

2025 GEORGE FOX PRESIDENT'S REPORT

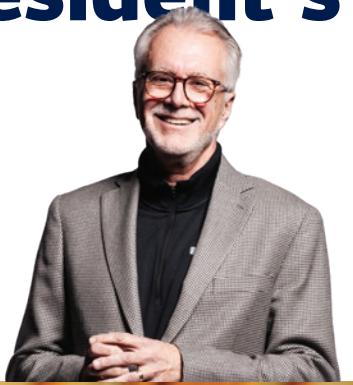
One Big Story

A Year of Faith, Formation
& Generosity



2025 President's Report

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Largest private university in Oregon



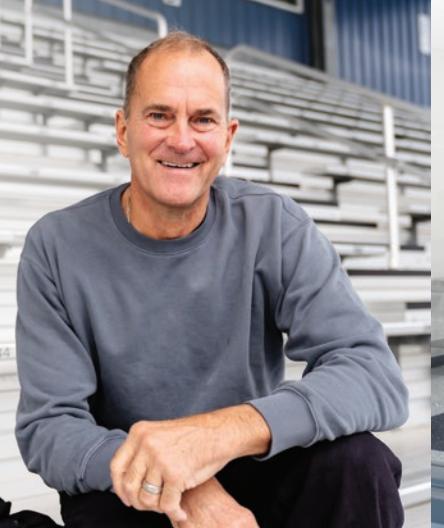
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We live in a time of rapid and transformative change. All you have to do is read any news feed and you'll see multiple articles on all the challenges facing higher education – demographic change, escalating costs, and a declining value proposition. In the face of consistent headwinds, George Fox University continues to grow and thrive. I have been asked many times why. What makes us different?

We have strong academic programs, excellent staff and faculty, and a business strategy that matters in our marketplace, but we are not the only ones with these core competencies. When you depict higher education as a business, your work is about customers and value propositions. A colleague of mine, Mohan Nair, put it this way: "You sell them your value, and they pay a price for it. They get a benefit from taking the benefits minus the price they paid." In short, it's transactional.

While we have value propositions, our success is rooted in

the fact that we are a unique transformational community. Our parents, students and donors choose to join a movement focused on preparing people to embrace and bring about God's Kingdom commitments in our world. They share our values and seek to transform themselves and others in an ever-expanding community. Our Be Known promise conveys to the marketplace that we want to know each story – your God-given gifts – and empower every person to fulfill God's calling on his or her life.

That is why relationships are at the center of this year's President's Report, themed "One Big Story." At a time when loneliness and anxiety are on the rise across university campuses, George Fox is bucking the trend. We model for our students the beauty of meaningful connection and strong community, and as a result, they are not only growing in their vocation and calling, but also in their character and sense of purpose.

Our "big story" this year is all about the work of the

whole-person, Christ-centered formation that happens across all of our programs, and how you, our donors, make it possible. I trust you will be encouraged by what you read in this report. Beyond statistics and facts, you'll read stories of how your support is making a tangible difference in all spectrums of our campus life – in athletics, academics, service, spiritual formation, mentorship programs, and even in the lives of our employees. Thank you for supporting this transformative mission.



Robin Baker



University Highlights

ENROLLMENT & GROWTH



4,339

Total enrollment – a record for the second year in a row

255 Incoming first-generation students

122 First-generation students who graduated in spring 2025

25 Students in our new Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist program

NATIONAL RECOGNITION



#1

Largest private university in Oregon

#1 Christian university in Oregon (U.S. News & World Report)

#1 Among Christian colleges in the Pacific Northwest for social mobility (U.S. News & World Report)

FAITH & COMMUNITY



93%

93% of students report the George Fox community is helping them grow in their relationship with Jesus

88%

Residential students report a strong sense of belonging

120+

Chapel services offered during the 2024-25 academic year

11,294

Community service hours logged by students

200

Childcare spots opening in 2026 in partnership with A-dec and Northwest Christian Church, serving families in the George Fox community and Newberg

10 Highlights from a Year of Faith and Leadership

Did you miss it? 93%.

That's the percentage of George Fox students who say being part of this community is helping them grow in their relationship with Jesus.

In our annual ASLAN survey, conducted by the Office for Spiritual Life, over 1,000 students responded. When we asked who influenced their spiritual growth this past year, they named 275 different people – among them professors, coaches, campus pastors, resident directors, staff members and upperclassmen.

This is the Be Known promise in action – where relationships matter deeply and faith formation happens through people who show up.

That 93%? It's not just a statistic. It's students growing deeper in their faith and being equipped as Christian leaders.

The stories that follow show how formation happens – in classrooms and chapels, on basketball courts in the Dominican Republic and in ceramics studios, through mentor relationships and scholarships, in employee worship and service projects. When a community commits to it, formation happens everywhere.

Thank you for making this possible. We hope these stories encourage you as much as they encourage us.

Formation in Action





The First Year Experience: Forming Leaders from Day One

Ninety freshmen gathered at a Sherwood ranch to begin asking:
Who am I, and who is God calling me to be?

Forming leaders who think with clarity, act with integrity, and serve with passion – that's what George Fox does. This fall, we took that commitment a step further.

Supported by a \$500,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment through Wake Forest University's Educating Charter Initiative, we launched the First Year Experience – a pilot program that begins holistic student formation from the moment students arrive on campus. We started with 90 freshmen, building a model we can refine and scale in the years ahead.

The eight-week program opened with the inaugural First Year Adventure, a retreat that began with ice cream on the quad and worship in the chapel. The following day students gathered with faculty, staff and upperclassman guides at Jim and Jan Bisenius's ranch, where they wrestled with foundational questions: Who am I? Who is God calling me to be? How do I live faithfully in community?

"We were quiet as a mouse the first night and now we can't stop talking to each other. Some of us have even become close friends already."

– First Year Experience participant

100%

of surveyed participants could name a specific "meaningful connection" they made with another person at the retreat



"I thought I was already 'formed,' but after spending the past few weeks in this class, I'm rethinking what that means."

– First Year Experience participant



Leading the Conversation: George Fox Convenes National Leaders

This fall, George Fox hosted faculty from 10 prestigious faith-based institutions – including Notre Dame, Pepperdine, Belmont and Eastern University – to discuss the future of character formation in higher education.

