

The magazine of George Fox University | SUMMER 2023

George Fox

TOURNAL



Finding Her Voice

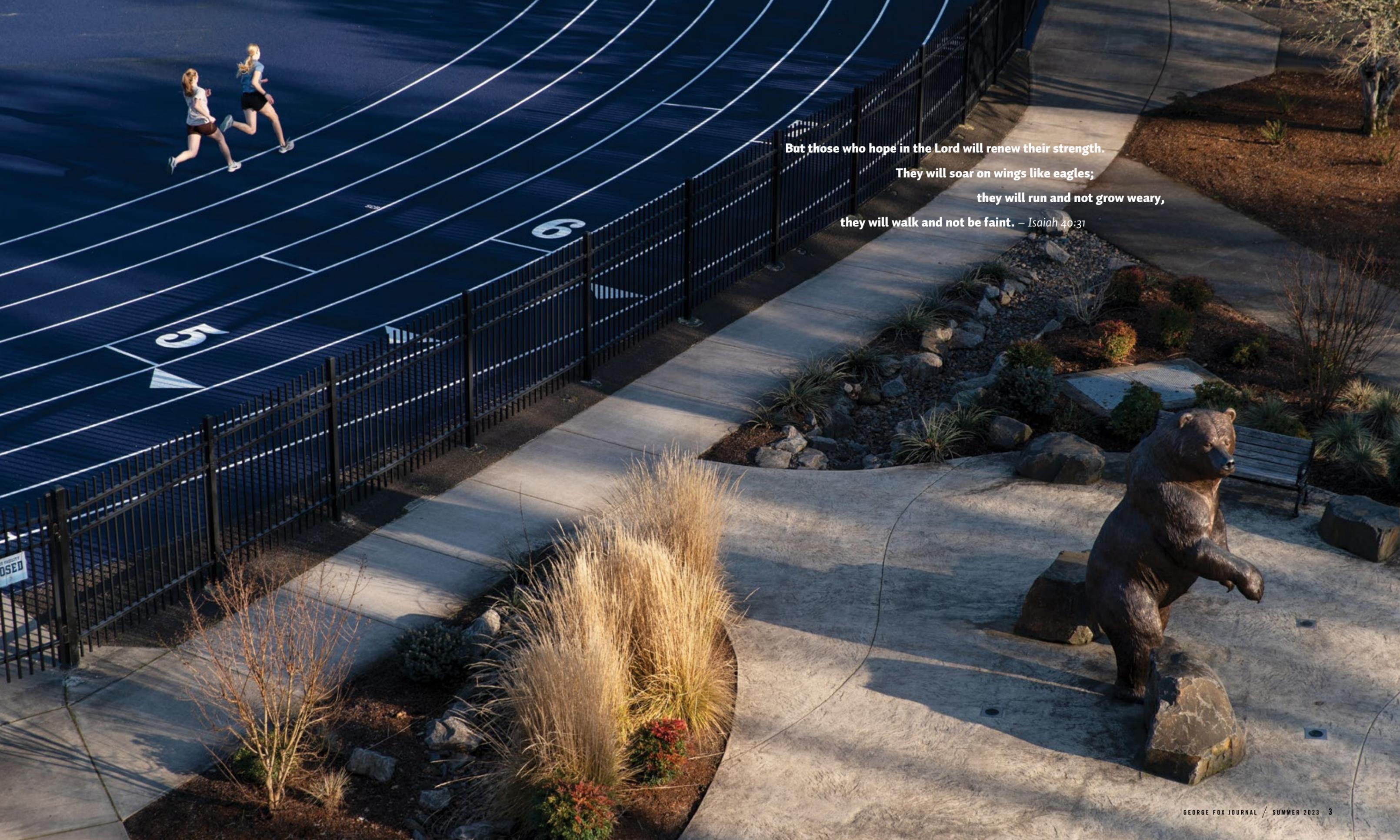
Nursing student Elysia Gonzalez speaks up for marginalized patients at home and abroad



HOPE HEALS

George Fox students and alumni make a difference in the lives of those who need it most

Counseling | Social Work | Psychology | Physical Therapy | Nursing | Physician Assistant



**But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint. – Isaiah 40:31**

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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 photo by Chris Low



George Fox Journal

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Called to Serve

More than 900 George Fox graduates completed their degrees this spring, and I was privileged to hand a diploma to many of them at our commencement ceremonies. While it's natural to view commencement as the end of a student's academic experience, it's actually quite the opposite. "Commencement" means the beginning or start of something. It's a time of new beginnings, of stepping out in faith. It's a time for leaning into the calling that God has given each student to serve and make a difference in the world.



I have participated in more than 50 commencement ceremonies at George Fox, but this was the first spring graduation for students in our physician assistant program. These students are among the first of many PAs who will graduate in the years to come. It was an important moment as we celebrated not only the work of the graduates but also of the faculty and staff who have diligently worked to develop an excellent accredited program.

Nearly 20 years ago, then-George Fox President David Brandt strategically committed to adding an undergraduate nursing program. At the time, we had few professional programs, and nursing began our foray into the medical field. Since the establishment of nursing in 2006, we have added doctoral programs in physical therapy and medical science (physician assistant), and soon we will offer an occupational therapy degree. Nursing has become the largest undergraduate program at the university, drawing more than 400 students. We are in the process of becoming one of the biggest educators of medical professionals in the Northwest, while also focusing on behavioral health programs in the fields of counseling, psychology and social work.

If there ever was a time that we needed professionals in these fields who are compassionate, competent and resilient, it's today. The aging of our population, the increasing threat of disease, and the strain put on our medical and mental health systems by the recent pandemic have made the demand greater than ever. Our communities are in great need of both medical and behavioral health professionals who understand the heart of Christ and feel called by God to serve people.

We believe that God has created every person for a purpose and asks that each individual discover what it is and use their gifts to further his kingdom. He has equipped people to serve in every walk of life, not just in church ministry. Our commitment to medical science and behavioral health programs are at the heart of our mission to prepare students spiritually, academically and professionally. In this issue of the *George Fox Journal*, you will read stories of how God is at work in the lives of current and former students as they commence to apply their gifts to serve purposefully in our world.

Robin Baker
President



Oregon's Largest Private University

For the third year in a row, George Fox is the largest private university in Oregon – a feat that only a decade ago would have seemed out of reach.

Last fall, the university enrolled 4,036 total students, including the third-largest freshman class in school history at 627. All told, 2,286 undergraduate and 1,750 graduate and adult degree students attended classes during the 2022-23 academic year.

“For those of you who have been here for a long time, that’s an amazing statement,” wrote President Robin Baker in a message to employees celebrating the accomplishment. Since Baker took the helm in 2007, total enrollment at George Fox has grown by 24%.

Despite rapid growth in recent years, the university has continued to lean into its core values: delivering the Be Known promise, innovating to stay relevant and meet the needs of the marketplace, and providing students with a Christ-centered education.



Serve Day Returns



The COVID-19 pandemic put a brief pause on the university’s annual day of service, but on Sept. 14, 2022, it was back.

Campus was shut down for an entire day as more than 2,000 students and employees served at 100 different sites in Newberg and beyond, pulling weeds, painting, spending time with seniors and more. It marked the 22nd time the entire university has come together to serve.

The first Serve Day took place in 1999 under the leadership of then-university President David Brandt. According to Campus Compact, a national coalition that promotes community service in higher education, it was the first instance of an entire university shutting down for a day of service.

“It’s amazing this project has continued so long,” says Brandt, who now lives in Pennsylvania. “It’s relatively easy to generate enthusiasm for a few years, but to do it for all these years tells me this is more than a fad.”

Seminary Celebrates 75 Years

Portland Seminary marked its 75th year with a gathering in May at the George Fox University campus in Newberg. The celebration, “Lighting the Way Since 1947,” featured music, dinner and speakers, along with photos from its rich history.

Founded in 1947, Western Evangelical Seminary merged with George Fox College in 1996 to form George Fox University, changing its name to George Fox Evangelical Seminary. In 2017, it became Portland Seminary, retaining its focus on providing a spiritually formative and intellectually engaging education.

Also this spring, a Portland Seminary alumna, Tammy Dunahoo, was named executive dean. Dunahoo, an ordained minister with more than 40 years of ministry and church leadership experience, will take the reins from MaryKate Morse, who will remain at the seminary as a professor.

“Her love of Christ and the church, her communication and executive leadership skills, her international church and denominational network relationships, and her vision for theological education make her the right person for this role,” says Morse of Dunahoo. “Portland Seminary has been lighting the way for those called to ministry since 1947, and she will guide us into what the Spirit has for us next.”



New Program: Occupational Therapy to Launch in 2024



Continuing its focus on meeting the need for medical professionals in the region, especially in rural communities, George Fox will launch its new occupational therapy program in the fall of 2024.

Leading the program will be Stanley Paul, who has more than 25 years of academic and clinical experience in the occupational therapy profession, including faculty positions at Drake University, Keuka College, Georgia Health Sciences University and Western Michigan University, and clinical appointments at various locations in the U.S. and in India.

The decision to launch an occupational therapy graduate program came after the university took several months to evaluate the healthcare landscape in the Northwest, which included dialogue with local partners and extensive market research. Nationally, the demand for occupational therapists is expected to grow 16 percent – much faster than the average for all professions – between 2019 and 2029, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Cybersecurity Management, Data Analytics Added to Adult Degree Offerings

Students in the university’s Adult Degree Program will have two new bachelor’s degrees to choose from this fall. Both are in rapidly growing fields, designed for working adults who want to advance or pivot their career.

The cybersecurity management program will prepare students to oversee online strategies to protect both businesses and consumers, while the data analytics program will equip students with the skills to be key players in their organization’s future by mastering data analysis and interpretation.



Headed to the Hall

Five individuals and two teams will headline the George Fox University Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Sept. 29 during homecoming weekend.

Mike Watts (Track & Field, 1983, 1985-87): The 1983 NAIA District II champion in both discus and javelin, an All-American, and a 1987 NCCAA national champion in the discus, Watts remains on the university's top-10 list for shot put and discus.



Hannah (Munger) Williams

Brianna (Nap) McGinn (Women's Golf, 2007-11): A WGCA Second-Team All-American, NWC Tournament medalist and NWC Player of the Year, McGinn helped the Bruins win the 2011 NWC championship and qualify for two NCAA national tournaments.

Beth Stam (Track & Field, 2009-13): A national javelin champion and three-time All-American, Stam was the 2013 NCAA Division III West Region Women's Field Athlete of the Year. Her name appears eight times in the indoor/outdoor track record books.

Hannah (Munger) Williams (Women's Basketball, 2009-13): With three All-American honors and 25 appearances in the Bruin record books, Williams ranks third in career points, third in career rebounds, first in career blocks and second in career field goal percentage. She was the 2011 D3hoops.com West Region Player of the Year.



Kelsey Morrison

Kelsey Morrison (Women's Golf, 2010-13): A three-time WGCA All-American, a two-time NWC Player of the Year and a PING WGCA Division III Player of the Year, Morrison holds multiple program records.

2010 Women's Golf Team: This groundbreaking team claimed the first NWC championship in program history, finished eighth

at NCAA nationals and boasted three All-NWC golfers.

1979 Women's Track Team: As the first Bruin women's track team to win a conference/district title, they set numerous George Fox indoor and outdoor records while dominating the Women's Conference of Independent Colleges meet.

Torres Takes Home Directing Award

In February, senior Abigail Torres took home a highly competitive directing award at the regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Torres was awarded the Region 7 SDC Directing Initiative, which was accompanied by an all-expenses paid trip to participate at the national festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., this spring.

"It was a really great experience," says Torres, who graduated in April. "We were there for a week and got to attend workshops and competitions in all areas of theatre. A group of us went, and we learned so much from each other, the professionals and the overall experience."

For Torres, winning the prestigious award was the perfect exclamation point to her college career, made that much better by the presence of friends cheering her on.

"I thought I was going to pass out when they announced the award," she says. "The moment I heard them say the title of the award, all I could hear was my heart beat until I heard my name announced. I was shocked! My friends on my row all roared in excitement! I felt so loved and supported by my theatre community."



Portland Business Journal Names President Robin Baker One of its 2023 Executives of the Year

University President Robin Baker is among a group of executives the *Portland Business Journal* is recognizing for exceptional performance over the previous year.

In May, a special publication of the magazine featured Baker and the other leaders selected by a panel of executive judges for the honor. Honorees hold a strong record of innovation in their fields, outstanding performance in their businesses and a clear track record of meaningful community involvement.

Approaching his 16th year as president, Baker is the longest-serving college president in Oregon. He was appointed the 12th president of George Fox in 2007 after spending the previous eight years as the university's provost. During his tenure, he has overseen significant expansion in the number of facilities and academic programs receiving national accreditation. He also helped the university weather the pandemic and a challenging higher education environment.

Under Baker's leadership, George Fox's enrollment has grown 24%, making it Oregon's largest private university. He has overseen a significant expansion of healthcare education programs, including nursing in 2006, the university's Doctor of Physical Therapy program in 2012, and the physician assistant program in 2021, with a new doctoral program in occupational therapy set to launch in the fall of 2024.

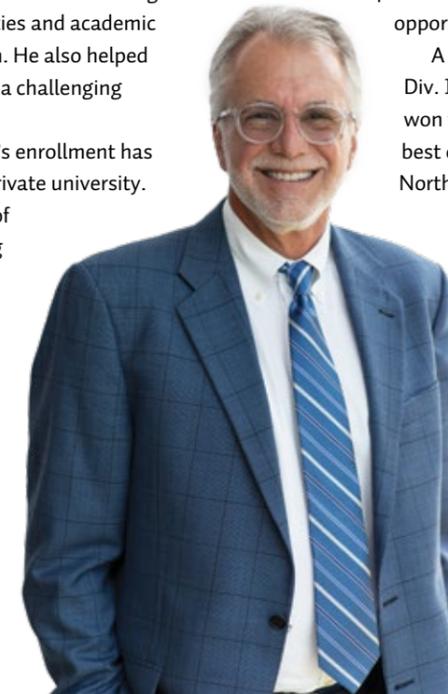
In addition, Baker has initiated new efforts in globalization of the curriculum and helped implement the university's Act Six program, which offers full four-year scholarships to urban student leaders. When the program

started 15 years ago, fewer than 200 ethnically diverse students were part of the undergraduate student body. In the fall of 2022, nearly 750 students came from ethnically diverse backgrounds.

Under Baker's leadership, community service has become a vital piece of the student experience at George Fox, including the university's annual Serve Day, youth science classes taught by George Fox students, and a student-staffed Behavioral Health Center and Physical Therapy Community Clinic.

The university has also continued to adapt to changes in technology, offering several degrees online and the George Fox Digital initiative, which helped enroll first-year students during the pandemic. It now produces compelling online content for flexible digital learning opportunities.

A former college athlete, Baker has invested in NCAA Div. III sports at George Fox, which the past two years has won the McIlroy-Lewis All-Sports Trophy, recognizing the best overall athletics program, based on team finishes, in the Northwest Conference.



Recognized as a national leader in higher education, he serves as commissioner for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, sits on the boards of the Council of Independent Colleges and the American Association of Presidents of Independent Colleges and Universities, serves on the NCAA Div. III Advisory Council, and is a congressional advocate for NCAA Div. III athletics.

In addition to investing in academic and athletic excellence, Baker has made marketing and enrollment a priority, building the George Fox brand as a Christian university where students will be known personally, academically and spiritually.

Recent Recognition

For the 35th year, *U.S. News & World Report* has named George Fox one of "America's Best Colleges." Once again ranked as the top Christian university in Oregon, George Fox also made the lists for top engineering and nursing programs.

For the 18th straight year, the *Princeton Review* included George Fox in its list of the best colleges in the West. Schools are included in the "2023 Best Colleges: Region by Region" rankings based on academics, quality of campus life and professors who are accessible outside the classroom, among other considerations.

Money magazine ranked George Fox No. 3 in Oregon and No. 3 among Christian universities on the West Coast in its 2022 "Best Colleges" list. Schools were ranked based on 24 measures in three areas: quality, affordability and outcomes.



Niche once again gave George Fox the top ranking among Christian colleges in Oregon, also recognizing the university's campus as the safest in the state.

What to Watch

Who is Pennington? It's a question students have been buzzing about all year. He's everywhere – cheering at football games, crowd surfing at the '80s Dance, handing out high fives on the quad. But who is the student behind the mask?

For the past year, it's been senior political science major Josh Hren, who decided to step into the suit his final year in order to squeeze every last drop out of



his time on campus. But performing as Pennington has only been a small part of his big George Fox experience. Watch the full story at georgefox.edu/MeetPennington



It's the moment she worked four hard years for. On April 29, 2023, Tierney Zubchevich graduated from George Fox with dual degrees in marketing and management.

Go behind the scenes and follow along as she prepares for her big moment and walks across the stage to receive her diploma. After the ceremony, it's time to celebrate with family and reminisce about an unforgettable four years. Watch a day in the life of this George Fox graduate at georgefox.edu/MyGraduation



Ever wondered what it's like to be a George Fox student in 2023? To perform on stage at the Lip Sync competition, cheer on the basketball team at Midnight Madness or jump in to the scrum at the Bruin Brawl?

Cinematic arts major Isaiah Flores, who graduated in April, takes you on a journey through an entire year's worth of university events and activities,



giving Bruins young and old alike a chance to experience college life in 2023. Watch at georgefox.edu/StudentEvents



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

In *A Quaker Ecology*, **Cherice Bock** invites readers to participate in an Eco-Reformation by re-examining Quaker history and reimagining the future as part of the global community of life. A forthcoming book from Bock, *Quakers, Ecology, and the Light*, develops an ecotheology of light that connects Quaker traditions with climate justice, helping humanity transition toward a just and sustainable future.

The Preacher's Hebrew Companion to Genesis 1-11 by **Brian Doak** provides curated passages, lexical and grammatical tools, and commentary to help preachers bridge the gap between studying the Hebrew text and preaching it.

Wendy Flint offers devotions to support Christians in secular work environments in her book, *Can God Come to Work with Me? Encouraging Devotions to Strengthen Christians in the Secular Workplace*. In another book, *Letters to Rebecca*, Flint shares her correspondence with an inmate named Rebecca, providing wisdom, guidance, and biblical teachings to new believers.

Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land: How Christianity Has Advanced Freedom and Equality for All Americans by **Mark David Hall** challenges the notion that Christianity has fostered oppression and intolerance, arguing instead that it has advanced liberty and equality for all citizens.

Near Truth Only is a collection of poetry by **Ed Higgins** that explores philosophical, nostalgic and romantic themes while challenging categorical boundaries.

Preaching to Korean Immigrants: A Psalmic-Theological Homiletic by **Rebecca S. Jeong** presents a contextual homiletic for Korean immigrants, rekindling hope and promoting discipleship despite social invisibility.

In *At Rest in My Father's House*, **William Jolliff** offers an intimate look into the overlooked world of flyover country through a mix of family fictions, real-life events and transformed memories.

The forthcoming book *Unpacking the Gift: What the Bible Teaches About Communication Skills* by **Kevin T. Jones** presents practical tools and biblical guidance for developing healthy communication skills.

Joel Maynard explores the Dardenne brothers' work through the lens of theology, ethics and philosophy in *The Dardenne Brothers' Cinematic Parables: Integrating Theology, Philosophy, and Film*, referring to their style as "transcendent realism."

In **Melanie Springer Mock's** *Finding Our Way Forward: When the Children We Love Become Adults*, challenges facing young adults are explored, emphasizing the importance of empathy, humility, kindness and justice in parenting and mentorship.

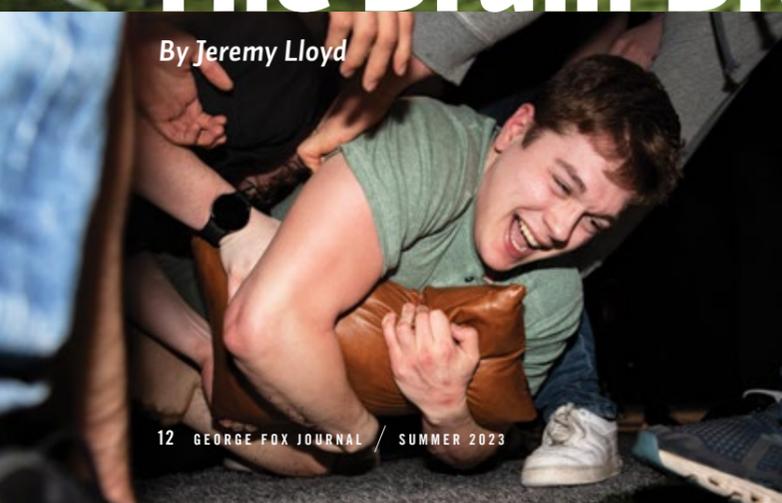
Philip Smith combines devotional Bible studies with essays on a variety of topics in *Soul Food: A Year of Christian Reflection*, inviting readers to think hard about things that matter.





