attorney for Corvallis, Philomath and Harrisburg, Oregon. He has been admitted to the Tribal Court Bar of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Barbara (Smith) Holmes (B98, M05) moved this spring to Cocoa, Florida, where she and her husband own and operate P & S Power Electronics, a business that specializes in creating software and solutions for general engineering projects. She is working on a second book after publishing her first book, *He Calls Me Bethany*, in 2020.

Anne Marie (Bracco) Jacob (B95) is in her second year as personalization and move-in coordinator with the Friendsview Retirement Community in Newberg.

John Knight (M98) in October was named community development director for Camp Verde, Arizona, a city of 11,000 surrounded by Prescott National Forest. He moved from Jerome, Arizona, where he was a zoning administrator for two years.

Julie Morse (B98) is vice president of customer success at Swan Island Networks in Portland. She started with the firm in 2017 and moved to her current position during her first year with the cloud services computer security company that provides businesses with highly secure software. She also is a product and technology consultant through her own firm, River Parkway Labs, founded in 2011.

Cari (Hogan) Nimeth (B98) this year completed a doctor of ministry degree in spiritual formation and discipleship through Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City. She is completing her 22nd year working for the Salvation Army, the last eight writing discipleship curriculum for teenagers.

Cherie Buckner-Webb (B99) now has a Boise, Idaho, city park named for her. The half-acre park was dedicated in August, named for Idaho's first Black woman in the state's legislature. She served in the Idaho House from 2010 to 2012, then in the Senate through 2020. She is the founder (2007) and principal owner of Sojourner Coaching in Boise.

Kristie (Ragan) Freeman (B99, M20) last July was named assistant principal at Neil Armstrong Middle School in Forest Grove, Oregon. She taught language arts at that level for 22 years, the last five at the school, and was also part of the leadership team.

Chad Hollabaugh (B99) and **Jaliene (Miller) Hollabaugh** (Boo, D12) are in Normandy Park, Washington, where both are involved in his fourth-generation business, Hollabaugh Brothers & Associates. It is a manufacturers' representative firm connecting plumbing and HVAC wholesalers with end users. He's been with the company since 2004 and has served as president since 2013. She is director of marketing/manufacturers' representative, in her eighth year with the company, and is working on a chapter on self-care for teachers, part of a book being prepared by a doctor of education cohort friend.

Jefferson Mildenerger (B99) is now using his management skills to help the city of Newberg, where he grew up. He was appointed in March to fill a vacancy on the seven-member city council. He is in his 11th year with Kaiser Permanente, in his fifth year as a business consultant working on the impact of social determinants of healthcare and Medicare for the national chain.

Celia Núñez-Flores (B99, M05) in February was named by the Oregon State Senate to the governing board of the Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech) in Klamath Falls. She also served on the 15-member board previously, from 2015 to 2019. She is deputy director of Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, leading strategic policy and funding coordination for 17 state community colleges.

Melissa (Smith) Radcliffe (M99) is beginning her second year as principal of Bandon High

Continued on page 58



Heroes Like Me

Jordan Ifueko creates stories for a new generation of fantasy fiction readers

By Andrew Shaughnessy

As a child, **Jordan (Enobakhare) Ifueko** (B13) breathed books. She inhaled stories like oxygen, drawing life from the pages of the British literature that crowded her Nigerian immigrant parents' shelves. Fairy tales and fantasy novels filled her with wonder and painted her imagination in bright shades of magic.

It wasn't long before Ifueko, brimming with verbs and plots and characters, exhaled stories of her own, crafting worlds in ink and page. She started writing *Raybearer* – the young adult fantasy novel that would eventually land Ifueko on the *New York Times* Bestseller List – when she was just 13.

"I'm still not sure what it is in different children's brains that makes some of them automatically want to recreate what they're reading, while others are content to just enjoy those worlds," Ifueko says. "Both of those impulses are natural and great. But for me, as soon as I loved books, I had to make them. I think maybe it's about loving something so much that you want to be a part of it."

And yet, for all her love for fairy tales and epic fantasy, Ifueko couldn't help but feel that the genre refused to love her back. While she was Black, the heroes and heroines of her favorite novels were invariably white. The plots were Eurocentric, set in cool green hills and forests scattered with Cinderella castles – calling to mind the Britain or France of yore, but rarely Nigeria or India.

"I didn't feel like I even had permission to write stories about people who looked like me until I was much older," she says.

Fantasy stories, it seemed to Ifueko, were narratives where she did not belong.

When she was 12, Ifueko's family moved from Los Angeles to Newberg. At 16, she enrolled at George Fox as a freshman. There, she dove headfirst into the English program, devouring literature courses and continuing to hone her craft as a writer, both in and out of the classroom.

"You could see the gifts she had," recalls English professor Gary Tandy. "She had this whole different level of intensity. She just loved reading and talking about literature so much."

Even as Ifueko was learning and growing in her love of literature and skill with the pen, she was learning and growing as a person, too. As her worldview expanded and her faith grew

deeper, the way she grappled with the complexities of race and representation in literature and history became more complex as well.

"While I was there, George Fox tried to expose the student body to lots of diverse narratives," Ifueko says. "But being a majority white environment, it was also where my eyes were opened to how insidious imperialism can be."

Even amidst the joy and wonder of the stories she loved, Ifueko began to notice the tension between competing narratives all around her – more traditional, Western-dominated perspectives squaring off against non-Western traditions in everything from literature to history to theology. It played out not just in her own mind, but in classrooms and conversations across campus.

"Ultimately, I am so grateful for my time at George Fox, because I could see these conflicts happen, and see how many Christians were wrestling through these things," Ifueko says. "George Fox became a place where it was safe for me to struggle with that. I think if I had gone to a secular university it would have been easier for me to compartmentalize and say, 'Oh these views that question things, of course they do that, because they're not Christians.' Whereas, because most everybody was a Christian within George Fox, it made it easier for me to say, 'Hey, questioning doesn't negate faith. You can be someone whose faith is very important to you and still ask really hard questions about things you've believed for a long time.'"

All the while, she kept chipping away at the novel she had started as a young teenager. And as Ifueko grew and changed, the book changed with her, transforming from a mirror of the Eurocentric fairy tales on which she was raised into a vastly more complicated – and vastly more interesting – story about a young heroine deconstructing the myths she once believed about empire and power and destiny, and ultimately finding the courage to fight for and build a better world.

After college, Ifueko spent a few years working for an academic publisher, but she kept on writing and dreaming. When one of her short stories was picked up by the Hugo-nominated magazine *Strange Horizons*, a literary agent reached out to ask if she had written any other fiction. When she offered the first few

chapters of her novel, the agent saw Ifueko had something special. Within two weeks, she had a book deal with a major publisher.

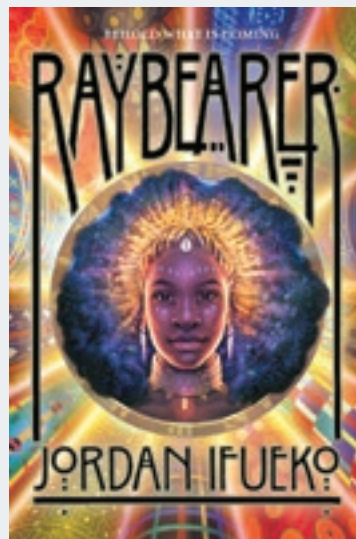
The end result, *Raybearer*, has since become a *New York Times* bestseller, was named "best book of the year" by numerous publications, including *Publishers Weekly*, *Buzzfeed* and *People* magazine, and was nominated for the prestigious 2020 Nebula Award for Middle Grade and Young Adult Fiction.

"We're just really proud of her," Tandy says. "It's amazing what she has accomplished. But also – especially in this current environment where the humanities are perhaps not as respected as professional degrees – we want our students to know that they can pursue their love of writing, that there are possibilities if they work hard at it."

These days, Ifueko is still breathing books. Still inhaling graphic novels, young adult fiction and fantasy novels from a growing pantheon of diverse authors. She's exhaling her own stories, too – stories where heroines who look like her grapple with nuance and struggle for justice in worlds of magic and wonder.

Redemptor, the sequel to *Raybearer*, was released in August 2021. Netflix has announced it will be adapting the books into a streaming series, while Ifueko herself is working on new young adult and middle grade fantasy books.

When it comes to representation, Ifueko believes the world of publishing and literature still has a long way to go, but she is determined to be part of that change, harnessing the power of story to build a better world.



School on the Southern Oregon Coast. She took over leadership of the 200-student school in August after 22 years with the Tillamook (Oregon) School District.

2000-09

Jennifer (Records) Filonczuk (Boo) and her husband Joseph are in Bavaria, Germany, where he is a U.S. Department of Defense teacher on the Army base there. They have authored two children's books: *Adventures of Joseph and Esther: Mask of the Red Ninja*, and *Adventures of Joseph and Esther: Esther and Poo in the Case of the Missing Space Boy*.

Shawn Horn (Moo, Do4), describing herself as "The Shamebusting Psychologist," is a speaker and writer in addition to her private practice as a licensed psychologist. She was a TEDx speaker in October in Spokane, Washington, and has launched a podcast, *Inspired Living*. She also has a YouTube channel; is cohost of a TV show, *Uncovered*; and is a columnist for *TOI* magazine, a health and wellness website. Since 2018, she has been in residency with the University of Washington School of Medicine.