The gathering, part of our role as an Educating Character Initiative grant recipient, showcased our First Year Experience pilot program and sparked energized discussion. One attendee remarked, "This is the first academic conference where egos were set aside and everyone expressed genuine curiosity."

Strategically timed with our annual Resonate Conference, the overlap created something unique: elite institutional leaders growing alongside our students, exploring how Christian wisdom shapes education.

"We have a lot of small campfires burning across campus when it comes to faith formation. The First Year Experience is about bringing those campfires together – uniting them into a bonfire."

– Craig Inglesby, director of The Bridge Network and First Year Adventure leader

Design with Purpose

By creating packaging for Portland Rescue Mission's food service provider, professor Marvin Eans and his students are using their graphic design skills as a vehicle of compassion.

Marvin Eans views creativity as a "divine language" – one that communicates truth, hope and restoration – and graphic design as a form of ministry. It's with that mindset he teaches Print Packaging and Design, a course where students use their skills to, as Eans puts it, "bring dignity and hope to communities through visual storytelling."

Now, through a partnership with Fresh Start Catering, the food distribution wing of the Portland Rescue Mission, his class is putting those words to flesh by creating custom packaging for the charity. The challenge for students is to design branding, packaging and messaging that reflect Fresh Start's mission to "eat well, do good."

For Eans, it's the latest project that reflects his philosophy that design can be a vehicle for compassion, dignity and social change. "It's powerful to watch them connect their artistic skills with a deeper sense of purpose and social responsibility," says Eans, an assistant professor of art and



design. "Our goal is to create lasting relationships where students can continue contributing to real-world impact while developing their professional portfolios."

The experience reinforces the ethos of the university's graphic design program, which emphasizes the integration of faith and design. "We don't just teach students how to create, but why they create," Eans says.

Supported by a microgrant from the university's Program for Leadership & Formation, Eans' projects incorporate the university's call to engage the head, heart and hands in cultivating the whole person – uniting academic rigor, spiritual formation and service. His vision is to make service-integrated design a defining feature of the program, preparing students to bring their faith into every creative endeavor – a goal reflected in current partnerships with organizations that include Habitat for Humanity, Love INC, and the Philadelphia Dream Center.

Why Grants Matter

Projects like the First Year Experience, the art of kintsugi, and designing for good represent what happens when faculty innovation meets strategic investment. This year, George Fox faculty secured 36 competitive grants totaling nearly \$3 million, bringing resources and national recognition to mission-driven work across every discipline.

FY25: A Year of Impact

36 new grants received
\$2,895,984 in new funding secured

Featured Grants:

Thriving Congregations Program

\$500,000 | Lilly Endowment Inc.
Supporting and strengthening local churches through Portland Seminary
Led by Leah Payne, Seminary faculty

Science Research: Eye Lens Proteins

\$70,000 | M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
Funding undergraduate and faculty discovery in the natural sciences
Led by Micah Donor, Biology faculty

Bilingual Mentorship & Empowerment

\$240,000 | Yamhill Community Care
Culturally oriented mentorship projects serving our local community
Led by Erin Johnson and Yong Zheng, Social Work faculty

Finding Wholeness in Broken Pieces: Kintsugi in the Ceramics Studio

Students learned kintsugi – repairing ceramics with gold – and discovered conversations about brokenness and restoration.

"I think we can all relate to feeling broken."

That's what one student wrote after learning kintsugi – the Japanese art of repairing broken ceramics with gold – in Tiffany Hokanson's ceramics course. What started as an exercise in embracing failure became something deeper: a space where students connected their work, their faith, and their stories.

Hokanson wanted to weave more faith formation into her teaching. Ceramics is a breakable medium that tests patience, and she didn't want students to stall out when mistakes happened. So she applied for a microgrant from the Program for Leadership & Formation, which provided every student, from beginner to advanced, a kintsugi kit.

The art has rich cultural and historical context, which Hokanson learned when she studied under a Portland-based master. But it also opened conversations about brokenness and restoration. Students discussed 2 Corinthians 4:7 – living in a broken world while bringing healing and hope. As they repaired their ceramic tiles with gold, they opened up about their own imperfections and showed each other grace.

"What I thought was going to be a talk about failure and faith really became a bond amongst classmates," Hokanson says. "Students were craving connection through the process."

Mid-semester evaluations had a clear theme. Students asked for more of this reflective work, where they are invited to talk about their faith in class.

One student wrote, "It taught me not to

judge others just because their cracks are in a different spot than mine. We are all made whole in Jesus."

For Hokanson, the experience has been formative as well. She remembers a workshop early in her George Fox career where the facilitator said the best way to incorporate faith into teaching is to develop your own faith first.

"This has been a way to develop myself as a professor," she says. "We're all growing together. I see this having a ripple effect throughout my classes."

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

– 2 Corinthians 4:7



Looking Ahead in FY26: Local & National Funding on the Horizon

Mathematics Research
\$343,333 | National Science Foundation
Faculty-led collaborative research advancing the field
Led by Nicole Enzinger, Mathematics faculty

Community Health Services

\$149,221 | Austin Family Foundation
Bringing Physical Therapy and Spanish Translation services to Virginia Garcia Health Clinic
Led by Becky Dobler, Physical Therapy faculty

Faculty innovation

through competitive grants is one way we invest in formation.

Student mentorship is another.

The Bridge Network: Where Leadership Meets Discipleship

Student-athletes learn to lead by being deeply known.

Shelby Larson was having a rough week her senior year. The pole vaulter and communications major called her mentor desperate for a listening ear. Her mentor was scrubbing toilets that day – but invited Shelby over anyway, pulled the couch ottoman right up to the bathroom doorframe, and kept cleaning while Shelby poured her heart out. Today, Larson – now George Fox's conference and early college experiences manager – still carries that memory.

The Bridge Network exists to help student-athletes connect with professionals in the marketplace, investing in spiritual growth and future dreams with someone thriving in their field. Started in 2017 with just 17 participants, the program now serves 100 students through a three-tiered model: underclassmen are mentored by upperclassmen, who are mentored by Christian professionals. Students don't just learn about leadership – they practice it while being deeply known. The program, open to all students, is roughly 70% student-athletes, with many graduates returning as mentors.