The Bruin Brawl is Back

By Jeremy Lloyd



It's the university's oldest and oddest tradition, dating back to the 1890s, when students began to steal a taxidermied bear skin from the campus museum and "flash" it on their class day.

Over the years the tradition grew and became a beloved part of campus culture, with students jumping into an often-muddy pile of humanity in the hopes of wrestling away a leather "Bruin Jr." for class bragging rights. Bruin Jr. has been taken on a Juniors Abroad trip, tossed from a helicopter, and even flashed by former President David Brandt from the back of an ambulance.

But in recent years, the tradition had nearly died out. Most students had never participated in or even heard of the Bruin Brawl.

Then, a spark. Student government leaders, intrigued by the tradition, asked to bring it back. Insurance coverage was reviewed, lawyers were consulted, and release forms were drawn up – all the typical things required to have a little fun in 2023. And on a chilly night in late January, the Bruin Brawl was back.

It wasn't a traditional brawl – the muddy melee on the quad, often in the dark of night, that alumni from decades past had grown to love. It took place on the football field, lights on, with the goal of carrying Bruin Jr. to your class's corner of the end zone rather than off campus. Students on the edge of the action posted real-time social media updates. Above the fray, a drone captured video footage. After about an hour, the freshmen came out on top, winning both the men's and women's competition.

Alumni who saw photos on social media commented that it wasn't the same. There's no doubt they are right. But don't tell that to the hundreds of spectators and three dozen or so participants who came away bruised, scratched and sweaty – all with big smiles on their faces.

A few months later, right before finals week in April, a second brawl took place – this time with a more traditional feel. A police vehicle pulled up to the quad, lights flashing, and removed a student from the back. He flashed Bruin Jr. and the brawl was on.

Senior Tierney Zubchevich had watched the first Bruin Brawl back in January and was tempted to participate, but didn't. This time, when it was the women's turn to compete, she jumped in, eventually pulling Bruin Jr. free and sprinting away from the pile to victory.

"I needed that," she could be heard saying as she walked away, pulling chunks of mud from her hair.

For a little while the stress of finals, graduation and job interviews had all melted away, and a lasting college memory was made. And in moments like that, the Bruin Brawl tradition lives on.

Watch the return of the Bruin Brawl at georgefox.edu/BruinBrawl

Edauntae is Everywhere

By Jeremy Lloyd

You might see him performing at Fox Got Talent, hosting the Dating Game or filming at the Color Run. You never know exactly how you'll see him – behind the camera, on the stage or on the dance floor. But if you attend any significant event, activity or happening on campus, there's no doubt you will see Edauntae Harris.

"I do just about anything and everything on campus," he says.

It all started his first semester at George Fox. "Probably one of my favorite memories would be the '80s Dance freshman year," he says. "In my mind, it's a Christian campus, so I didn't have too many crazy, high hopes for the events. But once we got there, oh my goodness. I was like, 'OK, people know how to turn up here!'"

Ever since, Harris has been determined to make the most of his college experience. His philosophy is simple: "Don't be that story where, when you're an adult, you're like, 'When you're in college, enjoy your time, because I didn't do it.' No! Be able to say, 'Oh yeah, I did that.'"

An aspiring filmmaker, Harris didn't just have a lot of fun at George Fox – he also turned a passion into a future career. "Growing up, we didn't have much, but we had movies," he says. "I never thought that I'd get to make them for a living."

As a cinematic arts major, he's been equipped to do just that, experiencing the

same joy in the classroom as he does on the dance floor. "When we get an opportunity to actually use what we're learning in class, that's the best part about it," he says. "You get to be a part of every step. And when you get a chance to see the finished product, which is your film, you're sitting there like, 'Wow, I had my hand in that, and look what it produced.'"

Looking back on his time at George Fox, Harris can truly say he did it all. "One of the biggest takeaways that I've had in college is, I am fully able to say that I have no regrets," he says. "There are so many things that I never saw myself doing when I came to college, and now that I look back at it, I'm glad I did, because time flies."

Now, Harris, who graduated in April, will enter a new chapter in life. He'll work to grow his videography business and dreams of someday creating a film production studio with his friends. Whatever comes next, you can bet that he'll approach it with the same raw energy and enthusiasm that he showed during his time at George Fox.

"I'm about to hop into the real world and show 'em who Edauntae is," he says. "For some people, this might be the last time they see me in person. But I can promise you one thing: It's not going to be the last time you hear my name."

 Learn more about Edauntae's story at georgefox.edu/Edauntae



Be Known

Foster Parents Night Out

Each month, George Fox students get the opportunity to serve local foster kids, giving parents a chance to relax and recharge

By Ellaynah Brown, Class of 2024



"I remember this place – it's fun!" a little girl exclaims as she runs past the check-in table to join the other kids in the playground.

George Fox student volunteers greet families and buddy-up with each child as they walk through the door, anticipating a night of crafts, movies, playing, reading, relaxation and fun. Given the freedom to roam the building and choose their own activity, kids run from room to room as laughter and chatter fill the building.

A monthly event staffed by George Fox students and employees, Foster Parents Night Out gives local foster families a break from the normal routine. Parents get a few hours to themselves, and kids get a night of fun with college students – with several different rooms offering a variety of activities and atmospheres.

After seeing an FPNO sticker on a friend's water bottle, sophomore Sydney Agan was intrigued. When she learned more about the program and the opportunity it would provide her to serve families and children, she decided it was the perfect fit. "I love helping others, specifically children," she says. "As an elementary education major, I feel like that is my calling in the world."

Before the event kicks off for the night, volunteers take time to pray over each room and the kids who will soon fill them. As they make their way to the craft room, prayers can be heard for each child's stability, safety, and the nourishment of their God-given abilities. After stopping at each room, volunteers finish setting up and anxiously await the arrival of their new friends.

"I thought it was really cool to come in with the intention that we are God's servants," says Agan, adding that the opportunity to surround herself with little ones has been a great learning experience for her outside the classroom. "I am more patient than I think."

Solidifying her love for being with kids and helping them grow, Agan is more certain than ever that a career in elementary education is what she is called to do. "God calls us to serve, and it is super important to keep that in mind," she says.

The program makes it simple for busy college students to do just that. The university encourages students to get involved at the beginning of each semester, which includes a training session led by staff from the Every Child Oregon organization. Beyond the initial training, it's a commitment that only requires participation for a few hours at one event per month.

The best part, says Agan, is getting the opportunity to share love and joy with local kids, whether that means playing a game, being a friend, offering a listening ear, or simply serving as a calming presence. Students with different personalities, backgrounds and experiences are all needed to connect with the kids who come to each event.

"I feel like this is a really special opportunity," Agan says. "There is a place for everyone at Foster Parents Night Out."

A New Tradition: Friday Flowers

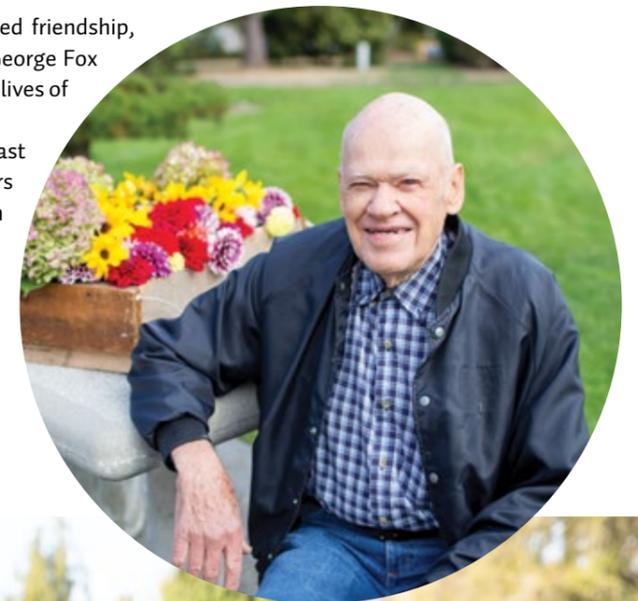
Celebrating Grandpa Roy

Roy Hiebert, affectionately known around campus as Grandpa Roy, offered friendship, godly wisdom and flowers from his garden to more than four decades of George Fox students. Hiebert passed away in 2016, but his impact can still be felt on the lives of hundreds of George Fox alumni.

To celebrate his memory, a new event was created: Friday Flowers. Last September during homecoming, alumni handed out more than 500 flowers to students as they traversed the quad in between classes. Attached to each flower was a note explaining who Grandpa Roy was and encouraging students to honor his memory by blessing others with friendship and kindness.

While Grandpa Roy would have certainly approved of the message, he would have been even more pleased with the method of delivery – a simple act that resulted in a personal connection between Bruins young and old.

Alumni, visit georgefox.edu/homecoming to learn how you can take part in the second annual Friday Flowers event on Sept. 29.





Jessie's Juniors Abroad Adventure

Sunsets over San Sebastián. Hiking El Camino. Marveling at the ornate architecture of Lisbon. In the summer of 2022, Jessalyn "Jessie" Lim embarked on the adventure of a lifetime through Portugal and Spain. For three weeks, Jessie journaled about her experiences abroad.



Day 3

We hiked 9 miles up El Camino! Honestly, I was really able to enjoy today. We ended the night watching the sunset at San Sebastián's pier while stuffing our faces with gelato. Best thing ever with even sweeter company. Pictures don't do it justice. It'll be hard to leave this place – that is for sure.



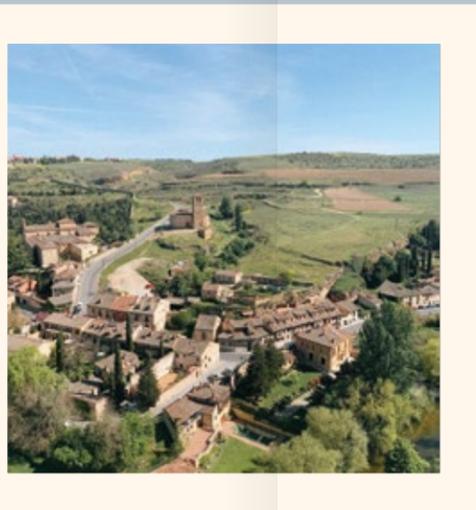
Day 5

We spent one day in Burgos, but it was the very place I feel I've made the most meaningful memories. Who knew a laundromat could be filled with so much joy, let alone supply the best coffee for 60 cents?



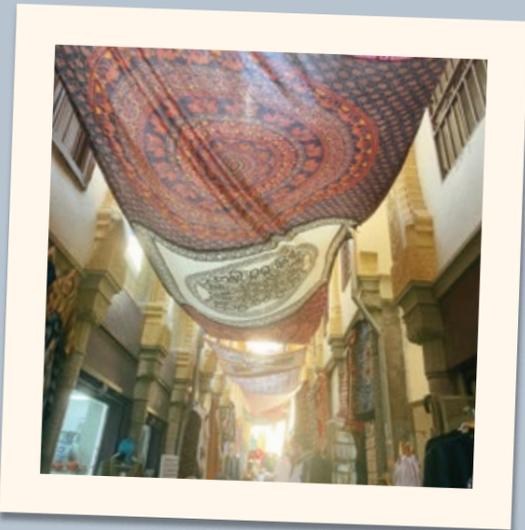
Day 8

Today it was pretty neat to tour a royal Spanish palace. It was very big, and all I wanted to do was wear a huge poofy dress and run down its beautiful halls!



Day 10

Segovia is a dream! It was incredible getting to see the bell tower; I kept thinking about the Hunchback of Notre Dame the whole time.



Day 15

Granada is an interesting city. You go through alleys and you feel like you're in a whole new world. So many small businesses in nooks and crannies, then you exit, and you feel like it's downtown Portland! Then, you hike up Old Town and Alcaiceria and you feel like you're in Greece! A whirlwind!



Day 17

Tonight, we witnessed two events: Fútbol unites so many people and Flamenco is quite cool! Both were very surprising – beyond my expectations. It was so fun getting to see the men chant (in different languages) in the middle of Five Guys. The dance, traditional to Spain, was a beautiful, chaotic mix that was so cool to watch.



Send Students on the Adventure of a Lifetime

Thanks to generous donations to the Student Fund, George Fox is able to cover half the cost of every student's Juniors Abroad trip. That's nearly 6,000 students and \$15 million since the program began in 1987!

This spring, we're seeking to raise \$50,000 to help 50 more students participate in this transformational study abroad experience. No matter the size, every gift makes a difference.

Would you consider supporting George Fox students with a gift today?

Text: JRSABRD23 to 71777
Visit: giving.georgefox.edu
Call: 503-554-2115



To watch a video from Jessie's Juniors Abroad trip, visit georgefox.edu/JessieAbroad

‘The Weight Came Off My Shoulders’

When the burden of life became too heavy for Andrew Quach, he discovered a God who was willing to carry it for him

By Kimberly Felton



“One day I was walking through campus. It was just another day of trying to figure out what to do.”

Life pressed heavy on Andrew Quach that year. “I confined myself to this little space,” he says. “I just went to school, went to practice, didn’t really let anyone in, locked myself in my room.”

Nearing the end of his sophomore year at George Fox, he had learned that his grandpa’s liver was functioning at less than 5%; he would have to go on dialysis. Quach grew up with his grandparents in his home. Caring for them was part of family life. This was a blow.

“We had other family members pass away because of kidney failure,” he says. “It was really heartbreaking for me to hear, especially because I wasn’t in California and I couldn’t be home to help take care of my grandparents and help my dad with the process.”

“Along with that I was just in this head space of, ‘I don’t know what’s going on. Like, what am I doing?’ I wasn’t doing well in

academics, and I wasn’t performing as well as I wanted to in track. And it was like the world was just pushing me under the ground.”

What’s with All the Nice People?

College life didn’t start that way. Freshman year was a culture shock, but in a good way.

Originally from Los Angeles, Quach had planned to remain in California or head for the Boston area, hoping to be recruited for college basketball. Nothing had worked out yet by his junior year of high school, and his basketball coach mentioned a small Christian school in Oregon that might have a spot for him. But he knew nothing about George Fox – or Oregon, for that matter. He stalled.

The summer after he graduated from high school, Quach visited. “The campus was awesome,” he says, but there was more to the equation. He grew up minimally Buddhist. “I came in without a

faith background, kind of oblivious to all that was going on. I had heard all the stereotypes of what a Christian is, so I was hesitant coming in.” But he came, and had to adjust to more than the rain.

“Every time I was on campus I would always get so many different, ‘Hey, how are you doing?’ from people I didn’t know,” he recalls. “And it was really staggering for me because I was like, ‘These people are so nice. They genuinely want to get to know you, and they care.’”

This was something new. “When you’re in LA, you keep your head down. You don’t really talk to anyone. You mind your own business. Coming to Fox was such a big change. It was so significant.”

His first big freshman event, the ‘80s Dance, came pretty close to touching bliss. “My roommates and I dressed up in the worst ‘80s outfits ever that we got from Goodwill. It was terrible; we spent \$5 on it. EHS was packed to the brim with students I’ve never met before. I didn’t even know that many people came to Fox. We were lifting people up, people were crowd surfing, and I took a moment to just look at it. I was like, ‘This is awesome. This is amazing. I don’t think it could get any better than this.’”

As refreshing as this new community was, he didn’t know then how significant the care of strangers, and new friends, would be.

Not Alone Anymore

By his second year on campus, Quach had adjusted to the overt friendliness – but not to his own unmet expectations in athletics and academics. Then he got that call from home. He knew his grandpa’s time was limited.

“It was really heartbreaking for me, and I struggled through that time,” he says. He felt every mile separating him from those he loved and what he had always known.

One evening after work, Quach called his best friends and asked them to go for a drive. The car was his safe space, but that night he needed more than silence. He needed people to listen to the thoughts and emotions he’d refused to voice. “I told them everything and they sat there and just listened,” he recalls. “They prayed over me and helped me figure out the next steps I needed to do, and told me how they thought God could make a real difference in my life – that I could put some of the weight on his shoulders and not go through this pain alone.”

Several hours later, Quach was headed to bed and decided it couldn’t get any worse, so why not try praying? “Before bed I prayed, and I said, ‘Hey God, I’ve never tried this before. I don’t really know much about you, but I’d love to get to know you more and just want to take this first step.’”

“The next day I was walking through campus and someone came up to me and was like, ‘Hey, I don’t know you, you don’t know me, but I just feel like you are surrounded by the Holy Spirit and I just want to pray for you.’”

“Throughout the week a couple more people came up as well

and they were just like, ‘Hey, I feel like you’re struggling. I feel like God’s telling me you need help. Can we pray?’ That entire week felt amazing. The weight came off my shoulders and I just thought, ‘Wow, I’m not in this alone anymore.’”

That week, everything changed.

“I’ve been able to take that next step of having those genuine conversations that I’ve wanted so much, and to experience the world the way it’s meant to be experienced,” says Quach, who graduated this spring with a degree in graphic design. “I’ve learned that trusting in God in the hard times is not something you do after the fact. I didn’t have that relationship with God for the hardships I faced a while back. But now I feel so much more prepared.”

“I’ve tried to strengthen my relationship with God in every single way possible. Just praying every night, reading through the Bible to strengthen my knowledge of Jesus and the sacrifice he made for us. I know now that I’m not alone, that he’s here with me.”



Quach came to George Fox for basketball, but ended up finding a home – and success – with the track and field team, setting an indoor school record in the long jump, and earning Academic All-American and All-Northwest Conference honors in each of his final three seasons.

Watch stories of faith, grit and joy from the Class of 2023 at georgefox.edu/FaithStories



Answering the Call

Former NFL quarterback and high school football coach Neil Lomax had decided to call it a career – until a fateful phone call changed his mind

By Sean Patterson

Neil Lomax had just decided it was time to take a break. He was 62, after all, and had spent the last decade-plus working as a football coach at a number of high schools throughout the Northwest.

Then the phone rang. On the other end was a person he knew of but didn't know well: Chris Casey, head football coach at nearby Division III George Fox University.

Casey was in search of a new coach, and he knew Lomax had connections. Not only had Lomax coached locally for 13 years, he was active in Nike Football Camps and had run his own training camps in the Portland metro area. He was also the local legend who, after graduating from then-NCAA Division I-AA Portland State University in 1981, had forged a 10-year NFL career as the quarterback of the St. Louis/Phoenix Cardinals. To top it off, he had run his own sports marketing company, ProMax Event Management, in the years following his retirement from the NFL.

So, if anybody knew where to find potential coaches, Lomax was the man.

"Coach Casey says, 'Hey, I know you know a lot of guys. You know anyone who's available?' And I'm like, 'Coach, it's August, so ... no,'" Lomax recalls. "Then he comes back at me: 'Well, what are you doing?'"

Lomax wasn't sure how to answer the question. Just the day before he'd decided it was time to take a hiatus from coaching. He was going to take the year off to hang out with his grandkids, play golf, and spend time with his wife Laurie. But something was drawing him to George Fox, and Casey wasn't making it easy to resist.

"He was very convincing," Lomax says. "I don't know if it was God-ordained or what, but everything lined up. I came in here and knew this is where I needed to be. 'Case' and I lined up philosophically, and the culture here was unlike anything I had ever seen. The opportunity just came at the perfect time in my life."

It was August of 2021 when Lomax embarked on his latest football endeavor as quarterbacks coach with the George Fox Bruins. Now in his third year with the program, Lomax scouts the local area

for talent, meets regularly with players and staff, and does whatever is necessary in the moment. "I'm a part-time coach, recruiter, mentor and father figure," he says. "Let's just say it's a multi-faceted role."

What Lomax appreciates most is the opportunity to speak into the lives of young men and see them flourish.

"It's a joy and privilege at this stage of my life to work with young men who truly care about their future, their teammates, their faith, their journey," he says. "They're just using football to grow and learn in these areas, because, when you get right down to it, football is just an activity, a sport. It's not their identity. It's not who they are. I just love working with 'em. They're like sons to me."

Ironically, the majority of players he works with know nothing about his playing background. None had even been born when Lomax was racking up gaudy numbers at Portland State – where he logged 13,320 passing yards and 106 touchdown passes in four years – or earning two Pro Bowl selections as an NFL quarterback.