Andrew Wilson (Boo) is the new executive director of the safety and security division

of TriMet, the Portland-area mass transit system. He was appointed in January and oversees the departments of safety, security, transit police and environmental services.

Bryce Brewer (no1) is in Spokane Valley, Washington, where he was a youth and young adult director with Downriver Church in Spokane, Washington, for more than two years until April 2021. He is now a chief operating officer for Pinnacle Investigations, started in 2018, and also serves as a pastor, speaker, emcee, host and officiant.

Drew Coleman (Bo1) has launched Opt Real Estate, announced in January in partnership with Side, a real estate technology company. Headquartered in Lake Oswego, Oregon, the new company has 20 agents.

Laura (Yeamans) Kvam (Bo1) is in Hallstahammar, Sweden, where she is a sloyd teacher at a public grade school. The course teaches handcrafts, and she instructs sewing, crochet, knitting and weaving in the textiles lab. She started in 2018 and also is studying at Linköping University to earn a teaching degree, this year completing her dissertation in Swedish.

Robert Nava (Mo1) is the new associate vice president of academic affairs and dean

of graduate studies at Minnesota State University Moorhead. He began this last academic year after serving for two years as dean of the College of Education at Montana State University Billings.

Tamara (Yeamans) Nydell (Bo1) has launched her own piano tuning and repair business, Songbird Piano Service, started in 2019 in Paonia, Colorado, where she is also home-schooling her four children.

Erin (Stelzenmueller) Watson (Bo1) is in her third year as program manager for the first-of-its-kind International Alliance for Cancer Early Detection at Oregon Health & Science University's Knight Cancer Institute. She is a collaboration specialist with the Advanced Research Center.

Ryan Dearinger (Bo2) has returned to his alma mater, starting last fall as an associate professor of history. He holds a PhD in history from the University of Utah, received in 2009.

Sharia Hays (Bo2) is on campus again, now as associate dean of student life, starting last fall. The previous five years she was at Rochester University in Rochester Hills, Michigan, where she held the positions of accommodations officer, Title IX coordinator, dean of students and adjunct professor.

Melissa Skoczylas (Mo2) is an account manager in Indianapolis at the headquarters of the health insurance company Anthem, which is changing its name to Elevance Health. She started in 2021 after several years in Portland and two years in Honolulu with Kaiser Permanente.

Matt Gerber (Bo3) is now in Dallas, where he is involved in global corporate social responsibility with Gartner, an information technology research and consulting company. His focus is on measuring and amplifying the impact of the company's 16,000 employees worldwide, seeking to increase volunteerism and philanthropy to engage and impact communities. He is currently in a dual doctorate (PhD, DBA) program through the Royal Academy of Economics and Technology in Zurich, Switzerland.

Kevin Leid (Bo3), an information technology operations engineer with ICON plc in Portland, reports his company was the primary lab for the development of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. He has 25 years of experience in information systems, IT consulting and project management.

Deb (Waterman) Marinos (Bo3) is owner/manager of Adaptability for Life in Woodburn, Oregon, offering licensed professional counseling and diversity training.

Angela Plowhead (Mo3, Do6) is owner and clinical psychologist, in her ninth year, with Capacity Solutions in Portland, which offers therapeutic services related to issues of aging. Recently, she was a candidate for the new Oregon U.S. Congressional District 6 position, but did not win the Republican nomination in the May 17 Primary Election.

Benjamin Gorman (Mo4) has taught English and writing courses at Central High School in Independence, Oregon, for 20 years. He's also the president of the Central Education Association, the local teachers' union. He may be better known as owner of Not a Pipe Publishing, started in 2013. His success with the company was detailed in a December feature article in *The Oregonian* newspaper.

Betty Jo Steele (Bo4, Mo8) is now serving as a pulpit supply minister for area churches following her retirement in January and move to Salem, Oregon, after working as a chaplain at Silverton (Oregon) Medical Center since 2014. Previously, she was a dental hygienist for 27 years.

Carlos Marin (Mo5) is a new leadership coach with Building Champions, an executive coaching firm in Lake Oswego, Oregon. He started in August, leaving Portland Bible College after nearly 15 years, the last two years as vice president for advancement.

Joseph Agyei-Mensah (Do5) is senior associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Accra, Ghana, with a membership of 2,500. In that position since 1995, he guides ministry programs and has 25 pastors and volunteers under his supervision.

Trevor Combs (Bo5), in Portland for the last 10 years with Trelleberg Sealing Solutions, in March was promoted to technical manager for global off-highway and America's fluid power. He is responsible for providing technical inputs that begin strategic development of products.

Abigail (Rine) Favale (Bo5), dean of George Fox's College of Humanities since 2020, has left the position to become a faculty member at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at Notre Dame University, starting July

1. She started at George Fox in 2011 as a professor of English and later directed the honors program for two years before being named dean. An author and speaker, she has recently been a Life and Dignity Writing Fellow at Notre Dame.

Malorie (Wilson) Glavan (Bo5) in November became the first theatre manager for Riverfront Playhouse in Redding, California. She has been involved as an actor with the all-volunteer theatre organization for 10 years.

Laura Douglas (Bo6) is a child, family and adolescent therapist with Deschutes County Health Services in Central Oregon, now in her sixth year. In February, she became trained in parent/child interaction therapy. She is approved to supervise licensed clinical social workers and is launching a consulting business to assist them.

Christine Estrada (Mo6) has made the move from government service to private practice as a licensed professional counselor. In January 2021, she joined New Springs Counseling Service in Tigard, Oregon, after nearly 12 years with the Oregon Department of Corrections as a licensed mental health counselor and program manager.

Duane Rubink (Bo6) is the new police chief of Jerome, Idaho. He was chosen in January to head law enforcement in the city of 12,500 and moved up from his position as captain. He has worked in the department for 20 years, serving as a patrol officer, detective and sergeant.

Lindsey (Blankenship) Straight (Bo6) is in her second year as senior manager of lab operations with CRISPR Therapeutics, a biotechnology gene-editing research company in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Rachel Bylsma (Bo7) in July was named external affairs manager for the Alaska Oil and Gas Association. She was previously director of constituent services for Alaska's U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, in that role since he was first elected in 2014, after serving as a senior policy advisor to Alaska Governor Sean Parnell.

John Campbell (Mo7) and his twin sisters were featured in an article, "Family Business is Now in the Classroom," published in the *Madras Pioneer* in July. The trio grew up on

a farm in Madras, Oregon, and all three are now agriculture science (ag) teachers in the state, with John at South Umpqua High School in Myrtle Creek, Oregon, since 2020.

Kirsten Green (Bo7) is in her fourth year as manager of commerce product management with Apple in Cupertino, California. She has been with the company since 2014.

Amaris (Tronson) Longmire (Bo7), after serving as an assistant coach for three years, became the new head coach for girls' soccer at Chelan High School in Washington last fall. She's also assisted with the school's softball program after playing both soccer and softball at George Fox. In addition to coaching, she is the owner of Traditionally Rooted, a catering and event planning firm.

Amanda Newman (Bo7) was named a partner in her law firm, Dickinson Wright, in Phoenix in January. She joined the firm in 2015, just after graduation from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. She specializes in commercial and business litigation.

Jordan Stacy (Bo7) in January was promoted to enterprise support manager - strategic with Amazon Web Services. Based in Beaverton, Oregon, he started with Amazon nearly three years ago as a technical account manager.

Jennylyn Tapat (Bo7) in December passed the professional engineer examination and is an engineer and associate project manager with the Wilson Okamoto Corporation in Honolulu. She is in her sixth year with the civil, traffic and transportation, and planning firm.

Audrey (Higuera) Williamson (Bo7) and **Trevor Williamson** (Bo7) live in Central Point, Oregon, where she is an assistant production manager with Darex, a manufacturer of sharpening tools in Ashland, Oregon. He started in November as director of operations for Empire Medical in Medford, Oregon, a technology company that simplifies and handles purchases of orthotic and prosthetic devices for the medical profession.

Kristi (Sandvik) Wilson (Do7) in February was presented the American School Superintendents Association Distinguished Service Award in Nashville, Tennessee. She was last year's president of the national



Track and field, baseball, soccer, tennis, basketball and volleyball were the main sports offered at George Fox in the 1920s. Because the student population was so small, many individuals played on multiple teams.



Decades before Serve Day, the college hosted "Campus Day" in the early 1930s, during which students and employees chopped and hauled firewood for heating campus buildings, planted sod, worked on gardens and completed maintenance projects. President Levi Pennington was often seen in a fringed "Western" jacket as he pitched in to help get the work done.

association. She has been superintendent of the Buckeye (Arizona) Elementary School District since 2013, after serving as assistant superintendent for three years.

Caitlyn (Boultinghouse) Bennett (Bo8) started last July as director of honors student experience in the honors program at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. She started with JBC in 2018 as interim director of student engagement.

Holly Fay (Bo8) earned a doctor of nursing practice in 2019 from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, and last July started as a family nurse practitioner at the Neighborhood Health Center in Beaverton, Oregon.