For Gina Kluver, a George Fox alumna and former assistant volleyball coach now in her seventh year as a mentor, the gift flows both directions. What strikes her most is the caliber of students who say yes, demonstrating their character, maturity and genuine love of Jesus. But more than that,

they come with humility, ready to learn and grow. That posture inspires her own faith walk.

Kluver leans into her people skills from her career as a teacher, connecting with student-athletes through conversation and presence. Caring about students and inviting them into your life isn't complicated, she says. It simply means living life together, allowing Jesus to use you as his hands and feet.

For students like Larson, The Bridge Network creates a framework for discipleship, giving accountability to live out their identity in Christ through loving others well. And it gives permission to fail forward – testing leadership styles, bumping up against trials, and returning to mentors devoted to figuring it out together.

Director Craig Inglesby explains: "Most universities are good at saying, 'Goodbye! And good luck!' But the gospel says, 'I'm going to send you out and I'm going to walk alongside you.'"

Entirely donor-funded, The Bridge Network represents a significant investment in what makes George Fox distinctive. Last year, donors contributed over \$200,000, ensuring students continue to experience formation that influences the course of their lives.



Mentor Gina Kluver
and mentee,
Aubrey Smith

Faith Formation on the Football Field

A team meeting and a parable changed everything. Twenty football players raised their hands, ready to explore faith.

It started as a regular team meeting. Assistant coach Quinn was talking through one of the team's standards when he told a story that landed with unexpected force.

The room went quiet. Then Quinn asked the question that changed everything: Are you ready? If you don't know the Lord, do you want to know more? Do you want to commit to living a life with eternal purpose?

Twenty hands went up. Among them, two players who had been clear from the start – they were at George Fox for football and a degree, not the faith stuff.

But that night, something shifted.

The real work began after the meeting. Those 20 students were invited into small discipleship groups led by staff across the athletics department. Each received a Fellowship of

Christian Athletes (FCA) student-athlete Bible. For some, it was their first time navigating Scripture, learning the difference between chapters and verses.

Head football coach Spencer Crace came to George Fox because he could do two things he cares about in one place – coach competitive football and form young men in their faith. With a background in FCA football ministry, he saw the program as his dream job.

According to Athletic Director Adam Puckett, discipleship only works when coaches model what they teach. Crace does exactly that, creating a culture where tough questions get honest answers and faith is lived out daily, on the field and off.



Building More Than a Court: Service in the Dominican Republic

In La Grua, George Fox basketball players spent 10 days building a court, serving the community, and testing their grit against local semipros.

In 104-degree heat, George Fox basketball players had every reason to collapse during their breaks. Instead, they were giving piggyback rides.

Local children gathered to watch the work, and during rest periods, students hoisted kids onto their backs, running circles around the worksite, laughing despite exhaustion. No one said no.

This past summer, 24 students from the men's and women's basketball teams spent 10 days in La Grua, Dominican Republic, building a regulation basketball court through Courts for Kids. Students slept on air mattresses in classrooms, showered with buckets, and worked 12-hour days. Courts for Kids operates on partnership – local communities handle excavation and housing, then work side by side with teams. Everyone builds together.

For Athletic Director Adam Puckett, who joined the trip, what he witnessed went beyond construction. For him, the students were "being the hands and feet of Jesus to the

community." They finished the court in two days instead of three. One evening when someone mentioned stopping for dinner, Puckett glanced at his watch thinking it was 4:30. It was 8 p.m.

The trip included competitive basketball, too. In one game against a local semipro team, the Bruins mounted a comeback led by Noah Marte, a student of Dominican heritage who had never visited the country. Marte hit four three-pointers in a row, including a buzzer-beater that sent the game to overtime. The entire community rushed the court, embracing him. For the rest of the trip, locals stopped him on the street – an unexpected homecoming for a student discovering his roots while serving.

For 10 days, these students worked until their muscles ached. They gave piggyback rides when they should have been resting, discovering that joy and sacrifice aren't opposites but part of the same story.

A Sanctuary of Stillness

The addition of a 'sacred space' allows students and employees alike to find solace and a place for contemplation on campus.

Something special is happening on campus multiple times each week: Students are disconnecting from the distractions of the world and turning their heads – literally and figuratively – heavenward.

Adorned with stained-glass images of Scripture, art that invokes the "Peaceable Kingdom" paintings of Edward Hicks, and a vaulted ceiling that beckons attendees to look up, the recently constructed chapel is serving as more than a

"new place to host worship services." In a culture "flooded with noise," as DeBrianna Cabitac-DeBolt puts it, students have found a sacred space where praise, contemplation and stillness take precedence over distraction, clutter and clamor.

"It is so special to have a space that feels still and quiet," says Cabitac-DeBolt, university pastor for chapel and creative liturgies. "We don't have screens, the production level is low, and we have lots of opportunities for students to look at the beautiful art and the liturgy books. Students have really been drawn to this space – they prefer it in a lot of ways."

Each week, four distinct services – three in the chapel and one in Bauman Auditorium – invite students to engage their faith through four themes: "Be Rooted," "Be Formed" and "Be With" chapels center on the Parables of Jesus, while "Be Renewed" explores what it means to love God with one's heart, soul, mind and strength – and to love others as oneself. Anywhere from 600 to 900 attend weekly.

And the sacred nature of the chapel isn't restricted by its walls. Recently, after an all-campus worship service in Bauman Auditorium, several students made a public declaration of their faith by being baptized on the chapel's steps.

"It was a wonderful evening together," Cabitac-DeBolt says. "Thank you, donors, for providing this space for students to connect with others and with God in a unique way. You have made this beautiful sacred space possible."



Watch: Baptisms at the Chapel



Dean for Intercultural Life Carlos Fernandez leads employee worship, along with Director of First Generation Success Karla Chan Mendez (right) and guest worship leader Chelsea Hostetler (center)

Uniting in Song

A novel's story about the power of music to encourage people serves as the inspiration for the launch of a new tradition at George Fox: a time for worship in all-employee meetings.