"Every now and then I pull out YouTube videos of me playing, and they're like, 'You look slow ... [Patrick] Mahomes is better,'" he chuckles, "and I'm like, 'Yeah, he is. No kidding.'"

What he tries to impress upon them the most is the fact they are multi-dimensional – with a heart, soul, body and mind. "I really focus on the mental and character part – the qualities and characteristics that make them a leader," he says. "Ultimately, my message to them is they are a unique individual who's been created by God – a God who has given them certain gifts, certain abilities, certain passions.

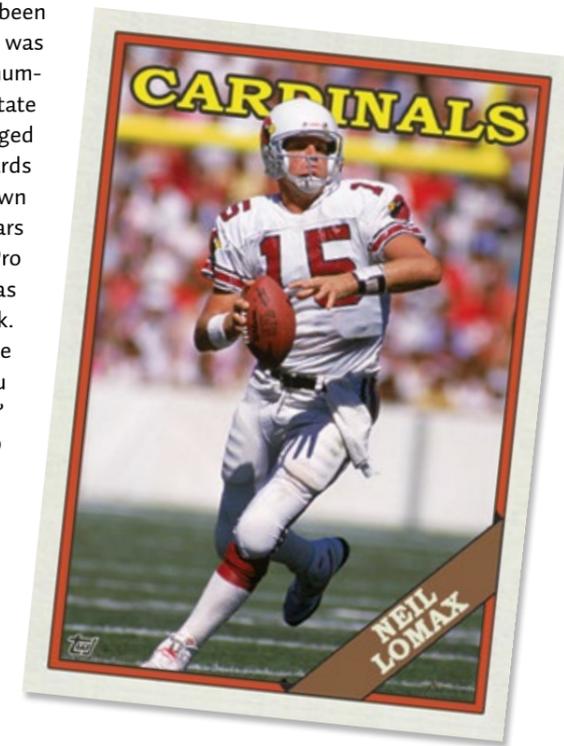
"I'm not gonna lie or mislead 'em. They realize their chances of playing pro ball are minimal. We focus more on questions like,

'What does it mean to be a leader? What does it mean to have integrity? What does it mean to be transparent? What does it mean to be coachable?'"

All the while, Lomax stresses the importance of belief. "We really dig into the mental side of the game," he says. "A lot of coaches and programs don't want to go there, focusing all on the physical. Not me. I want to get to their heart, because if I can get that young man to believe with his heart and he truly has the desire and passion to do this, he'll go through a wall for you."

Lomax's influence has helped pay dividends – the Bruins are coming off their best season since football's relaunch in 2014, going 8-2 overall and 5-2 in Northwest Conference play in 2022. And, despite the fact he isn't playing as much golf or, as he puts it, "not goofing off as much these days," he is enjoying the ride.

"I wasn't sure what to think at first, especially when I got here and four or five coaches were out with COVID," he says. "But then that first game came along and there were 3,000 fans in the stands on a Saturday night. I had no idea there would be all this electricity and all this excitement. I knew right then and there I'd made the right choice."



"It's a joy and privilege at this stage of my life to work with young men who truly care about their future, their teammates, their faith, their journey."

BEST IN THE NORTHWEST — *BACK-TO-BACK*

Last year George Fox won its first-ever McIlroy-Lewis All-Sports Trophy, awarded to the top school, based on cumulative team performance, in the Northwest Conference. In the 2022-23 academic year, the Bruins did it again, cementing the university's status as one of the premier athletic programs in the region.

George Fox outpaced second-place Whitworth by a margin of 262 to 242, with the outcome in doubt in the final weekend of the season. But the Bruins prevailed, thanks in part to conference championships in men's tennis, women's golf, women's lacrosse, men's and women's track and field, and men's and women's cross country. Remarkably, all seven conference champions repeated their victories from the previous year.

In addition to conference championships, the football program won eight games and finished second in the conference, the men's

basketball team qualified for its first conference tournament since 2017, the women's lacrosse team won the first lacrosse tournament in conference history, and the track and field teams totaled 16 individual champions en route to their sixth straight NWC title sweep.

Additional individual accolades included one NWC Player of the Year, two Freshman of the Year, one Offensive Player of the Year, one Defensive Player of the Year and seven Coach of the Year honorees. Beyond the field of play, the Bruins achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.37 and had 283 NWC Scholar-Athlete performances.

The unprecedented success in back-to-back seasons required contributions from each and every team, says Athletic Director Adam Puckett. "This trophy doesn't just represent the success of one or two sports, but rather the overall accomplishments of the entire athletics program at George Fox University."



WHEN YOU'RE A BRUIN, THE NORTHWEST IS YOUR PLAYGROUND.



Smith Rock State Park



Trillium Lake, Mt. Hood National Forest

Last year, when George Fox won the Northwest Conference all-sports trophy for the first time in school history, it seemed

like the perfect opportunity to shout it from a mountaintop. Literally. To celebrate, student-athletes were

invited to participate in an epic photo and video shoot experience, featuring four iconic Oregon locations that represent the best

the Northwest has to offer: the majestic Mt. Hood, the rugged and beautiful Oregon Coast, the towering cliffs of Smith Rock,

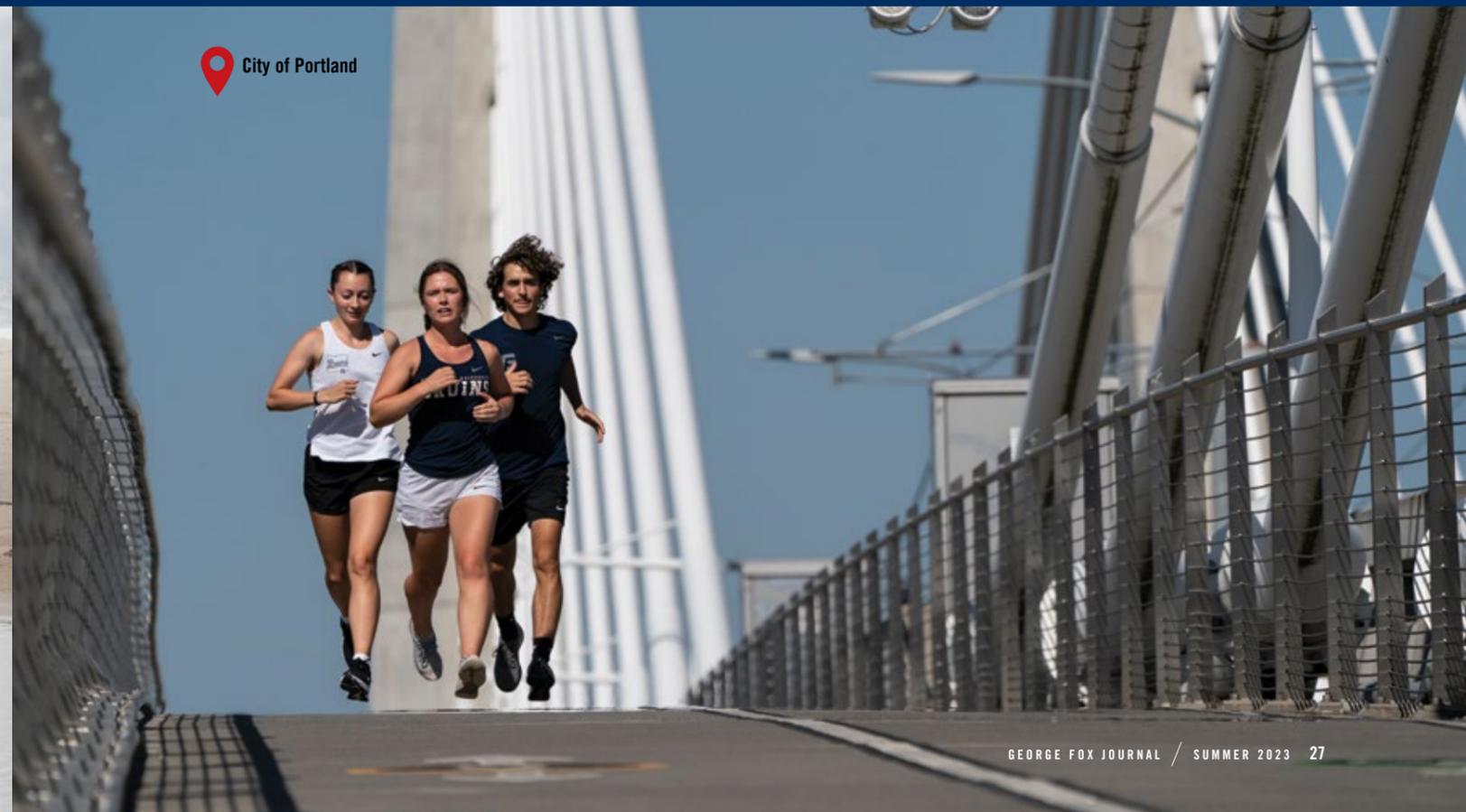
and just for good measure, the state's biggest city, Portland, with its scenic waterfront as the backdrop.

Four locations, 32 student-athletes, 718 miles driven, one unforgettable adventure.



Cape Kiwanda, Pacific City

Watch the Bruins in action around the Northwest at georgefox.edu/NW



City of Portland



Hope Heals

If you're an alumnus from the 2000s or earlier, at first glance this issue of the *George Fox Journal* may feel a bit foreign. After all, most of the medical science and behavior health programs featured in these pages were launched within the last two decades.

And while some of these stories feature the youthful faces you might expect from George Fox, others have seen a bit more life. Men and women in their 30s, 40s and beyond, pursuing masters and doctoral degrees to become trauma counselors, clinical psychologists and physical therapists – a choice often informed and inspired by their own life experiences.

But no matter the degree program, age or circumstance of the students, the mission remains the same: to prepare graduates to think with clarity, act with integrity and serve with passion.

And in recent years, those qualities are needed more than ever in the medical and behavioral health fields. It doesn't take more than a quick Google search to see a half dozen headlines lamenting the lack of medical professionals in underserved, often rural communities, especially in the Northwest. And as the country's mental health crisis continues to build, skilled and caring counselors and social workers are in short supply and high demand.

So, what is the face of George Fox University? Is it the 20-year-old theology major just finding their way, or the 40-year-old doctor of psychology student pursuing a new career informed by a lifetime of experience? Perhaps it's both.

We hope you enjoy these stories from Bruins of all ages and backgrounds who share one thing in common: a passion to bring hope and healing to those who need it most.

Jeremy Lloyd
Editor, *George Fox Journal*

Finding Her Voice

Whether it's providing health education for girls in Kenya or advocating for marginalized patients back home, Elysia Gonzalez is able to give others a voice – because she found hers

By Kimberly Felton



“I never thought I would be able to go to college, because I didn't finish high school.”

Elysia Gonzalez dropped out of high school when she was 16. Yet 10 years later, she was a nursing student at George Fox University, looking into the dark eyes of hundreds of young girls listening intently as she taught in schools on the slopes of Mt. Elgon in Kenya.

Education gives these girls the hope of changing their lives, of having a voice. Gonzalez, as she teaches and encourages them, is both the antithesis of this hope and the personification of it. She dropped out of school – but she keeps learning and she sees how hard things helped create who she is today.

Invisible

Gonzalez knows what it's like to blend into the edges, hoping to be invisible. She knows what it's like to be lonely.

A Latina in a majority-white school in Keizer, Oregon, she was hard-working but quiet at school, with a frizzy cloud of hair and not enough money for the Miss Me jeans with the rhinestone pockets.

“Teenagers get really caught up in who's popular,” she says. “I felt like I had a lot of problems when I was in high school. Not that I would get into trouble, but I didn't have a lot of friends. Emotionally it was hard. Kids are so mean in high school. So I decided that it would be best if I got my GED and started working.”

Her 27-year-old self would tell her 16-year-old self to stick it

out. And that's precisely what she said to every Kenyan girl in every school that she and a group of George Fox nursing students visited – with compassion, understanding how all-encompassing difficult situations are in the moment, but also with the conviction that comes with hindsight. As a junior in high school, she could not imagine tolerating one more year. And so she quit.

“My mom was really disappointed,” she says. “My mom went only to sixth grade. She understood how hard it was for me, but she really values education, so it was the hardest on her.”

Despite dropping out of high school, Gonzalez was not idle. Her parents raised her to work hard and save money, so she got her GED and began as a cashier at JCPenney. As soon as she turned 18, she took a job at Salem Health, handling patient registration. That's when her own mom came in as a patient – in a lot of pain, with unknown severity.

“I was so worried, and that was one of the most horrible feelings I've had, feeling like I didn't understand what was going on, and feeling like I was helpless in the situation,” Gonzalez says. Her parents spoke English, but they didn't know the medical world or health insurance. The family felt lost and scared.

“There was one day that I crawled into her hospital bed, and I was hugging her, and I told her, ‘Oh Mom, I don't want you to die.’”

Tears start immediately as Gonzalez remembers that day, years later. But while the doctor seemed brusque, the nurse assigned to them took a personal interest.

“I felt like I could really trust her, leaving my mom there,” she says.

Gonzalez doesn't even remember her name, but that nurse shaped her future. One year later, she entered Chemeketa Community College for her nursing prerequisites, and in 2022 transferred to George Fox as a sophomore nursing student.

“I really like to be there for people who feel like they need it,” she says. “That personal interest she showed in my family and me – even now, it has a really deep impact on us.”

Determined

Gonzalez remembers the frizzy hair, the loneliness, and the lost feeling as she teaches and plays with the Kenyan schoolgirls. “I'm grateful for going through that, because it made me a stronger

person now,” she says. “It gave me some humility that I'm able to carry over now. I have an interest in people who are in the background. People like that go through a lot that they don't voice, and you don't know unless you get to know them. I would say the girls there are the strongest I've ever met, with some of the things they've had to deal with.”

Last year was not the first time George Fox nursing students visited Kenya, partnering with the Kenyan organization Marafiki, Swahili for “friends.” But it was the first time they focused on health education – menstrual cycles, hygiene, the right to say “no” – rather than treating patients, trying to reach beyond immediate needs and shape this generation. Gonzalez found she has a gift for addressing hard topics and saying things people don't want to hear.

“Reflecting on things I was told when I was younger helps me to more carefully pick my words, especially where people may think they're being personally attacked,” she says. “I think, especially in healthcare, you have to have difficult conversations. The initial emotions behind that are not always accepting; sometimes it comes off as angry or confrontational. So you just have to have a calm demeanor, to pick your words carefully, to try and touch that person's heart and get the message across that you need to.”

Gonzalez likes who she's become. She was the only first-year nursing student accepted on the Kenya trip. She's working at both Salem Health and Providence Newberg Hospital as a certified nurse assistant while studying to be a registered nurse.

Tucked inside the clear cover of her phone, she has a note from one of the schoolgirls. Invited to write anonymous questions to be answered by the nursing students, one girl wrote, “I want to be you.”

“It's sad to think about someone wanting to be you, but whenever I feel like, ‘Nursing school is so hard. How can I do this?’ I remember I'm in such a fortunate position.”

Gonzalez will return to Kenya this summer. Whether there, or translating for a Spanish-speaking family in the emergency room, or calming a nervous patient awaiting a blood draw, she is determined to show people they are not invisible. They matter in a culture that may want them to blend into the edges. They have a voice.



“I have an interest in people who are in the background. People like that go through a lot that they don't voice, and you don't know unless you get to know them.”

Physical Therapist to the ‘Stars’

Whether he’s working with NFL athletes or a 94-year-old trying to walk without pain, Ryan Baugus treats his physical therapy clients with the same mindset: They are the “star of the show”

By Sean Patterson

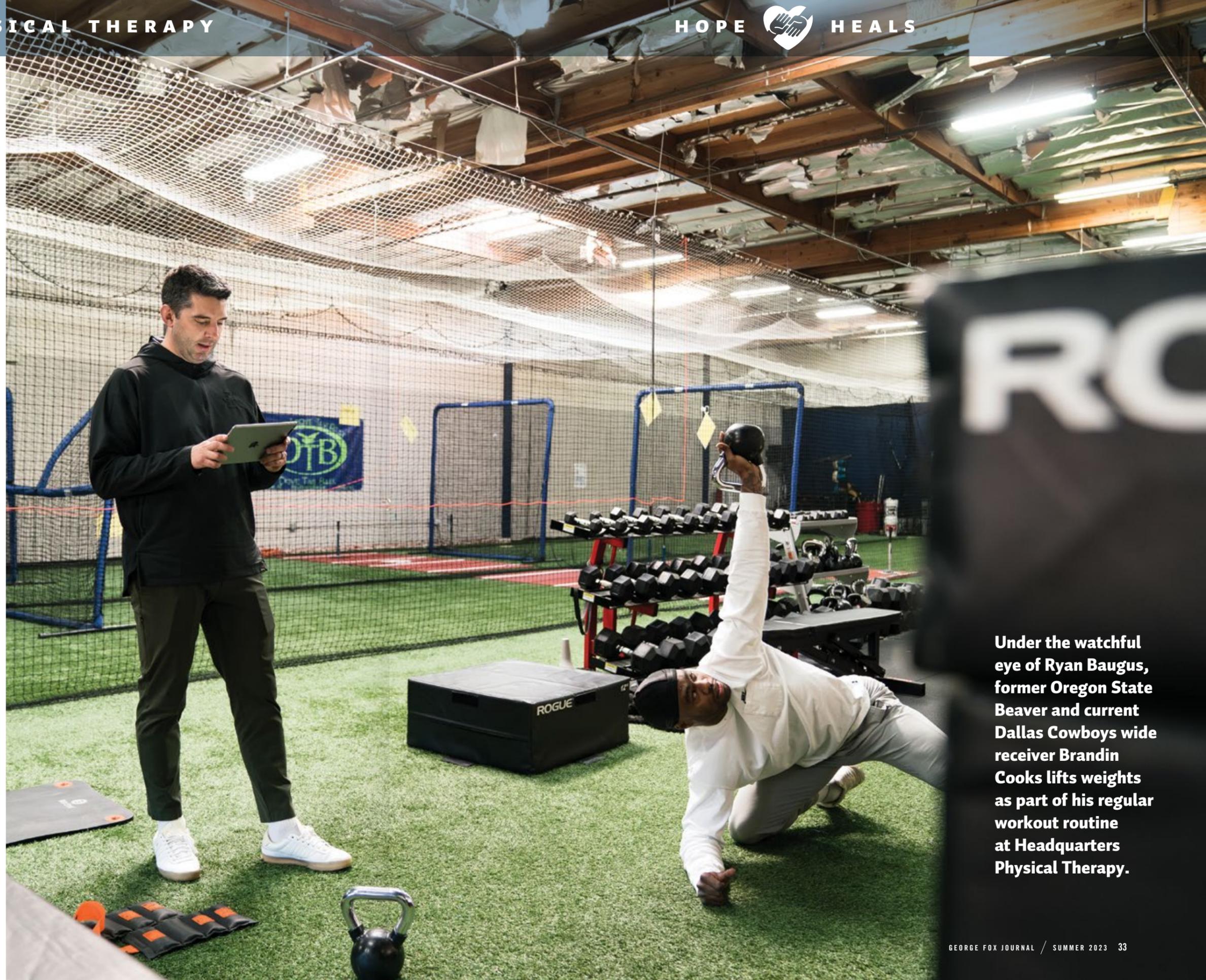
The thud of the exercise ball reverberates in the room, seemingly to the beat of the hip-hop music blaring from a nearby speaker, as Ryan Baugus keeps a watchful eye on his client.

Running him through drills that include quick bursts and turns, catching a tennis ball on the run, and various stretching and balance exercises, Baugus banter all the while, discussing everything from the news of the day to whatever happens to be on his client’s mind at any particular moment.

It’s a sight common at gyms and training facilities across the country, but what sets this scene apart is the elite level of talent present. The client in question is Brandin Cooks, a nine-year NFL veteran who recently joined the Dallas Cowboys after distinguishing himself as a standout wide receiver with the New Orleans Saints, New England Patriots, Los Angeles Rams and Houston Texans.

In another corner of the room is Dominique Dafney, a tight end with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. They are a pair of morning clients Baugus will work with before he heads out at 11 a.m. to visit the home of another – Cooper Kupp, the wide receiver who became only the fourth player in NFL history to lead the league in receptions, receiving yards and receiving touchdowns before winning Super Bowl LVI MVP honors at the conclusion of the 2021 season.