Scott Gragg (Mo8, D21), after more than 10 years as a player in the NFL, is now guiding 20 teams in 13 sports as the athletic director at McNary High School in Salem, Oregon. He has been at the school of 2,000 since 2016. In 1995, he was drafted in the second round by the New York Giants, playing five years there before joining the San Francisco 49ers for five seasons and the New York Jets for one year.

Ryan MacKenzie (Bo8, D15) in January became clinic director for Step & Spine Physical Therapy in Prineville, Oregon, opening a

sixth office location for the Central Oregon chain.

Kali (Ramey) Martin (Bo8) has written her first book, *Potager: From the Garden to the Kitchen*, published in December. The Salem, Oregon, resident also has launched a quarterly magazine, *Notebook Quarterly*.

Travis McFetridge (Bo8, M12) is vice president of student services at Treasure Valley Community College, named last June. He was director of admissions and student services for the last three years and has been on campus for 16 years, previously serving as Title IX coordinator and training coordinator in the office of compliance and training.

Ryan Russell (Mo8) is now senior vice president of design and user experience with Hinge Health in Seattle. He started in July after nine years as director of user experience at Amazon in Bellevue, Washington, where he led the design of innovative products such as Prime Now, Amazon Key and Amazon Flex.

James Wolfer (Bo8) started in November as the new school resource officer with the Sherwood (Oregon) School District. He joined the Sherwood Police Department initially as a reserve officer, then went full time in December of 2020.

Kristine Cody (Bo9) in August was highlighted by the *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business* as one of the top "Young Professionals for 2021." She has been back in the Tri-Cities, Washington, area since 2018, and in August started with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory as a staff development consultant, moving from a position as assistant director of career services at Washington State University Tri-Cities after nearly three years.

Sara Kelm (Bo9) is using her writing and literature degree at Auburn University, where she is a lecturer in the Department of English and Philosophy. In May 2021, she earned a PhD in rhetoric and composition from Texas Christian University, where she also taught writing-related courses and was named English Department Graduate Instructor of the Year in 2019. Previously, for five years, she was a part-time instructor at George Fox.

Nick Loftin (Bo9) published his article "Five Steps to Make Telehealth Work for Physicians and Patients" in the March issue of *Medical Economics*, a monthly magazine for physicians. It also was published in *Dermatology Times*. He is director of virtual care with Pivot Point, a healthcare IT consulting firm near Nashville, Tennessee.

Amy (Turner) Malinauskas (Bo9) is in her second year as a registered nurse with Obria Medical Clinic in Lebanon, Oregon, and is training to be certified in limited obstetrics ultrasound.

Amberle Mangis (Bo9) started last fall as executive assistant at Love Justice International in Centennial, Colorado, a nonprofit helping orphaned and abandoned children in Asia and Africa.

Katie Plumb (no9) on July 1 became the new public health director for the Crook County Health Department in Central Oregon. Based in Redmond, she was promoted from deputy director, in that position since 2019.

Violet Read (Bo9) is back in Oregon after more than eight years in Texas, most recently in Waco, where she was a therapist and mental health specialist with the Waco Center for Youth. She started in February as program director with Morrison Child and Family Services in Portland, which provides mental health and substance abuse treatment, support and prevention services.

Jeri Turgesen (Mo9, D12) had a region-wide audience Jan. 31 when her thoughts were shared in an article in Pamplin Media Group newspapers in Oregon. In the feature, "Psychologist Sees 'Mental Health Pandemic' Behind COVID Fatigue," she describes the symptoms and the ages it impacts and suggests solutions. She is a clinical psychologist in Newberg at Providence Medical Center.

2010-19

Jonathan Ciraulo (B10) is an assistant professor of systematic theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in Indiana. He started in 2018 after earning a PhD in systematic theology from the University of Notre Dame the same year. His dissertation, "The Eucharistic Theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar," this March resulted in a new book published by Notre Dame Press: *The Eucharistic Form of God*, which addresses the significance of contemporary sacramental theology.

Lauren (Kewley) Creel (B10) is in Bend, Oregon, where in August she became chief operating officer for the Cactus Cancer Society (formerly Lacuna Loft). A former cancer patient herself, she now heads the nonprofit that provides psychological support for young adults facing cancer.

Eli Matthews (M10) last July became the new president and CEO of the Chamber of Medford and Jackson County, Oregon, after serving as senior vice president for the organization for 12 years.

Sabrina (Sanborn) Orozco (B10) is in her first year with the Austin (Texas) Independent School District, where she is an attendance specialist at Covington Middle School.

Judd Rench (B10), who opened Bula Kava House in Portland in 2011, this spring opened a second store, this time in downtown Vancouver, Washington. The business features a drink extracted from the root of a Pacific islands plant, served in coconut bowls.

Jordan Schatz (B10) started in August with

the Pasco (Washington) School District, where he is a math teacher at Pasco High School following long-term substituting in nearby Kennewick schools.

Henry Balensifer (B11) is using his political science degree as the mayor of Warrenton, Oregon, a city of 6,000 on the northern Oregon Coast. He started with the city as a commissioner in 2013 and was elected mayor in 2017. He is manager of marketing and government relations with LEKTRO in Warrenton, a manufacturer of towbarless aircraft towing vehicles, with the company since 2014.

Marie Ballance (D11) is a teacher in the Mt. Angel (Oregon) School District, serving the last nine years as a mentor to 61 teachers, two counselors and six administrators.

Andrea Byerley (M11), after 17 years with George Fox University, in May became senior associate registrar at Linfield University in McMinnville, Oregon.

Justin Callistini (B11) is a silicon validation engineer at Intel Corporation in Hillsboro, Oregon, in his 13th year.

Connor Campbell (B11), captain of the men's soccer team while on campus, is now head coach at the University of Jamestown in North Dakota, an NAIA school with 1,200 students. He started last July, just after receiving a master's degree in coaching from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

Kathy Milhauser (D11), after being an adjunct faculty member and dissertation committee member since 2013, last fall joined George Fox University's College of Business as an associate professor of management.

Luke Neff (M11, D15), after 11 years with the Newberg School District, left in February to move to the nearby McMinnville School District as director of information technology. Neff, who also has been an adjunct professor at George Fox, left the Newberg district as the longest-serving member of the superintendent's cabinet.

Mary Puntteney (B11) is CEO, owner and therapist with Flourishing Families Counseling, a business started last September in San Diego that specializes in serving kids and teens.

Mary Sperling (M11) became a news source twice in March, as KGW-TV in Portland

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May Day was a big event on campus back when this photo was taken in the 1930s. A May Day queen, prince consort and a full court were elected, and the full-day celebration featured a may pole, performances, athletic events and special meals. These celebrations continued until the 1980s, when a new semester system ended the school year before May 1.



God Said 'Go!'

After a brush with death as a student, Mary Grimm answered the call to minister to the people of Papua New Guinea By Andrew Shaughnessy

Deep in the Sepik River Basin of Papua New Guinea, past the Toricelli Mountains and through the winding jungle waterways, lies the remote village of Baku – only accessible by boat or sea-plane. Here, far beyond the reach of civilization's grasping concrete tentacles, George Fox alumna **Mary (Owen) Grimm (B14)** and her husband, Ben, serve side by side as missionaries with Word Made Flesh International.

Mary, who has a master's degree in linguistics, is working on translating the Bible (as well as other reading materials) into the local language and developing a literacy program in five area villages. Ben, who serves as the Word Made Flesh field director for Papua New Guinea, focuses on community health and development: clean water supply projects, sustainable agriculture, first aid education and more. It's a holistic ministry – one in which talking to neighbors about Jesus goes hand in hand with addressing their tangible needs.

For most, living and ministering in an area with no running water, cell service or even paved roads would be extraordinarily difficult, to say the least. But for Mary and Ben, it's just one more chapter in their adventure-fueled lives. Ben began his career in



Air Force special operations before eventually discovering a passion for community development. As for Mary, her love for the outdoors and for Jesus have served as twin through lines interwoven in her story.

"I grew up loving the wilderness and expecting life to be an adventure," she says. "I guess you could say that I've been preparing for this since before I was born."

Mary's interest in global ministry was first sparked by a week-long youth missions trip to Mexico, then fanned to flame by a series of short-term trips to Papua New Guinea, where she first learned about the need for Bible translation.

"After those trips she was certain of two things," says Mary's father, Bruce Owen, who works in the finance office at George Fox. "The first was that God had called her to a life of missionary service, and the second was that she never wanted to wear shoes again. From that time on she only wore them if absolutely necessary or when compelled."

During her time as an undergraduate at George Fox, she developed a reputation as a free spirit and daredevil, chasing adrenaline and natural beauty wherever it could be found: skydiving, bungee jumping, caving, and even free climbing the outside of buildings in Newberg. It was not uncommon for Mary to disappear into the woods for days at a time to revel in God's glorious creation, rarely telling anyone where she was going or how long she would be gone.

"She lived her life 'joyfully,' as she would put it," says Mary's mother, **Shelli (B20)**. "She considered fear anathema. God had made her life an adventure and she was going to embrace that adventure with abandon."

Mary's parents were confident in her skills as an outdoors-woman, but they worried about the potential consequences of her carelessness.

"God has called me to be a missionary," she would say whenever they gave voice to their concern. "He's not going to let me die before I do what he has given me to do."