The whole idea was birthed by a work of historical fiction – *Work Song*, by Ivan Doig, which relates the plight of miners in early-1900s Montana. As Rob Felton read it, he was inspired.

“A part of the story is about the attempt to unite different ethnic factions – Irish, Welsh, Cornish, Ruthenian – in a workers’ union during a time of labor strife with the powerful mining company that ran the town,” says Felton, chief of staff in the university’s president’s office. “At one point the main character tries to convince the union leaders that music and lyrics can move emotions and build solidarity. He goes on to create a song that the miners sing together to express their unity.”

As a longtime Christian, Felton knew of the power of congregational singing, but reading a fictional story of how singing together unites a diverse group of people led him to ask a question: How would this same practice benefit the

employee community at his own workplace?

“I thought about how fortunate we are at George Fox to already have these familiar songs that unite us around our Christian faith,” he says. “It struck me that we had this opportunity at our all-employee meetings to be united around our spiritual mission. It’s really powerful when we sing a hymn or song together, all voicing the same words in worship.”

Felton, with the blessing of President Robin Baker, added a worship time to each of the monthly all-employee meetings in the fall of 2024. It wasn’t the first time employees gathered in song – the university has incorporated worship at its all-community meeting in August for years, and Baker has, on occasion, led an a cappella hymn. But this is the first time worship is a part of every all-employee gathering.



Pure Joy: Using a Recovered Voice for His Glory

For worship leader Hayley Cummings, leading employee worship came at just the right time. Two years earlier, she would have had to decline – a voice injury wouldn’t allow it.

Cummings first overcame a vocal cord injury as a George Fox freshman in the mid-1990s. Then in 2018, severely bruised vocal cords required surgery and months of therapy.

“I became painfully aware of how deeply I needed to worship the Lord through song,” she recalls.

Now fully healed, she considers it “pure joy” to lead colleagues in song every three months, fulfilling her promise to use her voice recovery to glorify God. **To read Hayley’s story, scan the QR code.**



The Gift of Being Known

The Ignite Mentorship Program connects George Fox students with industry professionals who guide them in integrating faith, work and calling – turning classroom theory into vocational wisdom.

When Braeden Mattos thinks about his time in Ignite, George Fox’s vocational mentorship program for business and engineering students, he keeps coming back to his mentor, Jason Conolly.

Jason, an electrical and controls engineering manager at Hampton Lumber and this year’s Ignite Mentor of the Year, offered something more than career advice. He remembered details from conversations weeks later. He reached out between meetings to check in. He asked questions that helped Braeden think through decisions instead of telling him what to do.

“He wasn’t judgmental about the things going on in my life,” Braeden says. “He walked me through different ways I could go about doing things.”

That kind of relationship – personal, patient, invested – is what Ignite creates. Five years in, the program has matched

nearly 500 students with mentors from more than 200 companies. In over 3,400 meetings, they’ve wrestled with questions that go deeper than resume building. They talk about integrating faith and work, navigating workplace challenges, and discerning calling alongside career.

Many mentors are George Fox alumni who remember standing where these students stand. They carve out time from full lives to help the next generation feel seen, supported, and confident as they step into their calling.



Braeden Mattos with mentor Jason Conolly

Pacific Seafood

Industry Partners Who Invest in Students

Ignite connects students with mentors from more than 200 companies – employers who believe in developing purpose-driven leaders. Pacific Seafood, Ignite’s platinum sponsor, exemplifies this commitment. The largest vertically integrated seafood company in North America, Oregon-based Pacific Seafood employs over 3,500 people across 47 facilities in 11 states. This family-owned company embodies servant leadership, investing in team members and the communities they serve – from donating millions of pounds of protein to food banks to supporting coastal infrastructure. Already partnering with George Fox through their tuition grant program, Pacific Seafood understands what it means to develop people professionally and spiritually. We’re grateful for their partnership in the Ignite program.



Helping Students Cross the Finish Line

The Robin Baker Endurance Fund

At 6 a.m., President Robin Baker laces up his running shoes – just as he has nearly every morning for the past 26 years at George Fox. It's his discipline, his meditation, his way of preparing for the day ahead.

"My dad always said, you don't have to sign up," President Baker explains. "But once you sign up, you cannot quit."

It's a principle his father, a coach, instilled in him as a young athlete – and one that has shaped his approach to leadership, faith and life. It's also the principle that inspired George Fox parents, Tim and Barbara Davis, to create an emergency scholarship fund in President Baker's honor.

The story begins decades earlier, in a different president's office, when Tim was the student who couldn't afford to finish.



Tim Davis talks with President Baker about the emergency scholarship fund he and his wife Barbara founded to help students facing financial hardship finish their education at George Fox.

A Meeting That Changed Everything

Tim's senior year at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota, should have been a celebration. Instead, his scholarship money disappeared. When he met with President Bob Holtz, uncertain about his future, President Holtz gave him advice that would shape the rest of his life.

President Holtz advised Tim to transfer to the University of Minnesota for a business degree, explaining that "the mission field in the world of business is much bigger than the mission field in the church."

But he added one crucial instruction: "Remember that when you go, you also have a responsibility of generosity to give back."

For nearly 30 years, Tim has honored that charge. Whenever a Concordia president calls about a senior unable to afford their final year, Tim writes a check. No questions asked.

"With the word endurance, it means that I struggle not only to survive, but I struggle to succeed."

– Tim Davis

'This Will Be Fun'

Years later, when Tim's daughter Lana came to visit George Fox as a prospective student-athlete, he asked to meet President Robin Baker.

Admissions kept calling back, asking why.

"I really just want to have a conversation with him," Tim says. "I want to understand the culture of the school ... and I wanted to understand his heart."

President Baker's response? "This will be fun."

"A lot of parents want to talk to me about where their daughter parks," President Baker remembers, "or how close they can get to the residence hall. I'm always willing to spend time with someone who wants to talk more deeply about the mission."

That conversation became a friendship. And that friendship inspired the Robin Baker Endurance Fund.

Lana Davis is a First-Team All-NWC lacrosse player for the Bruins. In her senior year, she is studying to become a financial advisor.