“I love waking up in the morning and having this feeling of the possibilities ahead – you know, that feeling of, ‘What’s gonna happen today?’” says Baugus, a 2015 graduate of George Fox’s Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program and the cofounder and owner of Headquarters Physical Therapy, with locations in Beaverton,



Under the watchful eye of Ryan Baugus, former Oregon State Beaver and current Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Brandin Cooks lifts weights as part of his regular workout routine at Headquarters Physical Therapy.

Milwaukie and Bend, Oregon. “It’s such a cool feeling, because you just never know what kind of opportunities you’ll have. That’s what keeps me going at this.”

A Wide Clientele

On one particular day, Baugus will work with a young athlete attempting to overcome a recent injury so he can get back on the field. On another, a 94-year-old man simply wishing to walk without back pain will pay him a visit. On still another, a firefighter who sustained injuries in multiple car wrecks will begin a rehabilitation program that will ultimately restore him physically, emotionally and mentally.

“Those are the people who stand out to me – the firefighter who used to be a powerlifter who can now barely lift a barbell,” Baugus says. “His wife told me he was a shell of his former self. It’s so hard to engage the world when you’re in pain. So, we started small. We started with the bare minimum. I told him, ‘Let’s just get the barbell up 18 inches.’ That was, like, eight months ago. Just the other day he lifted 325 pounds.”

As much as he enjoys working with NFL athletes, these are the stories Baugus loves to tell. The demographic of his clientele is wide, but he approaches treatment for each individual with the same philosophy: The client is the “star of the show.” Baugus is merely the conduit through which they will progressively improve their physical well-being.

“I’m Yoda to you, Luke Skywalker, who is the star,” laughs Baugus, bringing his love of *Star Wars* into the conversation. “Yeah, it’s kind of a dorky analogy, but it’s basically the nature of physical therapy. Luke has the Force in him. He just needs a Yoda to show him how to use it.”

In practice, that means listening to the client, educating them, and putting them in positions where they can adapt positively, build confidence and apply basic principles of movement – be it

lifting weights, walking, marching or stretching – on the road to rehabilitation, strengthening and overall improved health.

What that doesn’t involve is nitpicking and alarming the client with scare tactics. “I’m not into fear mongering, saying things like, ‘Hey, if we don’t fix this movement dysfunction, you’re going to have an X, Y, Z problem,’” says Baugus, who also holds athletic training certification in addition to his doctorate. “It’s much more along the lines of, ‘Let’s just focus on how we can build capacity. How do we bring the best out of you? How do we help you look for that inside of yourself?’ Then it’s all about adaptation and teaching them how to build that capacity.”

Ironically, Baugus accomplishes the feat without the benefit of a lot of high-end equipment. His tools are relatively simple – a tennis ball, a medicine ball, an elastic stretching band, a set of weights. And the workouts, conducted on this particular day in a Beaverton facility that doubles as a baseball and softball batting cage, are tailored to the individual.

What doesn’t fluctuate from client to client is Baugus’ insistence that every person be equipped with the knowledge and tools to empower them.

“First and foremost, I’m asking questions like, ‘What’s the uniqueness you bring to the table as a human or as an athlete, or as a mom or a dad, or whatever place you are in life? What’s the uniqueness you bring from a structural standpoint, from a pain standpoint, or from an injury standpoint?’ Once we’ve established the answers to those questions, we can better determine how to adjust dosage and how we should stress your body in a way that leads to positive adaptation.”

It’s a philosophy that was ingrained in him as a student in George Fox’s DPT program, where patient-centered care is the focus.

The Unlikely Physical Therapy Student

Baugus has built a business that serves the highest level of athlete and requires that he frequently travel, particularly with Cooks, who insists on flying him out on Fridays in preparation for home games on Sundays. Baugus has been to two Super Bowls and interacted with dozens of professional athletes over the years.

It would seem he’s always been destined for success, but there was a time he didn’t know where to turn. All he needed was someone to give him a shot.

Though he gained valuable experience as an athletic trainer as an undergraduate student at Oregon State University, where he worked with the baseball and football teams, Baugus struggled to manage his schedule. The time commitment of working in a Division I athletic program, while inspiring and invaluable, took a toll on his grades. He graduated from OSU with a degree in athletic training in 2011, but didn’t have the GPA to impress doctoral-level

program admissions committees.

“I knew physical therapy was pulling at me. I’ve known this is what I wanted to do my whole life,” says Baugus, who drew inspiration from his mother Lori, an athletic trainer at the collegiate level in the 1980s. “I remember driving somewhere and just praying, ‘Lord, give me the opportunity. I know this is what you want me to do.’ At that point I was solely reliant on God’s providence to lead me to the right place, and he did.”

That “place” was George Fox, which had just launched its DPT program in the fall of 2012. He got acquainted with then-director of the program Tyler Cuddeford and began “bugging him almost daily,” Baugus recalls.

“I asked him all kinds of questions about what it would take to be successful in the program, and he was very gracious and gave me the time of day. In my admissions interview, I told them I knew they would be taking a chance on me, but I said, ‘If I’m not the hardest worker you’ve ever seen, I will bow out. I’ll buy you a steak dinner.’”

George Fox gave Baugus the shot he was looking for, and he returned the favor by diving headlong into his studies. “I practically lived in that PT building for three years,” he says. “I was part of the first class. We all relied on each other to do what needed to be done to help get the program accredited, so there was a lot of camaraderie. I loved it.”

The Emergence of a Mentor

What stood out to Baugus at George Fox was the faculty. In addition to Cuddeford, he bonded with several of his professors, but it was one in particular, Daniel Kang, who made the biggest impact. Kang’s passion for the practice of physical therapy resonated with him, and the two hit it off. “He saw that same passion in me and just stoked the flame,” he says.

The two maintain a close relationship to this day. In fact, when Baugus decided to launch Headquarters Physical Therapy in 2018, Kang was the third person to get the news. “The first was my wife, Brittany, and the second was my mom,” he laughs.

Kang also partners with Baugus, doing heart health presentations on behalf of Headquarters, which, in addition to individual PT appointments, specializes in corporate wellness programming that covers topics such as nutrition, sleep, mental wellness and stress management with companies throughout the region.

‘A Tremendous Blessing’

For three years, Baugus worked in a corporate PT setting before deciding to branch out on his own. Teaming with fellow George Fox alumnus Curtis Dodson, Baugus fulfilled his lifelong dream of opening his own business to serve people in need of physical strengthening or rehabilitation.

The success of the business was due, in part, to the internships he gained while at George Fox, where he got the opportunity to work with professional-level athletes. In turn, he met Erik Jernstrom, an elite strength coach who was already working with Cooks and other pros. Baugus and Jergstrom continue to work together, combining to offer top-notch physical therapy and strength training.

“He’s literally one of the best strength coaches in the world,” Baugus says of Jernstrom. “He was working with Cooks, who then hooked us up with Cooper [Kupp] when they played together with the Rams. The whole thing has just been a tremendous blessing. I’m amazed at how the Lord has orchestrated it. When we started this, we had no idea if we were gonna make it. We could end up trying to do this out of a broom closet, for all we knew.

“I just gave it all to God and he has blessed it. In all I do, I’m just trying to bring God glory and honor him. With that as the motivation, it gives you purpose when you go to work every morning.”



Serving with Passion

Living out the university’s mission to serve with passion, each year students and faculty in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program embark on a trip to Africa to partner with local professionals to meet the needs of the underserved. It’s a tangible way to show compassion, strengthen communities, and afford students the opportunity to put their training into practice.

The service initiative began with a trip to Uganda in 2014. Since then, about 200 students have visited Uganda and/or Ghana to advocate for people with disabilities, visit boarding schools for children with special needs, provide hands-on physical therapy for hundreds of patients in various settings, and teach classes in a variety of DPT disciplines.

This year, 19 students, three faculty members and an alumnus visited Uganda in May, where they worked alongside Ugandan physicians and nurses to run a three-day rural medical clinic; served with teachers and boarding school caregivers to assist students with disabilities at schools in the capital city, Kampala; and partnered with DIWODE, an organization that works to empower women with disabilities to pursue professional careers, as well as offer health services and societal advocacy for all Ugandans with disabilities.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers’ tight end Dominique Dafney engages in a stretching exercise – one of the many routines Ryan Baugus puts his clients through as part of their training regimen.



‘La Roca’

Javier Gutierrez Baltazar provides a solid foundation for the next generation as a school counselor

By Sean Patterson

Javier Gutierrez Baltazar’s decision to become a school counselor began with a question – a query that popped into his head one day as he made his way home from work as a juvenile probation officer for Marion County.

“The question wasn’t so much, ‘What am I doing?’” he recalls. “It was more along the lines of, ‘Is there something more I can do for these kids? Something I can do before they get to this point?’”

After four years of working with troubled youth – many of whom were gang members – Gutierrez Baltazar felt the pull of wanting to intervene earlier in kids’ life cycles, before they got to the place where, oftentimes, even family members were ready to give up on them. He wanted a profession where he could build relationships, have honest conversations, and offer a safe space built on trust.

It’s no wonder, then, that he gravitated toward school counseling.

“As a juvenile probation officer, you’re the guy the kids don’t really want to see – the one who is holding them accountable,” says Gutierrez Baltazar, a 2022 graduate of George Fox University’s Master of Arts in School Counseling program. “As a school counselor, the kids want to talk. They want to see you and be heard – to be known. That’s what I find most rewarding. I’m simply there to listen, to talk, to give them that space.”

Gutierrez Baltazar serves as a school counselor at McKay High School in Salem, Oregon, where he’s also an assistant soccer coach. His dual roles allow him access into the lives of high schoolers, many of whom are Latino like himself, as they try to figure out their identity while straddling two cultures.

It’s work that is close to his heart. A native of Mexico who emigrated to Woodburn, Oregon, as a child, he grew up in what he calls an “untraditional” home, the son of an undocumented single mom. He always knew he wanted to work with youth – with kids who grew up in the same type of environment – but until his recent epiphany he was unsure of how the dream would play out.

Gutierrez Baltazar’s journey to his current role began after he earned a bachelor’s degree in social and behavioral studies from George Fox’s Adult Degree Program in 2015. It was shortly after graduating that he landed a job as a probation officer, a position he held for four years before enrolling in the school counseling pro-

“Mental health is generally not talked about in my culture ... In doing what I do, I not only help the kids of our community, I can help my own family, my own situation. That’s a big turning point, when you culturally become aware of what’s going on and are in a place to speak into people’s lives and make a difference.”

gram in 2019.

As a student at George Fox, Gutierrez Baltazar says he learned as much about himself as he did about the practice of counseling others.

“It was while I was in the program that I truly discovered who I am as a person,” he says. “I became a better listener and began holding myself to a higher standard. It was during one of my classes – a human growth and development class in which I explored my own journey – that I discovered my passion for helping young people through counseling. It made me wonder how my life would have been different had I met a counselor like me when I was young.”

The nature of his work challenges Gutierrez Baltazar to go beyond the surface level – beyond addressing the behavioral issues – to find out what makes a kid tick. That, in turn, forces him to examine his own actions, beliefs and behaviors.

“Mental health is generally not talked about in my culture,” he says. “A disability is usually seen as a physical disability. The idea



of mental health is minimized. In doing what I do, I not only help the kids of our community, I can help my own family, my own situation. That’s a big turning point, when you culturally become aware of what’s going on and are in a place to speak into people’s lives and make a difference.”

For two years, Gutierrez Baltazar juggled his job in Salem and his studies. His dedication to both did not go unnoticed by the George Fox counseling department, which named him its “Outstanding School Counseling Graduate” for 2022. In her presentation of the award, professor Lori DeKruyf called her student

“La Roca” (the rock) which, “when grounded, provides stability and a solid foundation.”

Gutierrez Baltazar relishes his role as “La Roca” – as someone who is steadfast, strong and reliable. “I honestly believe nine of the 10 kids I encountered as a probation officer were just looking for somewhere to belong – just looking for a place to fit in and be accepted. In my role now, I can instill in them the belief that they have value. That someone cares. I am in a position of high impact, and I love it.”

‘Hope Is Healing’

After surviving the 2017 Las Vegas shooting, Marchelle Carl found a way forward through counseling – and a path to a meaningful career

By Brooklyn Chillemi, Class of 2026

It was Oct. 1, 2017. Country star Jason Aldean had just started his hit song, “When She Says Baby,” on the final evening of the Route 91 country music festival in Las Vegas. As the tightly packed audience danced, sang and cheered, Marchelle Carl and two of her friends stood right in front of the main stage – the same spot they’d taken for the past two nights.

But before the band could finish the first chorus, Carl heard a crack, crack! Something seemed wrong. Maybe a speaker blew out, or perhaps some prankster lit a few firecrackers. It was difficult to hear over the noise of the 22,000 people in attendance.

She looked around, but instead of worried audio technicians or overly rowdy fans, she saw chaos unfolding around her. People were screaming. Concertgoers began climbing over barricades. Carl suddenly realized it wasn’t a faulty speaker or firecrackers. It was gunfire.

Grabbing her cousin’s hand, she fled to the right-hand side of the stage, scampering to find cover behind a sunglasses vendor. Later, they’d learn that was the side closest to Mandalay Bay – the same side that the shooter was firing from.

A minute passed. After a few moments more, they caught their breath. Finally, there was a brief lull in the bullets, and people began to move.

But as Carl stood, she couldn’t see her cousin or her friends. Instead, she found herself surrounded by masses of panicked people running for their lives. It felt like a stampeding herd of elephants.

All around her, rumors flew. Some said there were snipers on the rooftops of multiple hotels in the area, while others claimed there was a bomb threat. There was no way to be certain what the truth was as she became swallowed up in the fleeing crowd.

As she ran, she called her mom, unsure if this would be her last chance to say goodbye.

‘It felt like the longest 10 minutes of my life’

After the crowd pushed Carl farther down the strip, she found herself in lockdown at a hotel, separated from her friends. She tried to keep in contact with them, but her phone was dying and she was struggling to find service. Nonetheless, she was safely out of range of the shooter, and so were they.

The next morning, she decided to return home, foregoing the group’s ziplining trip they had planned. “I was never so happy to see that PDX airport carpet,” she recalls.

Other than a few cuts and bruises, Carl was unharmed

physically, “but the mental injuries were a lot more impactful. I came home, and at first I thought, ‘I can just take a day or two off work, and I think I’ll be fine. I can resume life. I’m no longer in Las Vegas. I’m safe. I made it.’”

But that night, she couldn’t sleep.

“I could not get the sound of the gunshots out of my head. I could not get away from the panic as I ran to safety. And I just could not fathom getting in a car and driving and doing basic things,” she says. She needed groceries. She needed to walk her dog.

Taking it one step at a time, she decided to try circling the block with her dog.

They fell into their usual pattern of walking and then running alongside each other – but the running felt all too familiar, and Carl could feel the adrenaline building up far too quickly. “It reminded me of running for my life,” she says. “I really struggled.”

After realizing she needed more than just a day off from work, Carl decided to seek counseling.

This wouldn’t be the first time she had seen a counselor. In kindergarten, she was introduced to play therapy after her best friend passed away from leukemia. Then, in high school, she sought counseling when her brother and sister-in-law lost their baby. In 2016, she went into counseling again when a childhood friend took his life. But this time felt different from the past.

“This counselor really helped normalize anxiety for me,” she says. “I knew anxiety existed, I knew it was a thing that people have, and I’ve heard people talk about it, but I never knew what it felt like until I went through the anxiety of not being able to go to the grocery store, not being able to drive, not being able to sleep at night because I was so fearful of another nightmare or closing my eyes and hearing gunshots.”

Through trauma-informed counseling, Carl was equipped with intervention techniques that allowed her to calm down in those moments of fear. Many of these focused on using her senses, like touching her bedsheets, petting her dog or looking at the nightlight in her room.

When reflecting on her past, Carl saw a similar pattern: Every time she went to counseling, it helped her.

Even from her very first experience with play therapy after kindergarten, she remembers it being fun more than anything else. “I remember thinking, ‘Wow! We get to play with toys, and art, and Barbie dolls, and LEGOs.’” And that’s what she needed at that time.

“I started going back to being this 5-year-old little girl who recognized therapy was real,” she recalls. “Therapy had a benefit.” These past experiences had shaped Carl’s perspective on counseling, and she wanted to give that experience to other people like her.

A tattoo reminds Marchelle Carl of the date and the first note in the song that was playing when she heard shots and started running.



“What I’ve learned from my education, from classwork, and from my own losses and tragedies is that part of creating hope is being able to have a community of support behind you.”

“What I’ve learned from my education, from classwork, and from my own losses and tragedies is that part of creating hope is being able to have a community of support behind you,” she says. “Those are the people who also make you want to keep fighting, make you want to get better, and make you want to have a more fulfilled life. If you do not have a good supportive community, you’re really going to struggle.”

‘This struggle is not going to last forever’

After Carl graduated, Berardi approached her and offered her a position as an adjunct professor for a few of the entry-level counseling courses at George Fox. “I ended up loving it,” she says. “Now I always ask if there are any classes for the next semester, and I teach one or two of them.” In the future, Carl wants to return to school for her PhD so she can continue to educate and mentor aspiring counselors.

But for now, she remains focused on instilling hope in her clients while working through their struggles, just as her counselors

had helped her. She works part time at Kaiser Permanente and serves as a full-time counselor associate at the Northwest Catholic Counseling Center in Portland.

“I tell every client on our very first session together, ‘My No. 1 goal is that you won’t need me anymore. You will move on and move through whatever you came for,’” she says. “‘We will have worked it out together, and you’re going to stop counseling because you don’t need me.’ And that’s when I know that we did a good job.”

‘I have sat in a client chair before, and I know it works’

After researching what she would need to become a licensed professional counselor, Carl discovered George Fox. Following a lengthy interview process, she was accepted and enrolled in the two-year clinical mental health counseling program, adding a trauma-informed care certificate.

By specializing in trauma counseling, Carl could learn about the other side of counseling that she received as a child.

“I worked directly with Dr. Anna Berardi to set up what my trauma coursework would look like,” says Carl, who stayed with Berardi all the way through licensure.

She also took a few courses from Berardi for her trauma-informed care certificate, and because those courses often encouraged students to share their personal stories throughout the curriculum, “they opened my eyes to redefining the definition of trauma while recognizing that no two people’s traumatic experiences are the same,” she says.

This created a sense of community for Carl. In every class, she grew close to her peers – an environment she strives to emulate in her counseling practice today.





“I have the ‘kuleana’ – the responsibility – to go back home someday and take care of the people of my community.”

‘If you take care of the community, it will take care of you.’

Tia Kinilau draws from her Hawaiian roots to extend care to patients, with the dream of returning home to help bridge the gap in accessible care

By Rachel Brumfield

Tia Kinilau knew she wanted to go into healthcare in high school. Math and science were her strongest subjects, but her desire to help others resonated more deeply. She had experienced firsthand what a difference it could make.

As a junior in high school, Kinilau tore her ACL and meniscus playing soccer. For a teen who loved sports and staying active, it was a major setback. Her recovery took months, involving surgery and hours of physical therapy.

Luckily, through the process she encountered medical professionals who went above and beyond. Her orthopedic surgeon, in particular, stood out.

“She gave me the best care ever, and really treated me like I was her own family,” she recalls. “It made me want to be able to be in that position to treat others how she treated me.”

Laulima (“Many Hands”)

Growing up in Oahu, Kinilau always felt deeply connected to her community. She came from a big family and attended a high school for native Hawaiians.

“It was a tight-knit community,” she says. “I always had people to support me. Growing up like that, in this space that I loved, just gave me the support that I needed to pursue this career in medicine.”

From an early age, Kinilau felt a shared sense of the values rooted in her Hawaiian heritage. Throughout childhood she saw her dad, a native Hawaiian, and others in her community exemplify a collective responsibility to care for others and the land.

“Hawaiian values have been in my heart since I was a child,” she says.

“For example, ‘laulima’ literally means ‘many hands.’ It means to work together and support and strengthen your community. ‘Malama’ means to focus on the needs and well-being of others. ‘Kuleana’ means we have the responsibility to do so. These values, along with many others, have been ingrained in me since I was young.”

While earning her undergraduate degree in public health and biology, Kinilau heard about the physician assistant (PA) field for the first time. As a profession dedicated to providing accessible care to the community, it felt like the right fit.

She began working as a medical scribe at a family clinic to become a competitive candidate for graduate school. This gave her a close look at the day-to-day work of a PA, further solidifying her confidence in the career and sparking her interest in primary care.

