

The magazine of George Fox University | SUMMER 2024

George Fox

JOURNAL



My Fourth Life

*After flatlining three times,
Ben Wing is living life to the fullest* 28

1,000 Words

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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

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President Robin Baker takes a selfie with the Class of 2024 during spring commencement.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Unique Creations of God

This spring we celebrated our 132nd graduating class at George Fox University. One of the things that made this particular graduation different was the class itself. The Class of 2024 came to George Fox during the COVID-19 pandemic, facing hurdles that no other class in history faced – masks, social distancing, quarantines, devastating forest fires, hazardous air quality, and threats of evacuation from a fire in the Chehalem Mountains. The Class of 2024 is characterized by resilience, grit and commitment. We are proud of all our graduates, but especially proud of this group for what it endured.



During commencement, each student walks across the stage, and as I prepare to shake their hand I listen carefully to their names. Although there are far too many students for me to remember, I want to be able to look them in the eye at that moment, call them by name, and congratulate them for their achievement.

Our students are not merely members of a community but are also unique creations of God. As C.S. Lewis noted, “Your soul has a curious shape because it is a hollow made to fit a particular swelling in the infinite contours of the Divine.”

My mentor, former university president David Brandt, always told me that he wanted each person to hear their name pronounced, stand and pause to be recognized. We hope in this way that we honor the Be Known promise of our university and reflect on the God-given potential of each student.

While we have become a larger university over time, we continue to see lives transformed. It is why we serve and the reason why many give to the university. You will read some of these stories of transformation in this magazine.

One student story from this year particularly stands out in my memory – that of Alvin Lai. Alvin came to our spiritual life staff and asked if he and three other students could go to the Asbury Revival. After they returned, Alvin and his team started their own prayer ministry at George Fox. While they knew that our employees and trustees consistently prayed for them, they wanted to engage students to ask God to awaken them to his work at George Fox, and more broadly, in the Northwest. The prayers of these students made a significant difference on our campus this year.

May you be inspired by the voices of the George Fox community.

Robin Baker
President



'Wall Street Journal' Ranks George Fox #1 Private College in Oregon

The university added another honor to its growing list of third-party accolades, earning the distinction of being ranked Oregon's No. 1 private college in *The Wall Street Journal's* 2024 college rankings.

The designation came after the publication changed its form of methodology. Previously, it rewarded schools based on wealth and reputation. For its 2024 list, the newspaper added weight to student outcomes – including graduation rates and graduates' salaries – and put a greater emphasis on the contribution each college makes to the success of its graduates.

Colleges were assessed in three primary areas: student outcomes, survey results and diversity. The student outcomes portion carried the most significant weight, accounting for 70% of the overall ranking, with the remaining 30% determined by survey results and diversity.

Diversity assessed the extent to which colleges offer exposure to individuals from diverse backgrounds. This component examined the inclusivity and diversity of each college's student body.



Survey results reflected the perspectives of students and recent alumni regarding various aspects of their college experience. They included feedback on learning opportunities, career preparation, available learning facilities, and the likelihood of recommending their school to others.

Rankings Roundup

Top Christian College

For the 36th time, the university earned recognition in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual "Best Colleges" issue, and, for a fifth straight year, landed in the magazine's prestigious "Best National Universities" category. With its showing, George Fox is rated as the publication's top Christian college in Oregon for 2024.



In addition, George Fox landed on the magazine's "Top Performers on Social Mobility" list – which recognizes the university's success at enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students who receive Pell Grants – and again made the publication's "Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs" and "Best Undergraduate Nursing Programs" lists.

NICHE[®] Safest Campus

Niche rated George Fox as the "Safest College Campus in Oregon" in 2024. The ranking is based on key statistics and student reviews using data from the U.S. Department of Education. Top-ranked colleges offer a safe and healthy environment with little or no campus crime, drugs or alcohol usage.

Best for the Money

Money magazine included George Fox in its "Best Colleges" list for 2023-24, based on three main criteria: quality of education (30 percent of weighting), affordability (40 percent) and outcomes (30 percent). In all, 736 colleges met the requirements to make *Money's* list, cut down from an initial group of more than 2,400.



New Healthcare Offering: CRNA Launches in 2025

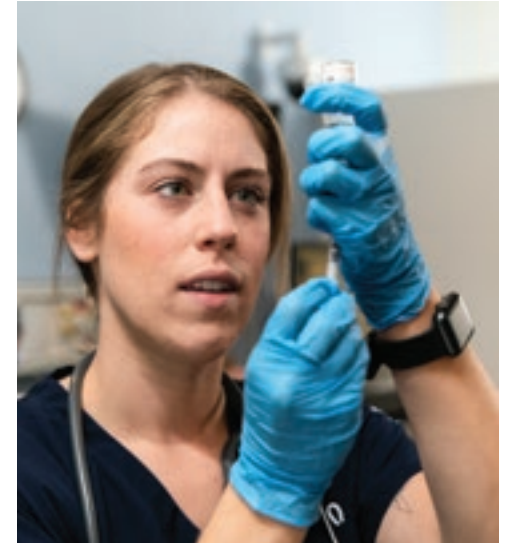
In response to escalating healthcare costs and growing surgical demands in the Pacific Northwest – particularly in rural areas – the university will launch a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) program in the fall of 2025.

The addition continues George Fox's ongoing commitment to training healthcare professionals who are both professionally competent and who fulfill the university's mission – to produce graduates who think with clarity, act with integrity and serve with passion. It will also help address the region's dire need for CRNAs – a shortage exacerbated by rising demand, insufficient numbers of anesthesia providers, low numbers graduating from existing programs, and impending retirements.

According to experts, urgent solutions are needed to expand access to surgical care, particularly in underserved rural areas. According to the Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists, more than 80% of rural Oregon's anesthesia care is provided by CRNAs, making the demand for their services all the more acute. CRNAs provide high-quality anesthesia care in both urban and rural locales and are the anesthesia providers in most rural settings.

George Fox's three-year, 90-credit-hour course of study will employ a hybrid model consisting of distance courses, face-to-face immersive learning experiences, simulation, and clinical residencies. The program's modified front-loaded model will allow students to complete first-year courses almost entirely online. The program includes five lab/simulation immersions at the university's Portland Center and multiple residency experiences throughout Oregon.

It is the first of three Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees the university will roll out in the coming years, with the CRNA to be followed by Nurse Midwife (CNW) and Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) programs.



Art and Cinematic Arts Building Slated for Construction

This spring, the university's board of trustees approved the construction of a new art and cinematic arts building east of Pennington Hall and south of the Klages Center. It will provide approximately 12,000 square feet of space for the studio arts, interior design, graphic design, illustration and cinematic arts majors. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall, with an anticipated opening in the fall of 2025.

The new facility will include a state-of-the-art ceramics, glass and 3D sculpture lab, an outdoor courtyard as an expanded production space, gallery space, a storage area for art collections, and a 80-seat theater.

"This new building offers multifaceted benefits, providing a conducive environment for artistic exploration and expression, along with fostering a sense of community and collaboration among students," says Marvin Eans, chair of the Department of Art and Design. "Beyond that, the presence of a new facility will enhance the university's academic reputation and attract talented individuals seeking a holistic educational experience rooted in faith and creativity."



Help inspire the next generation of artists and filmmakers by giving to this project. Naming opportunities, including theater seats, are available. Call 503-554-2115 or email advancement@georgefox.edu to learn more.

Science Outreach Scholarship Honors Longtime Professor

Dwight Kimberly downplays his role in the success of the university's Science Outreach Program, but a scholarship in his name will ensure it continues to thrive

By Sean Patterson



Dwight Kimberly (left)
and Kent Thornburg

In October, George Fox students led local elementary school kids on a nature walk, part of the university's Science Outreach Program.

His name has been synonymous with science at George Fox for three decades, so it came as no surprise that a group of classmates wanted to do something to honor his contributions to the institution.

And yet, Dwight Kimberly, the biology professor who taught at George Fox full time from 1994 until “retiring” in 2011, was caught completely off guard by the gesture. The announcement of the Dwight J. Kimberly Science Outreach Endowed Scholarship – earmarked to financially assist students involved in Kimberly’s brainchild, the Science Outreach Program – still has him shaking his head.

“I’m not one for attention, so please be sure to downplay my name in all this,” Kimberly says with a laugh. “But if it helps sustain the program, I’m all for it. It’s not about me. It’s about George Fox continuing to be a resource to schools and teachers who otherwise wouldn’t have access to the things we offer.”

Through the program, George Fox undergraduate students teach science courses in lab settings and take children on outdoor excursions; local public and private schools, home-school parents and members of the community can borrow science equipment like microscopes free of charge; and special custom presentations, including a Star Lab planetarium, can be arranged on schools’ campuses.

The program began in the mid-1990s when Kimberly, a 1967 alumnus of the university, began his full-time teaching tenure at George Fox. He met with Neal Thorpe, executive director of the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, to discuss the possibility of initiating a science program that would benefit both George Fox students and the community at large. The trust followed up with a grant to buy science equipment and cover personnel costs for what became the Science Outreach Program.

“It really was unique for its time, and to this day nobody in our area does it quite like we do it,” says Kimberly, who continues to serve as the program’s community liaison. “We had no idea then how impactful it would be. Not only did we provide a resource to the community, a number of our students ended up bypassing the med school route and decided to become teachers themselves. I didn’t anticipate that. Never saw it coming.”

He was equally surprised when he attended this year’s Dalton Lecture Series luncheon on campus. He noticed Moses Lee, vice president for research grants and programming with Murdock, was in attendance. Friends from the class of 1967 began filtering into the room. Then family members started showing up.

“I thought, ‘Are these people all here to listen to the Dalton speaker? This guy must be good,’” he recalls. “Then [President Robin] Baker gets up and announces the fact they are starting this endowed scholarship. I’m not sure why I was singled out. So many people have made this possible. I suppose it’s because I was the catalyst to get it going.”

Kimberly soon learned the idea for such a scholarship was initiated by good friend and classmate Kent Thornburg, who serves as the founding director for the Center of Developmental Health at the Knight Cardiovascular Institute at Oregon Health & Science University. Thornburg and his wife, Jeanie, joined with biology classmates Larry Roberts, Jon Bishop and Jon Newkirk to create the scholarship in Kimberly’s honor.

“Dwight has become known and loved by hundreds of students,” Thornburg says. “We wanted to honor him for the amazing impact he’s had at George Fox, not only as a professor but as a friend to students. He’s kept track of many of them and even attended dozens of weddings as they progressed in their lives.”

“And, if not for this program, many students, including home-schoolers, would not have had

“The students the program serves have no idea how fortunate they are to get special attention as they learn about the world of science. This has been made possible all because of Dwight’s calling to be an extraordinary teacher.”

any laboratory experience. It remains a phenomenal boost to George Fox. There could hardly be any better way to recruit students than to have them get to know a wonderful professor and to feel at home on the George Fox campus.”

This fall will mark the first year of the scholarship, to be given to a traditional undergraduate student majoring in biology, biochemistry or a

science-related major who is actively involved in the Science Outreach Program. Specifics of the award amounts to be distributed have yet to be determined, and the award will grow as the fund continues to grow.

“This scholarship represents a meaningful way to honor its namesake and provide much-needed support to George Fox science students,” says Arminda Lathrop, vice president of advancement.

Today, the program continues to flourish. When Kimberly retired from full-time teaching in 2011, Kathy Weiss took over as director for several years. More recently, Tennille Hostetler has served as its coordinator – a role that will now be filled by biology professor Marissa Dickison.

“It’s really been a team effort,” Kimberly says of the program’s success. “The bottom line is, we’re not here to be OMSI. We’re here to equip teachers to be the scientists. At its heart we ask the question, ‘How can we be of service? What can we do to help you better teach science?’”

In the end, Kimberly – as much as he doesn’t want the attention – was singled out.

“A group of his classmates admire him so much for his integrity, leadership, love for students, and his love for George Fox as an institution,” Thornburg says. “This scholarship is only a small token of our appreciation for his contributions to higher education in Oregon.”

“The students the program serves have no idea how fortunate they are to get special attention as they learn about the world of science. This has been made possible all because of Dwight’s calling to be an extraordinary teacher.”



Support the Science Outreach Scholarship

“What can we do to help you better teach science?”

A gift to the Dwight J. Kimberly Science Outreach Scholarship provides critical funding for a student in the Science Outreach Program, allowing that student to volunteer their time and share their love of science with the local community.

To make a gift in honor of Dwight or your favorite George Fox professor, visit georgefox.edu/FacultyScholarships or call 503-554-2115. We’ll be sure to let them know!





Women Baseball Coaches Make History

History unfolded on the university's campus this spring when a pair of baseball coaches – Carol Laube of George Fox and Jacqueline Reynolds of UMass Boston – suited up for their respective teams. While not verifiable via NCAA records, Laube and Reynolds both believe it was the first time two women coaches competed against each other on an NCAA baseball diamond.

"I'm excited and grateful," Laube said after the game. "I wouldn't be a part of this historic moment if it weren't for others taking a leap of faith and giving me a chance to coach."

"A few years ago, many didn't think it was possible for women to coach baseball," Reynolds added. "This moment means a lot. It means a lot for the game and means a lot for young girls to see that, after they are done playing, there is still room for them in the sport."

For Laube, becoming a baseball coach wasn't about making a statement or blazing a trail for women in sports. It was simply the game she loved, and she wanted to be a part of it.

The daughter of Don Laube, a New York Mets scout and former minor league player for the St. Louis Browns, baseball was an integral



part of her childhood. "Our home was a baseball home," she says. "I spent many spring and summer days on or near a baseball field and loved everything about it."

Today, Laube serves as the Bruins' outfield position coach while also assisting with hitting and recruitment. She hopes her story can provide encouragement and belief to young

women, as well as shape the men she coaches.

"When they see a woman on a baseball field, I hope it inspires them to know that anything and everything is possible – nothing is off limits to them," Laube says. "And just as important is the impact I have as a coach on my players as young men and, perhaps, their perceptions of women's roles anywhere in life."

Former Bruin Signs with the NFL's San Diego Chargers



This fall, Leon Johnson III will have a chance to become the university's first football player to make an NFL gameday roster or appear in a regular-season NFL game.

The star wide receiver, who played for George Fox from 2019 to 2022 before transferring to Division I Oklahoma State, has agreed to terms with the Los Angeles Chargers following the 2024 NFL Draft. He hopes to join former Bruin soccer player Aaron Elling, a placekicker with the Vikings, Titans and Ravens in the early 2000s, to compete at the sport's highest level.

A dual-sport athlete in both football and baseball, Johnson III had his best season for George Fox in 2022, when he set several program records, including all-purpose yards (1,205), receptions (55) and receiving touchdowns (14).

Johnson is believed to be the fourth George Fox athlete to sign with an NFL team alongside Elling, Robert Hadlock, who was drafted by the Detroit Lions in the 12th round of the 1969 NFL/AFL Draft but did not appear in a game, and Randy Casey, who appeared in three preseason games for the Dallas Cowboys in the 1960s.

A Championship Legacy

2023: Women's Golf

After 12 straight years of qualifying for the NCAA Division III National Golf Championships – and coming up just short of winning it all each time – the George Fox women broke through to win the program's first-ever national team title last May.

Coach MaryJo McCloskey's squad won the fourth team championship in university history by coming through with one of the best back-nine rounds in program history on the tournament's final day. Collectively, the Bruins' four scoring players finished the final nine holes with a composite score of two-under, giving the team a final-round 304 score and a three-day total of 933 to win the event by five strokes over runner-up Washington University of St. Louis.

Liana Brown led the Bruins by finishing seventh individually, while teammates Alison Takamiya (ninth), Makensie Toole (13th), Avery Kageyama (tied for 25th) and Giselle Flint (77th) rounded out the lineup. Kiana Toole and Ainsley Carter joined their teammates on the trip and in the post-round celebration.



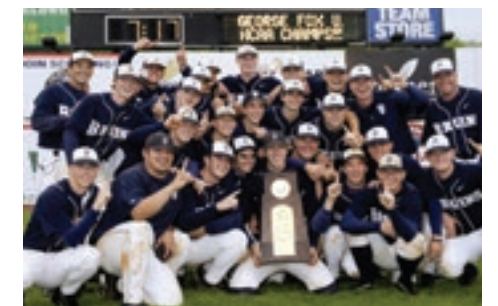
2018: Women's Track and Field

In May of 2018, almost exactly five years prior to the women's golf team hoisting their first championship trophy, the women's track and field team did the same, earning a national co-championship, tying UMass Boston for top honors. Highlighting the meet was the 4x100 team of Sarah King, Kennedy Taube, Sara Turner and Lis Larsen, whose school-record-time of 45.55 seconds won the competition. King added a fourth-place finish in the 400 meters and a fifth in the 200; Dakota Buhler took third in the long jump and fourth in the triple jump; Stacy Kozlowski claimed third in the high jump; and Annie Wright was second in the heptathlon.