Why 'Endurance' Matters

"With the word endurance, it means that I struggle not only to survive, but I struggle to succeed," Tim explains. "The Endurance Scholarship is really for those students who are in that position I was in as a senior in college and couldn't finish."

Tim thinks about students who've worked hard, sacrificed much, and proven their commitment – only to hit a wall they didn't create and can't control on their own. He wants to equip them to finish strong, to show them that their efforts matter. It's a message Tim has shared with his own children.

He remembers teaching this to his daughter Lana, who persevered through challenging weekly mile runs during middle school. "She would come home and complain, and I said, 'Lana, it's about finishing. It's not about the race, it's about finishing the race and enduring through the process that you're learning.'"

Today, Lana plays Division III lacrosse at George Fox. Her endurance paid off.

Run With Us

"God asks us to prepare ourselves to lay aside every weight or problem that encumbers us so that we can run the race effectively," President Baker reflects, "but we run it in community with other people. We're assigned a particular role in this story, and all of us have an aspect or something that God has given us to play."

For President Baker, a scholarship does more than cover tuition – it empowers students to pursue the calling God has placed on their lives. "You have to envision how education at a place like George Fox can empower in that person the heart of God, so that he or she not only becomes excellent in their field, but that they contribute to the Christian mission."

Tim and Barbara's vision extends beyond his initial gift. "What I'd love to see from this fund is not just the money, but the parents enduring beyond the four years that their children are here. When the children leave, the parents stay," says Tim.

The Robin Baker Endurance Fund is an invitation to run together – to be part of a community committed to helping students finish strong. Students who are this close to graduation shouldn't have to quit. Because of this fund, and because of donors who join in this mission, they won't.

"It's not about the race, it's about finishing the race and enduring through the process."

– Tim Davis



Watch: The Full Story

Hear Robin and Tim talk about their friendship, what "endurance" really means, and why helping students finish matters more than ever. Learn more about the fund at georgefox.edu/EnduranceFund.



Building for Formation



Spaces that Serve Students

Portland Center: Advancing Nursing Excellence

The dedication of our newly remodeled Portland Center marked more than a ribbon-cutting – it celebrated a shared vision for healthcare in the Northwest. Because of your remarkable generosity, we've raised over \$1.6 million toward our Doctor of Nursing Practice program, with an additional \$500,000 grant pending.

Our first cohort of nurse anesthetist students is already in training, preparing to bring specialized care to rural communities that need it most. In the fall of 2027, we'll launch our

psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner track, addressing the critical shortage of mental health providers in underserved areas.

This investment strengthens not only our nursing program but George Fox's capacity to meet growing demand for graduate healthcare education – securing our position as a leader in compassionate, faith-integrated care.

Art and Cinematic Arts Building: A Space for Creative Flourishing

At Homecoming, we gathered with art alumni and friends to celebrate a dream decades in the making. The new art and cinematic arts building represents a significant institutional investment in the creative arts, supported by over \$800,000 in donor gifts and pledges. This space will nurture generations of artists and filmmakers, providing them with the tools and environment to create work that glorifies God and serves the world.

Special recognition goes to Loni Parrish and the Allison Inn & Spa for hosting a remarkable summer event that raised \$50,000 in a single day and \$300,000 in total. A portion of this gift will name the ceramics studio in honor of

Professor Emeritus Mark Terry, whose decades of dedication shaped countless student artists.

This space represents our commitment to the arts at a time when many institutions are cutting programs. George Fox continues to form artists who bring beauty, truth and hope into the world – thanks to those who believe in this vision alongside us.

Spaces like the Portland Center and the art and cinematic arts building create environments where formation flourishes. But formation also requires removing barriers – ensuring every called student can access a George Fox education. Johanna Kaye, our executive director of financial aid, explains how donor support makes that possible.



Meeting the Need: A Conversation with Johanna Kaye, Executive Director of Financial Aid

How do donor-funded scholarships impact students at George Fox?

Donor-funded scholarships make the difference between students going to college or not going to college or getting to finish their degree. A \$1,000 scholarship might be the make or break for a student to be able to attend George Fox and pursue whatever God is calling them to do.

Where is the greatest need for scholarship support?

About one-third of our students need additional funds beyond their financial aid package. We want students to finish at George Fox. Continuing students have less access to external aid, so that's where we can make a really big impact. That's where a lot of times we can help them through and alleviate the burden so they can continue on.



What kind of scholarship funds are most helpful?

If I had a pool of \$50,000 at the start of every term to use for students that come into our office, and after we learn their story and know a little more about what's going on, we are able to say, 'You need \$2,000 to make this work. Here you go.' Unrestricted funds give us the flexibility to meet students where they are.

How are recent federal changes affecting families?

It's those middle-income families that are hit the hardest. They don't get a lot of federal aid, and they don't have a lot of liquid cash that they are able to pay out of pocket. This is the group that we see utilize Parent Plus Loans, which will have new restrictions. Most of our families using Parent Plus Loans borrow more than the limit. That's where donor support becomes even more critical – helping us bridge the gap for families navigating these changes.

'It Changed Everything'

Beacon Scholar Josie Ogden shares how a full-tuition scholarship made college possible – and brought her back to faith.

Josie almost didn't make it to her Beacon Scholarship interview.

She'd just finished a night shift as a certified nursing assistant when the call came – someone had dropped out last minute; could she interview Friday? She said no. She had to work.

Then she called her mom and her roommate. "Are you crazy?" they said. "Call out of work. We'll drive you."

So her roommate picked her up at 6 a.m. after her shift ended, drove three hours from Bend to Newberg for the interview, then drove back so

Josie could sleep before her next shift. When she found out she'd won the full-tuition scholarship, she called it what it was: a blessing from God.

Josie, now 24, knows something about blessings. She was placed in foster care at 6 and adopted at 10 by Linda, a woman who was 62 at the time and already raising five children. Linda adopted Josie, her brother, and her younger sister as a group because she didn't want to separate them. Then she retired early when Josie's little sister, who was born with two holes in her heart, needed constant medical care.

"She gave up her life to raise us," Josie says. "I want her to see that it was worth it."