Kuleana (“Responsibility”)

For Kinilau, being a PA allows her to do exactly what she set out to do: help people in the community. After graduating as part of the George Fox physician assistant program’s first class, she landed a job at Bridgeport Family Medicine, a private practice family clinic where she completed two rotations as a student. As she settles in and gains experience, her community back home remains in her heart.

“With the knowledge that I gained through school, I have the ‘kuleana’ – the responsibility – to go back home someday and take care of the people of my community,” she says.

Her dream is to eventually return to Hawaii and give back to the community that raised her. Oahu, where she grew up, is home to many who are medically underserved. And studies have shown that native Hawaiians, in particular, face numerous health disparities and exhibit higher rates of chronic disease and mortality than other populations.

Kinilau witnessed the gap in healthcare firsthand when her grandfather’s health was failing.

“He did not receive the healthcare that he – and all people – deserve,” she says. “I would like to make a difference there and make sure what happened to him does not happen to others.”

With such a huge need for accessible care, physician assistants like Kinilau are an essential part of the solution.

“It’s our responsibility to give back to our community,” she says. “For Hawaiians, it means a lot of teamwork. You treat each other like family – even if someone is a stranger, you treat them like family.”

Like the orthopedic surgeon who helped her through a tough recovery, Kinilau hopes to extend a sense of family to her patients. It’s the value she saw embedded in her community growing up. “You see where help is needed and take initiative,” she says.

“If you take care of the community, it will take care of you.”



Kinilau and family members celebrate on campus during her graduation in December.

Refined Through Fire

The support of others during devastating life events fuels alumna Shaun Davis' desire to bring hope and healing to her psychology practice

By Sean Patterson

For as long as she can remember, Shaun Davis has been there for people.

She was the little girl who served as the mediator when her friends weren't getting along. The high schooler people naturally gravitated toward when they needed a

listening ear and a word of encouragement. The empathetic adult with a heart for the hurting and marginalized.

Those who know her weren't surprised, then, when she decided to go back to school as an adult to pursue a career in psychology. Now a licensed psychologist with a private practice in Newberg, Davis is doing the very work she has longed to do since childhood: help restore lives.

In a cruel twist of irony, she would need to rely on the support of others to get there.

The Fire

It was during her final months as a social and behavioral studies student in George Fox's Adult Degree Program that Davis' home burned to the ground. Everything was destroyed, but thankfully, no lives were lost. It took 18 months to rebuild the house, leaving her family – including husband, Arlin, and one of her daughters – displaced and having to start anew.



With no home computer, she managed to complete assignments on an iPhone until her laptop could be replaced by insurance, while her church and ADP peers and professors “pulled together mountains of clothes, food, supplies and everything” to see her family through.

She also found solace from a psychologist she connected with through George Fox. “She, in so many ways, changed my life through her support,” says Davis, a 2017 alumna of George Fox's Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) program and a 2011 graduate of the university's Adult Degree Program. “She taught me what it was all about, how to sit in grief and not be swallowed up, to not be afraid of being sad. And she just metaphorically held me in that really difficult time when some days I didn't know what we would do.”

As time went by, the family rebuilt their lives. Life returned to normal. Inspired by the incident and the counsel she received, Davis was ready to tackle a new challenge and pursue a doctorate in psychology, with the goal of coming alongside others just as

“You are invited into people's lives. You are given this immense privilege of walking in those hard times into some of the scariest, darkest, saddest moments of people's lives. And you get to be there with them. I don't have to do something magical; I just get to show up with people.”

others had done for her.

Then tragedy struck again.

The Accident

It was during her third year in the PsyD program when, driving home from class one day, Davis was involved in a car accident that resulted in a severe concussion and left her bedridden for three months.

Once again, her community came to her aid. Classmates visited to review the things she was missing, and a clinical supervisor stepped in to help manage her caseload. “The PsyD community made it very plain that my health was most important,” she says. “They really taught me a lot about how we can respond when life happens in the middle of this really important work that we're doing. I literally was dependent on others to be sure I didn't fall behind or fall out of the trajectory I was on.”

The camaraderie with her peers and the personal touch of her professors caught Davis off guard. “I had really not expected to

form the kinds of relationships that I did when I came into the program,” she says. “I was a middle-aged woman. I had a family. I felt like I was just going to go to school, do my homework and graduate. But the cohort model really fosters you stepping into a group of people and becoming family. It was something so surprising to me, and I don't know that I could have done the program without it.”

Career Confirmation

The traumatic experiences – and the care she received in their aftermath – confirmed Davis' long-held belief that she was put on this planet to be a source of encouragement, hope and inspiration to others. They also reinforced her resolve to be a more nonjudgmental, validating and positive person.

“You go into this field thinking, ‘I'm going to help others,’” she says of psychology. “But what you really find is that you are invited into people's lives. You are given this immense privilege of walking in those hard times into some of the scariest, darkest, saddest moments of people's lives. And you get to be there with them. I don't have to do something magical; I just get to show up with people. It is something more than I ever imagined it would be.”

She has also discovered that helping others goes beyond being a shoulder to cry on. “You can actually help people in a journey of healing. I felt a very spiritual connection to that. And to me, that's the calling that I think God has put on my life – to combine the natural inclinations with the education and really impact people's lives.”

Giving Back

Davis' gratitude for the training and support she received at George Fox is reflected in her desire to meet with PsyD students on a regular basis. She supervises many of them in her own clinic, giving them valuable clinical practice experience while providing the community with a low-cost therapy option, and she teaches a family systems class. “That was one of the most formative classes I took when I was a first-year student,” she says, “so it feels like a nice way to give back to the program.”

Her encouragement to students: Don't just “do the homework.” Be present.

“Like I did, many students come into psychology thinking there's a handbook that will tell them, ‘Do this certain thing and people's lives will magically be changed.’ That's not how it works. What I've learned is that this process of providing unconditional acceptance, safety and relationship enables people to navigate those really hard and scary places.

“The greatest part of my job is that I have seen that being there in that way – nonjudgmental, accepting, validating, unconditional, positive – changes people's lives. Because as they experience that, they begin to have hope that other parts of their life can be different as well.”

Her encouragement to others: “The more we understand ourselves, the more compassionate we can be toward ourselves, and therefore, the more compassionate we can be with the people around us.”



A Hero for ‘Superheroes’

Chris McMullan’s passion to advocate for children was inspired by the care and love he received from his own childhood mentors

By Sean Patterson

Sometimes, all someone really needs is another person willing to sit with them in the sacred space of silence.

Chris McMullan is willing to be that person. A 2021 alumnus of George Fox’s Master of Social Work program, he regularly encounters the hardships and heartache of the children he works with as a social worker in the Woodburn (Oregon) School District.

One recent interaction stands out. Sitting with a young boy in a sandbox, McMullan made a simple request: “Show me a happy memory.” Using the toys and figurines he had to work with, the boy recreated a scene of him and his father fishing at the beach. But the boy wasn’t ready to stop there: He had another story to tell.

Exploring the creative possibilities further, the child took what looked like a coffin and buried it in the sand, placing on top of it a headstone.

“Did you know my mom died this summer?” came the question.

“Tell me more about that,” McMullan responded.

Silence. Words just wouldn’t come in that moment, so McMullan and the boy were content to simply take in the scene. A minute passed. Still no words.

Finally, the young boy’s hand reached into the sand and pulled the coffin from its subterranean space and into the daylight. “I’m not ready to talk about that yet,” he sighed.

In these moments, McMullan finds his purpose. He reassures the boy that, though his sadness will never fully go away, he can still experience hope and joy in the future. This isn’t the end of the journey.

“It’s just such an honoring experience to be a part of kids’ stories,” says McMullan, who transitioned from a career as a school teacher to serving as a social worker. “I find that kids will share when they feel safe around you. To create that safe space for kids to talk about these hard things – stuff that is churning inside, that

is affecting their overall thought process – I’m changed because of it. It’s not just the kid who benefits.”

Inspired Through Hardship

McMullan can relate to the hardships his young clients experience. While growing up in Ireland, he was often the victim of bullies. “I spent a lot of time with principals because of it,” he recalls.

And yet, through the trauma, something inside of him was inspired. Witnessing the care of the school administrators and teachers who came to his aid sparked a desire to model the very same behavior. Though not fully clear on what to pursue for a career, he knew he would become an advocate for children.

“Those teachers I saw wanted to help and wanted to offer support and kindness in a place where I didn’t think there was opportunity for kindness,” he says of his childhood heroes. “As I progressed through life, I got to do the same. I get to give back to kids in the same way that I was given support – to be a kind person to them – and I think that has perpetuated my desire to serve people and serve children, specifically.”

Breaking Down Barriers

Though the former school teacher’s job description has changed, his role is similar. He continues to see children on a daily basis, but his focus is now on their overall well-being rather than their academics. Working in a community that is more than 80% Latino, he stands out as the “tall white guy” willing to work with kids.

“That expectation that folks who look like me aren’t willing to immediately show kindness is shattered,” he says. “It’s been life-giving to break down those barriers in multiple ways to help people understand that we’re all just human. We all bleed the same, and we all deserve worth and value and support.

“I get to do that every day, and it almost feels like a dream. It’s not really a job, it’s more of a passion or a calling.”

Willing to Go to the Edges

As a social worker, McMullan accepts the fact his job isn’t easy. He has to be willing to see the brokenness and step into those places where most fear to tread.

McMullan calls it “being willing to go to the edges.”

“When I say ‘going to the edges,’ what I mean is going to the places where people are often considered lesser – where there’s an expectation of either less ability or less social status – and helping to bring those folks hope where they maybe don’t know that there

is hope to be found,” he says.

Put into practical terms, that means sitting with children navigating a family crisis, being a non-judgmental listener of kids who act out, and digging deep to find out what a child believes, how they see the world and themselves, and what they dream about for the future.

Ultimately, he’s there to make children believe they can find solutions to their own problems.

“When I’m working with students, I’m not just working in the moment to create temporary fixes to the stuff they’re experiencing,” he says. “I’m working to develop coping skills and long-term solutions to find their own support in the future by creating their own opportunities. I want them to get to the point where they don’t need people like me to find the answers for them.

“Inadvertently, I’m trying to work myself out of a job because, once they’re equipped with the skills and the capacities to find those solutions, they won’t need me there.”

Seeing Progress

McMullan credits the mentorship he received in George Fox’s Master of Social Work program for the confidence and acumen he’s developed as a social worker. “While they weren’t our peers, there was this peer-like attitude of support that I got from professors that I wasn’t initially expecting to get,” he says of his mentors. “I was thinking that it was going to be about meeting rubrics and getting the right answers. What I found were professors who would stand with us when we struggled and stand with us when we didn’t understand something and help explain it. They took the time for us – took the time for me.”

Now, in turn, McMullan is taking the time to sit in sandboxes in rundown play-

grounds to get to the heart of what makes a child tick. In the case of the young boy coping with his mother’s death, McMullan is happy to report progress.

“Every week that we’ve met together, I’ve seen him leave our time together with a little bit less weight on his shoulders,” he says. “It’s nice for him to see that there is hope somewhere in the future. I simply tell him, ‘It’s OK to be sad right now, but don’t lose hope. You always have hope.’

“I’ve heard the phrase, ‘I’m a social worker. What’s your superpower?’ But as I think about that, I realize the people I get to work with are, in fact, the superheroes. Yes, I’m helping them. But they’re helping me more than they know.”



“Inadvertently, I’m trying to work myself out of a job because, once they’re equipped with the skills and the capacities to find those solutions, they won’t need me there.”

A Lasting Impact

Three professors retire this summer after serving a combined 91 years at the university

By Sean Patterson



Don Powers

34
Years

It's always been biology professor **Don Powers'** contention that the best work a faculty member does occurs outside the classroom – in the hallways, in their office, lab or home, and, in his case, the great outdoors.

In short, teaching was always about the relationships formed and the lives impacted.

“Building relationships works best when you can interact with students in smaller groups, or even better, one-on-one,” says Powers, who retires this year after 34 years at George Fox. “I often spent time on campus during the summer because my work with students was never confined just to the academic year. To this day, I continue to maintain relationships with many of these students, and I believe that most of them continue to value the time we worked together.”

He estimates he mentored between 70 and 80 student researchers during his career. In each case, his fascination with the natural world – and in particular his love affair with birds – inspired them.

In fact, his ornithology course continues to impact those who took it years ago. “This class was frankly life-changing for many students, regardless of what they ended up doing professionally, because it provided an avenue to enjoy and appreciate this tiny corner of creation for the rest of their lives,” he says. “Many students who took it as far back as the start of my career still connect with me to ask about good birding spots near places they plan to travel or what the best bird book is for a particular region.”

His passion for the hummingbird, in particular, took him all over the world on research expeditions to work with renowned experts, and he contributed to countless papers on the subject – including one piece that landed in the prestigious *Nature* scientific journal.

All the while, he remained at George Fox because of his passion for seeing students fall in love with biology.

“I have been blessed to have a job that was not really a job,” he says. “My work here has been my mission, and my calling has been to help train a generation of scientists who could be both respected professionals and lights for Christ.”

Outside the classroom, his favorite memories include hosting James Bond movie nights – when a five- to six-course meal with an ethnic theme (Powers loves to cook) was followed by watching one of 007's flicks – and exploring the outdoors with students.

In one such excursion this spring, Powers and his charges went to Hagg Lake to look for wood ducks. After not seeing any, they were about to give up when he blurted out a prayer: “God, this is

my last ornithology trip to Hagg Lake. Please give us a wood duck!”

Within two seconds, about 10 wood ducks suddenly descended on the scene. “Students' jaws dropped to the ground in disbelief,” he chuckles. “We had a good laugh about that the rest of the morning.”

Looking ahead, Powers and his wife Theo plan to move to the East Coast to be closer to their two baby grandchildren, Cody Danger Powers and Milo Rocket Powers. He also plans to return to Oregon periodically, as some equipment central to his research projects is housed on campus. “Who knows, there might even be a student or two who would benefit from the mentorship of an old retired guy,” he laughs.

If English and honors program professor **Bill Jolliff** had a singular goal in his 29-year teaching career at George Fox, it was this: to help students embrace reading texts with the great questions always in mind – and to be faithful to those questions himself.

In doing so, “I think my students and I helped each other stay honest and focused,” he says.

Jolliff retires this spring after nearly three decades of sharing his love of literature with thousands of students. In particular, he enjoyed probing the depths of some of America's greatest poets and authors.

“I felt called to this work in part because of my passion for American literature – reading it and writing about it – as a way of seeking truth,” he reflects. “So my favorite classes to teach have always been those that most effectively allowed such ways to open. I suppose this most often happened for me when some fine text by Thoreau or Emerson was on the table. But you never really know where truth will break in.”

Among other truths, Jolliff discovered that the everyday – “the mundane” – matters. It's why he always tried to give students' written words his best attention, and why he didn't balk at the opportunity to go deeper with a student wrestling with the meaning and ideas in a given text.

“Occasionally a student found a particularly challenging text engaging and was unsatisfied with the level of understanding that can be accomplished in regular class sessions,” he says. “One young man visited me for an hour or more each week – for half a semester – to talk about some of the challenging ideas in Ralph Waldo Emerson's essays. That obviously took a lot of time, but we



Bill Jolliff

29
Years

got to know each other, as well as Emerson, a lot better.”

Among his most memorable moments was the day a student bounded into his office to tell him that Rita Dove, the former poet laureate of the United States, had called to tell her how much she loved her work and encouraged her to join the program she was teaching. “I can still see the joy and deep satisfaction on that student’s face,” he says. “That’s a moment I carry with me.”

Moments like those – and an atmosphere that welcomed tackling some of life’s deeper questions in a faith-friendly environment – made going to the classroom a joy.

“I believe deeply in Christian higher education. I believed in it 40 years ago, and I believe in it more strongly now,” he says. “For me it would have been impossible to approach the study of literature as a truth-seeking phenomenon in a context that excluded or downplayed the great questions of faith. Fox does not exclude those questions, but in fact welcomes them.

“My approach to reading is to live my way into the depths of great texts. That often means reading them many, many times. I was privileged to be able to do that very thing – and then to discuss them with 20 bright young minds in the room. I brought some experience to each text, and they brought fresh, creative perspectives. We often worked well together.”

When asked what he plans to do next, Jolliff turned pragmatic: “I’ve lived in the same house for 29 years. I suppose it’s time to clean the garage.”

While some might frame Be Known as a commitment related to the relationships between faculty and students – or between student peers themselves – **Dan Brunner** has another take on the university’s promise.

As he sees it, the significance of Be Known goes far beyond human relationships and interactions.

“First and foremost, I want students to know and experience that they are known by God, and that God’s ‘knowing’ of them is grounded in love – not condemnation, guilt or shame – revealed through Jesus Christ,” says Brunner, a professor of Christian history and formation at Portland Seminary. “The grace of realizing that God’s primary way of knowing us is through love lies at the heart of transformation.”

Secondarily, he always strived to let himself “be known” through a reflective, non-narcissistic vulnerability – one that allowed students to know of his humanity without making the lesson about him. “I’ve gotten better at this over the years, but must also confess many shortcomings and some regrets,” he admits.

To that end, he made himself available to students through office hours, after-class chats, candidacy interviews, academic advising, spiritual direction sessions, book groups and small-group Zoom discussions.

Brunner is retiring this year after 28 years at the university. He started teaching at Western Evangelical Seminary in 1995, the year before its merger with George Fox, and has served in various administrative roles at the seminary and on numerous university

committees ever since.

He was inspired to pursue a teaching career by the college and seminary faculty members who faithfully poured themselves into his life as mentors, models and companions. “Their example changed my life and became something I wanted to emulate,” he says.

He, in turn, has dedicated himself to serving as a guide to students seeking to hear God and do his will. It isn’t surprising, then, that two of his favorite courses to teach were relationship-based: Awareness and Identity, in which he helped students on their spiritual journey through the practice of centering prayer, and Pastoral Ministry, a master of divinity course focused on the nitty-gritty aspects of what it means to be a pastor or chaplain, like conducting funerals, officiating at weddings, and shepherding with tenderness and compassion.

“Teaching is my primary vocation, and George Fox and Portland

Seminary provided me the space and opportunity to live out my calling from God,” he says. “It may be cliché, but teaching has been more than a job to me. It is a gift from God, a passion, and when I teach, I feel God’s pleasure.”

His reasons for teaching for nearly three decades are many, but ultimately it boils down to two: the opportunity to work with “wonderful colleagues” and the students themselves. “There is no greater privilege than to be able to journey with women and men who come to seminary for all the right reasons, out of a hunger and passion to serve the God they love by becoming the people that God created them to be.”

As for his future, Brunner says he will spend time with his children and grandchildren, travel, get started on a “stack of books,” finish up some writing commitments, continue his practice as a spiritual director, and serve as a resident theologian for SoulFormation and its Academy of Spiritual Formation.



Dan Brunner

28
Years



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ALUMNI KEY

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

1960-69

Richard Foster (B64) published his newest book, *Learning Humility: A Year of Searching for a Vanishing Virtue*, in December. He writes that humility is central to the journey toward character formation and spiritual transformation. He studied the Lakota calendar as a framework. Renowned worldwide for his book *Celebration of Discipline*, he is the founder of Renovaré, a former pastor, and an internationally acclaimed speaker on spiritual formation. His first book, which marked its 40th anniversary with a campus celebration in 2018, has sold more than 2 million copies and was named "one of the top 10 religious books of the 20th century" by *Christianity Today* magazine.

1970-79

Ron Mulkey (B74) and **Deb (Cloud) Mulkey** (n77) have returned to Twin Rocks Friends Camp in Rockaway, Oregon, as caretakers of the Harbor Villa Retreat Center after a two-year stint as pastors at Greenleaf (Idaho) Friends Church.

Marsha (Jensen) Ocker (B75) and **Mark Ocker** (B83) have joined Twin Rocks Friends Camp in Rockaway, Oregon, as long-term volunteers, moving from their Vernonia, Oregon, home of 20 years. He retired from his position as assistant professor of management at George Fox in 2017.

Dave Hampton (B76) is continuing to guide the Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church following his retirement this year after eight years as chief financial officer at Friendsview Retirement Community. He is a trustee and a member of the foundation board, the extension fund board and the Twin Rocks Friends Camp board, and

serves as treasurer of the Newberg Friends Church. He logged 18 years in finance positions with Friends organizations after 12 years as director of finance and development with the Northwest Yearly Meeting at its Newberg headquarters.

Peggy (Wilson) Kilburg (B76) in November was reelected to the Newberg City Council, continuing in the District 2 seat to which she was appointed in June to fill a vacancy. A 40-year resident of the city, she retired after working for 21 years at George Fox as human resources director.