2009: Women's Basketball

The 2008-09 women's basketball team claimed the first NCAA DIII national championship for any women's program at George Fox after compiling a perfect 32-0 overall record and a 16-0 mark against Northwest Conference opponents. Coached by Scott Rueck and led by senior Kristen (Shielee) Cromie, the Bruins defeated Washington-St. Louis 60-53 in the title game. Rueck was named the NCAA DIII National Coach of the Year, and Cromie was honored as the NCAA Tournament MVP. The Bruins outscored their opponents by an average of 19 points per game during the season and became the first women's DIII basketball team west of the Rocky Mountains to win a title.



2004: Baseball

The university's first NCAA national championship came in 2004, when the baseball team scored a 6-3 victory over top-ranked Eastern Connecticut State University in the championship game of the double-elimination national tournament, capping a 40-10 season. The Bruins rode the arm of pitcher Scott Hyde – later drafted by the New York Mets – in the finale. He was named a First-Team All-American, National Co-Pitcher of the Year and Most Outstanding Player of the Division III Tournament. Head coach Pat Bailey was named the DIII National Coach of the Year, and shortstop David Peterson earned First-Team All-American recognition.

Teacher Shortage Prompts New Master’s Degree in Special Education



Once again, the university is launching a program to respond to a well-documented need. Beginning this fall, educators can take a fast track to earning a master’s degree while also preparing for licensure in special education through George Fox’s new Master of Arts in Special Education program. The online format will take 16 to 20 months to complete, with students engaging in one to two evening classes on weeknights and one Saturday per month.

The program is ideal for those who already have a special education job or view the field as a lifelong calling. And it will help fill a glaring shortage of teachers in Oregon, particularly in the area of special education. In the 2022-23 school year, the state issued 131 emergency licenses for special ed teachers, many of whom had limited experience caring for the needs of students with disabilities.

Grounded in an ethic of care, the program is designed to empower teachers to be a source of hope for students and families and a go-to resource in their schools and communities. An emphasis will be placed on deepening understanding of exceptionalities like autism and dyslexia, exploring the intersection of ethics and public policy, and becoming highly skilled at assessment.

University Partners with Local Businesses to Launch New MBA Offerings

Students in the university’s MBA program now have the opportunity to take classes at their place of business as part of the newly launched InsideTrack MBA.

Organizations that sign up for the program invite 15 to 30 team members to join George Fox’s MBA program and take courses online or at the workplace. Professors partner with subject matter experts from the students’ place of business to integrate company-specific information and execute group projects centered on company-level problem solving.

The ultimate goal of the program is to develop mid-level managers and up-and-coming leaders while promoting recruitment, retention and collaboration at businesses across the region.

The university is also launching a 14-month MBA program geared toward business owners and leaders throughout the Chehalem Valley. Its format calls for students to attend class one night per week on George Fox’s campus, giving them the opportunity to grow alongside local leaders,



strengthen their community and business connections, and enhance their business acumen.

Seminary Receives \$1.25 Million Grant to Support Women in Ministry



Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded George Fox a \$1.25 million grant to support efforts at Portland Seminary that will help Christian women preachers strengthen their abilities to proclaim the gospel in engaging and effective ways.

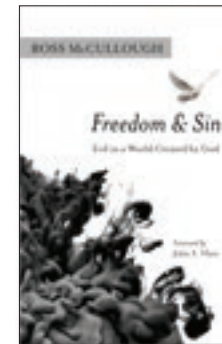
Portland Seminary will use the grant to partner with the Leadership Center and Religion for Her to provide participants with seminary-level training in biblical and theological studies, preaching in multicultural contexts, spiritual direction and spiritual formation, in addition to professional networking and peer mentoring to support their vocational development as preachers.

Upon completion of the one-year program, cohort participants will receive a Certificate in Biblical Foundations for Multicultural Preaching from Religion for Her.

George Fox was one of 81 organizations to receive the grant through Lilly Endowment’s Compelling Preaching Initiative. The initiative’s aim is to foster and support preaching that inspires, encourages and guides people to come to know and love God and to live out their Christian faith more fully.

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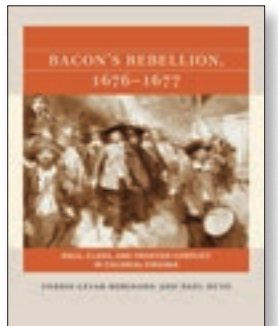
How can we have free will if God is the source of all our actions? And how can we explain the existence of evil without ascribing it to God? In his book, *Freedom and Sin: Evil in a World Created by God*, **Ross McCullough** (theology) resolves this conundrum through a classical position known as compatibilist indeterminis – the idea that God can determine our free choices while not determining all our choices.



Kevin Jones (communication arts) coauthored the book, *Unwrapping the Gift of Communication: Theoretical Applications and Biblical Wisdom for Relationships that Thrive*, that calls communication a gift from God and uses examples from Scripture to illustrate many of the common communication theories used to teach individuals how to engage in healthier relational communication.



Paul Otto (history) coauthored the book *Bacon’s Rebellion, 1676-1677 Race, Class, and Frontier Conflict in Colonial Virginia*. The book also serves as a role-immersion game, which will be featured, with Paul as the game master, at the Reacting to the Past Annual Institute at Barnard College this summer.



Wade Witherspoon (Career and Academic Planning Center) teamed up with then-student **Rebekah Lee** to publish a children’s book, *If We Could Wag Our Tails*, for ages 2 to 6. It came about when **Rebecca**, an illustration major, visited Wade’s office to get assistance with her resume. Wade proposed that they work together to create the book, and **Rebekah** jumped at the chance to get her first professional job.



Examining Creativity in the Workplace: Applying Polanyi’s Theory of Tacit Knowledge to Maximize Fulfillment at Work, coauthored by **Nahanni Freeman** (clinical psychology), is set to be released this summer. In it, she explores the intersection of social cognition with a democratic philosophy of human resource management to advance a theory of workplace function that maximizes creativity.



Befriending the Prophets, published by **Howard Macy** (theology emeritus) intends to help readers understand and cherish the prophets for who they were and what they said. Meant for readers who are both curious and eager to know more about the prophets, as well as those who are puzzled or even put off by them, the book considers lingering questions, misunderstandings and other barriers to understanding.

God Gave Rock & Roll to You, authored by **Leah Payne** (seminary), traces Contemporary Christian Music’s roots to the music of early 20th-century revival meetings and explains how the genre developed in the 1960s and early 1970s, ultimately emerging as a nearly \$1 billion business at its apex in 2000. It includes interviews with journalists, industry executives and prominent church leaders.



When Girls Win, written by **MaryJo McCloskey** (women’s golf head coach), is an inspiring and engaging story of a female golf coach’s journey to the top in a mostly male-dominated arena. Her story includes multiple challenges, setbacks and losses, but ends in triumph when her team wins the 2023 NCAA D-III National Women’s Golf Championship. (See story on page 9.)



Nathanael Ankeny (performing arts) released his debut album *Joy in the Making*, featuring seven original compositions for jazz quartet and quintet. In addition to Ankeny on tenor saxophone, the album features Grammy-nominees **Randy Porter** (piano) and **Todd Strait** (drums), along with **Dr. Justin Copeland** (trumpet) and **Patrick Golichnik** (bass).





Marketing and Design Students Place First in National Advertising Competition

An interdisciplinary group of George Fox students came home with a first-place trophy in their debut competing in District 11 of the American Advertising Federation's National Student Advertising Competition.

Students majoring in marketing, graphic design and illustration partnered to create a campaign pitch for Tide, the well-known laundry detergent brand. The team researched the product and its competition, identified potential problem areas and devised an integrated campaign for the client, which was then pitched to a panel of judges.

Led by professors Jim Simmons and Marvin Eans, 25 students contributed to the project as part of a new Marketing and Design course, created to foster collaboration among students from a variety of disciplines. In April, four presenters and four alternates were selected from the class to travel to Boise, Idaho, to compete and represent George Fox.



Film Students Win Award at National Media Arts Festival

Cinematic arts majors Matthew Hagen, Ethan Lex and Jack Flitter took first place in the "Narrative Short Film" category at the national Broadcast Education Association's Festival of Media Arts, receiving their award in Las Vegas in April.

Lex and Hagen partnered to write and direct the film *I'm Seeing an Invisible Man*, teaming with Flitter, who served as editor, and a production crew consisting of George Fox students and alumni. It topped films from much larger programs, including Syracuse, Florida, Oklahoma and Baylor.

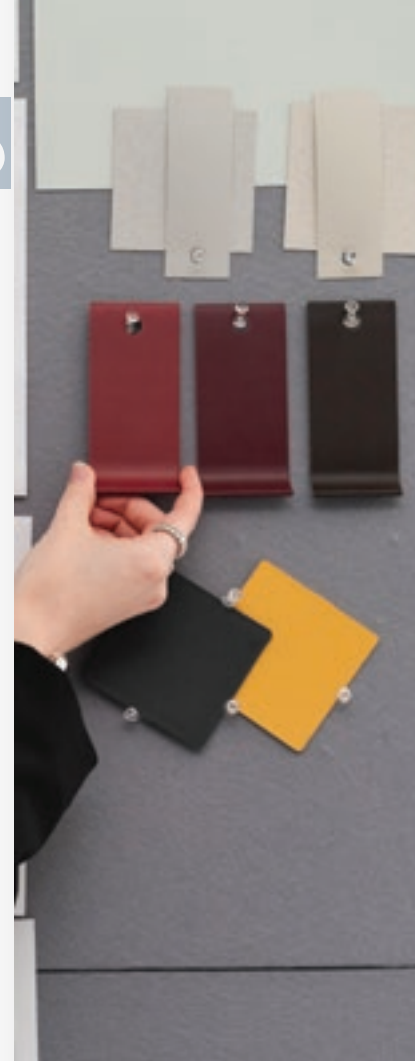
While in Las Vegas, students attended the National Association of Broadcasters Show in addition to panels and various workshops, and delivered a practice pitch for an original pilot episode for a TV series.



Interior Design Program Recognized for Second Consecutive Year

The George Fox interior design program won a Changemaker Award from the International Interior Design Association for the second year in a row, this time in recognition of its in-house design program called The STUDIO.

The Changemaker Award is in recognition of a project that "left the biggest impact on your local design community," according to the IIDA. In The Studio, interior design students work on real-world projects with real clients, including the U.S. military, nonprofits and private property owners (see more on opposite page). Professor Casey Martin will accept the award on behalf of the program in Chicago in June at the IIDA awards ceremony.



The STUDIO

Students in this unique interior design lab gain real-world skills

By Joanna Nesbit

If you think interior design means matching paint colors to drapes, think again. In The STUDIO, George Fox's interior design lab, students problem-solve for real clients that include nonprofits, schools and residential remodels. In many cases, they even get paid for their work.

In The STUDIO, design solutions go well beyond color palettes and exterior finishes. Students consider local building codes, ADA regulations and designs that promote the health and safety of a building's users according to industry professional practices. For example, designers might incorporate color theory and a particular spatial layout to promote a sense of safety and security in accordance with trauma-informed design.

"People don't generally understand the breadth of interior design," says professor Casey Martin. "Most spaces we use every day have an interior designer on the project team."

Students in the class gain hands-on experience on multiple projects – one paid and the remainder pro bono – that Martin lines up in advance. She assigns students to project teams based on strengths and skill sets. The program emphasizes empathy-driven initiatives, including solutions for housing issues and projects with small budgets for design work.

For one such project, George Fox students worked with Portland State University architecture students and the Forest Grove Foundation, a nonprofit focused on vulnerable communities. The task: to create sleeping pod interiors incorporating

trauma-informed design principles for people experiencing homelessness, while also sticking to a budget. The result earned a 2023 Changemaker Award and national recognition from the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) for outstanding student work.

For La Salle Preparatory High School in California, junior Taylor Ho and senior Tyra Hayashi created Revit (design software) models of campus buildings for future architects and designers to use as templates. And working with the Kingsley Field Military Base in Klamath Falls, Oregon, senior Ilanahe Beatty focused on sourcing U.S.-made products and creating a "typicals package" based on military and GSA contract standards for the base to use now or later.

As students in The STUDIO collaborate with clients and professionals in the industry, they develop tangible skills that help them hit the ground running after graduation. The program connects students to the Portland design industry, facilitates professional relationships with industry mentors, and prepares them for taking the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) and LEED Green Associate exams. In addition, the class broadens their network of clients and designers that they'll work with in future jobs while still in school.

It all builds toward a single goal, says Martin: "Students feel like, when they graduate, they can walk into a firm and be prepared to do the work."



New Chapel on Schedule to Open This Fall

Recent visitors to campus can attest to the fact the university's newest building project – a 7,000-square-foot chapel – is quickly taking shape. Construction is scheduled for completion in late spring, and a dedication ceremony is planned for homecoming weekend this October.

In the meantime, work on artistic elements – including student-designed stained glass windows, a Celtic high cross, and a garden for prayer and contemplation – will continue over the coming year. Plans also call for a large mural inspired by Quaker artist Edward Hicks' *Peaceable Kingdom* paintings – to be painted by art professor Tim Timmerman (right) – to adorn panels that will hang on the chapel's walls. Rather than depicting children, as Hicks did, Timmerman will paint students living peacefully among animals.

"As we eagerly await the opening of the chapel, I'm reminded of the profound impact such sacred spaces can have on fostering community, contemplation and spiritual growth," says President Robin Baker. "The chapel represents our effort to create a sacred place of enduring beau-

ty, where employees, students and alumni may experience the presence of God in new ways."

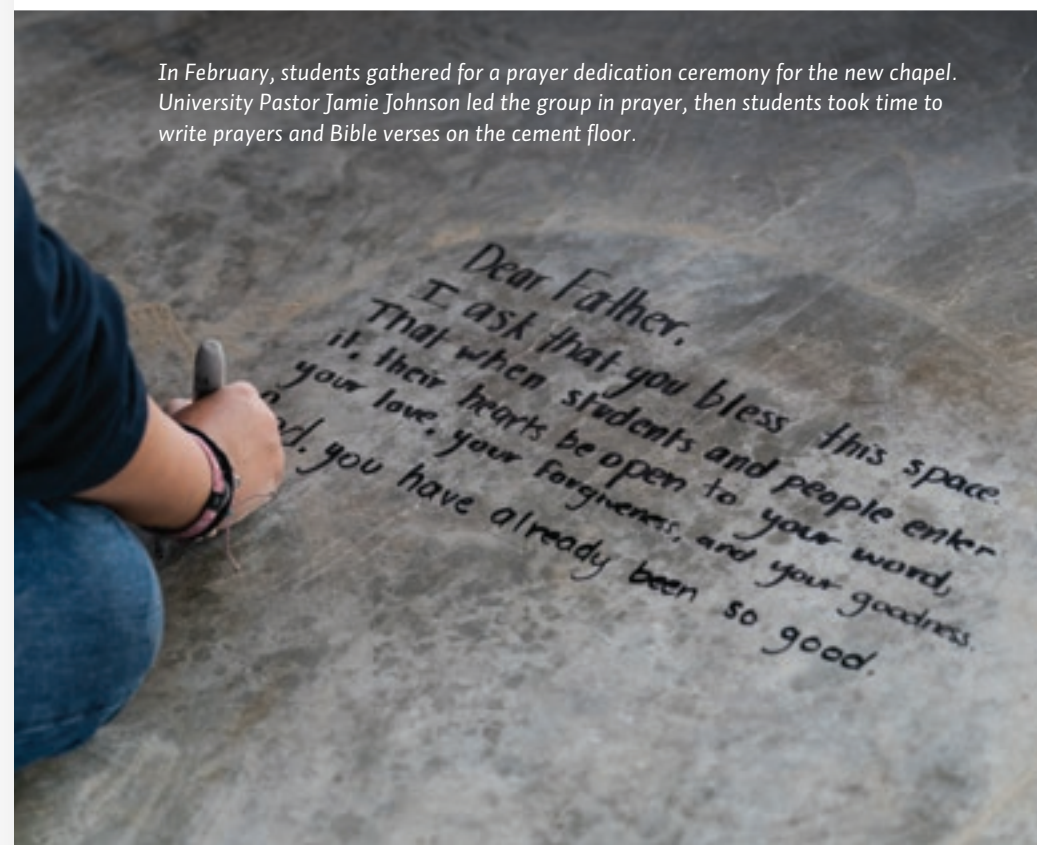
Situated behind the Murdock Library, the chapel is intended to serve as both a space for spiritual growth and contemplation as well as a visual representation of George Fox's unwavering commitment to a Christ-centered education.

"The use of natural elements, the soaring height of the building and the location near the wooded canyon all provide a unique experience that will connect the community with God for generations," Baker says.

The chapel and accompanying garden are being constructed thanks to the generous contributions of donors.



Professor Tim Timmerman prepares artwork for a mural in the new chapel.



In February, students gathered for a prayer dedication ceremony for the new chapel. University Pastor Jamie Johnson led the group in prayer, then students took time to write prayers and Bible verses on the cement floor.