For years, Mary walked the razor edge that runs between courage and recklessness. In 2013, that balancing act nearly killed her.

One Thursday morning in the middle of Mary's final spring break at George Fox, one of her roommates called Mary's parents to ask if they knew where she was. No one had seen her for days, and though her friends had grown accustomed to her occasional disappearances, they were starting to worry. It soon became evident that Mary was missing.

Her parents filed a missing person's report, put out the word on social media, and started a globe-spanning prayer chain. By



the next day, police had found the pickup truck Mary had borrowed from a friend. Its location indicated that she was likely somewhere in the vast wilderness surrounding Mount Hood. The search began.

Four days earlier, without telling a soul, Mary had set out to climb the mountain – a goal that had eluded her for years. She originally connected with a guide to take her to the summit, but when they postponed the climb – citing unfavorable weather conditions – Mary decided to push for the unfamiliar peak alone. High on the mountain, she was caught in a whiteout. Blinding snow fell thick and fast, and soon Mary lost her bearings, started descending the wrong side of the mountain, and fell.

Mary lay injured, freezing and alone in the snow for six days, before she was miraculously found by an Air National Guard helicopter crew. The brush with death marked a turning point in her life, changing her perspective forever. Faced with her mortality, she realized that her story was not her own, but that she belonged to God; that life was precious and fragile and not to be risked unnecessarily. More than anything, she realized the urgency of her call to share the gospel with others.

She still loved the wilderness and adventure, but no longer would she take death-defying risks purely for the thrill. God had forged her to be an adventurer, but an adventurer with a purpose.

After graduating from George Fox and marrying Ben – whom she had met while both were working at a group home for foster teens – Mary dove straight into graduate training at the Canadian Institute of Linguistics. Near the end of her masters program, a man named Clemence Komnapi from the village of Baku helped her with some research. As their project drew to a

close, he asked whether she and Ben would consider moving to Papua New Guinea to join him in his work of translating the Bible into his people's native language and serving the physical needs of the local community.

"We prayed," says Mary, "and God said 'Go!'"

These days, Mary and Ben are happiest at their home in Baku. They hold first aid trainings and literacy meetings, tend their garden, and share their meals and love their neighbors. Their children spend their days outside, playing in the muddy jungle mountains. For many, the Grimms' life of primitive isolation would be a hardship. For them, it is a blessing – a perfect fit for the nature-loving, adventure-driven humans that God made them to be.

"I have not sacrificed to come here to Papua New Guinea," Mary says. "Jesus sacrificed to bring me to him, and he has honored me with the calling and the provision to tell others of his sacrifice for them. I will never forget what he showed me on the mountain. There is no person on this planet that is not worth it to God. He has moved heaven and earth to bring us to him. Crossing the globe is nothing."

Read more about Mary's harrowing experience on Mt. Hood in a new book written by her mom, **Shelli Owen**, entitled *Mountain Rescue: A True Story of Unexpected Mercies and Deliverance*, available on Amazon and in the Bruin Store.



turned to her for comments about how to discuss the war in Ukraine with kids and on adapting to masks in the classroom. She is a psychologist, serving all grade levels, with the Salem-Keizer (Oregon) School District.

Lucas Tomlinson (B11) is in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, where he works with his family construction business, Tomlinson Schultz, as a carpenter. He also serves as parish support with Source & Summit, a Catholic software/technology company publishing missals and hymnals aimed at renewing liturgy.

Allen Cassel (B12), after five years with AKS Engineering and Forestry in Tualatin, Oregon, in August moved to Coffman Engineers, a national firm that opened its Portland office in 2019.

Jacob Cuniff (B12, M14) is a literacy workshop teacher at Rock Creek Middle School in Happy Valley, Oregon, completing his seventh year.

Sam Engleman (B12) continues to live in Atlanta but has changed companies. He is now with Bison Holdings, an investments advisory firm, joining the business in January 2021 as director of portfolio management and trading.

Amanda (Winkelman) Howard (B12) has returned to campus, where she is the director of marketing content for undergraduate programs. She started in September after working for three years as director of marketing and admissions at Westside Christian High School in Tigard, Oregon.

Daniela (Sifuentes) Jones (B12) remains in the aircraft industry but has changed jobs. She is now a senior technical program manager - aircraft development for her new firm, Volanci, a drone delivery development company in Bend, Oregon. She started last July after nine years with Columbia Helicopters. She is now responsible for managing the design, development, integration and validation of the Volanci M20 unmanned aircraft program.

Jacquie (Pickett) Lai (B12) is a professional portrait photographer who owns her own business, Jacqueline L. Photography, in Columbus, Georgia. She started the business in 2018 in the Washington, D.C. area, but relocated last summer when her husband, in the U.S. Army, was reassigned.

Keisha (Gordon) Olsen (B12, M18), after nearly nine years at George Fox in admissions roles, is now a program officer with the Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation in Wilsonville, Oregon. She started at George Fox in 2012 as an assistant women's basketball coach, became an admissions counselor the following year, and rose to senior associate director of undergraduate admissions her final year.

Alex Rettmann (B12) is lead pastor of Saints' Hill Church in Newberg, started in 2018 as a church plant by Bridgetown Church in Portland, where he was a youth pastor.

Jason Rogers (B12) was named Tigard, Oregon's "2021 First Citizen" in May, recognized for his involvement as member, then chair, of the city's parks and recreation board; member, then chair, of the city's planning commission; member of the Washington County Parks and Recreation Board; and for his involvement in Boy Scouts and the American Legion. He is with Medical Teams International in Tigard as a U.S. programs emergency response manager.

John Sawyer (M12) is associate pastor/campus pastor at Bon Air Baptist Church - James River campus, near Richmond, Virginia. He is also the founder and chairman of the nonprofit Bridging RVA, which was featured in a December issue of the *Richmond Free Press* newspaper for making more than 7,000 deliveries of food to doorsteps of those quarantined during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ben Tissell (M12) has two careers going: as an actor/musician/director and as a program director for a youth camp. Since 2019, he's been on the staff of Trout Creek, a Bible camp for youth in Corbett, Oregon. His professional performing career includes singer/songwriter for two full-length albums and five EPs. In October, he took the stage as a lead with the Broadway Rose Theatre's (Tigard) performance of *Loch Lomond*.

Brennan Altringer (B13) is now in Frisco, Texas, starting in February as director of audience development with Complexity Gaming, an esports franchise located in The Star, the headquarters of the Dallas Cowboys.

Rachel Brumfield (B13) returned to campus in December to work as the director of marketing content for George Fox Digital in the marketing communications department.

Previously, she was assistant director of communications at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon.

Casey Hostettler (B13, M14) opened two businesses in McMinnville, Oregon, during the year. Last June, she and four others started Elena's Wine Bar, where she is manager. Ten weeks later, she opened Alt Coworking, offering shared work space for those not needing full-time office locations. This follows a career timeout during which she and her husband sold all their possessions and road-tripped America's 48 contiguous states for 14 months, traveling 31,000 miles and also visiting Mexico, Canada and the Bahamas.

Stephen Kenyon (B13) is beginning his second year in his assignment in Southern Oregon as parochial vicar at St. Anne Catholic Church in Grants Pass. He also serves missions at Our Lady of the River in Rogue River and St. Patrick of the Forest in Cave Junction.

Austin Morrell (B13) started in 2020 with the Spokane Valley (Washington) Fire Department as a fire protection engineer in training.

Bethany Nguyen (B13, D16) has returned to campus as an assistant professor of physical therapy. Previously, she was a home health physical therapist with Connected Home Health & Hospice and an injury prevention specialist with WorkRight NW, both in Portland.

Chelsea (Bradely) Qualls (M13) recently finished her first year as an assistant softball coach at the University of South Dakota. She had been head softball coach and testing specialist at Sprague High School in Salem, Oregon, since 2018.

Danny Rodriguez (B13, M16, D19) is back at George Fox, starting last fall as an assistant professor of clinical psychology. He moved from being a behavioral health provider with Providence Medical Group in Sherwood, Oregon.

Kathryn Saunders (B13) last June left her position after four years as community life director at Friendsview Retirement Community. She moved to a position across the street as an assistant professor of social work and associate director of field education at George Fox. She started teaching on an adjunct basis at George Fox in 2014.

Bailey (Dekker) Smith (B13) has launched her own company, Indie Travel Design, in Salem, Oregon. It was started in 2019 after she started planning travel for others as a side gig. She says it combines her skills and experience in the business world with her passion for helping others travel after she experienced her study abroad trips in college.

Mike Souza (M13) in February became the new pastor of Harvest Community Church in Madera, California. He moved back to his home state after five years as pastor of the Sunnyside, Washington, Presbyterian Church.

Kelsie Wring (B13) is a staff assistant with the COVID-19 vaccination team of King County Public Health in Seattle, where she started in 2021. This follows nearly three years with the Peace Corps, until March 2020 in Gulu, Uganda, as a knowledge management and communications volunteer with CARE International.

John Bacon (D14), who has worked at Southwestern Oregon Community College for four years, is now a full-time assistant professor of business after serving as direc-

tor of the Small Business Development Center.

Vincent De Benedetto (B14, M15) is the founder and CEO of Automated Dreams in Portland, a marketing automation firm providing strategy and building business systems for local firms.