Larry Zirschky (B76) is a licensed professional counselor candidate, now in private practice as one of 10 associates with Southwest Counseling in Littleton, Colorado. He holds both a master of divinity degree and a master of professional counseling degree, and has more than 40 years of pastoral/biblical counseling experience. He retired from the U.S. Navy/Marine Corps after serving as a chaplain for 26 years.

Linda Byrd (B78) works remotely in more ways than one. Since 2016 she has been a Newberg-based curriculum writer and teacher for the Refuge 139 program with Wycliffe Bible Translators, based in Orlando, Florida. Last year she twice spent time in West Asia, teaching upper-elementary classes for the project that provides a day camp for missionary children whose families are with Wycliffe. She also taught in Cameroon, West Africa, this spring.

1980-89

Don Howard (n81), although retired in 2017, is still in the same occupational field – now 42 years – as he works part time and on-call as a court security officer with the Washington State Superior Court/Thurston County Sheriff's Office in Olympia, Washington. He is also founder and coordinator for his church's safety team.

Jan (Rickey) Lacy (B81) has a new calling as a private caregiver in the Newberg area. This follows 34 years as a school teacher, 31 at Edwards Elementary School in Newberg. She retired in 2012, then worked with George Fox's education department as

an adjunct student-teacher supervisor for three years. She lives in Tigard, Oregon.

Debra (Blom) Millegan (n83) is a court-appointed special advocate with the Yamhill County (Oregon) Court, helping abused and neglected children in the court system since 2017. Diagnosed with young-onset Parkinson's disease in 2008, she has been certified on all equipment for teaching Pilates exercises and specializes in working with others who have Parkinson's disease. She lives in McMinnville, Oregon.

Howard Perry (B84) has relocated 550 miles to Bryan-College Station, Texas. He retired last spring from teaching, ending a 31-year career as an elementary and special education inclusion teacher.

Steven Cammack (B87) is an arts and electives teacher at Winston Middle School, a school of more than 220 in the Winston-Dillard School District near Roseburg, Oregon.

Christine (Belnap) Thiessen (B87) is a gift officer with the Providence Children's Health Foundation in Portland, in her sixth year. She and her family, in honor of her husband, Timothy, who died in 2019, have created a cinematic arts scholarship in his name at George Fox, where son, **Jake Thiessen** (B18), is a video producer in the university's marketing communications office.

1990-99

Pat Casey (B90), a legendary baseball coach at both George Fox and Oregon State University, was honored by the Beavers in a special pregame ceremony in May of last year. He and his family were welcomed by the largest crowd ever in Goss Stadium, as 4,026 fans watched an introductory video, then a videoboard presentation of congratulations from former players in the professional ranks. Casey delivered his thank you remarks from the pitcher's mound. Called a surefire National College Baseball Hall of Fame member, Casey retired from coaching in 2018 and is now a special assistant to the OSU vice president and director of athletics. Casey coached for 31 years – 24 at Oregon State, where his teams went 900-459-6 and won three national NCAA

Division I titles. At George Fox from 1988 to 1994, he went 171-113-1 and won three NAIA District 2 titles.

Elaine (Haworth) Koskela (B90) is in her second year at Friendsview Retirement Community in Newberg, where she recruits and processes new employees as a talent acquisition specialist. She left the Newberg School District, where she was a success coach at the non-traditional Catalyst High School for nearly five years.

Gregg Koskela (B90), although continuing to live in Newberg, is now a communications director for the Cascade School District in Turner, Oregon. He started in September in the district of 2,500 students in five schools. The move follows five years with the Newberg School District. Previously, he was pastor of the Newberg Friends Church for 15 years.

Mark Strong (M91, D03) garnered national exposure in June when his article, "Thoughts on Navigating Our Church Effectively in a 'Moved' Neighborhood," was published by *Christianity Today* magazine's blog forum "The Better Samaritan." It is an adaptation from his book *Who Moved My Neighborhood?*, published by InterVarsity Press. He is senior pastor of Life Change Church, a diverse church in inner-city Portland, and a member of the board of regents of George Fox's Portland Seminary.

Jennifer (Brownlee) Sinclair (B91) now oversees data administration programming and volunteer services with Special Olympics Oregon, based in Beaverton. She started in 2019 with the organization that helps those with intellectual disabilities improve their lives through competition. She is responsible for athlete eligibility and compliance, and assists state and local program leaders.

Jeffrey Graham (B92) started in September as senior human resources manager with Danone in Springfield, Oregon, maker and distributor of dairy products and plant-based foods and beverages. He moved across town from PeaceHealth Medical Group, where he was in human resources for more than three years.

Kristin (Anderson) Hamann (B92) calls herself an "independent individual and family services professional" as she cares for her family. She is also a piano accompanist

professionally, accompanying students at Oregon Music Education Association events and volunteering weekly at two local medical centers, where she provides music therapy in their lobbies.

Christine (Deboy) Drazan (B93) received more than 850,000 votes (43.6%) as one of three candidates to be Oregon's governor in November, losing the race by less than 4 percentage points to Democrat Tina Kotek (47%). Drazan, a Republican, resigned her Oregon House of Representatives (District 39) seat in January 2022 to run in the May primary election. A resident of Oregon City, she was elected to her House post in 2018 and reelected in 2020 to serve Clackamas County.

Jennifer Meckley (B92, M06) in January was named interim superintendent of the Lebanon (Oregon) Community School District. She has been with the district for 26 years, as a teacher for 10 years, a principal for eight years, an HR director, and since 2019 as an assistant superintendent. The district has 3,780 students in nine schools.

Rolf Potts (B93) has written his fifth book, *The Vagabond's Way: 366 Meditations on Wanderlust Discovery, and the Art of Travel*, published by Ballantine Books in October. *The New York Times*' review stated it is "a wise, generous and profound book." His adventures have taken him to six continents, and he has reported from more than 60 countries for *National Geographic Traveler*, *The New Yorker*, *Slate*, *Outside*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Believer*, *Sports Illustrated* and the Travel Channel. Now living in Sterling, Kansas, he is the program director and writer-in-residence at the Paris American Academy's annual creative writing workshop.

Jamie Boutin (B94) is in his second year in his new position as director of physician recruitment with Encompass (formerly Health Southwest), one of the nation's largest healthcare providers, specializing in rehabilitation. With the Birmingham, Alabama, firm since 2012, he advanced from the position of associate director after five years.

Lynette (Sanstrum) Lindbergh (B94) is founder and owner of Couch to Active, providing accessible fitness for those with chronic ill-

nesses and the blind community. She started the venture in 2016 following her 20-year corporate career. Based in Bainbridge Island, Washington, she is a blogger, speaker, coach, fitness influencer, certified personal trainer, and author of *Couch to Active: The Missing Link that Takes You from Sedentary to Active*.

Anne (Basden) Dunlop (B95) in January established the Chronic Illness Grit and Grace Foundation, a 501(c)(3) to create community and support for women affected by chronic illness. It uses donated funds to provide support for the "little things" often overlooked as a cost of being ill. Living in Gresham, Oregon, she is a former teacher, show director, artistic director and direct sales leader.

Stephen Brown (B96) started in August as director of safety and security with the 9,500-student, 16-school New Braunfels Independent School District in Texas. He moved from Colorado, where he was a certified peace officer and assistant director of safety and security for three years with the Greeley Evans School District.

Tricia Gates Brown (B96, M97) received a bronze medal for regional fiction in the 2022 Independent Publisher Book Awards program. The "IPPY" award was for her novel *Wren*. She has been an editor at Portland State University since 2017.

James Homolka (B97) in July started a new position as an IT support administrator with the Church Extension Plan in Salem, Oregon. It provides finance and administrative services for churches and members of the Assemblies of God denomination. He left a position of nearly 18 years as a technician with Volkswagen credit service centers. He also is a member of the Faith Based Security Network, promoted to Region 10 leader for the organization of security and law enforcement professionals associated with faith-based organizations.

Jeremy Keener (B97) is a dentist in Winnemucca, Nevada, where he was born and grew up. He established Keener Family Dental Care in 2004 after receiving his DDS from Indiana University Bloomington.

Luke Ankeny (n98) in October was named the Idaho State Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year for 2022. He is a volunteer assistant, in his 11th year, at Marsing

Volunteers on Wheels

A group of retired George Fox alumni travel the Northwest to help with church construction projects By Barry Hubbell

It's not uncommon for George Fox alumni to cross paths at church, sporting events or the local grocery store. But there is a group of alumni who meet regularly under far different circumstances – sometimes on their hands and knees – getting dirty in ditches, in basements, on rooftops and under kitchen cabinets.

They are members of Volunteers on Wheels (VOW), and they travel the Northwest offering skilled labor and physical assistance to churches and church-related organizations needing help with repairs, remodeling and reconstruction. It's a labor of love.

With little fanfare, the volunteers have quietly assembled a record of more than 200 completed projects since 1984, with an estimated contribution of more than \$1 million in labor – all done for free. But the benefits go both ways.

"Getting to work with a team and local volunteers to achieve a needed goal is very rewarding. It helps fill my days with productive work," says **Bill Rourke** (B67), a project supervisor with the group.

"We especially enjoy getting to know people from the churches and camps – during lunch times and working together," says **Bruce Longstroth** (B65), who serves as chair of the organization.

Joining them in VOW volunteer projects in recent years are **Kay (Sheirbon) (Newell) Rourke** (n60), **Sharon (Wright) Longstroth** (B65), **Clyde Thomas** (B78) and **Carol (Roth) Thomas** (B77), **Keith Baker** (B65) and **Anna (Simonson) Baker** (B91), **Sandra (Smith) Dealy** (n60) and **Ed Dealy** (n62), **Margaret (Fitzsimmons) Drahn** (B65) and **Curtis Drahn** (B66), **Lon Fendall** (B64) and **Ralene (Barnes) Fendall** (B64), **Roger Knox** (n71) and **Cathy (Kruger) Knox** (n74), and **Linnea (Chapman) Stahlnecker** (B64) and **Dan Stahlnecker** (B65).

The need for assistance is never-ending, members say. They have to carefully select what they can accomplish each year, primarily in the summer months when the weather allows for outdoor work. They average five, but sometimes complete as many as 10, projects per year.

In past years VOW has built a new dock at Quaker Hill Friends Camp; painted at Camp Tilikum; constructed and installed a bell tower at Greenleaf Friends Church; installed playground equipment for Crossroads Friends Church; added a



French drain outside Entiat Friends Church; and built sidewalks and replaced siding at Twin Rocks Friends Camp, among many other projects.

Their largest project? A 2020 summer gathering in Idaho, where they built and installed 100 lockers for the locker rooms at Greenleaf Friends Academy. They also installed a sprinkler system for sports fields and reorganized books in the library. One of the strangest projects? Handling mattresses at Quaker Hill Camp after a bed bug scare. The farthest away? Alaska, in 2015, to reroof and reside Kotzebue Friends Church.

Beginning this fall and winter they'll take on their largest project ever, helping to remove a house owned by Twin Rocks Friends Camp and replacing it with a two-story, six-bedroom house for staff. They will help pour the foundation, pre-build house walls, assist in setting second-floor joists and the deck, and begin inside framing, among other work.

Volunteers pay their own way, including gas, food and lodging, with most traveling in their own RVs. They are always looking for new volunteers.

"I have no special trade skills, but I can help," says Rourke, who started at age 67 after he retired in 2010. "Even at 80, I like to think that I still have something to give."

VOW is looking for volunteers!

Learn more at nwfriends.org/volunteers-on-wheels

High School, where his wife, **Heidi (Haley) Ankeny (B98)**, is a track and field coach and he is an assistant basketball coach. He is the executive director of two organizations: the City of Marsing Housing Authority and the Marsing Agricultural Labor Sponsoring Committee, Inc. He is also owner/CEO of Ankeny Brothers Kettle Corn, started in 2020.

Barbara (Smith) Holmes (B98, Mo5) in September published her second book, *Finding Rest in the Garden of the Lord*, a 170-page paperback issued by Xulon Press. The devotional uses Scripture, poetry and art to help readers grow from difficult seasons in life, using biblical directives. She lives in Cocoa, Florida

Jeff Simons (B98) is in Lakewood, Colorado, where he has started The Way Between, Inc., a nonprofit to equip global and ministry leaders to thrive in transition through coaching, workshops, sabbatical support and life plan discernment. It was started in 2020 after he returned from 12 years in Malaga, Spain, where he was part of a staff

development and care team (Sentwell) with Novo, which also helps missionaries thrive in a global context.

David Wood (B98, Mo6) is principal at Stephens Middle School in the Salem-Keizer (Oregon) School District, in that position since 2019. Previously, he was assistant principal in the district's McKay High School for five years after starting there as a social studies teacher in 2004. He also is a member of the faculty and academic council for the Reach Training Institute, a ministry training center based in Salem, started by the Salem Alliance Church.

Dan Foster (B99, Mo4) is now chief operating officer for Building Champions, an executive coaching and leadership development firm in Lake Oswego, Oregon. He assumed the role in September after more than 11 years with the company, stepping up from vice president of marketing and business development and executive coach. He also is an adjunct professor in the George Fox School of Business, starting last fall.

2000-09

Adam Cordero (Boo, Mo9) is a software development manager and architect, completing his second year as a senior tech lead with Booz Allen Hamilton, a consulting firm advising public and private sector clients, primarily the United States government, on organization and strategy. He is in Bethesda, Maryland, after nearly four years as a senior software engineer with Runbeck Election Services Inc. in Phoenix.

Christian Klaue (Moo) is now the high school vice principal at Regent Christian Academy in Surrey, British Columbia. He started at the 550-student boarding school in September, moving from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where he was principal of Saskatoon Christian School for two years. He also is an adjunct professor with Prairie College in Three Hills, Alberta, and Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia.

Karrie (Kiestler) Nelson (Boo, Mo2), after a 17-year break, has resumed her teaching career. Last fall she started teaching math, science and logic to upper-school students at Knox Classical Academy, a private Christian school in Central Point, Oregon. She started her career teaching middle and high school in St. Paul, Oregon, schools until 2005, then homeschooled her children.

Kimberly (Grimes) Porter (Boo) is continuing her around-the-world teaching career, in the fall moving to Singapore where she is at the World College of South East Asia as a mathematics instructional coach to teachers. The school has 578 staff and 5,500 students. She traveled from Budapest, Hungary, where she was an elementary school teacher and peer mentor for 11 years with the American International School.

Aaron Wright (Bo1) is now the James R. Schofield Endowed Chair in Biomedical Sciences in the Department of Biology at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He started last fall, leaving Washington State University after nearly nine years as a research professor in the Voiland School of Chemical Engineering and Bioengineering. With a PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin, he earlier was a group director and senior scientist at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington.

Kraig Sproles (Mo1) is completing his second year as superintendent of the Bethel School District, a 5,250-student, 11-school district near Eugene, Oregon. Previously, he was the assistant superintendent of the Salem-Keizer (Oregon) School District for three years.

Shannon (Vandehey) Buckmaster (Bo2) started in August as the community wellness fund development director with Yamhill County Care in McMinnville, Oregon, a contracted healthcare nonprofit under the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid). She moved from her position of two years as economic health manager with the city of Newberg.

Neil Cantrall (Bo2, D23) this year has been both a student and faculty member at George Fox, teaching as an assistant professor of education and completing his doctoral degree in education. He and his wife, **Kelsey (Baron) Cantrall (Bo3)**, were previ-

ously in Indonesia, where he was a school director and head of school for a year and an elementary school principal and curriculum coordinator for a year at the Bandung Alliance Intercultural School.

Cathy (Shannon) Chavez (Bo2) is an instructional coach at George Elementary School in the Quincy (Washington) School District, starting this school year. She also is a BEST Mentor Building Induction Coach (mentoring new teachers) and testing coordinator. She moved to Ephrata, Washington, in 2020, to teach second grade in the Moses Lake (Washington) School District through remote learning, then third grade for the Quincy district last year.

Ron Davis (Bo2) is a candidate for the Seattle City Council, seeking to represent District 4 in the city, using his background with a law degree from Harvard University Law School, earned in 2012. He is a go-to-market advisor, in his second year, with early-stage startup companies, following nearly six years as CEO with Tenacity, a startup firm that uses machine-learning technology and behavior therapy to help people remain on the job.

Andrew Gumley (Bo2) is owner of Special Events Alaska in Wasilla, offering party and event supplies and rentals. He also spends time racing, participating the last four years in the Iron Dog Race, a 2,600-mile snowmobile race from Big Bear Lake near Wasilla to Nome each winter.

Heather Smith-Bowman (Bo2) is working in two positions in Fort Collins, Colorado. She is in her 18th year with Heritage Christian Academy, the last 12 as communications manager after six years of teaching at the private school of 230 students. She also is executive director of Larimer Chorale, in her fourth year heading the 45-year-old, 125-member adult choir that performs masterworks regionally.

Brian Van Bergen (Bo2) is still monitoring and recording elections, but now in a different county. He started in July as elections and recording manager with Marion County in Oregon. That's a move from neighboring Yamhill County, where he was county clerk for nearly 10 years, supervising elections. He made the change because he was in the second half of his final term under a term-limit policy in Yamhill County.

Lindsay Walker (Bo2) started last June as kids pastor at The Crossing Church in Chesterfield, Missouri, moving after four years from her position as children and youth ministries leader at Calvary Church in St. Peters, Missouri. She also has a new side job as an assistant track and field coach, coaching throws at St. Louis University in Missouri.

Wendy (Noyes) Witty (Bo2) is an engineering specialist, materials and processes, with Aerojet Rocketdyne in Redmond, Washington, now in her 19th year. Living in Auburn, Washington, she also is the Sewing to the Nations coordinator for the Global Helps Network, which provides vocational training in rural villages in India. She focuses on tailoring in schools, helping young women earn a living wage so they and their families are less vulnerable to usurers and human traffickers.

Camille (VanHooser) Hearne (Bo3), since 2007, has been a licensed clinical social worker and is in private practice in Halfway, Oregon. This year she received a realtor's license.

Keri Ingraham (Bo3) in December was appointed as a visiting fellow at the Independent Women's Forum in Washington, D.C., a conservative economic policy issues group. She continues full time as a fellow at the Discovery Institute, a politically conservative think tank in Seattle, as director of its American Center for Transforming Education. In December, her article "Teacher Certification and Uniform Salary Schedules Hinder Career Technical Education Staffing" was named the top education reform policy idea of the year in the Thomas B. Fordham Institute's Wonkathon. She also authored multiple chapters for the book *Sketching a New Conservative Education Agenda*, published last year, and delivered to national governors and policy makers nationwide.

Ben McReynolds (Bo3) is headmaster/principal of Knox Classical Academy, a Christian elementary school in Central Point, Oregon, where he also teaches math and music. He started in the 2022-23 school year. In addition, he is a professional cabinetmaker, since graduation working with his father at McReynolds Woodworking in Gold Hill, Oregon.

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David Wold (Bo3) has moved up to senior vice president and chief financial officer at Weyerhaeuser, headquartered in Seattle. He previously, for three years, was vice president and chief accounting officer. He has been with the company since 2013, holding positions in accounting and finance leadership.

Michelle Bourret-Belkot (Bo4) took office in January as a new member of the five-person Clark County (Washington) Council. Elected in November to a four-year term, she now represents nearly 100,000 residents. She has a master's degree in management and leadership from Webster University in Webster Groves, Missouri, and served in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy for a combined 25 years in command leadership roles.

Peter Fisher (Mo4, D22) is founding partner and CEO of Human Investing, a wealth management, tax consulting, 401(k) plan consulting and credit union advisory firm in Lake Oswego, Oregon. It was started in 2004 after he was with Forbes Financial Council in Boston for nearly five years and more than eight years with Merrill Lynch.

Andrew Harris (Bo4) is about to begin his third year as owner and CEO of Tualatin Valley Glass in Tigard, Oregon. He left his positions with Northwest Christian Church in Tigard, where, for two years, he was an associate pastor and managing director.

Ryan Summers (Bo4) in October was named senior vice president and commercial banking lead with Columbia Bank as it expanded its commercial lending division into Phoenix. He was already working there as senior vice president for business banking with U.S. Bank, in that role for more than three years. He had worked with U.S. Bank for nearly 14 years in several positions.

Bonnie Toering (Bo4, Mo8) has opened her own private practice as a mental health therapist in the Portland area, counseling online. A licensed professional counselor since 2012, she earlier was a senior clinical quality analyst with Optum, a healthcare provider, for more than six years.