‘We’re gonna do this together’

Daniel Kang’s journey to the George Fox DPT program began in a hot cadaver lab where he nearly fainted – and was sealed with a fateful phone call

By Kimberly Felton

Cadavers. This might be why Daniel Kang did not want to go into medicine. He thought he was merely rebelling against family expectations. As Korean immigrants, it was customary to enter medicine and send the money home. All of his uncles are physicians. His dad is a physicist, but only because he could not run fast enough to pass the physical exam required for medical school at that time.

Running felt like a good option that hot afternoon in the cadaver lab at Loma Linda University, where Kang was pursuing a master’s degree in physical therapy. Ventilation was minimal in the three rooms prepared for the 75 med students. Anatomy class had begun, and draped bodies waited. Kang does not recall any air conditioning, but the memory of the smell has not faded.

“I’m walking up there; I’m not talking to anybody,” he recalls. “We’re just being herded. Some people are trying to be cool.”

Kang put himself in the middle of the pack, afraid he would run if he were at the back. He joined a group of three students he did not know, gathered around a body. Teaching assistants circled the room, reminding everyone that this was a sacred space – a place

“My hope is that we will come out of our silos and start caring for the patient together. That’s the way we will fight burnout for all professions and give the absolute best care for the patient.”

to show honor and respect to those allowing their bodies to be used so that students can learn. Then they began to pull back the sheets covering the cadavers.

“When they started the unveiling, I literally just started going down,” Kang says. “And my friend Ruben – this was Kang’s introduction to Ruben – ‘grabbed me by the arm and held me up and said, ‘Hey, we’re gonna get through this together.’ If he didn’t help me up, I probably would have fainted. Ruben holding me up, it was life-changing for me.”

Today Kang, a professor of physical therapy at George Fox University, teaches from this humble beginning. He’s the physical therapist who wanted to be a bartender – one like Sam in *Cheers*, who knows everybody’s name.

He’s also the executive dean for the Wellness Enterprise who once failed out of college, and then graduated top of his PT school.

He’s the former small business owner who operated his own physical therapy clinic and lived in his dream home on a dock in Ventura, California, with his wife and kids, and with a seven-minute commute to the office. That office is where his life took a turn toward the Northwest.

One beautiful day, Kang was consciously thanking God for the beach, his family, his home and his business. As he opened his computer, a banner for George Fox University’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program popped up. He knew God was prompting him to call the phone number on the banner. Tyler Cuddeford, founding director of the program, answered.

“I remember clearly, I was supposed to tell him that PT school is going to change many people’s lives, and that I’d be praying for him,” Kang recalls. “I didn’t know this guy from Adam.” But Kang said what he felt he needed to say. “I remember Tyler saying he was really shocked [that someone would call].”

Cuddeford asked to call him back. Kang figured he would be hit up for a donation. Instead, Cuddeford asked, “What would the DPT program look like if you built it?”

“You have to go beyond academics,” Kang responded. “You have to have really good clinical people.” A therapist, to Kang’s way of thinking, needs to be like Sam the bartender: know their patient’s name, know their story, know their struggle. That’s where healing begins.

Conversations continued, and three years later Kang sold his practice and moved with his family to Oregon, becoming part of something he believes can change the world.

As he teaches students, Kang remembers Ruben pulling him up and saying, “We’re gonna do this together.” He remembers Fred, an older student in PT school, who helped him memorize the anatomy, teaching him study skills along the way. He remembers being humbled by his own lack of ability, and shares the stories.

“The biggest thing that scares me is being a fake,” he says. “I try to be as honest as I can. Becoming honest with oneself is actually really difficult.”



It took Kang three years to figure out how to teach the skill he excelled in: being an excellent clinician, caring for his patients. “The best compliment I get is, ‘He’s teaching me how to do it,’” he says. “I want the DPT students to be the absolute best clinicians in the world – but at the same time, I want them to learn how not to burn out.”

This gets to the core of Kang’s passion: treating the whole person, and teaching the whole student.

People living in chronic pain are Kang’s best illustration of those needing holistic treatment. A course on chronic pain previously named the “pain course” has changed to “person-centered approach.” Figuring out that pain, he says, always goes back to relationship – relationship with the patient, and collaboration with other caregivers. “My hope is that we will come out of our silos and start caring for the patient together,” Kang says. “That’s the way

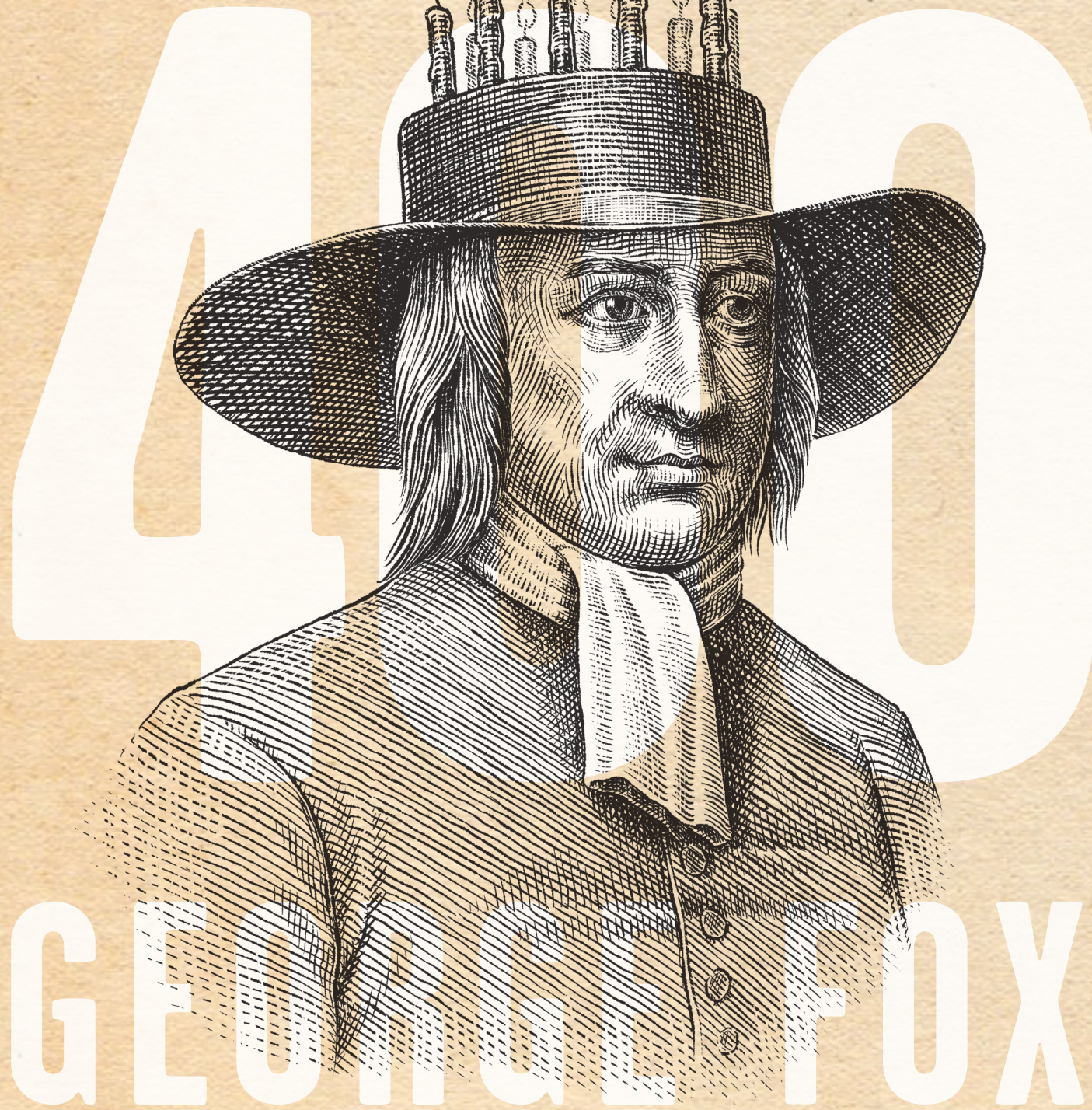
we will fight burnout for all professions and give the absolute best care for the patient.”

Teaching the whole student, for Kang, includes the spiritual. It’s the bio-psychosocial-spiritual model. Teaching the whole student is not just about taking an interest in them; it’s also helping students ask themselves, “Who am I as a person?” and “What does God have for me?”

Though a professor and dean now, Kang has held every position in the PT industry. “I knew I wanted to be with people,” he says, “but I didn’t know what my gifting was. I accepted the Lord at age 21, and that correlates perfectly with finding my vocation. My purpose started coming from the Lord.

“The No. 1 thing was honoring God, and second was teaching our students to be excellent clinicians. That’s been my job ever since.”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy 400th Birthday, George

By Paul Anderson, Professor of Biblical and Quaker Studies

He's the founder of the Quaker movement, the namesake of our university, and this July, we're celebrating the life and legacy of George Fox on what will be his 400th birthday.

George Fox, the Person

Born in a devout Christian home in 1624, as a young adult Fox became a seeker after God's truth but was disenchanted with what religious leaders could offer. Then, he experienced a personal transformation – a spiritual encounter with Christ. He describes it this way in his *Journal*:

“And when all my hopes in them [religious leaders] and in all men were gone ... I heard a voice which said, ‘There is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition,’ and when I heard it my heart did leap for joy.”

That encounter led to his preaching throughout northwest England, and in 1652 he felt “moved of the Lord” to climb Pendle Hill, where he received a vision of “a great people to be gathered.”

Soon after that, he stood and preached to a gathering of over 1,000, who then set out to reach the world for Christ. Fox describes the heart of his passion:

“... that they might all come to know Christ their teacher, their counsellor (sic), their shepherd to feed them, and their bishop to oversee them and their prophet to open to them, and to know their bodies to be the temples of God and Christ for them to dwell in.”

The Quakers then organized to evangelize the world with the gospel message that Christ has come to teach his people himself, through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 14-16).

Quakers in the Pacific Northwest

Despite persecution and over 17,000 Quakers being jailed over the next three decades, the movement grew to over 100,000 by the end of the century. Fox's vision, later carried forward by William Penn, helped form a foundational basis for American democracy, including freedom of religion and the full equality of all humans, regardless of gender, race or creed.

In the mid-to-late 1800s, Quakers came to the Pacific Northwest, forming Oregon Yearly Meeting in 1891, now Northwest Yearly Meeting. That was also the year that Pacific College, now George Fox University, was established.

What's in a Name?

In 1949, Pacific College alumnus Arthur Roberts heard that the board was considering a name change to avoid confusion with nearby Pacific University. One of the options under consideration was “Friendswood.”

That name didn't sit well with Roberts, who at the time was a seminary student in Kansas City, studying Quaker history. He wrote a letter to his alma mater making the case for George Fox, and the board agreed. Later, Roberts would come to teach at the newly renamed college for 34 years as one of its most distinguished professors.

The Continuing Vision

Though much has changed since the transformative experience of a young George Fox nearly four centuries ago, his vision – that the present Christ continues to “speak to the condition” of all who are open to knowing and being known by God (1 Cor 13:12) – still resonates with George Fox University students and staff today.

So, Happy Birthday, George! We thank God for the privilege of sharing in his legacy in the Pacific Northwest, and beyond.



‘A Win-Win’

Students and alumni create meaningful relationships through The Bridge Network and IGNITE mentoring programs

By Ellaynah Brown

“I invest in him with good advice, and he invests in me with good-looking hair,” jokes George Fox alumnus Keenan O’Hern.

O’Hern and sophomore business administration major Victor Mendoza Soto were paired with one another as part of the university’s IGNITE mentorship program in August. Ever since, Mendoza Soto – a pro with a pair of clippers – has been keeping O’Hern looking good during their monthly meetings.

“It really is a win-win situation,” O’Hern says. “As people invest in you, you want to invest back in them. Victor’s done that with me, too. He’s given me a lot of excitement about my own business and wanting to bring a more youthful and day-to-day vigor to it. It’s cool to see somebody with so much energy and so much excitement.”

IGNITE, an advisory initiative that pairs students from the university’s College of Business and College of Engineering with industry professionals, gives George Fox students the opportunity to not only gain valuable career insights, but to form lifelong friendships.

“As advisors, we not only care about what you’re going to do in class that day, but what your future looks like and how we can partner with you in walking toward that future and whatever that passion is,” O’Hern says. “In the future, if Victor ever needed a

connection or wanted to meet, we’ve established that relationship, and my door is always open to him.”

IGNITE isn’t the only mentoring program on campus that connects George Fox students and alumni. The Bridge Network, founded by Craig Inglesby, associate athletic director of faith formation, seeks to do the same, connecting more than 100 athletes and non-athletes alike with fellow students and business leaders.

It’s all about developing meaningful relationships and discipling the leaders of tomorrow, preparing students for both life and career after college. “The heart of why I started this program was to help students dream about their vocational and spiritual future at the same time,” Inglesby says.

It’s something alumna Sarah Kolodge experienced firsthand. “When I talk to people about my experience at Fox, I often say that it was life-changing to be known and loved, and that’s unique to a smaller Christian environment,” says Kolodge, now a Bridge Network mentor.

In her years as a student, before a structured program was ever created, Kolodge felt the impact of mentorship through her relationships with professors, coaches and administrators. It inspired her to do the same. “I love to be a part of loving students by meet-

ing them where they’re at and encouraging them in their journey,” she says.

At their core, The Bridge Network and IGNITE programs provide structure to the formative relationships already happening on campus, emphasizing the importance of walking alongside students from college to career.

“We are a culture of people who want to pour into others,” says senior communication major and track and field athlete Shelby Larson, who is being mentored by Kolodge. “There’s a reason people pay as much as they do to come here. It really is for the experience and the connections and how they grow and shape you as a person.”

For students like Larson, experiencing what it’s like to be encouraged throughout her college journey inspires her to do the same for others. “It subconsciously inspires me to start pouring into people now. I don’t have to wait to graduate to say, ‘Hey, I’d love to get coffee with you on a regular basis.’”

It’s an experience that has resonated with students and alumni alike.

“There’s an ethos that so many people from George Fox cultivate and then, after leaving, kind of yearn for,” O’Hern says.

After being approached by former business professor Laurie Kohler, founder of the IGNITE program, O’Hern found himself jumping right back into the George Fox community. “Truly being a steward is cultivating a community and a future for that community and the next generation,” he says.

Mendoza Soto, Larson and the hundreds of other students connected with George Fox alumni through mentorship programs across campus have seen the fruit of their relationships play out in more ways than one. “If it wasn’t for Keenan’s advice, I don’t think I would have passed my accounting class,” Mendoza Soto says. “Keenan told me I should try staying for both classes so I could just observe in the first and learn more in the next.”

It was invaluable advice that came from experience – O’Hern had taken the same class with the same professor years before.

Larson has had the same experience with her mentor, Kolodge. “It has been really sweet to be able to share our experiences in both of our times here, recognizing the timeless themes of George Fox,” she says. “It’s a very unique and special opportunity to be mentored by someone who has been in your shoes.”

“As alumni, there are so many experiences we’ve had that are similar to what current students are going through that we can speak into or just encourage them in,” adds Kolodge, also noting the benefits alumni receive from the relationship. “Just to have this space to come alongside and be with a student, loving them and encouraging them in their journey and to be encouraged in your own at the same time, is just a win for everybody.”

George Fox mentor programs are sustained by incredible donors and volunteers. If you are interested in mentoring a George Fox student, email alumni@georgefox.edu or call 503-554-2110.



Communication major Shelby Larson (far left) gets ready to enjoy a family dinner at the home of her mentor from The Bridge Network, alumna Sarah Kolodge.

New program
spotlight:
**Occupational
Therapy**

Kate Turner and Trevor St. Clair

The Roads Not Taken

Faculty members Stanley Paul, Trevor St. Clair and Kate Turner didn't set out to be occupational therapists, but they ultimately couldn't shake the appeal of the profession

By Sean Patterson

Trevor St. Clair recalls the day his life changed forever. He was 16 and blissfully making his way to his destination when suddenly his car was T-boned and he found himself pinned inside the vehicle, unable to move.

It took the jaws of life to remove him from the wreckage. Medics transferred him to the hospital, where he learned he had bilateral hip fractures, leaving him wheelchair-bound for nine weeks. Physical therapy treatments helped, but there was still something missing from his recovery regimen.

"I was able to rehab strength-wise, but I started noticing some issues I was having around the house," he recalls. "I had difficulties in the kitchen, I had difficulties getting in and out of different rooms. I struggled with basic activities of daily living. If the phone rang, I had a hard time reaching it. So I started to notice the different daily activities that I was struggling with and told myself, 'There has to be some better way to address these things.'"

He didn't know it then, but the accident that temporarily stole his mobility and left him dependent on others would be the very thing that served as the inspiration for a career.

St. Clair, an associate professor of the newly launched occupational therapy program at George Fox, made a life-changing discovery after the incident: Occupational therapy – the practice of helping people overcome the obstacles that interfere with everyday living – changes lives.