LeAnn (Veenendaal) Bowers (B14) and **Levi Bowers** (B15) are in Eugene, Oregon, where he is a human resources coordinator with Managed Health Care Pharmacy. She was a sales representative with VWR/Avantor until last spring and is now a stay-at-home mom.

Kelsey (Tullis) Duman (B14) in September became director of operations for Gales Creek Camp Foundation, a nonprofit that hosts a summer camp for children living with type 1 diabetes. She lives in Albany, Oregon, and works remotely except during the summer camps.

Elise (Fajen) Duchesne (B14) is in Portland working as an enterprise customer success manager with ZoomInfo. She is starting her second year in the position after joining the company in 2020.

Angelyn (Haughey) Holmes (B14) and **Micah Holmes** (B14) are in Rockaway Beach, Oregon, where in April they started as program directors at Twin Rocks Friends Camp & Conference Center.

J.D. Mowery (B14) in April was announced as the new chief operating officer for Treadwell Therapeutics, a Seattle-based clinical-stage biotechnology company developing medicines for unmet needs in cancer.

Brittany (Rich) Revuelta-Ozuna (B14) is a senior retirement counselor, just finishing her sixth year with the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association, a public employee retirement system in Concord, California.

Julio Bautista (B15, M18) is starting his second year with the Northwest Regional Education Service District, based in Hillsboro, Oregon, and serving 20 school districts in four counties. He is an educator improvement coach, part of the instructional services professional learning team, and collaborates with the districts in focusing on recruitment and retention of BIPOC educators.

Micah Beauvais (B15) is in Chicago, where he is an education and learning development coordinator with Chicago Public Schools, in his second year. He also has performed in city musical productions.

Joshua Dolar (B15) is completing his first year as communication and technology coordinator at West Linn (Oregon) Lutheran Church.

Luke Hammer (B15, D18) in September opened BenchMark Physical Therapy in Sherwood, Oregon, part of the national chain. He is co-owner and clinical director and is a certified orthopedic clinical specialist.

Ofelia McMenamy (B15) in November became a bilingual engagement specialist with Kaiser Permanente in Portland. She helps create sales opportunities through targeted enrollment activities to increase membership.

Stephanie Moen (B15) started last fall as a process improvement consultant with the OHSU Health Hillsboro (Oregon) Medical Center. In February, she received Project Management Professional certification.



The annual Raft Race on the Willamette River was a campus staple from 1968 until 1995. As shown in this photo from the 1972-73 academic year, rafts were made from materials ranging from inner tubes to air mattresses to logs with outriggers. As long as it floated, it was a legal entry. The race began at Rogers Landing and ended at Champoeg State Park, where a barbecue often capped off the day's festivities.



George Fox students of the 1970s majored in everything from education and the sciences to the arts, religion and home economics. At front and center of this photo is Marge Weesner, affectionately known as “Doc,” who was instrumental in helping to establish women’s athletics at the college and fought for equal access for female students (read more about Weesner on page 18).

Ziva (McLaurin) Robinson (B15) is in Fort Wayne, Indiana, with AME Group as a professional services engineer, working for the cloud services company that offers technology solutions and IT support.

Christine Swanson (B15) was back on campus this December for the opening of her “En Plein Air” paintings exhibition in Lindgren Gallery, which featured a dozen oil paintings created on site in Oregon’s outdoor escapes. From her own studio, and connected with Art Elements in Newberg, she creates work for sale and also exhibits and teaches painting classes at the Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg.

Stephen Tissell (B15), calling himself an “aspiring entertainment journalist and freelance writer,” is having success with CBR (Comic Book Resources), for which he is a featured guest writer. He lives in Beaverton, Oregon, while also working as a floor supervisor with LEGO Group in nearby Tigard.

Peter Vogezang (B15) started last July with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc., in Poway, California, where he is a senior engineer.

Alexandra Began (B16) started in January as design and communications specialist with Rolling Hills Community Church in Tualatin, Oregon, while continuing a remote position as a 3D character animator with Spynce, an online Bible lesson series. She also continues freelance work as an animator and illustrator.

Derek Brown (D16) started in January as the new director of technology with the David Douglas School District in Portland, leaving his position as assistant superintendent of the Newberg School District after nearly five years.

Chandler Brutscher (B16), after receiving a master of fine arts degree from Kent State University in 2019, is back at George Fox as an assistant professor of art and design. She previously taught at Kent State (Ohio), the University of Akron (Ohio) and Grove City College (Pennsylvania).

Sean Eberhardt (B16) has changed realty firms and started last June as a realtor with eXP in Clackamas, Oregon, moving from Keller Williams in Portland.

Becca Olson (B16) is a member of the athletic training staff at California Baptist

University in Riverside. She started last July and works with the men’s water polo and baseball teams.

Michelle Osborne (D16) is in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she is chief deputy insurance commissioner for the state’s Department of Insurance. She is also coauthor of *The Maid*, based on real-life stories of human trafficking. Released in January, the paperback weaves interviews with actual victims into fiction based on facts.

Bryant Quinn (B16, M17) and **Hannah (Busch) Quinn** (B19) are in Newberg, where he has completed five years with the Newberg School District as a physical education teacher at Edwards and Ewing Young elementary schools. Since 2017, he also has been an assistant cross country and track and field coach at George Fox. She is a physical therapy aide at Big Sky Physical Therapy in McMinnville, Oregon, in her second year, while completing a master’s degree in kinesiology this year online from A.T. Still University of Health Sciences. She has been accepted into the George Fox Doctor of Physical Therapy program, starting this fall.

Julia (Howell) Ryan (B16) in January was named marketing and foundation coordinator for Oregon Coast Community College, a 2,000-student school with Newport, Waldport and Lincoln City sites.

Sydney Thiessen (B16) started in March as a project manager with Stagecraft Industries in Portland, a manufacturer and installer of theater curtains, rigging and lighting.

Jade Becker (B17) is a visiting assistant professor of English at George Fox after two years as a writing instructor in an interdisciplinary first-year experience course.

Catherine Ng Flaherty (B17) is starting her second year as a production designer with Pivot, a Tigard, Oregon, branding, customer research, employee training and web design firm.

Joel Mayward (M17) is an assistant professor of Christian ministries, theology and the arts at George Fox. He previously was at the Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts in the School of Divinity at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, where he earned a PhD in divinity in 2021. The author of three church ministry books, he also is theology editor for *The Other*

Journal, an interdisciplinary program produced by the Seattle School of Theology & Psychology.

David Ween (B17) in August received a master of arts degree in philosophy from Ohio University and is now a graduate teaching assistant and PhD student at Tulane University in New Orleans, studying how people behave in society.

Alyssa Wegner (B17) is a critical care nurse with Salem (Oregon) Health, in that role for nearly five years. Her normal routine during the COVID-19 pandemic became a front-page story in the Oct. 9 issue of *The Oregonian* newspaper, as it subtitled its story “Glimpse inside a Salem intensive care unit reveals exhausting toll on health-care workers tending to patients facing death.” The top-of-the-page headline, “Dying in front of our eyes,” and accompanying photo of Wegner preceded three pages of coverage.

Melissa Alonzo (B18) and her husband have opened Gunner CrossFit in McMinnville, Oregon, now in its third year. She was introduced to the fitness program while stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in California. She has eight years’ experience as a hospital corpsman second class in the U.S. Navy.

Dakota (Buhler) Armour (B18, M20) is an English and literature teacher at McMinnville (Oregon) High School, starting there in 2020. She also is a track and field coach.

Hunter C. Bomar (B18) joined the university’s marketing communications office as a content specialist in December, specializing in video production. He previously worked a semester as an adjunct professor of communication at George Fox, and since 2014 he’s served as a mass communications specialist for the Oregon Army National Guard.

Micah Charleston (B18) is now manager, paid research with Adidas in Portland, starting in July after leaving a position as associate manager, media services, with New Engen, a digital marketing firm.

Greg Jehanian (M18) has been featured in publications with national audiences twice during the last year. *Christianity Today* magazine interviewed him for a story about the band he is with, mewithoutYou. He’s been the bassist for the band, now on a

farewell tour after 20 years together, for six albums and EPs. In addition, *HM magazine* (formerly Heaven’s Metal), a monthly digital and print on-demand publication focused on rock music and alternative culture of interest to Christians, interviewed him for a piece.

Anna (Lampman) Kusters (B18) and **Mitchell Kusters** (B17) are living in Wilsonville, Oregon, while they work in other cities. She started last year as a pediatric registered nurse at Randall Children’s Hospital at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland. He is a sixth-grade science teacher at French Prairie Middle School in Woodburn, Oregon.

Carson Newman (B18) started in January as a team member with Columbia Forest Products in Klamath Falls, Oregon, a manufacturer of hardwood plywood and veneer. In 2020, he received a master of arts degree in history from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.



In 1974, tennis, wooden rackets and bell bottoms were all the rage. In fact, tennis was so popular it was a regular sport on the intramurals schedule, joining flag football, basketball, volleyball and softball. Intramural sports began at the college in 1925.

Madeline Rennie (B18) graduated from Kingston University in London with a master’s degree in marketing and brand management in 2020 and is now using his degree as a marketing and brand management specialist with The Malilangwe Trust in London, a Zimbabwean nonprofit dedicated to environmental conservation and the development of lives in local communities.