Edward Lodge (Bo5, Mo8) in January was named by Idaho Governor Brad Little as a member of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. He will serve a six-year term. He has more than 20 years working in fed-

eral, state and local public and governmental affairs, including 17 years of regulatory responsibilities in the Idaho telecommunications industry. He is also vice president of the Caldwell (Idaho) Night Rodeo and a board member of the Western Heritage Foundation.

Matthew Smith (Bo5) has been promoted to senior technical claims specialist with the Liberty Mutual insurance company, now completing his 18th year with the firm. He was a candidate this spring for a position on the Chehalem Parks and Recreation Board in Newberg.

Mark Campbell (Mo6) in March was named head women's basketball coach at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. The last two seasons he was head coach at Sacramento State (California), where he coached the women's team this year to a 25-win season and its first NCAA tournament appearance.

Arturo Lomeli (Mo6) in March was named new curriculum and instruction director for the Forest Grove (Oregon) School District, starting July 1. He moves from his three-year position as executive director of secondary school leadership for the Belton (Texas) Independent School District.

Josh Priester (Bo6) in August was named director of the Big Sur Marathon Foundation, moving from his job as track and field coach at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, where he had been for 10 years. He is founder of the Santa Barbara Track Club, serving as executive director and head coach for a decade. He now guides an organization that raises more than \$400,000 a year for local nonprofits through its Big Sur International Marathon and Monterey Bay Half Marathon.

Perla Rodriguez (Do6), after being named Oregon's Elementary School Principal of the Year in 2018 by the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, is earning more praise. In March she was chosen one of 27 "Amazing Educators" for 2023 by the Pamplin Media Group newspapers. Chosen in each community area are educators "impacting the leaders of tomorrow." She is principal of Echo Shaw Elementary School in the Forest Grove School District, where she started teaching in 1998. She

was cited for her work promoting dual-language instruction, creating new generations of Spanish- and English-proficient students.

Jeffrey Bilbro (Bo7) is now an associate professor of English at Grove City College in Pennsylvania, completing his second year after nine years in the same position at Spring Arbor College in Michigan. In November, he was one of two featured speakers for the Mars Hill Forum at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He spoke on his 2021 book, *Reading the Times: A Literary and Theological Inquiry into the News*.

Rachel Bylsma (Bo7) in March joined the office of Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy in Juneau as deputy chief of staff. She left her position as external affairs manager for the Alaska Oil and Gas Association in Anchorage, in that position since July of 2021. She previously served in government as director of constituent services for Alaska's U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan and as a senior policy advisor to Alaska Governor Sean Parnell.

Robert Dickey (Bo7, D12) is now director of the Central Oregon Behavioral Health Consortium in Bend, Oregon. He started in 2021 after working for a year as a behavioral health psychologist with Mosaic Medical in Bend and in similar positions previously with Legacy Health and Providence Health. He also continues work at a part-time private practice started in 2014.

Greg Foley (Mo7) is the territory associate relations manager with Home Depot in Portland, in his third year, after being a district HR manager for more than four years. He has published a book about his experience as a U.S. Army officer, *Journal of a Christian Soldier in Iraq*, in which he shares his personal journal entries.

Sara Johnson (Do7) is Oregon's 2023 School Superintendent of the Year. She received the news and recognition in September in Prineville, home of her Crook County School District. She has been head of the 3,000-student, nine-school district since 2018. She was chosen by the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators, based on her outstanding leadership in learning, communication, professionalism and community involvement. Previously, she was

Jackson Calls His Final Game

Longtime public address announcer Jim Jackson retires after four decades

By Barry Hubbell

The George Fox women's basketball team ended its season Feb. 18 in exciting fashion – a game-winning free throw in the final moments to give the Bruins a 50-49 win. But the crowd had more to cheer about than just a last-second victory. It was also the final game for veteran public address announcer **Jim Jackson** (B74).

After the contest, Jackson's nearly four decades of volunteer service were acknowledged – in all an estimated total of more than 450 games. The Bruin faithful on hand responded with a standing ovation.

"I still have the 'pipes,'" Jackson says, "but for years it was **Larry Herrick** (B72) on the clock and [athletic department administrative assistant] **Patty Findley** on the scorebook, and they left after last year. I figured it was my time."

Jackson believes he's logged more than 450 games, "give or take a few." The total is uncertain, as he isn't sure whether he began his PA duties – which included both men's and women's basketball games over the years – in 1983, or perhaps a bit earlier.

The last six years, he was behind the mic for women's games only, replacing veteran **Don Staples** (B86), who passed away after serving 18 years in the position. Jackson says he preferred announcing women's games because "I could get home earlier."

Jackson started calling games in 1976 while in the George Fox admissions office. Over the years he has served as associate director of admissions, director of financial aid, and as a gift officer with the university advancement office.

He is one of only a few former employees to be honored with the title "administrator emeritus," and was inducted into the university's Sports Hall of Fame in 2011 for meritorious service.

Jackson began his George Fox journey as a student in 1970, majoring in psychology and playing on the soccer team. While a student-athlete, he began volunteering as an on-field course clerk for track and field, and then as the head finish time judge for home meets. That volunteer experience eventually led to a longtime announcing career that included not just basketball

games, but also university theatre productions and voiceover work.

Looking back, Jackson says it's the relationships he'll remember the most. "That really was the joy in it, just being around students, the players and fans, enjoying a basketball game together."



named by the organization as Oregon's Principal of the Year in 2007 while in McMinnville, Oregon.

Josiah Nishita (Bo7) is deputy managing director for Maui County in Hawaii. He has been with the county since 2012, including nearly eight years in the Office of County Clerk, as deputy and then clerk for a year, before being named to his current position in 2020.

Tyler Olson (Bo7) received the national 2022 Community College Faculty Award from the American Political Science Association. He is in his 11th year at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio, where he is the program manager for the conflict resolution and peace studies program and an adjunct professor. In addition, he is a founding partner of (re)Frame Conflict, started in 2018, which specializes in consulting and training on conflict resolution and transformation processes for organizations and communities. Also, last year he received a PhD in leadership and change from Antioch University.

Benjamin Anderson (Bo8) is a public affairs (communications) director with the U.S. Navy in Washington, D.C. In 2021, he completed a milestone tour as an aircraft carrier public affairs officer on the USS Theodore Roosevelt, a primary foreign policy tool of the U.S. president. It is a step toward promotion to commander. He is in his 13th year in the Navy, serving in the Office of Community Outreach since 2019.

Brittany Harmon-Watilo (Bo8) in 2020 moved from Newberg to Jinja, Uganda, where, with Amazima Ministries International, she was part of a team starting a new primary school in a local village. She helped in leadership, program development and with the professional development of teachers. She now is transitioning to a role as head of discipleship, working with Bible teachers and teaching some Bible classes.

Luke Fletcher (Bo9) is now a member of the hematology and oncology team at the Willamette Valley Cancer Institute and Research Center in Eugene, Oregon. He started in August 2021 and specializes in myeloid malignancies. He received his MD

from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California in 2015.

2010-19

Lisa Anderson (B11), after working in private practice, is now a clinical dentist, in her third year, with the Native American Rehabilitation Association in Portland. She works as its outreach dentist, treating clients residing at its residential rehabilitation facilities.

Megan (Borjesson) Eddy (B10) last fall started as a health teacher and middle school/high school academic advisor at East Linn Christian Academy in Lebanon, Oregon. She started at the 385-student school after eight years as a recreation therapy director with the Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon.

Amber Jones (B10) is director of credit union services with Human Investing in Lake Oswego, Oregon. She started in the position in 2021 after being CFO with the company since 2016. Previously, she was with Delap LLP in Lake Oswego, for nearly five years, ending as a senior tax accountant.

Keith Marshall (B10), a business administration/finance major, is using his degree as chief operating officer for the Hurley Financial Group in Corvallis, Oregon. With the company since 2014, when he started as a client service representative, he was a registered associate for seven years before assuming the top spot. A certified financial planner, he purchased the firm that manages retirement assets for 250-plus families.

Chris Nicholson (B10) is now on the staff of New Life Church of the Nazarene in Medford, Oregon, starting last June as the worship and creative arts pastor. He moved from his position as worship pastor for eight years at the Puyallup (Washington) Church of the Nazarene.

Elise (Kuenzi) Trask (B10, M21), George Fox's first full-time associate director of athletics, resigned from her position this spring to join a new venture in Silverton, Oregon, owning and operating The Farm on Golden Hill, an event venue and winery that hosts weddings and corporate events. She joined the athletics department in 2014 after three years as assistant director of operations for the Oregon State University

women's basketball program, under her former coach with the Bruins, Scott Rueck. The 2008-09 Bruin women won the NCAA Division III national championship, completing a perfect 32-0 season with Elise as captain. Her husband, **Brent Trask** (B10), is in his ninth season with the Bruin baseball program, now director of player development after overseeing the catchers and serving as camps director. He is a physical education teacher in Newberg at Edwards Elementary.

Mick Bates (D11) is continuing with Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, as director of innovation and entrepreneurship, heading an IMPACT entrepreneurship camp for pre-college students. A professor emeritus with the university, he was a professor of marketing for four years after four years with Life Pacific University in San Dimas, California.

Kara (Betzer) Cones (B11) and her husband, Dan, in August became pastors of the Bucklin (Kansas) Free Methodist Church in the city of 800, located 27 miles from Dodge City. She left her position as an administrative assistant and technical specialist with Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Gary Daniels (M11) is Pacific Northwest chief executive officer of UnitedHealthcare, headquartered in Lake Oswego, Oregon. He has been with the nationally managed healthcare and insurance company since 2010, starting as a key accounts executive, then becoming vice president of sales and account management before serving as a regional growth officer in 2018. As CEO, he guides the business in Oregon, Washington, Montana, Alaska and Hawaii.

Nate Dillow (B11), after beginning his military career in 2013 and recently being stationed in Ramstein, Germany, as an independent duty medical technician/paramedic with the U.S. Air Force, now is in officers training school at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Alabama. He is planning to be a remotely piloted aircraft pilot and will be heading for training at Randolph AFB in San Antonio, Texas. Last June, he became a basic Army Airborne Distinguished Graduate and was deployed to Poland to help set up an airfield providing aid to Ukraine.

Josh Eggleston (B11) is with the city of Salem,



100 and Counting

Alumna **Elenita Bales** (B43) celebrated her 100th birthday on campus Nov. 9. Family and friends traveled from eight different states for the party, which included a surprise appearance by the university mascot, Pennington.

Oregon, as chief financial officer. He assumed the position in the spring of 2022 after joining the city in 2015 as a management analyst and progressively moving up to interim CEO for eight months.

Adina (Eden) Morgan (M11) is an instructional designer, just completing her fifth year with Northwest Natural, the utility firm that supplies 2.5 million customers with gas, working from Sherwood, Oregon. That follows four years in three positions in California, the last as senior content editor with the Center for Employment Training in San Jose.

Paige (Copenhaver) Parry (B11), after joining her alma mater as an associate professor of biology in 2016, is now in Laramie, Wyoming. She is associated with her other alma mater, the University of Wyoming, where she earned a PhD in ecology in 2016. She is the ecology program manager at the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, a service and research unit providing information on species and habitats of conservation concern, part of the nationwide

Natural Heritage Network.

Nathan Swenson-Reinhold (D11) is now partner/owner of GSB Fundraising, started in July in Frisco, Texas, to help nonprofits in resource development, capital campaigns and fund appeals. He also continues as owner and CEO of Summit Coaching and Behavioral Consulting, based in the same city and in its seventh year. This follows 17 years in the pastorate with Lutheran churches, the last seven with Lord of Life Lutheran in Fairfax County in Virginia.

Tony Summers (M11) last fall became principal of Madras (Oregon) High School, taking leadership of the school of 760 students after three years as the driver education program manager with the High Desert Education Service District in nearby Redmond. Previously, he was a principal in two public schools in Oklahoma, where he earned an EdD degree from the University of Oklahoma in 2021.

Ali Toedtmeier (B11, M16) is back on campus in her major, as a bachelor of social work field director and an assistant professor of



Sky High

Sophomore midfielder **Isaac Nakayama** performs a scissor kick during media day. An engineering major who hails from Honolulu, Nakayama started 11 games for the Bruins last season.



social work. She started last fall after six years as a mental health specialist with Yamhill County (Oregon) Adult Behavioral Health.

Ethan Brown (B12, M17) this fall returned to his Sedro-Woolley (Washington) High School alma mater as its new boys' basketball coach, coming back to the court where he started as a ball boy, then player. The former four-year Bruin basketball guard, who lives in Sedro-Woolley, continues with the nearby Mount Vernon School District, where he is a teacher at LaVenture Middle School.

Corey Clark (B12) completed his first year as boys' basketball coach at Poway (California) High School with a 19-11 record, 7-3 in Avocado League play. He is on the 2,400-student school's athletic staff while teaching government and history at 3,500-student San Marcos High School, 15 miles away in a different school district. The former Bruin basketball player was previously an assistant coach at San Marcos.

Kristin Dixon (D12) is a professor of education and dean of the School of Education and Counseling at Corban University in Turner, Oregon. She started in 2013 after 11 years teaching MAT classes at George Fox. She also is a member of the faculty and academic council for the Reach Training Institute, a ministry training center based in Salem, Oregon, started by the Salem Alliance Church.

Kimia Ighani (B12) is a physician assistant with the St. Charles Health System in Bend, Oregon. She started last fall after moving from Southern California, where she was a PA with the Prohealth Group and Elevation Physicians over a three-year period.

Jacquie (Pickett) Lai (B12) has edited, published and now is marketing a children's book, *Coming Home, Where Your Heart is at Christmas*, written by her parents and released last fall. She is a professional portrait photographer, owner of Jacqueline L. Photography in Columbus, Georgia.

Chris Martin (B12, M15) is a science teacher and department chair at Silverton (Oregon) High School. She has served in the Silver Falls School District since 2015, teaching anatomy and physiology, advanced biology and life science.

Alexandra (Jimenez) Rhizor (B12) started in August as an oncology/infusion nurse at Oregon Health & Science University's Hillsboro Medical Center. She received her nursing degree from OHSU in 2018 and then was a registered nurse and clinical nurse supervisor with Nursingale in Portland for three and a half years.

Kurt Taylor (B10, M12) is at Madras (Oregon) High School in a new role. This year, he is an assistant principal after seven years as dean of students and head football coach. Previously, he was a PE/health teacher at Marshall High School in Bend for three years and a PE teacher and assistant football coach at Glencoe High School in Hillsboro, Oregon.

Rachael (Cruthirds) Amin (B13) had her engagement, marriage and the events that led to her meeting her husband profiled and carried nationwide. She married Sanjay Amin on June 4 at the Columbia Gorge Hotel and Spa in Hood River, Oregon. How she met her husband in Portland, how they got to know each other, and how they dealt with pandemic restrictions are told in a June 17, 2022, article in *The New York Times*. They now live in Venice, California, where she is a yoga and infant massage therapy instructor.

Heather Cordie (D13) has joined the Beaverton (Oregon) School District, Oregon's third-largest with nearly 40,000 students in 49 schools. She started last fall as deputy superintendent of teaching and learning, leaving her position as superintendent of the Sherwood (Oregon) School District, where she had guided 4,000 students in six schools for the last 10 years.

Marisa Hastie (D13) is completing her first year as dean of the College of Health Studies at A.T. Still University in Mesa, Arizona. She joined the private medical school after eight years at Lasell University in Newton, Massachusetts, where she was a professor and program chair of exercise science and fitness management for the last three years.

Andrew Launder (B13) is in his second year as a patent agent with Davis Wright Tremaine, a litigation law firm in Portland. Previously, he held the same position with McCoy Russell in Portland for nearly two years. He received a PhD in chemistry from the University of Georgia in 2017.

Todd Nagamine (B13) is a 2023-24 rising chief medical resident in the internal medicine department at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. He received an osteopathic doctor degree from Touro University in Henderson, Nevada, in 2016.

Kelli Nakamura (B13), after receiving a master's degree as a physician assistant in 2020 from Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, is now a PA at Waikiki Health in Honolulu.

Gustavo Vela-Moreno (B13) has been appointed to the Woodburn (Oregon) School District board, now in his second year helping guide the district of 12 schools with 5,250 students. He is the lead mechanical engineer with PAE Consulting Engineers in Portland, in his sixth year. He also is a member of the George Fox Board of Trustees, named in January 2021.

Emily (Davison) Wyatt (B13) is a charge nurse and nursing supervisor at the Legacy Meridian Park Medical Center in Tualatin, Oregon, in her seventh year. She works in the intensive care unit.

Micah Donor (B14) is back on campus, starting in the fall as an assistant professor of biochemistry. He received a PhD in chemistry from the University of Oregon in 2020, then spent the next two years as a postdoctoral research associate at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington, where he specialized in the development and application of ultra-high resolving power ion mobility-mass spectrometry.

Ryan Hill (B14) is a faculty research assistant at Oregon State University, involved in weed science in perennial crops and responsible for managing lab and greenhouse operations. He began the position after receiving his master of science degree in horticulture (plant breeding and genetics) in 2020.

Tim Moore (B14) is completing his first year in his position as a production planning specialist with Swagelok Northwest in Portland, a sales and service center for fluid systems. He has been with the firm for 12 years, moving from his previous position as a custom solutions technician. He also is an instructor of CERT Basic Training (FEMA-certified) for the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management.

'Go Serve Your People'

Portland Seminary alumnus Henry Gwani answers God's call to serve and educate the marginalized in South Africa By Sean Patterson



Living and working in the homeland of Nelson Mandela, whose heroic actions helped end apartheid in South Africa, **Henry Gwani** (D23) is intent on fueling the fire of a different kind of revolution.

His isn't a quest of ending oppression or fostering racial reconciliation, but of training up missionaries to serve the poor, share the gospel, and create an educational institution that perpetuates sound biblical training long after his work is done.

In short, Gwani hopes to establish a formal institution that specializes in Christian leadership courses by 2026 and to train up 300 indigenous missionaries by 2030.

"One of the major reasons why there's so much poverty in Africa is a lack of functional education and skills," says Gwani, a 2023 graduate of Portland Seminary's Doctor of Leadership in Global Perspectives program. "I've had the privilege of visiting the U.S. and seeing what can happen when a high-quality education is coupled with Christian values and a living relationship with the Lord. This makes such a big difference in terms of quality of life. Seeing that has really motivated me to integrate a verbal presentation of the gospel with vocational training."

Gwani has dedicated more than 20 years of his life to the people of his continent. A native of Nigeria, where he grew up in a middle-class home, he started his ministry in 2000 with Youth With a Mission and, later, Mercy Ships. He worked as a chaplain aboard two ships before relocating to South Africa in 2015, moving to the rural eastern province where Mandela was born.

Gwani has since relocated to the urban sprawl of East London, where his work is threefold: ministering to the poor

through evangelism, discipleship, vocational training and addressing mental health needs, primarily in the low-income community of Duncan Village; visiting incarcerated individuals with his wife, Mampho; and serving as a teacher, counselor and frequent speaker at his local church.

His biggest desire: to see Africans – particularly those who are marginalized – experience Jesus in all of his fullness.

"Traveling across this continent, seeing poverty in a way that I never ever thought existed, has been life-transforming for me," he says. "The paradox for me was to see that God has blessed Africa with so many natural resources. On the other hand, Africa is considered the poorest continent in the world. In thinking about this and praying about it, I believe that the more Africans come into a living relationship with Jesus, adopt a biblical mindset and begin to implement things like a strong work ethic, we will see greater transformation."

Gwani has experienced firsthand the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. In one instance, he led a 60-year-old Muslim man to Christ after the man had experienced the successful removal of a nearly five-pound tumor – one so large it appeared he had two heads.

"I realized that, if not for the grace of God, that could have been me with that tumor and facing death," he says. "I think God used that as a turning point in my life to say, 'Look, go serve your people.' Some people will hear what you say and may not respond, but your responsibility is to just share and leave the rest in God's hands."



Future Bruin

Four-year-old Halsey Howard, daughter of Sam and Amanda (Winkelman) Howard (B12), enjoys a sunny day on the quad during homecoming.

Heidi Eversole (B15) in January released *House Visualization Technique*, a book to help people touched by trauma, using a guided visualization process she developed. She is a licensed professional counselor in Cincinnati, where she has a private practice, staying in the city after receiving a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling from Xavier University in 2018.

Amy Fast (D15) is principal of McMinnville (Oregon) High School. She has worked at the 2,100-student school since 2015 and been with the district since 2001, when she started as a teacher. She is the author of the book *It's the Mission Not the Mandates: Defining the Purpose of Public Education*, and is a finalist to be named superintendent of Dayton schools.