As an educator of the next generation of OT clinicians, St. Clair

is motivated not only by his personal experience but by the prospect of making an impact on lives throughout the region.

"There is a shortage of occupational therapists in Oregon, and I feel like I'm doing my part to help with that and to expand the field," he says. "I believe it's important to have a lasting effect on anything that you do, and I think through the students, what I'm doing now is going to have a ripple effect that will go on for years and years to come."

St. Clair is one of three professors in the occupational therapy doctorate (OTD) program, set to launch this fall. It's the latest addition to George Fox's healthcare offerings, all of which are committed to producing graduates who live out the university's mission to "serve with passion."

It was that very attribute that drew Stanley Paul, director of the program, to George Fox.

"A lot of schools do service, but I think our service is unique because it's based on compassion and the desire to truly help others," says Paul, whose experience includes working as an OT in VA and conventional hospitals, acute and long-term care settings, pediatrics, homecare and rehabilitation centers. "Service is one of the main components of our vision, mission and philosophy. It's part of our culture as a university."

Indeed, the program is an ideal fit for George Fox, with its emphasis on producing practitioners for underserved communities, addressing a glaring shortage of healthcare workers, and sending



Stanley Paul



out graduates who provide comprehensive, patient-centered care.

"It's very personal," Paul says of OT. "You really get to know the people you are working with. That isn't necessarily the case in a lot of medical professions. As an OT, you may be visiting people in their own homes, training them to learn/relearn their daily activities following a stroke, multiple sclerosis, a spinal cord injury, Parkinson's disease or other medical conditions. It's really a 'rehabilitation profession.'"

Paul initially believed he could best be of service as a medical doctor. Two and a half years into medical school, however, he discovered he wanted a more "hands-on" profession helping others. He finished med school and began a three-year residency in Atlanta, but all along he couldn't shake the pull of occupational therapy, so he turned down the residency and returned to being an OT.

Kate Turner, the academic fieldwork coordinator for the program, likewise began a path she didn't ultimately follow, initially earning a business degree before changing course. "I was thinking, 'There's got to be more to life than this,'" recalls Turner, who felt unsettled after earning a business degree at Adams State University. "I decided that I needed something more. I wanted to help people."

That calling led to a job as an EMT for two years before she discovered the OT profession in a brochure. The personal aspect of the discipline struck a chord.

"I knew right away after reading that brochure that I had a connection with OT," she says. "Occupational therapy would allow me to build relationships with my clients and work with them as individuals, versus only treating a wound or a small part of their life."

As the academic fieldwork coordinator, Turner's role is to help students apply what they learn in real-world settings. Ultimately, she loves her work because she is giving students the tools they need to help people take charge of their daily lives.

"I view my role as an occupational therapist as being a facilitator of learning, doing and independence," she says. "Our job is not to fix people, but to show people the pathway for their own reconnection and how to fix themselves."

At the heart of the program is a holistic approach to bettering the lives of others – among them young children just developing motor skills, individuals recovering from severe injuries, and the elderly who need assistance doing everyday tasks.

"You don't always hear how someone is doing after you've helped them, but every so often you do get that call," Paul says. "They tell you they are doing well, and they thank you for what you did for them. It's good to stop and reflect on those moments, taking the time to think about the difference you've made in someone's life. It's a satisfying feeling."

Capturing the Moment

A photography class project turned into an opportunity for generations to connect

By Kimberly Felton

The camera 21-year-old Maddy Smith held in her hands was roughly the same age as the soft-skinned, smiling woman facing her. But Smith was more comfortable with the borrowed antique camera than with this stranger.

Smith, a senior at George Fox, and Michael Martin, a junior, were partners for this photography class project. It was OK, she supposed, that Martin was doing all the talking. She had one set of grandparents she seldom saw, so walking into the apartment of an older couple at Friendsview Retirement Community was a bit outside her comfort zone.

A year ago, photography professor Adam Long bought seven Minolta Autocord TLR (twin lens reflex) cameras. This year, he needed a project for the cameras – something that got the intermediate/advanced photography students used to hand-held light meters with cameras that were foreign to them. But he wanted even more out of the project: He hoped the students would connect with this older generation who agreed to engage with them.

The residents' own apartments provided an industry-standard setting – one where the subject is most comfortable. The students were told to engage in conversation and take portraits that fit the person. Smith and Martin were paired with John Welander and Mary Malinski.

Smith glanced around the home of strangers. Three rolls of film, 12 exposures each. She and Martin needed to capture on film the essence of people they didn't know.

But Malinski has decades of practice at putting people at ease. Smith discovered a woman who had been a child familiar with hospitals, whose teddy bears from her own time in them became her tools for helping others heal when she became a nurse – each bear with a story.

"Mary is so quirky and passionate and warm," Smith says. "She could be any age, just living her life."

Before Martin and Smith left, the four were making plans to have coffee together.

A week later, the class gathered around their black and white portraits, mounted on 11x14 matte board and spread on a table. "The students talked about their experiences, not technical aspects," Long says. "To critique it seemed superfluous – it was an opportunity and experience to connect."



Students Michael Martin and Maddy Smith share their portraits with Friendsview residents John Welander and Mary Malinski.



A Professor of Historical Importance

Paul Otto's love of history and connecting with students kept him returning to the classroom for more than two decades

By Sean Patterson

A passion to understand peoples of the past and building relationships with students of the present combined to give history professor Paul Otto a reason to look forward to coming to work the past 22 years.

Beyond that, he felt fortunate to teach in two fields that were part of his graduate training – the history of the American Revolution and the history of South Africa – and his discovery 10 years ago of using role-immersion pedagogy, in which his students lived out history in dramatic fashion, further deepened the joy of the job.

But alas, as Geoffrey Chaucer first observed in 1374, "All good things must come to an end." Otto retired from teaching at George Fox with the close of the 2023-24 academic year, but his fascination with history and the joy derived from sharing that fascination won't allow him to totally walk away.

Otto plans to continue with research and writing, with the goal of finishing a book about the history of wampum in the 17th and 18th centuries. And his love of role-immersion teaching practice will keep him motivated to support The Reacting Consortium, a national organization dedicated to "Reacting to the Past" classes that promote engaged learning through role-playing games.

It was through "Reacting to the Past" courses that Otto truly saw what his students were capable of – and gave him a glimpse into who they were as individuals.

"It was in those classes that I saw sides of my students I never saw before," Otto says. "To engage as historical actors, they have to draw on personal strengths and to learn new skills. I've seen students become compelling speakers, charismatic leaders, skillful negotiators and eloquent writers. In traditionally taught classes, opportunities for students to reveal themselves that way are quite limited."

Otto also discovered something else: Students often just needed someone to listen to their own stories and how they see the world.

"I've had the privilege to support students who were struggling with mental health issues, with fitting into the neurotypical expectations of the campus setting, and with finding their place in a world that expects conformity where conformity isn't always possible," he says.

In addition to offering a listening ear, Otto was "the voice of God" when, as the game master of a role-immersion exercise, he had to intervene in the proceedings. He was also known as the guy who loved Pepsi in a can.

"There were times I'd show up to class and find a can of Pepsi waiting for me at the podium," he recalls. "Or, knowing that my love of Pepsi is equally matched by how much I despise Coca-Cola, they taunted me (in fun, of course) by prominently displaying Coke products in class."

Ultimately, it was the students and his colleagues that kept him at it for more than two decades. "I kept coming back for the students, making sure that every student who came to George Fox had someone who could empathize with them and advocate for them," he says. "And the colleagues in my department have always been supportive, encouraging, level-headed, good-natured and generous."

In addition to continuing his academic pursuits, Otto plans to spend more time with his spouse, children and grandchildren, do board-game design and play, read science fiction, play role-playing games, and go fly fishing.





That's what they say a picture is worth. But sometimes, you have to wonder.

We're inundated with images, scrolling our social feeds, browsing the web, advertisements reflected on our windshields as we drive to work. It all becomes a blur of posed and polished photos that in many cases are worth nothing at all.

That's why in this issue of the *George Fox Journal*, we made it our goal to go deeper, to journey alongside Bruins to places we've never gone before:

A return to the hospital where Peter was once a cancer patient.

On stage with Dahlia as she overcomes her fears and steps into the spotlight to lead worship.

The home of a young girl with cerebral palsy, as she's fitted for a device by George Fox engineers that will allow her the freedom to use her legs, unassisted, for the first time.

A Life Flight Network hangar as Ben embraces the nurse who saved his life.

Our hope is that you'll find these images to have deeper meaning, to offer a real glimpse into the lives of students – sometimes joyful, sometimes painful, always beautiful. And in doing so, to be truly worth a thousand words and so much more.



‘My Fourth Life’

After flatlining three times, Ben Wing is living life to the fullest

By Brooklyn Chillemi and Chris Low

Ben Wing is starstruck. “I feel like a young kid meeting their favorite professional athlete,” he says. But Ben isn’t on a basketball court or football field. He’s in a Life Flight Network hangar, embracing the flight nurse who saved his life.

He shouldn’t be here. Less than two years ago, Ben was in a helicopter just like the ones in this hangar, being rushed to the hospital after a head-on collision about a mile from his family home. In less than 24 hours, his heart stopped three times. He took 29 units of blood. At least seven of his bones were broken.

Ben, who also suffered a traumatic brain injury, doesn’t remember much of that day – or the next 30-plus days after – but what he knows now is he shouldn’t be alive.

“By every medical standard, I should not have made it through that accident,” he says. “I’m incredibly blessed to be on my fourth life.”

After five weeks at the hospital, Ben was transferred to rehabilitation.

“My goal from the very start of rehab was to get as close to normal as possible, because my life pre-accident was so much fun,” he says.

“I loved being on campus with all of my friends and faculty. I

wanted to come back to George Fox really, really badly.”

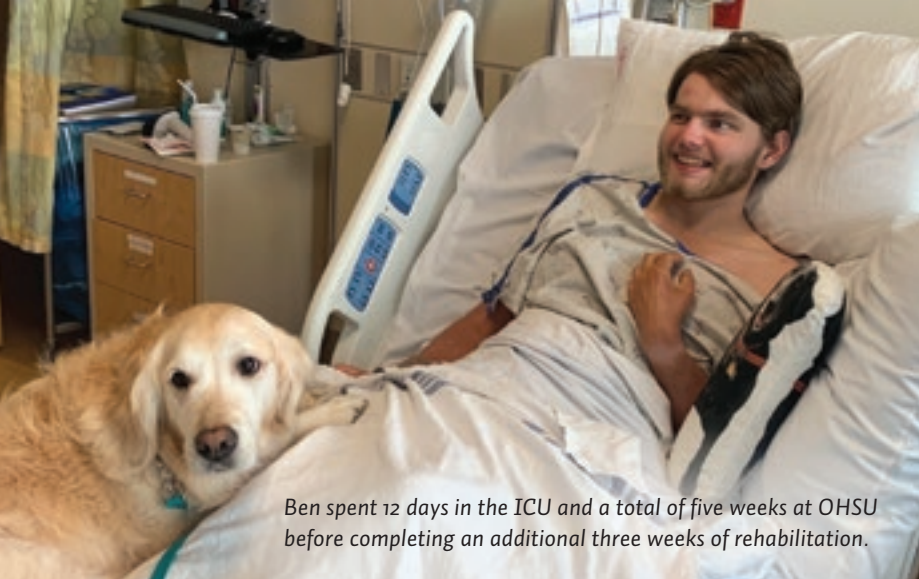
At the beginning of rehab, his speech therapist said he could go back for one class in the spring, maybe two at the most. But Ben insisted he go back full time.

“I had so many plans,” he says. “I wanted to do all of them.”

Today, miraculously, the senior double major in management and marketing is doing just that. His first semester back, he earned straight A’s for the first time in his college career.

Beyond academics, he’s involved in choir and theatre, and is fully immersed in his campus community.

“I believe God kept me around for a reason,” he says. Now, Ben is on a mission to live his fourth life to the fullest, and in the process, to find out why.



Ben spent 12 days in the ICU and a total of five weeks at OHSU before completing an additional three weeks of rehabilitation.



Mary shows Ben around a Life Flight Network helicopter. He was especially interested to see what the packets of blood she used that fateful day looked like.



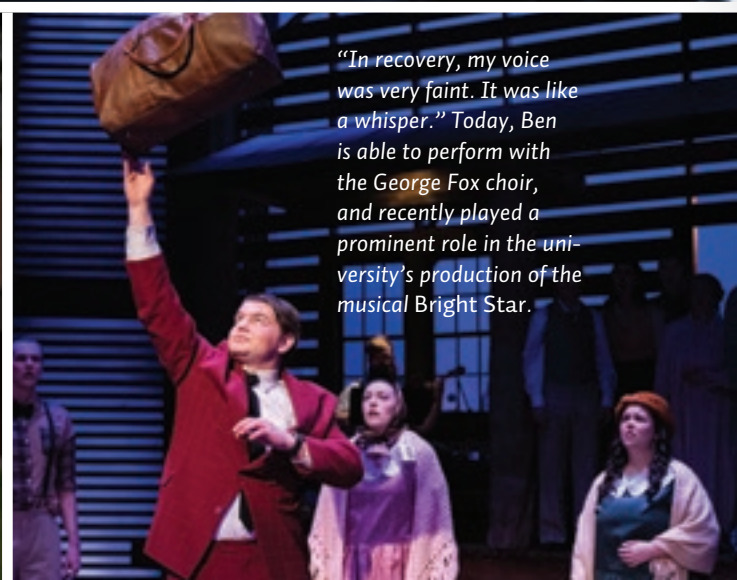
On a sunny April afternoon, Ben got the opportunity to visit Life Flight Network headquarters in Aurora, Oregon, and meet Mary Erickson, the flight nurse who helped save his life. "I usually only get to see patients on their worst day, so this is really special," she said.



Ben prays with University Pastor Jamie Johnson. "I have received so much love and so much support. I didn't know I had a prayer team until I returned to Fox. I just think that's really cool that I had a group of faculty members who were praying for me."



Ben with College of Business professor Kelly Schmidt. "I was told from the very start, I might never walk again, I might never sing again, I might never have control of my left arm again. And I just wanted to come back to a place where I feel so known and valued and loved. And so I made it my goal and my mission to come back to college and continue to learn and grow as a person."



"In recovery, my voice was very faint. It was like a whisper." Today, Ben is able to perform with the George Fox choir, and recently played a prominent role in the university's production of the musical Bright Star.



Watch a video with more of Ben's story at georgefox.edu/BenWing



From left to right: Younger sister Aliye, mother Gabriela, father Lugardo and Dahlia enjoy a family meal.

La Familia lo es Todo

Dahlia Citlalli Carrillo-Sanchez is driven to represent her family and culture at George Fox

By Jeremy Lloyd and Chris Low

Three cell phones lay face down on the kitchen counter. Dahlia Citlalli Carrillo-Sanchez is home for dinner, and this is family time – no time to be scrolling Instagram.

It's the weekend before finals, and the George Fox junior sits at the family table while the rich smells of traditional Mexican food fill the dining room – birria with pinto beans and rice followed by champurrado for dessert.

Her dad, Lugardo, leads the family of four in prayer before Dahlia, her mom Gabriela and younger sister Aliye launch into conversation.

Dahlia is at peace here. Family is what grounds her. It's what drives her, pushes her to do things she never thought she could.

So when nerves and anxiety get the best of her as she waits backstage to lead chapel worship in front of hundreds of people, or when she feels like an imposter as a woman of color in her computer science classes – a field traditionally dominated by men – she doesn't give in to the doubts. Instead, she hears her mother's voice.

"She says, 'You come from a background of hard workers and people who are very determined and resilient,'" Dahlia says. "She reminds me that I have all of that in me."

Gabriela knows resilience. She came to this country as an undocumented immigrant at just six months old. Her family worked in the fields. Lugardo crossed the border, alone, at 18 years old. Both are no stranger to poverty.

They worked hard to grasp every opportunity their new home offered, while staying true to their Mexican roots. So how could Dahlia do anything but the same?

"I think about it almost every day, the sacrifices my parents made for me to be here," she says. "So when academics get really tough, when I'm doubting myself, the thing that gets me out of bed in the morning is knowing where I come from and who I'm representing."



Dahlia's father Lugardo leads the family in prayer.

Each year, Dahlia's family visits her father's hometown of Ajijic, located near the north shore of Lake Chapala, in Jalisco, Mexico. "I really admire my dad. He always reminds me where I come from and the people, my ancestors, who ultimately got me to the place where I am right now."





Dahlia works on a coding project with the help of her favorite professor, Brian Snider. "Sometimes coding can be very difficult for me. I'm a very visual person, and almost all the time in computer science, it's not taught visually." When Snider discovered this, he started drawing out concepts on the whiteboard in Dahlia's classes.



Right: Dahlia connects with one of her campus mentors, Debianna DeBolt, who serves as university pastor for chapel programs. She's made the most of her George Fox experience by connecting with mentors from the spiritual life office, the computer science program, and the university's College of Business, where she takes classes as part of an interdisciplinary major.