Skyler Rieke (B18) in October became regional manager with MBE Hospitality Management, headquartered in Kalispell, Montana. The firm provides management, consulting, design, development and accounting services for six hotel, motel and resort properties.

Tanner Shadbolt (B18) is using his George Fox experience, combining his degree and his work-study job, into his occupation as a juvenile probation officer in Polk County, Oregon. A sociology major, he worked all four years as a campus security officer. He started in April 2021 after more than two years as a juvenile justice officer in Jefferson County, Oregon.

Lisa Watson (B18, D21) joined Chehalem Physical Therapy in Newberg, where she is a physical therapist. She had been a group exercise instructor with Sherwood (Oregon) Family YMCA for 20 years.

Katie Wells (B18) in December earned a master of arts degree in international education management from Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California. She started in January as an international program advisor at Syracuse University in New York.

Alexandria (Baker) Bennett (B19) is in her second year as a registered nurse with Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Beaverton, Oregon, where she has worked night shifts in the COVID-19 unit. She is a volunteer with George Fox’s Young Life program and also serves as a mentor for the university’s Bridge Network.

Emily Brink (B19) is a fourth-grade teacher at North Clackamas Christian, a K-12 school of 260 students in Oregon City, Oregon. She started in 2020 after receiving an MED from Concordia University in Portland.

Erin Brudi (B19) received a master’s degree last year in museum and gallery studies

Continued on page 70



The Warrior's Path

Kiana Rasubala fulfills a childhood dream of competing on "American Ninja Warrior"

By Andrew Shaughnessy

Ever since she was a child, **Kiana Rasubala** (B20) dreamed of becoming a ninja. But it wasn't the sword-wielding, masked assassins of yore that captured the George Fox alumna's imagination. Instead, it was the high-flying obstacle course athletes of the reality show *American Ninja Warrior*.

The TV series, now in its 14th season, features competitors from across the U.S. who attempt to complete challenging obstacle courses in front of a live audience and commentators. They run across balance beams, leap from precarious platforms high in the air, clamber over moving walls, swing from rope to rope over chasms of foam or water, and perform devilishly difficult feats of strength and dexterity. Those who succeed with fast-enough times advance to progressively more demanding stages of the competition, ultimately culminating in a notoriously difficult finale in which the victor wins a \$1 million prize and the coveted title of "American Ninja Warrior."

The whole production looks both incredibly fun and absurdly difficult, requiring a rare combination of agility, strength and skill. For a longtime fan and athlete like Rasubala – a devoted viewer for the last 10 years – seeing other women quite literally overcoming obstacles proved inspiring.

"In the earlier seasons there were a ton of guys who really excelled, but just a few girls, and they weren't quite at the same level," she says. "But then in Season 6, Kacy Catanzaro became the first woman to ever complete a qualifier course. That was the moment where I was like, 'Wow, girls really do have a shot at this. We can compete at the same level as the guys.'"

From that moment on, Rasubala knew she wanted to be on the show, to find out what she was capable of and have her moment in the spotlight.

After high school, she studied health and human performance at George Fox, spending her days training and running with the track and field team while making memories and forging friendships. Not long after graduating in 2020, Rasubala moved to southern Colorado. While the move was primarily a step forward in her budding career in campus recreation and fitness, she admits that part of her motivation was to be closer to many of the country's top "ninja gyms" – obstacle course facilities built specifically for athletes to train for *American Ninja Warrior*-style competitions.



"Honestly, I've made quite a few life choices because of *American Ninja Warrior*," Rasubala says.

Rasubala began structuring her life around training for the show. On weekdays she rock climbed, built up her core and upper-body strength with bodyweight circuits, and even trained on local playgrounds to simulate obstacles. Every weekend she hopped in her car and drove three or more hours to reach the closest ninja gyms, alternating facilities to explore new cities and vary her training. Within just three months she had driven 4,000 miles to train at 10 different ninja gyms in nine cities across four states.

When it came time to apply for the show, Rasubala was ready. She filled her application video with clips of her swinging, leaping and climbing her way through seemingly every obstacle course in the American Southwest and played up her story of dedication and grit – the miles traveled and hours logged, all for a singular goal.

In January 2022, Rasubala got the call. She had been chosen to compete on *American Ninja Warrior*.

Two months later, she was in San Antonio, Texas, walking through a hotel lobby filled with athletes she had admired for years. The next week was a blur: meetings with story producers and filmmakers capturing B-roll, connecting with fellow competitors, and

even attending a prayer and worship session hosted by fellow athletes.

"That was awesome," she says. "I was pretty nervous, but it really put me at peace."

On day three, it was Rasubala's turn to take on the obstacle course in the Alamodome. This was the moment she had trained for, the culmination of a childhood dream. There was just one problem. On her very last training session, the day before she was scheduled to fly to Texas, Rasubala had fallen in an attempt to run up the "warped wall" obstacle at a ninja gym, injuring her foot.

"I was freaking out, so I immediately called Mary Imboden, one of my exercise science professors at Fox, and said, 'Hey, this just happened. What can I do?'"

Imboden helped as much as she could, advising ice, rest and tape for the injured foot, but when Rasubala stepped up to the stage to make her first official *American Ninja Warrior* attempt, she could still feel that her foot wasn't doing well. The very first obstacle was a lower-body intensive balancing act, involving running up a series of steps, grabbing onto a rope and swinging onto a platform.

Rasubala took off. At first, it seemed that things were going well, but as she made it across the final steps, she started to lose her balance. Catching the rope too low, her momentum was gone and her trajectory off-kilter. She jumped, stretching to reach the platform, but came just short, falling back onto the water below and failing to complete the first obstacle.

Though disappointed, she remains undeterred.

"I'm definitely going to keep training and go for it again next year," says Rasubala, who one day hopes to open her own ninja gym, sharing her love for the sport and the lessons she's learned with others. "I only had six months of training under my belt, while others have been doing this for years, so I know that there is still tons of room for growth."

The way she sees it, this isn't the end of a dream, but rather just another chapter in her lifelong story of athletic pursuit and personal growth.

"My whole sports and fitness journey has been one of growing in self-confidence and pushing past my self-doubt and the fears that creep in," she says. "In track I would compare myself to others a lot. Even if I had a good day at a track meet, I would always think, 'Oh but this other person did so much better.' Completing these physical obstacle courses builds me up to feel more confident in my daily life. I see it as, if I can tackle that, then I can do anything."



from Kingston University in London and is now a marketing executive in Fulham Palace. She started last June, working in a structure started between 1485 and 1507, owned by the Church of England and now operated by the Fulham Palace Trust, for which she works.

Megan Buchanan (B19) has moved across the country, starting in November as a child life specialist with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Douglas Bursch (D19) got a national audience in January with *Three Practical Ways to Engage in Online Peacemaking*, as part of *Christianity Today's* blog forum, "The Better Samaritan." He also is the author of the paperback *Posting Peace: Why Social Media Divides Us and What We Can Do About It*, published last year. He has produced and hosted more than 1,200 Christian radio broadcasts and currently is producer and host of *The Fairly Spiritual Show* radio program and podcast. Since 1998 he has been co-pastor of Evergreen Foursquare Church in Auburn, Washington.

Ben Buslach (M19) started last fall as the new West Coast market development manager for Benjamin Obdyke, a wall and roof systems manufacturer based in Horsham, Pennsylvania.

Nina Dahl (B19) is using her degree in history as the new director of the Hoover Minthorn House Museum in Newberg. She started in August, moving back from Loveland, Colorado. The house, built in 1881 by a George Fox University founder, Jesse Edwards, and sold in 1885 to another founder, Henry John Minthorn, was the boyhood home (1885-1888) of Herbert Hoover, the 31st U.S. president.

Kylie Duppenhaler (B19) is a marketing and communications coordinator with Good Samaritan Ministries, now in her third year. The faith-based nonprofit headquartered in Beaverton, Oregon, provides counseling services and counselor training in 29 countries worldwide.

Lynda Gittens (D19) is now an author with the September release of *Finding Your Miracles Amid Pain: Journeying Through Mourning to Morning*. She is executive director of Babies Youth Children Empowerment in Missouri City, Texas, which helps academically struggling children.



The college didn't have an official mascot in the early days, although its athletic teams were informally referred to as the "Prune Pickers" and "Quakers" at different times in history. In 1962, student Will Howell created a character he named "Foxy George," which he featured in editorial cartoons in the campus newspaper, The Crescent. In 1970, the college began promoting "Bruin Athletics." It was around this time a bear mascot was formally adopted.

John Kimber (D19), despite retiring in 2020 as principal of The Greencroft Group in Vancouver, Washington, continues in a third career, now as an adjunct professor of business at George Fox University. He was in the research and consulting field for seven years with Greencroft after 32 years with Liberty Mutual Insurance.

Sarah King (B19) became George Fox University's first Olympian when she competed in August in the games of the XXXII Olympiad in Tokyo. She was selected to be on Switzerland's 4x400-meter relay team after winning the 400-meter individual title in June with a 52.99-second time, her personal best. An Oregon resident with dual citizenship, she represented her mother's native country. She has been a volunteer assistant track coach since 2019 while

also working as a client services engineer with Swan Island Networks, a computer security company based in Portland. She also is training for the European Athletics Championships in Munich, Germany, in August.