In high school, Josie was able to become a certified nursing assistant and began working right away. Her first year of college coincided with the pandemic, and like so many nurses she worked the COVID unit at the hospital, picking up extra shifts and ultimately sleeping through classes. Her grades tanked, and she lost her scholarships, the support that made college possible. She decided to take a year off.

When she came back, Josie decided to change careers and finally explore her calling to become a teacher. It took two years to earn her associate degree in early childhood education. She worked the entire time as a nursing assistant – a

The George Fox Scholarship Fund

The Beacon Transfer Scholarship is made possible by the George Fox Scholarship Fund. When you give, you're not just supporting one student. You're investing in future teachers, nurses and leaders who will serve their communities for decades to come.

Learn more at georgefox.edu/scholarshipfund



job she's held for six years now – while attending community college.

When her advisor suggested George Fox, Josie saw it as an opportunity to step back into faith. She'd grown up Christian but had drifted away during her busy nursing years. Linda was thrilled when Josie applied to a Christian university.

At George Fox, Josie has found her way back to faith through the community around her – a church that welcomed her immediately, classmates who talk openly about their beliefs, professors who do devotions before class, and time listening to the Bible during her commute.

And she discovered something else. Josie had hated math her entire life – until she met her George Fox math professor, Rachel Harrington, who took the time to help her understand. For the first time, math made sense.

Now Josie wants to be a middle school math teacher.

Even with the Beacon Scholarship covering full tuition, Josie works three jobs – nursing assistant on weekends, cafeteria worker three mornings a week, and until recently, Spirit Halloween part time. She doesn't qualify for federal grants because her income as a CNA is considered too high, even though she struggles to pay for gas and living expenses. For students like Josie – first-generation, working full-time to support themselves – a full-tuition scholarship is the difference between college being possible or impossible.

"Without this scholarship, I don't think I could ever afford George Fox," Josie says. "It changed everything."

Linda is 78 now, living on Social Security, still raising Josie's 18-year-old sister. Josie calls her every day. "I just want to make her proud," she says.

She will. And in two and a half years, she'll be in a classroom, making a difference for students who need her.

Financial Aid & Donor Impact

1,819 new donor households joined the George Fox family in FY25

Each represents someone who decided this mission matters. Together, we now have 2,745 donor households investing in student success.

George Fox Invests + You Make It Personal

\$52.3M
institutional aid
serving 2,364
students

477
students
received donor-funded
scholarships
this year

The Power of Permanent Giving

190 endowed scholarships = **\$774,652** distributed

These funds work forever – supporting students year after year, generation after generation.

Where the Need is Greatest: The Middle-Income Squeeze

Families earning too much for significant federal aid but without liquid cash to cover costs face the biggest challenges – especially with new Parent PLUS Loan restrictions.

930 Pell-eligible students show our commitment to low-income families, but middle-income students need champions too.

This is where donor support – especially unrestricted and endowed funds – makes the biggest difference.

Did You Know?

Did you know that George Fox University was ranked **No. 1** among Christian colleges in the Pacific Northwest on the U.S. News & World Report's "Top Performers on Social Mobility" list for 2025?

This prestigious recognition is a direct result of our dedication to student success. Social mobility is measured by how well we enroll and graduate students who receive **Pell Grants** – funds primarily for students with the greatest financial need.

We are meeting this challenge with intentional investment. In FY25, we supported **930** Pell-eligible students, backed by over **\$52 million** in institutional aid.

The result is generational change: An incredible **92%** of our graduates are employed, in graduate school, or volunteering within 12 months. You aren't just giving a scholarship; you're launching successful lives and fueling the mission behind our No. 1 ranking.

This No. 1 ranking reflects a community-wide commitment – from institutional investment to individual generosity. Here's how that community grew this year.

George Fox
Ranked
No. 1
in Social
Mobility

Give Day 2025 – A Snapshot of Community

24
hours

\$144,000
raised

705
new donors

61

campus departments rallied

When the entire Bruin community comes together, we can change lives in a single day.



The Growing George Fox Community

This Year's Impact

\$7,011,780 in **gifts and commitments** (FY25)
Supporting students and programs today

2,745 donor households made George Fox part of their giving this year

Our Donor Community

211 donor-funded scholarships

400 Leadership Partners

President's Council, Cornerstone Club and **Bruin Parent Council** households give at annual leadership levels, providing stability and vision for the university's future.

25 **Bruin Parent Council** members are actively investing in their student's George Fox experience.

26 New **Henry Mills Society** members

Securing Tomorrow

\$3,971,610 in **planned giving commitments**

215 **Henry Mills Society** members have named George Fox in their estate plans, creating a legacy that will serve students for generations to come.



A Promise to the Future

Join the 20 Bequests for 20 Years Campaign

In 2027, we celebrate President Robin Baker's 20 years of devoted leadership. Here's a look at 20 highlights from his legacy of putting students first.

1 The university set an enrollment record for a second straight year in 2025. During President Baker's tenure, enrollment has doubled, making George Fox **Oregon's largest private college**.

2 George Fox has added **six healthcare education programs** in the last 13 years, including the recently launched Doctor of Nursing Practice program (2025).

3 For the last 25 years, **Serve Day** has inspired over **30,000 acts of service** by mobilizing students, faculty and staff to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our local community.



4 The **Be Known promise** became a part of the university's central message in 2010.



5 **Bruin Football** made a come-back to George Fox in 2014 after a 46-year hiatus.

6 The Bruins have won **more than two dozen league titles** in the last seven years, in addition to two McIlroy-Lewis trophies (2022 and 2023), honoring the overall athletic excellence of sports programs in the Northwest Conference.

12 A partnership with **A-dec and Northwest Christian Church** will provide **childcare** for 200 children ages six weeks to 5 years old for the George Fox and Newberg community. The daycare center is expected to open in 2026.

7 The Portland Business Journal named President Robin Baker one of its **2023 Executives of the Year**.



8 The **George Fox Chapel** opened its doors in 2024, ushering in a new era of Spirit-filled and student-led worship services on campus.

9 The Newberg campus has been transformed with the addition of spaces for learning and connection, including **Canyon Commons** (2016), the **Hadlock Student Center** (2018), and the **Crisman Crossing** bridge (2015), which connects both halves of campus. And, with the addition of the **art and cinematic arts building** (2025), creators and filmmakers have modern facilities to grow as artists.