Michael Goldsmith (B15) received a law degree from the University of Houston Law Center in 2020 and is in his third year as one of two associate attorneys with Hodges & Foty, a Houston law firm.

Lauren (Codling) Howard (B15) is George Fox's new women's basketball coach, named in April. She returns to her alma mater after one year as director of basketball

operations at the University of Portland. Previously, she was coach at her other alma mater, Sherwood (Oregon) High School, where she coached the girls' teams for three seasons while also substitute teaching in the district for five years. Howard played two seasons for the Bruins, and as a senior led her team to a perfect 32-0 regular-season record before losing in the NCAA Division III national championship game. She led the squad in six categories, and by averaging 11.4 points and 11.3 rebounds per game became the fourth player in school history to average a double-double.

Kacy (Helwig) Hughson (B15) is back on campus as a lighting designer and production manager in the performing arts department. She earlier helped in campus productions as a theatre technical director and scene shop manager for four years, until 2020. She lives in Woodburn, Oregon, with her husband **Thaddeus Hughson** (B15), who is a customer service associate with the Shane Company in Tigard, Oregon, in his seventh year.

Alexandria Jernberg (B15), after receiving an optometry doctorate from Pacific University

in Forest Grove, Oregon, in 2020, is now with the Pacific ClearVision Institute in Eugene, Oregon.

Daniel Roberts (B15) made the front page of the local *Newberg Graphic* newspaper in November as the host of his podcast *The Giving Town*. Although his career is in real estate as a principal broker with The Joyful Roberts Group, affiliated with Premiere Property Group, he is known as host of the interview program that showcases the positive side of Newberg. He interviews spokespersons from local nonprofits and those making an impact in the community.

Ally Swanson (B15), after completing a DMD in Oregon Health & Science University's School of Dentistry, is now in her third year as a family dentist in Grants Pass, Oregon, with the Siskiyou Community Health Center.

Eileen (McDougal) Truitt (M15) is a media teacher in the technology classroom at Twin Falls Middle School in Snoqualmie, Washington, now in her seventh year. She takes groups of students on tours during summer breaks, last year to England and France and this year to Japan, as well as to Ireland, Scotland and England. Previously, she taught for nearly 16 years in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Svetlana Voloshin (B15) is now a naturopathic medical doctor, in practice with Shine Natural Medicine in Solana Beach, California. She's been there since graduating with a doctor of naturopathic medicine degree from Bastyr University in San Diego in 2020.

Samantha (Hebard) Atchison (B16, M17) was named Teacher of the Year for 2021-22 at Tillamook (Oregon) High School, where she is in her sixth year as a language arts teacher. She teaches ninth- and 10th-grade students and is an advisor to the student honor society.

Michael Badriaki (D16, D22) in July was named superintendent of Lancaster Mennonite School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he had been high school and middle school principal for a year. He previously taught at Lancaster Bible College, and he founded and was president of the Global Leadership Community.

Andrew Comfort (B16) is in Quito, Ecuador, as coordinating lead with Quito Quest, a

Christian ministry affiliated with Youth World, a short-term missions program. He started in 2019 and works with team leaders in the U.S. and Canada, helping them through the administrative process for visits.

Dana Kucher (B16) is now a pediatric intensive care nurse at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She started last June after more than two years as an operating room registered nurse at Fairbanks (Alaska) Memorial Hospital. She received a bachelor's degree as a registered nurse in 2020 from the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Samantha Maise (B16) in October self-published her first book, *Saved by Titanic*, a 256-page historical fiction romance in both hardcover and paperback. She is a respite worker, working with the disabled in their homes through Self-Determination Resources, Inc. of Beaverton, Oregon, with funding by Oregon's Developmental Disabilities Program.

Michelle Osborne (D16) in August resigned from her position of five years as chief deputy commissioner of the North Carolina Department of Insurance to become an associate professor of management and chair of the Department of Business Administration and Economics at Campbell University in Buies Creek, North Carolina. She had worked in the insurance industry for more than 25 years as a CEO and manager, and previously was a professor at Campbell.

Cassie Pauley (B16) is in Venice, California, where she is working remotely with the Creative X team at Meta. She is an in-product copywriter, starting in May 2022, creating a vision for brands and how they are perceived for Meta, Facebook, Instagram and Messenger. She previously was a brand narrative manager with Nike in Los Angeles for a year.

Joel Rurik (B16) is in his fifth year as a PhD candidate at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in Philadelphia, studying CAR-T therapy in heart failure. He discussed his research in a public lecture at George Fox in September. Before his current studies, he was a research technician at the Washington State University School of Medicine for two years.

Brennan Silver (M16) has authored a 413-page hardcover book, *Sojourner (Communitas Saga)*, published in October. A Marine Corps veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, he tells a fictional story of a war veteran banished from his community for unilateral execution of a traitor. He is a mental health counselor for military veterans in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Jiying "Jenny" Song (M16) received the 2022 Faculty Excellence in Faith and Learning award at Northwestern College. She has been an assistant professor of business at the Orange City, Iowa, college since 2019. She is a recognized expert on servant leadership and has published extensively, serving as associate editor for *The International Journal of Servant Leadership*. She has previous experience as a senior engineer and operation director in institutional technology and logistics and supply chain management in China.

Ulysus Torres (B16) is back in El Paso, Texas, as a sports and wellness professional/consultant, returning to the city where he was a coach with the El Paso Locomotives professional soccer team for a year until

2021. He has since coached men's soccer as an assistant at Coastal Bend College in Beeville, Texas, as an assistant men's coach at the University of Northwestern Ohio, and serving last fall as the head women's soccer coach at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Thuy Tran (M16) is now a member of the Oregon State Legislature, elected in November. She took office in January, representing District 45 (Northeast Portland) in the House of Representatives. She is an optometrist and has owned Rose City Vision Care in Portland since 1995. From 2012 to 2015, she was a member of the Parkrose (Oregon) School Board. Tran, who immigrated to the U.S. from Vietnam when she was 9, also is part of the medical group for the 142nd Fighter Wing of the Oregon Air National Guard.

Joe Mohr (B17, MA22) is the founder and head of Mohr Performance, a quarterback training program designed to develop skills and young men on and off the field. It offers private training, group training, workshops and online learning. The former Bruin player lives in Sherwood, Oregon,



Bear Flare

Mama Bear, the university's 10-foot-tall bronze statue located in the Alumni Plaza, seems to bask in the sun as a hot air balloon floats by.

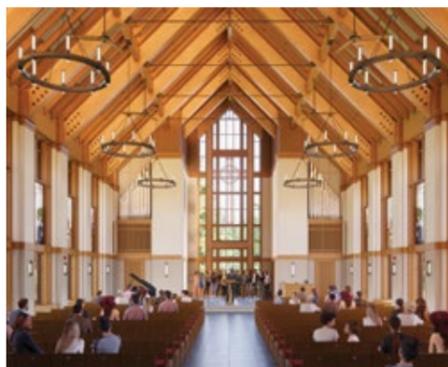
and in December was part of the first-ever graduating class of George Fox's new physician assistant program.

Michael Morikawa (B17) is using his degree back on campus as one of five members of the Bruin athletics training staff. He started this year, responsible for working with the swim, volleyball, cheer and stunt teams, while also assisting in cross country and track. Previously, he was an athletic trainer at Linfield University in McMinnville, Oregon, for two years, then McMinnville High School for two years.

Sam Swan (B17) earned a master's degree in spiritual formation and Christian leadership from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas, in 2021, and is now back on campus recruiting students to the university's graduate counseling programs.

He Wang (B17), after receiving a master's degree in computer science from Portland State University in 2020, now is a software quality assurance engineer with Siemens, a software company in San Jose, California.

Pamela Braman (D18) delivered the commencement address for the 581 2022 graduates of Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, New York. Since 2016, she's served as the superintendent of the Genesis Conference of the Free Methodist Church, which includes about 60 churches



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in Western and Central New York and Central Pennsylvania. Previously, she was a pastor, church planter and nonprofit leader in St. Paul, Minnesota.

David Degnan (B18) is a bioinformatician who develops web tools and statistical analyses for multi-omics data at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington. He received a master's degree in bioinformatics and genomics from the University of Oregon in 2019 before starting at the lab as an intern, and has worked since 2021 as a biological data scientist.

Christen Johnson (D18) has returned to George Fox as an assistant professor of physical therapy, completing her first year. She worked the previous three years at Providence St. Vincent Rehab Services as an outpatient neurologic physical therapist and served as the site coordinator of clinical education. Previously, she was at George Fox as a clinical instructor in the DPT program from 2019 to 2021.

Jamale Kempt (D18) holds several positions in the Houston area. She is pastor of Calvary Christian Church in Missouri City, Texas, where she lives, and is a full-time chaplain resident, in her second year, with the Memorial Hermann Health System in Houston. She is also an owner and consultant with Platforma Ministries and a DMin faculty advisor with the Jakes Divinity School in Dallas.

Janeeta (Beck) Nelson (B18) is a financial analyst at the Universal Orlando Resort in Florida, in her second year with the operational team helping analyze spending for maintaining the park. Previously, she was a financial analyst for the Union Wine Company in Tualatin, Oregon, for two years.

AJ Valencia (B18) is the new athletic director at Columbia High School in White Salmon, Washington. He moved to the school of 360 students after three years as an assistant athletic director at Lincoln High School in Portland, where he also coached junior varsity baseball.

Chloe (Tomlinson) Austin (B19) is back in Portland as an application support specialist with Trimble Viewpoint, an accounting and project management firm for construction companies. She started in the fall of

2021 after more than a year in San Francisco as a customer technical support specialist with Justinmind, a software development company.

Cora Beeman (B19) is back on campus as a media production support technician, starting last fall. She moved from LAIKA Studios in Hillsboro, Oregon, where she was a facilities assistant for nearly a year.

Jayden Berger (B19) is in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, where she is working remotely as a U.S. partners program lead with Ascent Solutions, a cybersecurity firm. She started in February of 2022. Previously, she had various contract roles with Google and Microsoft. She also has launched her own wedding planning business, Eunoia Weddings, now in its fifth year.

Brendan Comiskey (B19, M20) and **JeanneAnn (Faris) Comiskey** (B19) are both with the Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg, where he is a rentals manager, in his second year, and she is a community engagement coordinator, in her second year, after nine months as an event technician and volunteer coordinator. They have teamed up with **Cora Beeman** (B19) and **Reid Arthur** (B20) to form Gather Repertory Theatre at the center, started in 2021. JeanneAnne is artistic director for a new drama group, Brendan is the dramaturg (play researcher), Cora is the sound designer, and Reid is a performer. The group raises funds for its costs, and tickets are pay-what-you-want for the outdoor plaza performances.

Danielle (Howard) Dye (B19) has expanded her music teaching beyond Newberg to now include two elementary schools in McMinnville, Oregon. She is program director (since 2019) for the Yamhill Enrichment Society's JOY program that provides violin and string lessons during class time to kindergarten and first-grade students in underserved communities at Edwards Elementary School in Newberg. George Fox has donated the use of Bauman Auditorium to serve as a formal environment for concerts by the students.

Emma Glennen (M19), after 10 years in various capacities in the George Fox undergraduate admissions office, is now working part time as an information and projects manager in the George Fox marketing communications office. Last year, she was director of enroll-

A George Fox Legacy – In Reverse

After four decades of waiting, it was Susan Marcu's turn to walk across the stage

By Rachel Brumfield

"This has been a longing in my heart for my entire adult life," says **Susan Marcu** (B22).

Marcu supported her husband through college in the '80s and later her three children, including daughter Ashley, who graduated from George Fox in 2008.

Finally, 14 years later, it was her turn to walk across the stage. In December, Marcu earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and mental health studies from the university's Adult Degree Program.

Traditionally, George Fox legacy students are those who had a parent or grandparent attend the university. In the Marcu family's case, that legacy is reversed, with Susan continuing the George Fox tradition that her daughter started.

Marcu attended college briefly right out of high school but never finished. "I was not ready," she says. "And it wasn't long after I forfeited that opportunity that I realized what I had forfeited."

With three kids to raise, there was little time to fit in college classes. She pursued an entrepreneurial path instead as a seamstress and sewing instructor, later working full time at a CPA firm. Throughout her kids' childhood, Marcu encouraged creativity and found ways to grow her own skills.

"My art has always had a practical element to it," she says. "I taught sewing and art classes at my kids' school. Our house was a constant buzz of arts and crafts."

As a creative maker and craftsperson throughout her life, she knew she wanted to use those gifts to help others. She began investigating art therapy programs and mapping out her plan. Earning a bachelor's degree in psychology was the first step.

"I really wanted to be at a Christian college, especially for psychology, which is primarily a secular area of study," she says.

Marcu began taking courses in 2019, and because the university's Adult Degree Program is all online, she was able to continue right through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I was doing this at a time when the world was upside down and all of our perceptions were on the line. Being in the coursework during the pandemic provided a unique opportunity to engage with my cohort and wrestle with the pressing issues



we all faced," she says.

In the end, all the hard work – and the long wait – "was 100% worth it."

Since graduating, Marcu has been accepted into a master's program for art therapy. Her heart is to work with kids who have experienced trauma, she says, but she is open to wherever the journey takes her. As someone who is "always in her element when doing art," she wants to use her passion to help others – and now she's equipped to do just that.

"I have grown exponentially through this program," she says. "It's broadened my point of view on so many things. I have been privileged to hear other perspectives and also get to know the people behind them. It has deepened my faith."

Continued on page 70



A Winning Solution for Bilingual Students

Jessica Pickens becomes one of the first teachers in Redmond's inaugural dual-language program, helping to build a community where all cultural backgrounds are celebrated

By Rachel Brumfield

Students at Hugh Hartman Elementary know **Jessica Pickens'** (B19, M22) classroom by the acronym "W.I.N." Displayed prominently on a sign above the entrance, W.I.N. stands for "What I Need" and perfectly describes what kids experience when they step inside.

As a reading specialist, Pickens helps students build their reading skills in English or Spanish through creative and evidence-based interventions. It's a role that draws from her own background – and allows her to help bridge a gap in the system that she's experienced firsthand.

Between Two Cultures

Pickens grew up in a bilingual home. She remembers watching her mother, who emigrated from Mexico, struggle to navigate a school system that wasn't designed for her. Throughout her own school years, Pickens never felt fully part of the Spanish- or English-speaking communities – she always found herself between two cultures, wondering where she belonged.

After working for a brief time as a dental assistant, an opportunity came up at a local elementary school to work as an instructional aide. She quickly applied. In the classroom, Pickens' job was to support English language development, allowing her to tap into her bilingual background to connect with students.

"That's kind of where I found my calling and really understood that education was my passion," she says. "I cultivated an absolute love of learning and realized this is where I want to be."

An Accessible Pathway

Around the same time, the Redmond School District was making plans to launch a dual-language elementary school. Its vision was to find educators who were deeply rooted in the community and willing to invest in its kids to build the program. While recruiting locally was a big priority, finding bilingual teachers proved a challenge.

"In my role, I knew of bilingual individuals in our community who wanted to become teachers," says Brittaney Cocciolo, former assistant director of student services in the Redmond School District. "It was a lifelong dream for many of them. This was our opportunity to support them. We knew they were going to be incredible teachers, and we wanted to help them get there."

Cocciolo partnered with Katy Turpen, director of the elementary education degree completion program at George Fox, to help these future teachers navigate the world of higher education. The degree

completion program offered an accessible pathway for teaching licensure – and the support that many in the community, as working adults or first-generation college students, would need. Turpen personally walked with each of them through the application process and helped connect them with the right people along the way.

This personal approach made all the difference. "George Fox's program has been really advantageous to our community because it offers a level of support that other programs have not offered our beginning teachers in the past," Cocciolo says.

Student and Mom

Pickens knew she wanted to become a teacher, but for a time she had trouble believing her dream could become a reality. "I wanted to further my education and achieve my personal goals and aspirations, but it never really seemed attainable to me as a young mom just trying to work a job and make ends meet."

Information for the elementary education degree completion program landed on her desk one day. It felt like a stretch to commit to college, but the evening classes and accelerated timeline eliminated enough barriers to make it possible, so she enrolled.

"George Fox worked with me to continue working in my instructional aide position while student teaching at the same time," she says. "It was not

easy to do both, but it made it possible for me."

When it came time to complete her student teaching commitment, the dual-language program was launching in the Redmond School District. Pickens spent half her days there teaching in Spanish and the other half immersed in a reading intervention program.

"It was a great journey, and they supported me all the way to the point I am now," she says.

A few months later, Pickens was hired on as a full-time teacher in the dual-language program, where she now runs the reading intervention program in the W.I.N. room.

'Assets in the Classroom'

"What makes Hugh Hartman unique is that we are disrupting systems that were not working in schools for English learners, and we're flipping the script," Pickens says. "We are looking at our students, who are coming in with these multi-linguistic repertoires, as assets in their classroom, not deficits. Our staff understands how to leverage that asset and meet children where they're at linguistically, and also help them cultivate a strong foundation in two-program languages."

"We are looking at our students, who are coming in with these multi-linguistic repertoires, as assets in their classroom, not deficits."



Dual-language education has been shown to lead to higher reading test scores and help accelerate English language learners' path to proficiency. It also helps build strong communities, benefiting Spanish- and English-speaking students alike.

English-speaking students who learn Spanish begin to appreciate the differences in others, navigate and celebrate those differences, and encounter the language barrier in a positive way. For students who speak Spanish as their first language, a bilingual program means they won't lose their native language – they'll be able to communicate with their grandparents and families who live in other countries – while at the same time gaining English proficiency.

'Unapologetically Me'

"One of the most incredible ripple effects that this bilingual program has created for our community is that kids are connected to their families in a way that they were not connected before," Pickens says. "They feel connected to their identity and celebrate their heritage."

Stepping into her role as a bilingual educator has allowed her to draw from her family connections and celebrate her heritage as well.

"For me, it wasn't until much later in life that I realized that being bicultural, and having my mom's story play into my life, is all part of my identity. I'm at a place now where I feel unapologetically proud of who I am," she says. "And my hope is that when my stu-

dents see me being unapologetically me – their bilingual teacher – it gives them the confidence that they need to be proud of who they are and where they come from."

Out of the 29 teachers at Hugh Hartman, 12 are graduates of George Fox.

"One of the most powerful outcomes that I see is the community that's been established at Hugh Hartman Elementary," says Cocciolo, who is also a parent of two Hugh Hartman students.

"Not only is there a stronger sense of community between the families and the school district, there's a stronger sense of community between the teachers. They all have a passion to be here. They care about it so much because they care about the kids."

For Pickens, who later earned a master of education degree from George Fox, it all comes down to caring about the kids. Because she's lived and worked in the community for years, she is able to watch kids progress into middle school and high school.

"I've had students who I worked with early on in my career come into my classroom as volunteers," she says. "These are kids who, when I first met them, didn't speak English, were struggling to find their place – and they have found their way. They come in being unapologetically who they are."

"That's one of my favorite things. You build the community around you."



Brick image for illustration purposes only (design to be finalized)

A Sacred Space for Worship and Reflection

Students today are often overwhelmed, whether it's bitter societal conflicts, social media overstimulation, or simply the unrelenting pace of change. Amidst the challenges of today's fast-paced world, we're excited to embark on a meaningful project at George Fox University: the construction of our chapel and Alumni Garden.

This sacred space will serve as a refuge for our community, promoting rejuvenation and fostering a deeper spiritual connection.

By providing a dedicated space for meditation, reflection and worship without distraction, it will strengthen the bond between students, faculty and staff as they **engage with the Living God.**

The Alumni Garden, a tranquil space to come together, will celebrate the beauty of our faith and play an essential role in ensuring George Fox University continues to glorify God in all that we do.

Join us in this historic moment.

By making a gift of \$1,500 or more, you can dedicate a brick in your name or in honor of a loved one to be featured in our Alumni Garden.

Your gift will help create a beautiful space that will serve as a **visible reminder of Christ's central role in our mission.**



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KING OF THE MOUNTAIN

For the second straight year, George Fox took home the McIlroy-Lewis All-Sports Trophy, awarded to the best athletic program in the Northwest Conference. To celebrate their status as “Best in the Northwest,” student-athletes embarked on an epic photo and video shoot adventure to iconic Oregon locations, including Mt. Hood National Forest. Go to page 24 to see more photos and read about the Bruins’ remarkable on-field achievements.