Alexander Knopp (B19) has been an email marketing manager since February with Quantum Lifecycle Marketing in Boise, Idaho. He also runs his own freelance business, Ascent Social, helping small businesses with social media and other needs in the digital space.

Savanna Poston (B19) is in Georgia, where she started in January as a team member with Revive Consignment, an outreach of the Jubilee Church in Woodstock, with a retail operation there and in Smyrna.

Kyler Stephens (B19), after receiving a master's degree in electrical engineering from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, started last June as spacecraft assembly test and launch operations engineer with Millennium Space Systems in El Segundo, California, a developer and manufacturer of military satellites.

Josiah Tully (B19) is using his marketing degree in Greenville, South Carolina, where since September he has served as an associate brand marketing manager with Techtronic Industries (TTI), a manufacturer of indoor/outdoor power tools and floor care equipment.

Jason Whitehead (D19) is executive director of the Phenix City (Alabama) Housing Authority, in that role since September 2020. He also is founder of both Impacting Generations Inc., a nonprofit organization committed to creating a path out of poverty, and Xcel to Excellence, an organization dedicated to empowering individuals to fulfill their dreams.

Charity Woodard (D19) has been named Outstanding Higher Education Art Educator of the Year by the Kansas Art Education Association. The award was presented in October in Wichita. She is an assistant professor of art at Emporia State University.

2020-22

David Angeles (B20) joined the university's marketing communications department in

December as a graphic designer. He worked previously for four years as a graphic design freelancer, most recently with the Opus Agency on assets for the Amazon Reshape event.

David Bacher (B20) last year received a master's degree in astronautical engineering from the University of Southern California and has a fellowship to continue there as a PhD student in the same field. He is a research engineer with the school's space engineering research center and is studying entry, descent and landing systems to enable interplanetary exploration.

Garrett Banister (B20) is using his civil engineering degree as a project engineer with JR Merit, Inc. in Vancouver, Washington, an industrial construction company.

Miranda Davidson (B20) has just completed her first year as a visit coordinator with George Fox's undergraduate admissions office, where as a student she was an admissions intern for three years. She spent her first year after graduation as the social media director for Family Life Church in Newberg.

Rebekah Evergreen (B20) is using her degree in social and behavioral studies as a private

in-home caregiver for a frontotemporal dementia patient in Kapaau, Hawaii. She says it is not a job but a vocation that has "brought ever-deepening grace while enhancing my patience and empathy beyond words."

Noah Fitzsimmons (B20) is using his business management degree as a transaction coordinator with Synergy One Lending in Portland, a mortgage transaction firm where he started in the fall after graduation.

Yuan Gao (M20) has just completed her second year as a Mandarin Chinese language teacher at the International School in Portland, which has 400 students in three international language tracks.

Riley (Moresco) Genandt (B20) is completing her second year with the International Sports Sciences Association in Phoenix, where she is an education support specialist. She started in 2020 with the teaching institution that trains personal and athletic trainers, coaches, therapists and other professionals.

Peyton Hanel (B20) is a cofounder of Diabase LLC, a computer software business in

Newberg. It was started in December 2020 after he left Big Zeta in Portland, where he was a software engineer. Cofounder **Taylor Dawson** (n20) is also a software engineer, starting in January 2020 with Blocknative Corporation, a blockchain processing firm.

Hannah Jodoin (M20) is president and CEO of Miss Hannah's Gourmet Popcorn Co. in Newberg, which opened in 2017. It is part of the family-owned operation that started in 2001 with a shop in Bridgeport Village in Tigard, Oregon, and now has 25 employees.

Mason Koch (B20) was featured in *USA Today* in March, when the newspaper picked him as one of seven it highlighted in an article on how former college students are dealing with the moratorium on federal student loan payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It asked borrowers what student loan forgiveness would mean to them. The subject of the article was moot for Koch, who has already repaid his student debt. He is in Renton, Washington, where he is a first assistant golf professional PGA associate with the Fairwood Golf & Country Club, now in his second year.

Karina Kreider (D20) is in practice with Therapeutic Associates, Inc. in Newberg, and is pursuing additional training in treatment of patients with pelvic health concerns.

Tony Nehren (B20) was back on campus in October to talk about using his social work degree with the Oregon Department of Human Services Child Protection Services, working in Marion County. He is a certified Native American and Alaskan native specialist.

Karen (Malm) Nygren (B20) is a mental health registered nurse with Oregon State Hospital in Salem, Oregon, now in her third year. During the COVID-19 pandemic she was a volunteer with the Medical Reserve Corps, helping with vaccination clinics.

Jordan Planck (B20) is back in her home city of Eugene, Oregon, where she is a research associate with Abcam, starting her second year. The company produces protein research tools to help with drug research.

Amanda Ripley (B20) in February was promoted to accounting analyst with Hilton in Vancouver, Washington, after being a guest service agent since last June.



The year 1991 marked the centennial of George Fox College, triggering many on-campus celebrations. In this case, students came up with their own way to "celebrate," launching water balloons at unsuspecting passersby.



The Computers Across the Curriculum program, launched in the fall of 1991, put George Fox at the forefront of the technology boom on college campuses, as it provided each undergraduate student with a personal computer – the Macintosh Classic. By 1996, when this photo was taken, computers and “paperless term papers” were the norm.

Joel Sigrist (B20) and **Noelle (Murray) Sigrist** (B20) are living in Medford, Oregon, while both are working remotely with companies headquartered elsewhere in Oregon. He is a GTM marketing specialist, cross portfolio marketing with Intel in Hillsboro, starting last July. She is in her third year as an operations coordinator with the Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries, based in Newberg, which focuses on child abuse and neglect prevention and early childhood development providers.

Alice Ai (D21) is in her second year as a career and academic planning coach with George Fox’s Career & Academic Planning Center. She has 23 years of teaching experience and 11 years of program leadership experience, including eight years as director of English teaching programs at Chongqing University of Posts and Telecommunications in China.

Hayes Beathard (B21) is using his degree in accounting as an audit associate with Eide Bailly, a CPA and business advising firm, in Billings, Montana, starting last July.

Vanessa Carrillo (B21) is with New Horizons In-Home Care in Salem, Oregon, as a home

care provider. This follows more than a year with Avamere Family Companies in Newberg.

Heather Clay (B21) has joined Resource One, Inc. in Portland, where she is an office manager, working with the chief operating officer for the Hillsboro-based company that helps businesses with their technology systems.

Eva Fast (D21), after earning her doctorate, is continuing on the campus of John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, where she is an assistant professor of entrepreneurship and marketing. Finishing her doctoral studies after more than four years, her students greeted her with an office full of flowers, a stethoscope to wear as a “doctor,” and asked her to give her dissertation presentation in front of the class.

Ginni Frazier (B21) continues on the George Fox campus, using her computer science degree as a systems coordinator in IT after working as an infrastructure intern for two years.

Loren Hrabak (M21) in October became national sales manager for CTL in

Beaverton, Oregon, which manufactures Chromebooks, laptops, desktops and PCs. He was promoted from manager of its digital sales team, a position held for a year after he joined the company in 2019.

Kasandra Lassagne (B21) started last August as a junior environmental data scientist with Axiom Data Science in Anchorage, Alaska, an informatics and software development firm.

Anthony Lathan (M21) started in November as a behavioral health technician with CODA, Inc. in Portland, a treatment center for substance abuse disorder.

Nathan Leid (B21) is now in Texas as the service teams and care coordinator with Fellowship Bible Church in Dallas. He helps members find service opportunities, schedules events, and is the primary contact for volunteering.

Hannah McCormick (M21), after interning at Laurelhurst Elementary School in Portland, is using her degree as a social worker with the Oregon City School District, starting her second year.

Brenna McGuire (B21) continues at George Fox after graduation, where she is an admissions specialist for the honors program in which she participated as a student.

Chris McMullan (M21) last June started as a medical social worker at Willamette Valley Medical Center in McMinnville, Oregon.

Cam Oliver (B21) has found an immediate position to use his degree in theology, as youth director at Living Hope Church in Vancouver, Washington.

James Pardee (M21) is in his second year as a residency planning counselor with Friendsview Retirement Community in Newberg. This follows nearly three years with the Hillsboro (Oregon) Police Department as a domestic violence advocate.

Savannah Sexton (B21) is a graduate assistant athletic trainer for the football and golf teams at Wingate University in North Carolina, while she is pursuing a master’s degree in sport management and athletic administration.

Santina Sisson (B21) is in Boston as part of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, working at Playworks New England, where she is creating curriculum for kids to remain active during the school year. Playworks is a

youth development nonprofit program for students ages 10 to 14 in low-income areas, helping them build social and emotional skills through play.

Anna Smoll (B21) is using her music degree with Salem-Keizer (Oregon) Public Schools as a choir director at Waldo Middle School.

Megan Stewart (B21) is staying in Newberg, using her journalism and psychology degrees and her experience as coeditor of *The Crescent* student newspaper in her position as a reporter for the *Newberg Graphic* newspaper. She started in November.

Caroline Strode (D21) has stayed in Yamhill County and is now a physical therapist with Therapeutic Associates, Inc. in McMinnville, Oregon.