10 When the pandemic forced a pivot, George Fox expanded its online offerings through **George Fox Digital** and redesigned classrooms to uphold the Be Known promise.

11 The Brandt (2015) and Newlin (2019) residence halls **expanded housing** for undergraduates, in addition to the strategic acquisition of several properties to house students.

13 Launched in the fall of 2014, the **George Fox Honors Program** offers an alternative general education program that focuses on sharpening the intellect, stirring the heart and speaking to the soul through the study of history's greatest books in Socratic seminars. In 2024, the honors program welcomed its **largest incoming class**.



14 **One-hundred-and-fifty freshmen** participated in the inaugural First Year Experience (2025) this fall. The seven-week pilot program is a collaboration of university leaders, designed to help students connect their faith, career and calling while at George Fox.

15 The **Servant Engineering program**, established in 2010, started as a way to inspire engineering majors to utilize their special talents to serve others. The engineering program has since gained national recognition and is included in the U.S. News & World Report's list of **Best Engineering Programs** in 2025.

16 In the last two decades, donors have partnered with the university to create substantial need-based scholarships for **first-generation students** like **Act Six** and the **Beacon Transfer Scholarship**, while President Baker and his wife, Ruth, have mentored 31 scholarship recipients through the **Dukes Scholars** program in their home.

17 Since it was launched in 1987, the **Juniors Abroad program** has taken students to every continent but Antarctica. President Baker himself has led several of these trips.

18 Under President Baker's leadership, the university **continues to rank high nationally**, earning recognition as a "Best National University" (U.S. News & World Report) and as a "Best College" (Money magazine).

19 In 2025, President Baker launched a new tradition – the **Presidential Challenge Coin** – as a tangible way for students to commemorate their Be Known experience. Freshmen receive the coin in a special ceremony, and four years later, give it to a significant faculty or staff member who contributed to their college journey.



20 George Fox has become a beacon for exploring the goodness and truth of Christianity, through deep conversations on **George Fox Talks** and hosting events like the **Resonate Conference** and the **Undiscovered C.S. Lewis Conference**, which draws scholars from around the world.

Watch: Generation After Generation



See how George Fox University has been preserved by people like you – and how your legacy can be part of what endures. [Learn more at georgefox.edu/20for20](http://georgefox.edu/20for20).





Planning for the Next 100 Years

A Q&A with Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President of Operations Vicki Piersall

Q: What is the endowment and why does it matter?

A: The endowment is George Fox's long-term investment fund that provides financial stability for the university and our students. Think of it as a permanent foundation that generates income year after year to support scholarships, programs, and operations – even during economic downturns.

While our endowment has grown over the last five years, it's still small compared to peer institutions that enroll far fewer students. This is why growing the endowment is so critical. When I think about the endowment, I'm not planning for the next five to 10 years. I'm thinking about the next 100 years of George Fox's mission.



Q: How does the endowment help students?

A: Each year, we distribute a portion of the endowment's earnings to fund scholarships, academic programs, and student support services. When the endowment grows, we can serve more students and weather economic challenges without cutting programs or reducing financial aid. It's what allows us to keep our promises to students, even in uncertain times.

"When I think about the endowment, I'm not planning for the next five to 10 years. I'm thinking about the next 100 years of George Fox's mission."

Q: How is George Fox managing the endowment?

A: We've shifted to a more aggressive investment strategy in recent years, moving from simply preserving cash to investing for long-term growth.

This approach has positioned us well for the future and allows the endowment to work harder for our students and mission.

Q: What does a strong endowment signal about George Fox's financial health?

A: A strong endowment does more than generate annual income – it demonstrates financial stability to the broader market. George Fox maintains an S&P A- credit rating, which, combined with our growing endowment, allows us to access capital markets when we need to fund major initiatives like new academic programs or facilities.

We've also modernized our investment approach with a balanced active-passive investment framework. This positions us to capture growth while managing risk appropriately for an institution of our size and mission.

Q: What's your goal for the endowment?

A: Our goal is to reach \$50 million by 2027, \$60 million by 2030, and \$100 million by 2035. We're aiming for an endowment of at least \$250 million long-term. At that level, the annual distribution can offset any economic downturns and ensure we can maintain our programs and continue serving students without making difficult cuts. It gives us stability and protects George Fox's future.

Year of Endowment Growth & Trajectory

July 1, 2024: \$34.3 Million → June 30, 2025 \$41.6 Million

+\$7.3 Million in one year



Where Every Dollar Goes

\$965,760 distributed income

→ Student Scholarships	76%	\$774,652
→ Other Restricted Funds	16%	\$158,694
→ Restricted Funds	3%	\$32,414

190 Endowed Scholarships, Working for Students Every Year

Over three-quarters of all endowment earnings go directly to scholarships – a permanent resource that grows stronger with every gift.

How We Got Here

What Powered the \$7.3M Growth?

\$4.2M in new contributions from donors like you

\$4.1M in investment returns from our new active-passive strategy

\$1.0M distributed income

= \$7.3M net growth

Looking Ahead: George Fox in 2030

Your giving to George Fox doesn't just support programs and buildings – it shapes lives. When you invest in this university, you're backing a vision for how Christian higher education can transform the next generation of leaders. At our October board retreat, we asked ourselves a fundamental question: Where is God calling us over the next five years? The answer required returning to the basics – to why we exist in the first place.

Why We Exist

Jesus Christ's vision for the world was for God's will to be done "on earth as it is in heaven." In line with this vision, we believe the purpose of a Christian university is to transform the lives of students to live out and spread God's kingdom values in their personal and vocational lives.

From the beginning, universities have always been the "cathedrals of culture," producing the leaders who would transform our world. In today's era of "values-free education," the Christian university plays an increasingly vital role in preparing the next generation of leaders – ones who will live exceptional lives in pursuit of God's vision for the world. It is in this context that we have formed our university's vision, mission, values and practice.

George Fox University in 2030 will ...