Dahlia helps the Latinx Heritage Club decorate before a live music performance. When she first arrived at George Fox, it was friendships through this club that made her feel at home. "To have that community where I can share my culture, eat the same food, listen to the same music, it was really nice. I no longer felt isolated. I felt like I found my community."



She has been part of her church worship team since the age of 12, but nerves are a constant battle for Dahlia. Her mom encouraged her to overcome her fears and participate after seeing students lead worship during Welcome Weekend Dahlia's freshman year. "I'm usually in a one-on-one conversation with the Lord the whole time. I'm like, 'Lord, you know I'm nervous, and being nervous is good because that means I care.'"



Watch a video with more of Dahlia's story at georgefox.edu/Dahlia

The Bouncinator 3000

A custom-made device gives a young girl with physical disabilities newfound freedom

By Jeremy Lloyd and Chris Low

They call it the Bouncinator 3000. To the untrained eye, it looks like a giant baby bouncer. But to Genevieve, an 11-year-old girl living with cerebral palsy and polymicrogyria, it's a life-changer.

Genevieve is unable to stand or sit up without assistance. That means much of her life is spent either buckled into her wheelchair or laying on the floor.

"My hope was that it would give her a different position to be in, that it would give her the ability to contact the ground with her legs and move in different ways," says Fred Mansfield, Genevieve's dad and primary caregiver. "Will it change her life? Yeah, it will."

And make no mistake: You can't order the Bouncinator 3000 on Amazon. It's a one-of-one, developed specifically for Genevieve over the course of an entire academic year by a team of five George Fox students in the university's Servant Engineering program.

It has a load capacity of 200 pounds and a max swing angle of 20 degrees from vertical without tipping. It can be broken down and fit into a typical car trunk, then reassembled by a single person in less than 15 minutes. It has a small footprint and nice finishes, so the device won't stand out like a sore thumb in the family's living room. And most importantly, it remains stable on uneven surfaces, allowing Genevieve the freedom to be in the backyard and do her favorite thing: watch her dad garden.

These custom features didn't happen by accident – they were the result of several visits to the family's home and hours spent getting to know Genevieve, who is nonverbal, and learning to interpret her feedback.

"I hope these students have learned how to tackle open-ended problems and how to interview and work with clients to really address their needs," says Todd Curtis, the team's faculty mentor. "The world needs great engineers, but more than that, it needs empathetic engineers who can relate to the challenges people face."



Left: Genevieve tries out a prototype of the Bouncinator 3000 that uses a harness, while her dad Fred and biomedical engineering major Maddie Carniglia look on.

Top: Mechanical engineering major Nathan Hayward uses a milling machine to fabricate a custom support plate for the winch system that is used to raise and lower Genevieve.

Above: Initial 3D sketches of ideas are roughed out using pipe cleaners, rubber bands and paper clips.

Above right: Brainstorming yields a mind map that shows ideas early in the design process.

Right: Students test a prototype in the Engineering Maker Hub for weight limit, comfort, fit, tipping point and maneuverability.





Mechanical engineering majors Nathan Boyles (left) and Caleb Sawatsky deliver the final product to Fred and Genevieve following months of research and modifications. The Bouncinator 3000 is designed to be easily transported and reassembled.



Fred works in the garden while Genevieve keeps him company in the Bouncinator 3000.

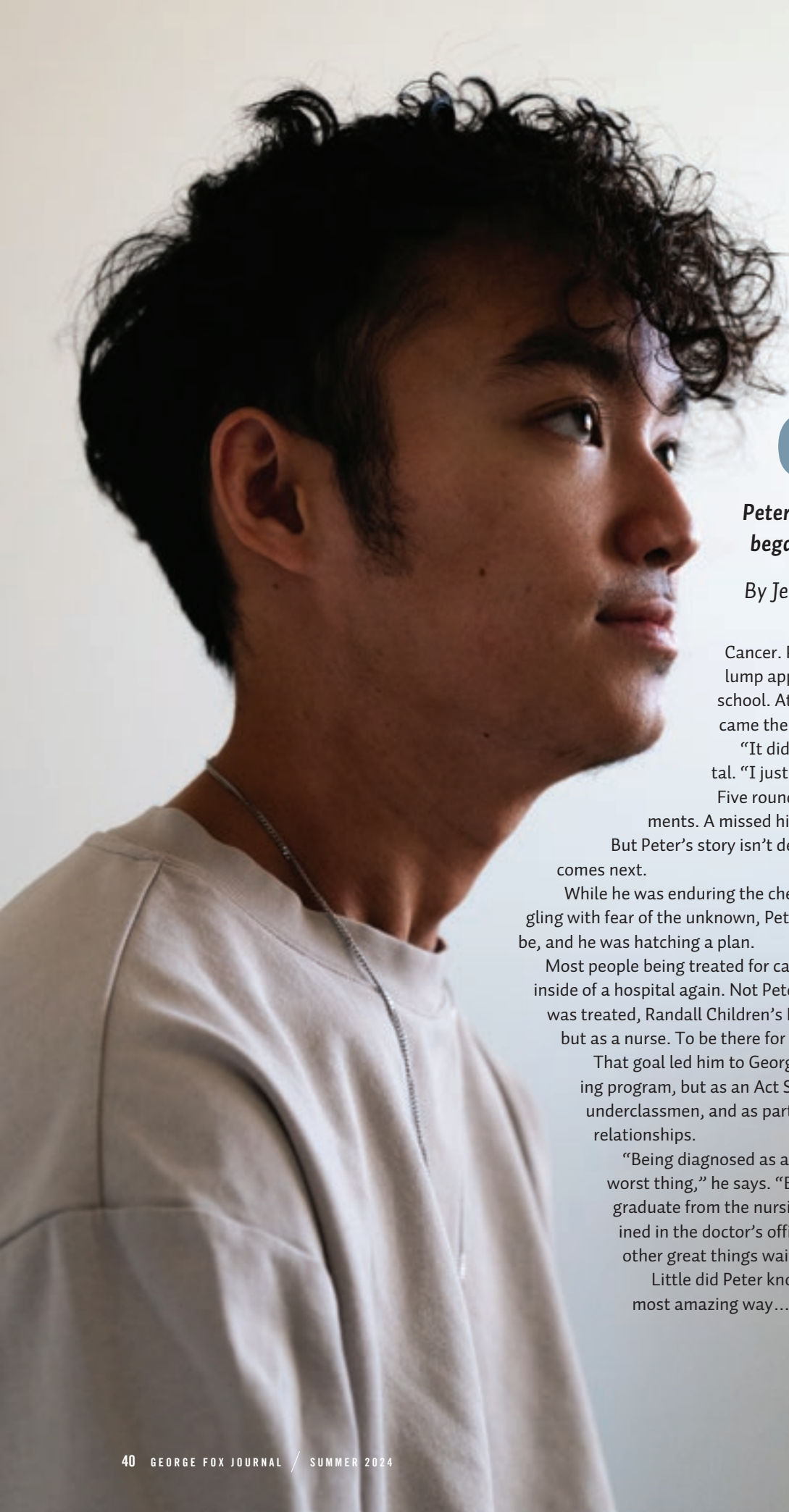


“Delivering a product to someone so unique and special as Genevieve – and just seeing how her dad loves this project so much and he’s been so helpful – this whole thing just motivates all of us to want to help more and to give them the best product we can.”
– Biomedical engineering major Alyssa Wells (right)

The Big Day: (From left to right) Todd Curtis, Alyssa Wells, Fred and Genevieve Mansfield, Nathan Boyles, Maddie Carniglia, Caleb Sawatsky and Nathan Hayward celebrate the completion of the Bouncinator 3000 project. They set it up in the backyard for the first time, allowing Genevieve to enjoy the sun and fresh air.



Watch a video with more of this Servant Engineering team’s story at georgefox.edu/Bouncinator3000



Full Circle

Peter Tran's journey to becoming a nurse began as a cancer patient

By Jeremy Lloyd and Chris Low

Cancer. Peter Tran wouldn't even say the word. The lump appeared on his neck during his junior year in high school. At first they thought it was a blood clot. Then came the diagnosis: nasopharyngeal carcinoma.

"It didn't feel real," he says of that day in the hospital. "I just recall, vividly, my dad and I were crying."

Five rounds of chemotherapy. Dozens of radiation treatments. A missed high school prom.

But Peter's story isn't defined by his battle with cancer. It's about what comes next.

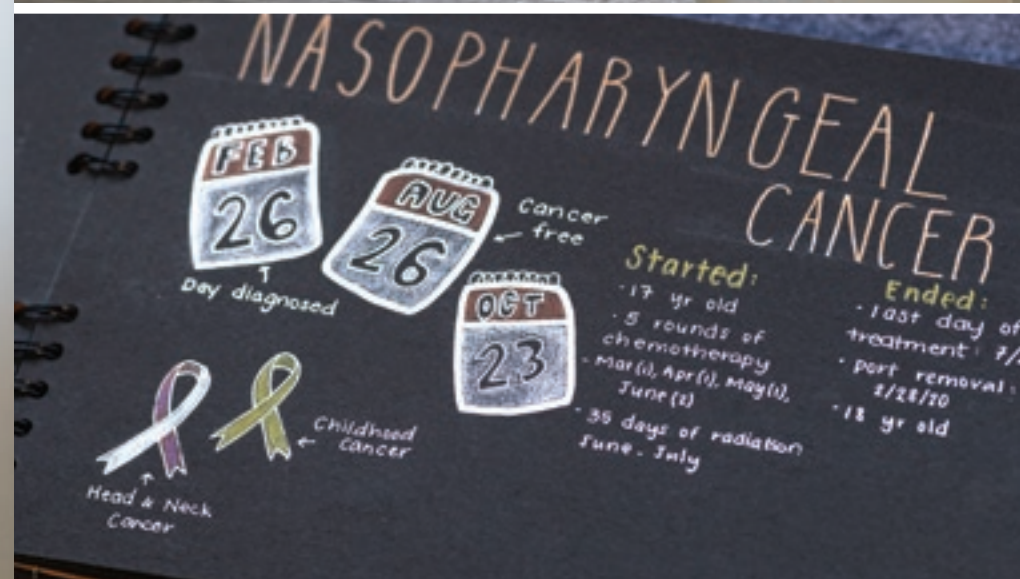
While he was enduring the chemo, his skin peeling from the radiation, struggling with fear of the unknown, Peter was also discovering who God meant him to be, and he was hatching a plan.

Most people being treated for cancer want nothing more than to never see the inside of a hospital again. Not Peter. He set a goal to return to the very place he was treated, Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel – not as a patient, but as a nurse. To be there for kids just like him.

That goal led him to George Fox, where he thrived, not just in the nursing program, but as an Act Six scholar, a resident assistant mentoring underclassmen, and as part of a community developing deep and lasting relationships.

"Being diagnosed as a 17-year-old in high school seemed like the worst thing," he says. "But to be here now at George Fox about to graduate from the nursing program is beyond what I could have imagined in the doctor's office. The key is to stay hopeful because there are other great things waiting for you."

Little did Peter know that his story would come full circle in the most amazing way...



An artist at heart, Peter kept a scrapbook from his time at Randall Children's Hospital with drawings, wrist bands, photos, names of nurses and Bible verses. "That was one way for me to be true to myself while feeling all these emotions surrounding diagnosis and cancer."





Peter kicks back in his dorm room in Newlin Hall. His senior year, he used his position as a resident assistant to organize a Halloween candy drive, delivering bags of candy with notes of encouragement to kids fighting cancer in local pediatric hospitals. "Being creative in relationships and being able to pour back into my communities while remaining grateful is a big part of my life."



Above and right: In December, Peter was invited to what he thought was a routine meeting. Instead, a surprise awaited: a placement in Randall Children's Hospital's oncology wing as part of his senior clinical rotations. "No way," he replied, in shock. He would soon be a nurse on the same floor he was once a patient.



An Act Six scholar and first-generation college student, Peter prays with friends after receiving his graduation stole at the first-gen graduation ceremony.



Peter celebrates receiving his diploma at the university's 2024 spring commencement.



"Taking on this new role, transitioning from being a patient to a student nurse, felt empowering. Being able to revisit Randall for my senior practicum was truly a gift and a blessing. I particularly enjoyed the chance to connect with patients and engage with their families."



Watch a video with more of Peter's story at georgefox.edu/PeterTran

‘Hope Dealers’

A group of George Fox students use their vocational skills in graphic design, illustration and art to serve in Philadelphia

By Sean Patterson and Hunter Bomar

Standing like a jewel amidst the rubble of the Kensington area of Pennsylvania’s largest city, the Philadelphia Dream Center has become a beacon of hope for the hopeless – the addicts, the homeless, the hungry and the trafficked.

The formerly abandoned Catholic church – complete with vaulted ceilings and ornate stained-glass windows – has been transformed into a place of restoration, healing and soul care. Through its many-faceted outreaches, including an after-school program, a food truck ministry, a nondenominational church and a human trafficking support group, the center is, as founder David Dominguez describes it, “a place where God-given dreams are awakened in the birthplace of America.”

It was into this setting that a group of George Fox graphic designers, illustrators and studio artists from the School of Communication and Design traveled this spring for a weeklong “SpiL Trip” – pilgrimages dedicated to immersing students in the contexts of others to learn and serve alongside ministry partners. Unlike previous trips, however, this marked the first time students applied the vocational skills learned in their specific major to a service project.

Among the projects tackled were graphic design services for the center’s website and print collateral, and fine art illustration work.

For graphic design major Adrienne Pena, it was an opportunity to tangibly live out the university’s Be Known promise.

“We have that promise – Be Known – and we are here saying, ‘We want this center to be known in the city of Philadelphia,’” she says. “We want people to know this place is here for them. We’re here helping them be light to this community – to be a hope to them.”

Or, in the words of Rus St. Cyr, university pastor for service and soul care, they are there to be “hope dealers.”



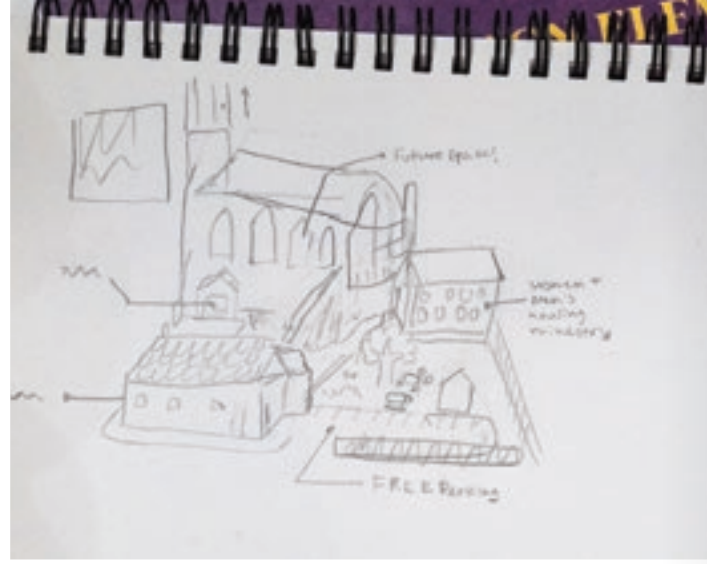
Left: Assistant Professor of Art and Design Marvin Eans and University Pastor for Service and Soul Care Rus St. Cyr, who co-lead the team of seven graphic designers, illustrators and studio artists, review design elements for the Philadelphia Dream Center.



From left to right: Adriana Bahn, Keyan Parker, Melissa Hooten, Adrienne Pena, Breanna Newburn, Eans, Leah Feller, St. Cyr and Philadelphia Dream Center volunteer Danitra Mosley share messages of encouragement with local residents.



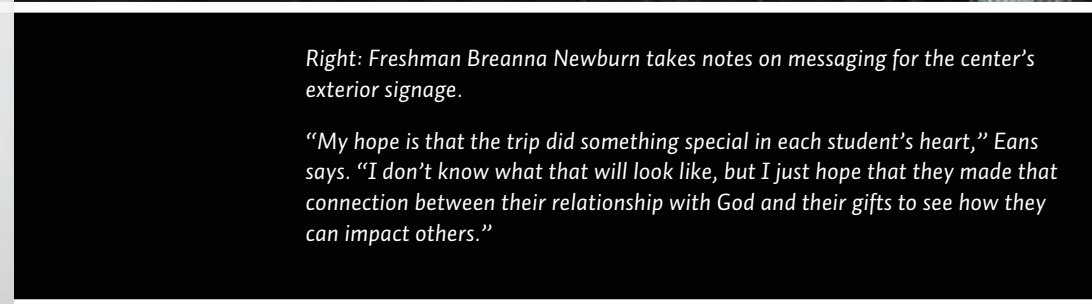
Junior Keyan Parker reads his Bible in the abandoned sanctuary of a Catholic church that now serves as the home of the Philadelphia Dream Center.



Senior Adrienne Pena looks out over the city of Philadelphia from the bell tower atop the church.