Kody Ulrich (B21) is using his interior design degree in his first year as a junior home designer at Wise Owl Home Plans in Vancouver, Washington.

Jen Wright (B21) spent last summer on the news team at KLCC FM, an Oregon public radio station in Eugene, and is now a staff writer for the magazine of Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, a private liberal arts college of 1,800.

Paul Casavant (B22) is a system validation engineer with Intel Corp. in Hillsboro, Oregon. He started in the role officially after graduation but was an intern in the position during his senior year. He has been with the company for nearly 10 years in a variety of roles.

Josh Hicks (B22) is a software engineer with TZ Medical in Portland, a medical devices manufacturer. He continues in the position he held as an intern his senior year.

IN MEMORY

Hazel Mary (Houser) Harrison (B42), Sept. 2, 2021, in Newberg.

Bill Stein (B43), June 28, 2021, in Corvallis, Oregon.

Robert Hurford (n48), Sept. 27, 2021, in Newberg.

Lorna Fertello (n49), April 28, 2022, in Newberg.

Enid Briggs (B50), Dec. 16, 2021, in Milwaukie, Oregon.

Harold Magee (B51), Aug. 11, 2021, in Mount Angel, Oregon.

Howard Harmon (B52, M59), Oct. 2, 2021, in Newberg.

Marilyn (Jones) Antrim (n53), Jan. 22, 2022, in Newberg.

Maribeth (McCracken) Hampton (B53), April 17, 2022, in Newberg.

Carmen Parmenter (n54), March 8, 2022, in Independence, Oregon.

Harley Brotherton (B55), Aug. 28, 2021, in Seattle.

Chester Harris (n55), Nov. 15, 2021, in Greenleaf, Idaho.

John Lyda (B58), June 13, 2021, in Newberg.

Carolann (Moor) Palmer (n58), Jan. 26, 2022, in Newberg.

Betty Lou (Walls) Sargent (n58), Dec. 15, 2021, in Newberg.

Bob Willcuts (B60), Feb. 18, 2022, in Parma, Idaho.

Loren Hinkle (B61), Jan. 15, 2022, in Roseburg, Oregon.

Sherrill (Hull) Comfort (B63), Aug. 15, 2021, in Newberg.

Dennis Paola (n66), Oct. 7, 2021, in Salmon Creek, Washington.

Nick Maurer (B65), Jan. 11, 2022, in Newberg.

Twila (Arndt) Osborn (n65), Aug. 25, 2021, in College Place, Washington.

Sharron (Moore) Templeton (B66), Feb. 17, 2022, in Spokane, Washington.

James Dickason (B68), Oct. 5, 2021, in Irrigon, Oregon.

Sara (Hill) Grant (B68), Aug. 11, 2021, in Newberg.

Bruce Ankeny (B69), Oct. 2, 2021, in Nampa, Idaho.

Juanita (Roberts-Eoff) Duncan (B69, M06), Sept. 4, 2021, in Castle Rock, Washington.

Martha (Davenport) Beck (B73), Sept. 10, 2021, in Caldwell, Idaho.

Roger Bendel (B78), Feb. 19, 2021, in Salem, Oregon.

Judy Henderson (B78), Jan. 4, 2022, in Nehalem, Oregon.

Gregg Enns (B81), Oct. 10, 2021, in Silverton, Oregon.

Michael Grigsby (B88, B91), July 12, 2021, in Sisters, Oregon.

Diane Choate (B89), Sept. 8, 2021, in Portland.

Steven Grotjohn, also known as Steven Shank (B89), Feb. 12, 2021, in Longview, Washington.

Danny Jacobs (B89), Oct. 23, 2021, in Longview, Washington.

Carolyn Strey (n94), Aug. 1, 2021, in McMinnville, Oregon.

Christopher Close (B95), Dec. 10, 2021 in Franklin, Tennessee.

Robert Danielian (M00), Nov. 12, 2021, in Dallas, Oregon.

Sharon Shaw (B04, B10), Aug. 5, 2021, in Newberg.

Kyle Kincaid (B09), June 19, 2021, in Newberg.

Karen Ashby (M12), June 29, 2021, in Boise, Idaho.

Philip Katon (B17), Aug. 28, 2021, in Clatskanie, Oregon.

Javier Garcia, June 19, 2021, in Manzanita, Oregon. Director of George Fox University Honors Program, associate professor of religious studies, 2016-2021.

Frank Furtado, Dec. 4, 2021, in Seattle. George Fox football and basketball coach, trainer, instructor of physical education, 1961-1964.

Wes Cook, March 13, 2022, in Redmond, Oregon. George Fox track and field and cross country coach, professor of health and human performance, 1987-2006.

Dan vanderWater (B11), Jan. 27, 2022, in Newberg, Oregon. George Fox planning and space utilization manager, 1996-2021.



Pennington Revealed

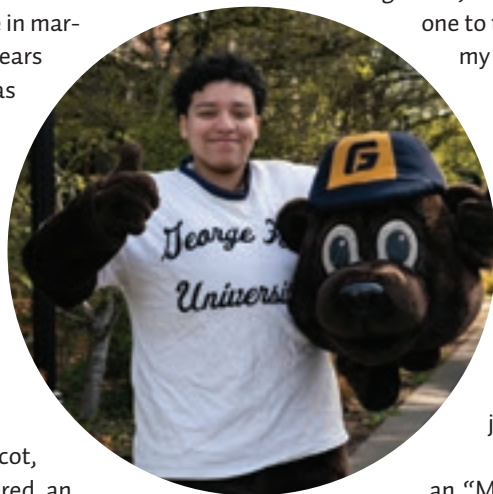
After four years of football games, homecomings and on-campus shenanigans, Marissa Flood shares her secret identity as university mascot By Sean Patterson

There were times she had headaches, was outright sick, or just wasn't feeling up to being cheery and fun. But all those feelings seemed to vanish when Marissa Flood strapped on that big beanie-capped head and floppy paws to become the university's beloved mascot, Pennington.

Flood graduated this spring with a degree in marketing after working all four of her college years as Pennington. She leaves feeling the bear has made her a better person.

"When you're in the suit, you have to be kind and personable – you can't be in a bad mood," she says. "I mean, can you imagine an angry bear walking around? It's funny, because I'm not a big hug person. But when I'm Pennington those personal feelings go away. I just become a different character who loves to hug and encourage people."

Flood didn't plan on being a college mascot, but when she observed what she considered an uninspiring Pennington performance at her first football game freshman year, the thought entered her mind: "I could do this." Friends encouraged her to look into it, and after expressing interest to the marketing communications department, she was hired for the job.



Since then, she's led a double life – as Marissa Flood, the student, and as the high-fiving, always-energetic Pennington. "A small group of friends know, but most people don't know that I did this all these years," she laughs. "I'd have people come up and start talking to me, asking me who I was. Others just needed someone to talk to. I couldn't talk back, but I'd listen, nod my head and give 'em a hug or high five."

One of those individuals – the grandmother of a football player – was Flood's favorite "target." "That older lady just loved me, and I'd seek her out in the crowd and find her to give her a hug," Flood says. "One day, her grandson came to me and told me how much he appreciated me giving her that attention, with tears in his eyes. It just made me think, 'Wow, you really can have an impact on people. We all can. We just need to take the time to do so.'"

Flood was honored for her work, receiving an "MVP award" at a mascot camp she attended, but the joy of being Pennington is what inspired her to continue suiting up.

"People love Pennington, so how can you not love the job?" she says. "That's what made it great. You didn't feel like you were working. You were just out there having fun."

Giving Spotlight: The Intercultural Resource Center



Your Gift Matters to Students Like Ivette

Ivette Uribe isn't quite sure what the future holds, but the recent George Fox graduate knows one thing for certain: She wants to serve others.

In the short term that means moving to Spain to become an English teacher. "Learning a new language is a vulnerable process," she says. "I'm ready to help my students build a healthy relationship with language and learning."

In many ways, Ivette has had the opportunity to be vulnerable, learn and flourish during her time at George Fox thanks to the Intercultural Resource Center (IRC), which exists to serve students by creating and sustaining an active and engaging intercultural campus life.

"Whether it was exploring my own cultural identity or that of others, the IRC has offered a space to do that in an honest and a loving way," she says. "It's a place when I am angry, I can come. When I'm feeling overwhelmed, I can come. When I'm feeling joyful about news that I want to share, they are there to celebrate with me."

The IRC would not exist without generous donors like you who provide funding for multicultural scholarships, leadership programming and cultural enrichment activities that make each and every George Fox student feel at home on campus.

Will you prayerfully consider giving to the IRC?

Your generosity will make a direct impact on students like Ivette.

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BEST IN THE NORTHWEST

For the first time in school history, George Fox can lay claim to the best athletic program in the Northwest Conference. Thanks to five spring season championships, two fall titles, and a series of high league placements, the Bruins won the 2021-22 McIlroy-Lewis All-Sports Trophy, awarded to the NWC school that accumulates the most points over the course of an entire academic year, based on league finishes across all sports. Big contributors were George Fox's men's tennis, women's golf, women's lacrosse, men's and women's track and field, and the men's and women's cross country squads, all of which won conference titles. **Read more on page 6.**