- Be known for character development and faith formation
- Be the primary place in the West where students come to find a Christian education preparing them for a calling in healthcare
- Be known for its work advancing the economy of Yamhill County and the well-being of local citizens
- Be an exemplar in using technology to facilitate learning
- Have a \$60 million endowment
- Be known as a key contributor in regional Christian thought leadership
- Be the largest and best-known Christian university in the Northwest

What This Means

Every goal connects directly to student transformation and institutional sustainability. Our healthcare programs respond to critical workforce shortages while training students to be the hands and feet of Jesus in medicine, nursing and counseling. Our growing graduate programs position us to weather what's ahead – the demographic cliff, a projected decline in traditional college-age students that will reshape higher education over the next decade. A \$60 million endowment helps us keep tuition stable and ensures more financial support for more students over time. And our investment in Yamhill County teaches students that kingdom values start in your own neighborhood.

Your partnership makes all of this possible. Thank you for believing in what God is doing at George Fox.



THE GEOGRAPHY OF Generosity

A Map of Your Giving Across Campus

1 Art & Cinematic Arts Building

Loni and Scott Parrish hosted a summer fundraiser at the Allison Inn & Spa, rallying **art alumni and the Newberg community to raise \$300,000** for the new space, with funds naming the ceramics studio after Professor Emeritus Mark Terry.

2 Lemmons Center

Steve and Talana Brutscher established the **Studio Arts Endowed Scholarship** with a real estate sale. Their family, including daughter Chandler Brutscher, chair of the Department of Art & Design, continues investing in the fund, now totaling \$61,720. Janey Belozer's **Studio Art Department Endowment**, now at \$105,736, provides professors with teaching resources. Thank you to Susan and David Vandelinde for establishing the "Art is Everywhere" endowed scholarship to support aspiring artists and illustrators.

3 Hoover Academic Building

Matthew and Gwen Weger established the **College of Business Endowed Fund**, now totaling \$211,472, promoting excellence in Christian business education.

4 Wood-Mar Hall

Engineering alumni and faculty raised \$79,583 this year for the **Robert F. Harder Endowed Scholarship**, honoring the dean of engineering and supporting engineering students with a heart for service.

5 Bauman Auditorium

Daniel Feil's planned gift will establish the **Music Department Endowed Fund** and **Daniel Feil Music Endowed Scholarship**, contributing over \$800,000 toward Christian music education. Thank you to the **William H. & Mary L. Bauman Foundation**, whose generous gift funded the replacement of all 1,119 seats in the auditorium.

6 Minthorne Hall

Friends have raised \$85,928 toward a \$100,000 goal for the **Javier A. Garcia Theological Leadership Scholarship**, honoring the beloved theology professor and supporting honors program scholars.

7 The Chapel

Thank you to the estates of the **Oakley, Milne and Austin families**, whose bequests continue enriching the chapel as a place of beauty and worship.

8 Duke Athletic Center

Thank you to the Duke Family – this year marks 40 years of generosity to George Fox! And with generous gifts from donors like Phil and Susan Aronson and David and MaryBeth Marvin, the **Bridge Network** received over \$200,000 in support.

9 Morse Athletic Fields

Donny and Carol Nordhues, **current George Fox parents**, donated \$75,000 plus an additional \$10,000 company match, to accelerate NCAA-compliant padded fencing by 2027 for the baseball team.

10 Edwards-Holman Science Center

Donors contributed \$28,700 to the **Dwight J. Kimberly Science Outreach Fund**, now valued at \$95,000. Denise and Dax Wilson, and the children of Caleb Culver, established the **Caleb Culver Memorial Scholarship**, now totaling \$40,000. The endowed fund supports students majoring in the sciences. **Bank of America** distributed \$250,000 from the Richter Memorial Trust, the largest **Richter Scholars Grant** in 37 years for science research.

11 Roberts Center

A grant from **Yamhill Community Care** supports the \$240,000 **BECOME Project** for bilingual mentorship programs. Thanks to the **Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund**, whose generous grant will go toward the \$200,000 remodel of the College of Nursing simulation lab.

12 Crisman Crossing

Stuart and HaeJa Crisman and Gordon and Cleta Crisman's recent \$5.5 million planned gift – the largest in George Fox history – designates \$4.4 million to the **Crisman Family Scholarship Fund** and \$1.1 million to the **Robin Baker Endurance Fund**.

13 Mama Bear

25 families became founding **Bruin Parent Council** members in 2025.

14 President Robin Baker

Tim and Barbara Davis established the **Robin Baker Endurance Fund**, helping students facing financial hardship finish strong. The fund is approaching \$150,000, thanks to additional gifts from George Fox donors.

15 Give Day 2025

In 24 hours, \$144,000 was raised through 705 new donors. The **women's cross country team** won a \$5,000 matching grant for bringing in the most donors.

16 Medical Sciences Building

Austin Family Foundation's \$150,000 grant brings physical therapy and Spanish translation services to the Virginia Garcia Health Clinic provided by George Fox faculty and students.

17 Fireside

Wake Forest University and **Lilly Endowment's** \$500,000 grant launched the **Program for Leadership and Formation**.

18 Stoffer Family Stadium

Fans of football came together this season to support the Bruins, **giving over \$50,000** toward equipment, travel and coaching.

19 Portland Center & Portland Seminary

Thank you to the estate of **Wayne E. Roberts**. Combined with \$1.6 million in commitments and a \$500,000 grant, the remodeled center trains future nurse practitioners. The **Lilly Endowment's** \$500,000 grant supports the **Thriving Congregations Program** for Portland Seminary.

20 Graduate

Last year, donors contributed \$391,000 to the **George Fox Scholarship Fund**, supporting students like Beacon Scholar Josie Ogden.

21 DeLorean

Mike "Biggs" Wirta, a George Fox alumnus and retired employee, is **leaving his entire estate** – including his DeLorean – to George Fox. "This place shaped my whole life," he says. "I found my faith here in '72, and for 57 years, I've seen the power of Christian education firsthand."



TO GIVE:

Online: georgefox.edu/give

Phone: 503-554-2115

Mail: George Fox University

University Advancement

414 N. Meridian St. #6256

Newberg, OR 97132

We deeply appreciate your ongoing support. Contact us at giving@georgefox.edu with any questions.

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