The team meets in the basement of the church to discuss their plans for the day. "Branding is a critical part of visual communication for an organization because it helps build trust," Eans says. "So we're building and establishing a strong foundation and messaging."



Right: Freshman Breanna Newburn takes notes on messaging for the center's exterior signage.

"My hope is that the trip did something special in each student's heart," Eans says. "I don't know what that will look like, but I just hope that they made that connection between their relationship with God and their gifts to see how they can impact others."



Watch a video with more about this serve trip at georgefox.edu/HopeDealers





News and Life Events | By Barry Hubbell



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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) returned to campus in September to present an award in his name to pastor and author Joshua Choonmin Kang at a free public gathering at which Kang gave a lecture, "Deep-Rooted in Christ." The award honors those whose intellectual and practical work helps others come into an ongoing transformational relationship with Christ. Kang is the founding pastor of New Life Vision Church in the Koreatown area of Los Angeles and the author of more than 80 books in Korean, including *Solitude of a Leader*, with more than 1.5 million copies in print. Foster is renowned worldwide for his book *Celebration of Discipline*, and is the founder of Renovaré.

Chuck Mylander (B64) and **Deborah Martin** (B79, M01) serve as leaders of two prayer groups that include 15 members of the George Fox Board of Trustees. They lead the groups in Scripture reading and praise, discussion about books on prayer, and prayer for George Fox University, including individual students and employees. The groups have met weekly via Zoom since 2020. "We are witnesses to the fact that God is working through this prayer group," Mylander says. "So many of our prayers get answered, often in real time."

1970-79

Glenn Ludtke (B71), who taught music in Portland public schools for 24 years until retiring in 2004, recently completed a term as president of the Rotary Club in Fayette, Missouri. He is involved at three churches – as a weekly pianist for St. Paul United Methodist Church, as a twice-a-month pianist at St. Joseph Catholic Church, and as a bell choir member at Linn Memorial United

Methodist Church. He is highly visible in the city during holidays, portraying characters like "Uncle Sam" for the Fourth of July parade and "Lenny the Leprechaun" for St. Patrick's Day.

Keith Merritt (B74), after 50 years, is still connected to his alma mater as co-coordinator of the Bruin Football Club. He retired from public education in 2007 after 35 years in four school districts, the last in the Longview (Washington) School District, where he was a middle school principal, starting in 1989. Still in Longview, Merritt co-coordinates the football club with **Pete McHugh** (B68), and teams with wife Jean to coordinate special gatherings at away games and tailgating events at home games.

Paul Koch (B79), at Olivet Nazarene University since 1992, reported last fall that the current school year would be his last, ending 32 years on the Bourbonnaise, Illinois, campus. He's also been a faculty member of the International Business Institute for 23 years, with a study-abroad program in Europe and Asia. He plans to do pulpit supply for local congregations in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

1980-89

Gayle Beebe (B81) was featured in an article, "A Presidential Journey in Pursuit of Excellence," in the Oct. 27 issue of *Higher Education Digest*. His newest book, *The Crucibles That Shape Us: Navigating the Defining Challenges of Leadership*, was published this spring by InterVarsity Press. He is in his 17th year as president of Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California.

Richard Zeller (B83) showcased his vocal talent on campus in April, performing for the George Fox Legacy League and in the university's spring concert. Acclaimed for both his concert and opera roles, the baritone is noted for his dramatic voice, compelling stage presence and musicianship. He's been an opera and concert singer worldwide for 36 years, including 11 years with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. He's currently a voice faculty member at Portland State University, starting in 2019.

Heather (Pierson) Lewis (B84) and her husband, Dennis, were honored with the 2024 Volunteer of the Year Award by the Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce in Newberg. In a February ceremony, the longtime owners of Lewis Audio Video were cited for volunteering to serve pancake breakfasts, being crossing guards, pressure washing downtown sidewalks, and donating the wall of their business for a mural supporting the George Fox/Rotary Club of Newberg art program.

Keri-Jo (Jacobson) Raz (B88) started in August as a secondary math teacher with Central Christian Schools in Redmond, Oregon, with 277 students in pre-kindergarten through high school.

1990-99

Jim Johnson (M90) last July started as a business development manager with Ciocca Cleaning and Restoration in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Previously, for 23 years, he was with 3Rivers Federal Credit Union in Fort Wayne, the last 14 as vice president for member services. He also is cofounder of First Fridays Fort Wayne, started in 2017 to bring dynamic local leaders to speak on a variety of topics.

Philip Higgins (B92) and his Pacific Crest Real Estate Advisors firm received the 2023 Business Partner of the Year Award in September, awarded by the Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR), a regional economic development organization for Oregon's Willamette Valley. The Newberg-based business was cited for exemplifying the best qualities of corporate citizenship by contributing significantly to the community.

Kurt Ronnow (B92) is special agent in charge of the counterintelligence division at the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the FBI's Washington, D.C. field office. His appointment was announced last spring, as he moved from a position as deputy assistant director of the division.

Kevin Dougherty (B93), professor of sociology at Baylor University, is co-directing a five-year study, "Churches that THRIVE for

Racial Justice,” that’s being funded by a \$1 million Lilly Endowment Inc. grant. It’s a collaboration that will connect sociologists who study race and religion with a cohort of 25 churches affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists in the U.S. Dougherty is in his 19th year at Baylor. He also is the graduate program director for the sociology department and chair of Baylor’s Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching.

Christine (Deboy) Drazan (B93) is seeking to return to her former position in the Oregon House of Representatives. A Republican, she narrowly lost the governor’s race in November of 2022, resigning her House seat of five years to run. The House minority leader from 2019 to 2021, she represented Clackamas County, where she resides in Canby. Previously, in September, she announced the establishment of A New Direction for Oregon, a nonprofit organization dedicated to “holding power to account and providing Oregonians with a more balanced approach to the challenges we face.”

Charles Harrell (B93) is completing his first year as an attorney with Sapient Law in Portland. In the previous four years, he was a chief legal officer with El Hempe Spirits in Portland, following his position as chief executive officer and founder of Compass Law, also in Portland.

Christie (Lauinger) Wheatley (B94) is using her degree in sociology/social work as the independent living social service coordinator at Friendsview Retirement Community in Newberg. She started in August, supporting residents with care management. She has worked with care facilities in the Portland area for 28 years.

Natalie (Schumacher) Goff (B95) is an English teacher at Keiser University in San Marcos, Nicaragua, where she and her husband, a seminary teacher, are independent missionaries. She’s taught English for 17 years, starting in Portland, then in Germany at Black Forest Academy, before a return to Portland and the move to Nicaragua in 2019.

Derick Mitchell (B95, M98) is now vice president of talent and culture with the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative in Clackamas, Oregon. It operates Oregon’s statewide beverage container return system on behalf of beverage distributors. He started in January of 2023 after two years

as manager/senior human resources business partner with Cambia Health Solutions in Portland.

Robert Gebhardt (M97) has joined the leadership team at Brenner Certified Public Accountants in Salem, Oregon. He started in the spring of 2023 after just over a year as chief operating officer and vice president of finance and administration at Western Seminary in Portland.

Petra Hoy (M98) in November was given Woman of the Year designation in the Spokane, Washington, area by the *Spokesman-Review* newspaper. She was one of 14 named, recognized for her founding and leadership of Be the Change 509 – Eastside Gladiators, a grassroots nonpartisan organization dedicated to building a more kind and inclusive community.

Donovan Mattole (B98) is now headquartered in New York City, starting in December as the chief human resources officer with Langan Engineering and Environmental Services. He moved from his eight-year position in Philadelphia, where he was vice president of human resources with Brenntag, a global distributor of chemicals and ingredients.

Jessica (Wilson) Smith (B98) and **Phil Smith** (B98) live in Warrenville, Illinois, while he is president/CEO of First Love International Ministries in Loves Park, Illinois. He started in 2023 with the non-denominational missions agency. Previously, for more than two years, he was director of global partnerships with Accessible Hope International in Wheaton, Illinois, a faith-based nonprofit that specializes in assisting those with disabilities. She is using her education degree by homeschooling their children, advising other educators, and volunteering at a local Christian school.

Rose (Linn) Bernards (M99, B96) is now managing director with the Seattle office of the Alvarez & Marsal Healthcare Industry Group, a consulting firm working with turnaround management and corporate restructuring. Previously, for nearly 16 years, she was with Optum, which provides technology, pharmacy and direct healthcare services.

Kristi (Cash) White (M99) in August became interim director of the master of arts in counseling program at Multnomah

University in Portland, while also serving as an assistant professor. She also resumed her private practice, Kristi Cash White Counseling, which she operated for 10 years until 2019, when she joined LifeStance Health in Gresham, Oregon, for four years.

Wade Neiwert (B99), after 19 years as a professor of chemistry and department chair at Bethel University in Arden Hills, Minnesota, has left for a new position in industry. He started in January as general manager and senior scientist with Higher Dimension Materials in Oakdale, Minnesota, the manufacturer of a special fabric, SuperFabric, with customers that include 3M.

John Nelson (B99), after three years as an electronics engineering manager with Electrolux in Hangzhou, China, is now in Boise, Idaho, where in October he began a position as a remote support engineer with HP Inc.

Eric Thompson (B99, Mo4) authored *Strong Like Wildflowers*, a 344-page Christian contemporary fiction paperback, released last June. He’s starting his third year as a research director for global supply chain planning at IDC (International Data Corporation) in Portland.

2000–09

J.J. Arthur (Boo) has been promoted to vice president of nuclear steam supply system engineering with NuScale Power in Corvallis, Oregon, which designs and markets small modular reactors. He has been with the firm since 2010, moving up through five positions to the VP level while completing a program for leadership development at Harvard Business School for executive education.

Michael Dahl (Boo, Mo2) has switched careers and is now a pastor, starting in April of 2023, at Gresham Bible Church, serving east Multnomah County, Oregon. He was named after just over two years as associate pastor. Previously, for more than 10 years, he was in the insurance business with Standard, Aetna and The Hartford in the Portland area.

Aron Depew (Boo) started last June as a general surgeon with the healthcare services

Walking Alongside the Disadvantaged

As marketing coordinator for the Union Gospel Mission of Salem, Josh Hren serves the local homeless population while inspiring others to do the same

By Emmy King

Josh Hren (B23) has always had a heart for the homeless. Growing up, he volunteered with the local mission at his church, helping to feed the hungry in his community. He even dreamed of one day opening his own soup kitchen.

“I’ve always had a passion for that community, for showing them compassion, whatever that looks like,” he says.

As graduation approached and it was time to start his job search, Hren felt that anything short of landing a job in the corporate world would be a failure. “I thought that if I didn’t do some big, shocking thing, my work would mean nothing,” he says. So he turned his focus to those jobs. But soon, he began to reassess his values.

“One night I was sitting on the couch and I pulled up the Union Gospel Mission of Salem website, and I felt this nudge,” he recalls. “I had driven past the Mission building before, and I had felt like it could be a great opportunity to continue pursuing that passion I had as a kid. So I thought to myself, ‘You know what? Just drop the act. Do something that you enjoy and everything else will follow.’”

Hren applied for a marketing position at the Mission and was hired right after graduation. Immediately, he felt at peace about his decision. Today, as the marketing and public relations coordinator for the nonprofit, he gets to use his marketing skills to help those who need it most, combining his career with the calling he’d felt since he was a child.

“When guests come to the Mission, we provide them with meals and safe shelter,” Hren explains. “But beyond that, we help people navigate state services, find sustainable jobs, and provide them with one-on-one counseling. We provide opportunities for them to experience true life change, free from homelessness.”

In his position, Hren creates marketing initiatives and works with the Mission staff to educate the broader Salem community about the work they’re doing for the homeless population. His storytelling work helps raise awareness, as well as much-needed funds, for their operations.

“I interact with the community and figure out ways to educate them while inspiring them to support us through volunteering, through prayers, through giving,” he says.



The work varies greatly from day to day, based on the Union Gospel Mission’s marketing and PR needs. It’s an environment where Hren feels right at home, thanks in part to his experiences at George Fox.

“When I went to Fox, I knew I wanted to get involved in as many different pockets as I could,” he says. “I learned how to communicate because I was able to dive into those different pockets and meet so many people with different personalities. But it’s also about confidence – George Fox allows students to feel confident and valued in whatever they’re pursuing.”

One of the most important things Hren learned during his time on campus was how to be bold and get out of his comfort zone. If he hadn’t first pushed himself to apply for the Union Gospel Mission job, he wouldn’t be engaging in the important restorative work he is today.

“Just go out there and try things,” is the advice Hren gives to current students he stays in contact with. “Find your joy, find what gets you excited and what you look forward to. Find something that excites you and gives life.”

Continued on page 52



provider Optum, affiliated with several hospitals in Redlands, California. Previously, he was a general surgeon with the Beaver Medical Group in Redlands for nearly five years.

Holly Thomas-Mowery (Boo, Mo4) is an associate broker with Homes of Idaho, Inc., in Boise. She started in November, moving from a similar position with Fathom Realty, also in Boise, after two and a half years. She also has her own business, in its 29th year, as a sign language interpreter, consultant, and conference interpreting coordinator and presenter.

Debbie (Ross) Taylor (Boo) in January became the new executive director of the 300-member Madras-Jefferson County (Oregon) Chamber of Commerce. An 18-year resident of the area, Taylor spent the last three years placing student interns with local businesses in her role as internship coordinator with Economic Development for Central Oregon.

Nathan Goff (Bo1) is chief product officer with ClearlyRated, a Portland business he cofounded in 2008. He reports that a year ago his company, to accelerate growth, agreed to a majority investment by Software Growth Partners, a Silicon Valley-based investment firm focusing on software companies. ClearlyRated helps business-to-business services firms measure the client and employee experience with satisfaction surveys.

Aaron Gapasin (Bo1, M12) is Newberg's Amazing Educator for 2024, named in March by the *Newberg Graphic* newspaper, which chooses city winners nominated by district educators. He's in his ninth year as an eighth-grade teacher at Chehalem Valley Middle School.

Amanda Sue Harris (Bo1) is back on campus – for a third time – now as an administrative assistant in the Department of Biological and Molecular Sciences. She started in January of 2023 after a 16-year hiatus to stay home with her children. She was an administrative assistant in the performing arts department from 2002 to 2005.

Tasha Burlini-Olson (Mo1) is starting her second year as director of quality assurance, food safety and research development with the Galloway Company, in a new position that combines previously separate depart-

ments. She moved 250 miles east from River Falls, Wisconsin, where for the previous 12 years she was director of quality and food safety with Fiberstar, Inc., a producer of citrus fiber products.

Kendra (Heinrichs) Jones (Bo2, Mo6) started in September at Southwest Christian School in Beaverton, Oregon, where she teaches fourth grade at the non-denominational school of 240.

Jennifer (Hansen) Kercher (Mo2), a teacher at Walker Middle School in Salem, Oregon, was named the Oregon Music Educators Association's Outstanding Middle School Educator for 2023. She is the professional learning community leader for the middle school choir in the Salem-Keizer School District, as well as the choral chair for the OMEA D4 (Marion and Polk counties).

Daniel Russell (Bo2) has been promoted to aviation support facility commander with the Oregon Military Department. He's now in his second year commanding Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Pendleton, Oregon, for the Oregon Army National Guard. It is one of two such facilities and is where CH-47F (Chinook) helicopters are based. In June of 2022, he completed a master's degree in operation studies at the Army Command General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Matthew Chandler (Bo3) has shifted from Notre Dame to Princeton University, where he started in September as research data infrastructure services lead, moving from research data service manager after a year. He started at Princeton in 2019 after being a postdoctoral research associate for a year following graduation from Notre Dame in 2018 with a PhD in sociology and peace studies.

Nick Chapman (Bo3) has moved up from northwest regional manager to director of operations for the Western United States with the Skyhawks Sports Academy. He began in September after starting with the company in 2019 as an area manager in Spokane, Washington, where he resides. The company offers 15 sports for 3- to 12-year-olds in summer camps and year-round after school.

Krista (Bibby) Herling (Bo3, Mo5) is with the Pinnacles Prep Charter School in Wenatchee, Washington, starting last

August as a math intervention specialist before teaching Spanish and eighth- and ninth-grade math this year. She is also chair of the Malaga Water District for the unincorporated nearby city of 600 where she lives. In that role, she is guiding the district in an infrastructure expansion – spending nearly \$40 million in the first phase – as it prepares to supply water for Microsoft to construct six new data centers that will use more than twice the amount of water the district now uses in the summer.

Derric Howard (Bo3) is in London as head of underwriting transformation with WTF (formerly Willis Towers Watson), in his second year with the British-American multinational insurance services company. It's a move in the same city after more than 11 years with the Zurich Insurance Group.

Nicholas Ryland (Bo3) has been promoted to lead driving instructor with the Colorado Springs Police Department, where he's been an officer for 18 years. He also is founder and president of Blue First, created to provide spiritual and physical respite to help first responders get away from daily routines to focus on relaxing and being refreshed in God's word.

Josh Hunter (Bo4) is in his second year as senior manager, project management with Gilead Sciences, a biopharmaceutical firm in Foster City, California.

Nicole (Bostic) Killian (Bo4, Bo9) in February was named the new head volleyball coach at Great Falls (Montana) High School. She worked last fall as an assistant at Great Falls and previously was an assistant at Sherwood, Barlow and Reynolds high schools in Oregon.

David Malcolm (Bo4, Mo7) has returned to one of his alma maters, Cascade Christian Middle School in Medford, Oregon, where he teaches science courses for the school of 160. He started in August after previously teaching at South Medford High School.

Vic Napier (Mo4) is a financial services consultant in Tucson, Arizona, starting last August. Previously, he was with Sabino Research and Consulting for nearly 19 years, the last 13 years as owner.

Brenda (Dizer) Smith (Mo4) is chief marketing officer with Elyon International, an IT solutions and management consulting firm for

Continued on page 55

This is
Joy



Location: Hadlock Student Center climbing wall

"I love climbing, because it's not something that only certain people can do, it's something that everyone can do. Sometimes you'll come in and you'll see people of all different sizes, who come from different places, and they're all doing the same thing – they're all trying to get to the top."

Jeremy Ocanas

Sophomore cinematic arts major



Leaning Into the Awkward

A tapestry of experiences has defined Ameena Djanga's time at George Fox – both as a student and an alumna *By Joanna Nesbit*



When **Ameena (Bossier) Djanga** (B15) arrived for Welcome Weekend at George Fox at the start of her freshman year, she remembers hearing an important piece of advice: get comfortable with the awkward.

"I still think about that to this day," she says. "Asking for help feels awkward. Not knowing something feels awkward. But if you're feeling awkward, chances are, so is somebody else. Just own it."

The Southern Californian had her pick of colleges, but George Fox scholarships vaulted the school to the top of her list. When she and her dad visited, he was so comfortable with the campus he almost left her behind, Djanga says. It's still a family joke.

But college in rural Oregon was bumpy at first, requiring her to lean into that awkward. Not only was she a first-generation college student, Djanga was also a Black student on a majority-white campus in a small town in the Pacific Northwest – far from the sun, cuisine and diversity of her California home in the Mojave Desert. "It was definitely a culture shock," she says. There were homesick calls home, but her parents were firm.

So Djanga dug into college, and as she did, she discovered an open-mindedness of spirit within herself that would lead to personal, academic, and later, professional connections. She made good friends, played volleyball, and landed a campus library job she adored

so much she stuck with it all four years. The two staff members she worked for even attended her wedding when she married fellow George Fox alumnus **Joseph Djanga** (B16). Along the way, May service trips to Nicaragua and Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) built interpersonal skills and international friendships.

She also dove into two majors, studio arts and global business, which allowed her to blend her love of art, people, business and culture. Global business led her to her current job at Nike as an information security analyst and strategic business analyst. The role draws on her abilities to organize, manage projects and talk to different kinds of people. In between, she continues to paint, draw and create artwork on commission.

Her path to Nike wasn't a straight one. After graduation, Djanga worked at several marketing firms, and along the way pursued a master's degree in museum studies and a certificate in non-profit management from Johns Hopkins University.

But every job and every personal choice contributes to a tapestry of experiences that enhance opportunities in unexpected ways, Djanga believes.

"People like to separate the world of art and business, and my three degrees don't make sense to them – my master's degree in museum studies seems so random," she says. "But for me, it's been this fun journey, and I find that every job I've had has, in some way, related to or been helpful to the next job or the next venture in ways I never would have expected."

Volunteering with student organizations contributed to that tapestry as well. At George Fox, Djanga peer-mentored new students and volunteered with RISE, a national group with campus chapters. She also turned her senior art show into a successful networking event for students by inviting artists from all fields to participate in a session about career possibilities with an art degree.

"Ameena's boldness in inviting professionals to campus for her event was just the beginning of a larger industry connection we fostered within the art and design department," says professor Chandler Brutscher.

Even bad interviews can boost confidence and lead to deep friendships, she knew from experience – two more reasons to lean into the

awkward. Djanga will always be grateful to the library staffer-turned-friend who took a chance on her "even after I gave the worst interview of my life."

Once it was her turn to give back, Djanga has stayed connected to students and colleagues in several ways – her experiences as an alumna just as varied as when she was a student.

She served on the alumni board of directors for three years, from 2020 to 2023, and piloted an alumni-to-student mentoring program through the Black Student Union. "I know what it's like to live in a state and go to a school where you don't see a lot of professionals who look like you," she says.

Djanga attends networking events when she's able, including in recent years a RISE event and an alumni lunch at Nike. She recalls with gratitude the alumni who spoke on campus about careers and work experiences, and she enjoys sharing her professional experience with students. She also remains in touch with the university's Department of Art and Design, participating in an alumni art show and popping in to say hi when she can.

These days, with a busy toddler and a baby on the way, Djanga has less time to give, but she likes to connect with George Fox students when she's able, and she's happy to talk to any student who wants career tips. Reaching out to alumni can feel difficult, she knows, but she encourages students to try it. Likewise, she encourages alumni to consider showing up for students.

"At the end of the day, students appreciate your time and the fact that you're willing to share your experiences," she says. "You just never know the impact you're going to have on a student that can really change the trajectory of their life."

Alumni, are you interested in mentoring a George Fox student? Email alumni@georgefox.edu or call 503-554-2110.

commercial and government clients, headquartered in Vancouver, Washington. She is in her second year, working remotely from Nashville, Tennessee, after serving more than 11 years in her own consulting firm, BR Smith, as an economic equity strategist.

Enrika Weniger (Mo4) is in her second year as director of credit and contracts with PNW Railcars Inc., in Portland, after starting with the firm in 2019 as a credit and contract manager. She's also an indoor cycling instructor with the Sherwood (Oregon) YMCA, in her 10th year.

Fairlight (Ankeny) Morelli (Bo5) and her husband, Aaron, gained attention in October with their service project to help a widow with her home and property needs. Through the Both Hands organization, they gathered friends and relatives to assist, each sending letters to raise sponsorship for their day of service. Money raised for Both Hands is used to financially help families adopt orphans. The Morellis have been cleared to adopt an orphan from Colombia and are awaiting a match.

Michael Chaney (Bo5) and **Jessica (Johnson) Chaney** (Bo9) live in Dallas, Oregon, on a 170-acre cattle farm, with Michael working at George Fox and Jessica working in Salem, Oregon. He started on campus in January as a student account specialist and Veterans Affairs certifying official in the Office of Student Accounts. For the last decade he's owned his own business, Silver Fox Photography, specializing in weddings and projects. She is a pediatric nurse practitioner with Childhood Health Associates in Salem, in her 14th year.

Bob Harding (Mo5) started in September as chief commercial officer with OnPoint Community Credit Union in Portland, providing financial services for businesses and nonprofits. He joined after one year as a regional manager with First Republic Bank in Portland.

Alice (Long) Knotts (Bo5) started last July as a consultant pharmacist with the Cornerstone Whole Health Care Organization Inc. in Payette, Idaho, a nonprofit serving rural and vulnerable populations. She moved after more than three years with Kootenai Health in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Jerry Orr (Bo5, Mo9) is now a senior quality assurance manager with Curtiss Wright/

PacStar in Tigard, Oregon, a developer and supplier of advanced, interoperable tactical and enterprise communications systems. He started in August after more than eight years with Vanguard EMS in Beaverton, Oregon.

Evangeline Pattison (Bo5) just completed her first year with The FOCUS Group, a Christian-based firm, based in St. Augustine, Florida, that prepares organizations for and helps them conduct capital campaigns. She is vice president for client services, a senior consultant and director of project management, living in Camas, Washington.

Matthew Smith (Bo5) last fall won a seat on the Chehalem Park & Recreation District Board to serve a three-year term. He is in his 19th year as a senior technical claims specialist with Liberty Mutual, handling complex workers' compensation claims and managing litigation and complicated medical issues to bring claims to resolution.

Cynthia (Bonner) Wall (Bo5) is completing her second year as an accounting manager with PAE in Portland, a sustainable engineering design firm. Previously, for nearly four years, she was with the Newberg School District as a counseling secretary.

Bryan Cobb (Bo6) is now associate professor of math, computer science and physics at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia, starting last fall after eight years as an assistant professor at North Park University in Chicago. Holding a PhD in biomedical engineering from Virginia Tech, he is helping build a new engineering program at Roanoke.

Perla Rodriguez (Do6), after 25 years in the Forest Grove (Oregon) School District, has moved to a position in the nearby Beaverton School District, where she started in June as a K-8 executive administrator.

Evan Schanzenbach (Bo6), in his fifth year at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, last year began work as a curriculum and technology specialist after three and a half years as a curriculum coordinator.

Jason Twyman (Mo6) last July was promoted to second vice president of policyholder services in employee benefits with the Standard Insurance Company in Portland. He has been in 10 positions with the insurance company over 25 years.



Donna Anderson (Bo7, M2o) started last fall as a literary specialist at the Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School in Beaverton, Oregon, after a year teaching kindergarten in the Tigard-Tualatin (Oregon) School District.

Kyle Ashley (no7) is in Austin, Texas, heading two businesses. He is owner/founder, since 2010, of Green Building Energy Services, providing retrofit upgrades and energy-efficient services to builders and owners of new construction projects. Last year, he started BGA Holdings, a residential real estate firm that invests in single and multi-family homes in underprivileged and underserved communities.

Brian Bailey (Bo7) is in his second year as a business solutions program manager with the J.R. Simplot Company in Boise, Idaho, after working as a senior project manager for a year with the international food and agricultural company.

Sara Johnson (Do7) in April was named superintendent of the High Desert Education Service District, which serves the Central Oregon school districts of Bend-La Pine, Redmond, Sisters, Crook County and Jefferson County. Scheduled to start in July at the Redmond headquarters, she previously was superintendent of the Crook County School District for five years, until 2023. An educator for 32 years, she has the rare distinction of being named both Oregon's Principal of the Year (2007) and Superintendent of the Year (2023).

Isaac Moffett (Bo7) is in Buhl, Idaho, as an insurance representative with American Income Life, starting in January. Last year, he was a youth program director with the U.S. Department of Defense at a youth center in North Dakota following four years in Idaho as a middle and high school principal.

Timothy Nelson (Bo7) in January became a partner at Delap, a 135-employee tax, business and wealth advisory firm in Lake Oswego, Oregon. He's been with the firm since graduation.

Rachel (Borgman) Samuelson (Bo7) last May started her own business, Breath Point Digital Marketing, in Long Beach, Washington. Providing services on LinkedIn, she helps with content strategy, email marketing, lead generation and social media marketing.

Brady Webb (Mo7) is now general manager of Freelin-Wade, starting last June, moving up from plant and operations manager after nearly three years. He's been with the company for more than 18 years. Located in McMinnville, Oregon, it is North America's largest independent manufacturer of plastic tubing and hoses for industries.

Michael Carr (Mo8) is starting his second year as chief information officer with Health First in Space Coast, Florida. He started with the not-for-profit community health system as vice president/chief technical officer and chief information security officer in Melbourne, Florida, in 2020, after more than four years in Portland with Legacy Health as vice president of information systems technology.

Holly Fay (Bo8) has returned to Oregon Health & Science University, starting in September as a nurse practitioner with the melanoma team. She was at OHSU for nearly five years, until 2015, as a registered nurse coordinator.

Ryan Fobert (Bo8) started in August as an assistant baseball coach at George Fox. He's been a business teacher at Mountainside High School in Beaverton, Oregon, since 2017.

Peter Jackman (Bo8) is using his mechanical engineering degree at SRAM, a designer and manufacturer of bicycle components. He's at the company's Colorado Springs, Colorado, location, one of five in the U.S., now in his second year as a test manager after starting as a test engineer in 2019.

Rick Janosek (Bo8) last June became a lead wear test analyst, global sports apparel, with Nike in Portland. He's been with the sportswear company since 2014.

Jonathan Putnam (Bo8) started in October as a certified endpoint supervisor with Tecology, Inc., a Vancouver, Washington, firm that provides core IT services to businesses. Earlier, for more than six years, he was a desktop support team lead with Portland-based Northwest Evaluation Associates.

Chloe (Hamann) Verdick (Bo8), who majored in Christian ministries, is using her degree in Karamoja, Uganda, where she's an accountant with the Orthodox Presbyterian Uganda Mission. It features a clinic, church

services, educational outreach and community health programs. Her husband is a clinic administrator. They just completed their 12th year with the mission.

Amanda Westphal (Bo8) has a small paint and wine night business, Painting with Mandy, based in McMinnville, Oregon. She is also president of St. Bezzies Art Collab, a non-profit started a year ago, created with the goal of providing curriculum and supplies for groups to participate in healing through art. Recently, she partnered with Mi Casa International in El Salvador to help 30 children in an orphanage there, establishing a \$4,000 fundraising goal for a trip last spring.

Emily Alverson (Mo9), after 13 years in the Tillamook (Oregon) School District, has moved to the Central School District in Monmouth, Oregon, where she is a kindergarten teacher at Monmouth Elementary School.

Jessica Dietlein (Bo9) is a senior subaward compliance officer with Mercy Corps, based in Portland. She started in October after living in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, for more than a year as an associate reporting officer with UNHCR, the UN refugee agency. Previously, she was in international positions in Amman, Jordan, and London.

Aubrie (Langenhuizen) McNeal (Bo9) moved with her family in August to San Salvador, El Salvador, where she's a first-grade teacher with Escuela Americana, a private, coeducational, bilingual school system that teaches classes in English. Previously, she worked for 15 years as an academic interventionist at Adams 12 Five Star Schools in Denver. She plans on a two-year stay in El Salvador.

Danette Newkirk (Bo9) is back on campus, starting in the spring as an administrative assistant in the occupational therapy doctorate program. Previously, from 2003 to 2016, she was with the university's marketing communications office, starting as a coordinator and ending as the advertising and design studio manager.

Vladimir Tkach (Bo9) started his own business in the fall of 2022 as a private accountant in Charlotte, North Carolina, then last year acquired a small CPA firm from a retiree. He transitioned from nearly nine years with Daimler Truck North America, where he was a sales controlling manager.

This is
Joy

"This act of stepping out in faith brought me so much joy. I received so much love and encouragement from my friends both before and after I was baptized. It was so uplifting to have so many wonderful humans come to build me up and celebrate my Savior with me."

Abigail Curtis

Sophomore music major and youth ministry minor



Location: Outside the Murdock Library



Leading With Hope

Portland Police Chief Bob Day draws from his own experience of loss to inspire hope for the city's future

By Rachel Brumfield



Bob Day (B18) doesn't take the main highway into work. Instead, he often drives the side roads, remembering the calls he's taken over the years. With the police radio on in the background, he reflects on where he's been and why – 34 years after being sworn in as a police officer – he's still serving the city of Portland.

Day started his career in law enforcement in 1988 and joined the Portland Police Bureau in 1990. He worked his way up the ranks from sergeant to lieutenant, captain, commander and finally deputy chief before his retirement in 2019.

Then last fall his passion for the city propelled him back to work, to serve as Portland's new chief of police.

"I love the city of Portland," he says. "I care deeply about this community. I've served here for nearly three decades, so I've put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into it – literally."

It's no secret that Portland has had a rough past few years. From *New York Times* headlines to the worsening fentanyl crisis, many might view the situation as hopeless. But Day's own experience of loss has given him new eyes to look for hope where others might not.

"I'm here because of a sense of purpose and a desire," he says. "There is a great deal of uncertainty ahead, but I would rather be engaged and pressing into that than waiting to see what happens."

Day brings decades of leadership experience. Even before serving as deputy chief, he had led large-scale events, encountered critical incidents and faced numerous challenging situations throughout his career. He received his bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and management from George Fox in 2018, and spent his brief retirement consulting on key issues like behavioral health, public safety and policing for the mayor's office, as well as leading workshops and keynotes for his consulting company, Reluctant Change.

But it was a particularly painful season in 2016 that shaped his perspective as a leader.

That year, Day was part of an investigation into the unethical behavior of his boss, and was reassigned in a very public transition. Though his name was cleared, the experience shook him.

Then, his 15-year-old son, Sam, passed away after a six-year battle

with cancer.

"Losing Sam cracked me open in a way that I wasn't prepared for," Day says. "It really challenged a lot of how I saw the world, how I showed up, what I valued and believed in."

"All of the hurt in that season reminded me of the fragility of all these things that we put our identity in. It prepared me with a different attitude and understanding of what I want to be about and how I want to show up as a leader. It's given me a great deal of empathy for others."

He remembers a pivotal moment, early in his son's diagnosis. He was standing in the kitchen with his wife, uncertain if he had enough faith that God would heal his son.

"My wife said, 'I don't think faith is believing God will do what we ask. Faith is believing God will be who he says he is. He says he's merciful, says he's gracious, kind and forgiving,'" Day recalls. "And that's how God showed up. We decided we were going to live with hope."

Together, their family pursued treatment for Sam all over the country, meeting with doctors in Dallas, Houston, Seattle and Santa Monica, California. To them, hope wasn't naive optimism about the future, but having something to strive for.

"Even though we lost Sam, we don't regret ever living with hope,"

Day says. "Hope is active. Hope is moving toward a goal. It was so much better than sitting around and waiting to see what was going to happen. It created energy and momentum for us to take risks and seize moments when he was healthy, and when he wasn't, to manage and make the best of it."

Now, Day is taking what he's learned about resilience and hope to Portland. Stepping away from the profession for four years gave him space to see things in a different light. He's well aware of the challenges the city faces, but he's more prepared than he's ever been to lead with hope.

"I entered into conversations and relationships that I never would've gone to as a police officer – places of great uncomfotability, dissidence and difficulty – and made myself curious and available. Building on some of those things that I learned when I was in the program at George Fox, it positioned me to be able to come back."

As police chief, he is challenging his staff of over 1,100 to move forward with hope and be a part of something significant for the region.

"We have a responsibility as public servants," he says. "We're part of this community. Our actions impact the community and the community impacts us. Why not be a part of the solution, whatever that might be?"

Day has ambitious goals for the bureau, including transforming the dynamic between the police and those they serve, for starters. But he says in all the years he's been connected to Portland, he's never seen such a combination of effort and resources to help the city move forward.

"The community as a whole – whether it's elected leaders, business leaders, people in marginalized communities – we're poised to tell a different story," he says. "We're moving toward that goal. A year from now, why can't we be a story of resilience and strength?"

To some, that might seem like blind optimism. But Day has been around long enough to know the difference.

"I have experienced that, even in the midst of sorrow, there can be joy and opportunity."

2010–19

Brett Gage (M10) is now with HF Foods Group Inc. in Las Vegas, a distributor of food products, primarily to Asian and Chinese restaurants. He started in May 2023 as a system administrator. Previously, he was with Blue Cross of Idaho for nearly seven years as a finance systems manager.

Connie Haney (M10) has moved from California to Kirkland, Washington, where she started in October with Acumatica as total awards director, helping design, implement and administer compensation and benefits programs. It is a cloud enterprise resource planning software provider. Previously, she was director of people operations with Teknova in Hollister, California.

Ryan Hawkins (M10) in March was named permanent superintendent of the Nyssa (Oregon) School District after being named interim superintendent in July of 2023.

Hannah Mills (B10) is a communications and public involvement specialist with the city of Gresham, Oregon. She's in her second year after working more than nine years as a public involvement specialist with Portland consulting firm JLA Public Involvement.

Russ Pierson (M10, D12, D22), after seven years as dean of the Florence (Oregon) Center of Lane Community College in Eugene, is now dean of humanities for the main campus while continuing as dean of the Florence and Cottage Grove centers. He has been with LCC for 14 years.

Stephen Poepppe (B10) started in February as a senior advisor with Provarity, a software development company that helps businesses run more profitably, based in Pleasanton, California. He moved from a position as chief customer officer with AI EdgeLabs.

Melissa Rogers (B10) started in October as a human resources business partner with American Credit Acceptance in Meridian, Idaho. She left a 16-year position with T-Mobile, the last seven as a learning and development manager.

Scott Culbertson (B11) is director of retail sales at Mental Mojo, a supplier of nootropic supplements said to improve focus, memory and energy. He's in his second year with

the Scottsdale, Arizona, company, running all retail sales and distribution for the commercial side of the business. He's also creating an indoor dog park and bar, Cool Paws, in Gilbert, Arizona.

Margaret Evans (M11) is a certified professional Enneagram coach, with her own business involving a personality testing system based on core motivations, fears and virtues. She started last July after nearly four years as an independent licensed professional counselor in Beaverton, Oregon.

Nathan Swenson-Reinhold (D11) was honored by McPherson College with a Young Alumni Award, one of five alumni recognized in October. He is a partner in GSB Fundraising in Frisco, Texas, and also the owner and leader of Summit Coaching and Behavioral Consulting in Frisco.

Ashley Brown (B12) started in February as a registered nurse with Center for Lifetime Health, a medical group practice in Boise, Idaho. Previously, she was with St. Luke's Health System in Boise for nearly eight years before taking a five-month career break that included hiking the Camino Frances pilgrimage route.

William Gibson (D12) is in his second year with Helping Education in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he is president and chief executive officer. It is a nonprofit seeking to empower historically marginalized students through evidence-based programs. Previously, he was in Seattle as chief strategy officer and managing partner with Sustineri Group.

Joshua Rice (B12) started last spring as lead SOAR (security, orchestration, automation and response) engineer with Booz Allen Hamilton, an American government and military contractor specializing in intelligence. He lives in Rosemount, Minnesota, and previously was a security operations center lead with Fanatics, Inc. He's also in his eighth year with the Minnesota Army National Guard as a cyber operations specialist.

Jason Rogers (B12) is in his second year as an operations manager with Medical Teams International, based in Tigard, Oregon. He joined the faith-based organization that provides lifesaving medical care for people in crisis in 2019. He was the U.S. programs disaster response manager before his promotion.



Brandon Taft (B12) has started his own company, Proximity Construction, in Newberg, based on 10 years of experience that started with building zip lines, aerial adventure parks and custom tree houses. He is expanding that niche knowledge to general construction, especially outdoor spaces.

Tracy Berg (B13) received a master's degree in social work from Arizona State University in December. It matches her field of work: She is social services director at Marquis Hope Village in Canby, Oregon.

Michele Biehler (M13) is the new business manager with Hubbell Communications, a 10-year-old public affairs and public relations firm in Portland, overseeing fiscal operations. She started in March after 19 years in the real estate industry in the Portland area.

Todd Crist (M13) in February was announced as the new head football coach at Tigard (Oregon) High School. He coached at the Class 6A Three Rivers League school of 1,350 for 17 years and was the team's assistant coach last fall.

Elsy Dinvil (B13, M22) gained Portland metro-area attention in September when KGW-TV featured her and her business, Creole Me Up. Started in 2017, it produces organic, allergen-free and overall healthy Haitian-style condiments, spreads, marinades and sauces sold in farmers' markets seasonally and year-round, and in 11 retail stores, including New Seasons Market. Born in Haiti, she also teaches Haitian cuisine, provides catering services, and has authored the book *Cooking With My Mother*, a guide to home cooking through stories and recipes.

Kirsten (Kiki) Litchford (B13) in August was named new director of business and professional development for LeadingAge Florida, based in Tallahassee. Previously, she served as the chapter and education manager at the Florida Assisted Living Association. LeadingAge is a community of nonprofit aging services providers and other mission-driven organizations serving older adults.

Veronica Palmer (B13) was elected to the Dayton (Oregon) School District Board for a three-year term in November, helping guide the district in which she attended school. She is a labor and delivery nurse at the Legacy Silverton (Oregon) Medical Center.

Drew Van der Werff (B13) was on campus in February to speak on "Crypto and Your Gift is Someone Else's Miracle," a presentation of the College of Business' ongoing Reiten Lecture Series. He is a deal partner with a focus on technical infrastructure and decentralized finance at BH Digital, the crypto and digital division of Brevan Howard in Austin, Texas. He started in 2022 after five years with Goldman Sachs in New York, three years as a vice president.

Greg Zickau (M13) retired in February after nearly 20 years with the Idaho state government, the last two as chief financial officer following 18 years as a chief technology officer. It's his second retirement. He was with the U.S. Air Force for 25 years, including being part of a select team that traveled with the secretary of defense and chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, writing communications policy for the air combat command, and being part of America's initial response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Dannica (Thornton) Ballard (B14) started last June with Full Circle Health Caldwell (Idaho) Family Medicine, matched into a family medicine residency after receiving a doctor of osteopathic degree from Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences in Yamima, Washington.

Ryan Hill (B14) is using his biology degree as an academic advisor with the University of California Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources, developing research programs and extension materials for Tehama County. He started in August after receiving a master's degree in plant breeding and genetics from Oregon State University in 2020, before becoming a faculty research assistant in the OSU weed science lab.

Robby Larson (D14) started in December as a major gifts officer and campaign strategist with Trinity Academy in Portland, a classical private Christian school of 125 for grades 6-12. He moved after nearly six years as vice president of advancement at Multnomah University in Portland.

Benjamin Leal-Vawter (B14) is now with Kaiser Permanente in Clackamas, Oregon, as a nurse informaticist, in his second year after being a medical-surgical ICU nurse for more than a year. Previously, he was an intensive care nurse at Trios Health in Kennewick, Washington.

Christopher Luttrell (M14) in August became dean of students at 270-student Waverly Elementary School in Albany, Oregon, leaving the nearby Aumsville School District, where he was an elementary teacher for a year.

Rick McKinney (D14) in December wrote the article "Christmas Happens in the Heart" for Patheos, an online media company covering religion. He's been in active ministry for more than 50 years with his wife, Jane. In 2006, they walked across America (2,770 miles) to share their faith and pray for the country. He currently teaches at the University of Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky.

Chelsea (Brustad) Terry (B14, M16), after four years in Washington state, is now in Texas, where she's a clinician with the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Metrocare Services in Addison. She is in her third year with the clinic that treats post-9/11 veterans and their families, complementing the Veterans Administration.

Timothy Almquist (B15) received a master's degree in marriage and family counseling last year at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, and is staying in the city as a marriage and family therapist associate with Family Essentials Counseling.

Melissa Carrion (M15) is completing her first year as a second- and third-grade teacher at California State University Channel Islands Prep Charter School in Camarillo. Previously, for two years, she was a fourth-grade teacher in the nearby Fillmore Unified School District.

Justin DeLoretto (B15, M17) published a book, *The Ride of My Life: From Street Gangs to Motorcycle Clubs to Social Worker*, which tells the story of his transition from being an outlaw biker and the founder of Oregon's Mongols Motorcycle Club to earning degrees in social work and becoming a professional counselor for youth. Published in September, the book is rising on Amazon's Best Sellers list. Now in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, he is a multisystemic therapy supervisor with One Hope United, starting his fifth year with the nonprofit that provides programs for children and families in need.

Taylor (Main) Gerhardt (B15) is now living on campus as an area coordinator for houses

and apartments. She started last fall after more than three years in Portugal, where she had a full-time, live-in role as director of a community and student center for the Christian conservation organization A Rocha International.

Ariel Hortert (B15), a research associate with the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin, received international recognition in May of 2023 as recipient of the Value-Based Health Care Prize honoring inspiring initiatives that aim to redefine healthcare. She and Dr. Prakash Jayakumar were chosen for their work, "Next Generation Musculoskeletal Condition-based Care Via Advanced IPU's." There were 115 applicants from 27 countries. Last fall, she left her position of two years and started the Master of Science in Health Care Transformation program in the University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business.

Ryan Moeller (B15) is an account manager with SBM Management Services in Bellevue, Washington. He started with the building maintenance management firm in May of 2023, moving from the Salt Lake City area, where he was with Tempur Sealy International for nearly four years.

Jennifer (Higgins) Newman (B15) is executive director of Beacon Hill Friends House in Boston, in her second year after starting in 2020 as program manager. It provides learning experiences and church services, and is home to 22 adults who live in an intentional community grounded in Quaker values.

Bert Pace (M15, D18) is an outpatient clinical manager with St. Raphael Counseling in Denver, starting his second year after a year as coordinator of psychological testing. He specializes in psychological assessment for the center, serving the Archdiocese of Denver. He's also an adjunct professor and content expert at Denver Seminary.

Analisa VanOostrum (B15) started a year ago as a physical therapist at Oregon Health & Science University's Beaverton location, after two years with Connect the Dots Pediatric Therapy in Roseburg, Oregon.

Jana Giles (B16, M24), in her sixth year as an Oregon educator, is a third-grade teacher at North Marion Intermediate School in Aurora. She's also one of 21 directors on the state's Educator Advancement Council, in her fourth year with the Oregon

Department of Education program to support culturally responsive public educators in all classrooms.

Paul Gratton (D16) last July was appointed interim vice president for the School of Adult and Graduate Studies at Montreat College in North Carolina, a role he held through December. He's been at the 970-student college since 2017, currently serving as director of the college's Adult and Graduate Studies Business program.

Brittany Morales (M16) in January of 2023 became a teaching and learning coordinator with the Newberg School District, leaving her position as an English language development teacher at the district's Dundee Elementary School. She has been with the district for eight years, starting as a fourth- and fifth-grade teacher.

Ulysus Torres (B16) last July became head coach of FC Westlake in Austin, Texas, a youth soccer program, while also picking up duties as Elite Girls program director and college recruitment coordinator.

Brenn Borrer (B17) in October was hired as executive director of marketing at the University of Maine's Orono campus, which has 11,000 students. He left his position

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— Doug and Dianna McIntyre, pictured with student Jonathan Carollo



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as director of marketing and communications at Multnomah University in Portland, where he'd been for two years.

Marcus Cooksey (B17, M19) is beginning his second year as a district manager with Waste Connections in Ramsey, Minnesota. He started the year prior as an assistant district manager with the national waste collection, disposing and recycling firm.

Ryan Elder (B17) is chief technology officer with a new business, Medicratic, a software application platform for the evaluation process in medical education. He started in January of 2023 with the Dallas/Fort Worth-based company, but he lives in New York City.

Alyssa Poffenroth (B17, M19) switched careers in January and is now an institution counselor with the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. She left a career in special education, with teaching positions in Oregon and Washington. She also is attending Capella University for a second master's degree.

Christina Ridley (D17) is a physical therapist with student health and counseling services at the University of California, Davis, after earlier working in sports medicine and orthopedic care and serving as an adjunct professor at Los Rios Community College in California.

Samuel Vernhes (B17) started last August as a French teacher at Marist School, a private Catholic high school of 1,100 in Brookhaven, Georgia. He moved after three years teaching French and coaching soccer at Greater Atlanta Christian School.

Brian Hall (B18) is in Forest Grove, Oregon, working remotely as an IT specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture. He started in April of 2023, bringing 10 years of experience in software and hardware with the military and in the private sector, most recently with Intel in Hillsboro, Oregon.

Jeff Harvey (M18) is in Austin, Texas, where he's a marketing content strategist with Subsplash, a software for churches that brings giving, website and messaging under one platform. He was promoted in April of 2023 from his position as marketing manager after joining the firm in 2019.

Business is Poppin' MBA alumna Hannah Jodoin has taken her gourmet popcorn business to new heights

By Tomas Weber

For **Hannah Jodoin** (M20), the smell of popcorn always brings her back to her childhood.

As a little girl, Jodoin crisscrossed the country with her parents, who made kettle corn and sold the gourmet snack at art festivals. Those entrepreneurial parents, Linda and Mike, named the business Miss Hannah's Gourmet Popcorn Company, after their daughter. It was a fateful decision: Jodoin is now CEO.

Jodoin grew up homeschooled and relished the freedom of a childhood on the road. "My brother and I loved it," she says. "We would run around and make friends with all of our vendor neighbors, trading kettle corn for elephant ears."

But it wasn't all fun and games. "We didn't do Saturday cartoons. We were up early making the popcorn for the festivals. It made us tight-knit as a family, because we did school together, and then we would work together too."

But Jodoin never imagined she would take over the family business. When she went off to college in 2011, she imagined a more traditional career. After studying human development and family sciences at Oregon State University, she pursued a career with Young Life. But then, in 2017, she got the call.

Her parents had just opened a full-time, year-round store in Bridgeport Village in Tualatin, Oregon, and they needed some help. Jodoin returned from Arizona, where she had been working at a Young Life camp, to help them manage the store.

It was just supposed to be a temporary gig. She was to train up some new hires so her parents could finally enjoy a few days off. "But after a year and a half, I began to realize, 'Oh, I actually have a vision and some goals for this company,'" she says.

Thanks to her parents, Miss Hannah's already had a powerful brand identity.

Customers trusted that the popcorn would always be homecrafted in small batches. They knew it was made with love, and that the business valued their customers above all else. Plus, Jodoin says, "Everybody knew we wouldn't put out a flavor unless we were obsessed with it too."

Jodoin realized this strong foundation was an opportunity to grow the business.

"Maybe we'll open more shops," Jodoin thought. "Or perhaps we'll jump into wholesale, or grow our online presence with a booming e-commerce store."

There were a lot of possibilities, but Jodoin wasn't sure which path to take – and that's when she heard about the MBA



program at George Fox.

"I'd never really thought about getting my master's degree," she says. "But I felt like I needed to be better equipped. Being raised by entrepreneurial parents taught me a lot, but I wanted to make sure I really measured up."

In 2018, Jodoin began the university's part-time online MBA program. She learned practical skills she hadn't studied before but are key to successful business leadership, such as managerial finance. "It made me business literate," she says.

Jodoin also benefited from the real-life business experience of her professors and peers in the cohort. "It's one thing reading business books and learning from other people's mistakes and successes," she says. "But it's a whole other thing to be able to talk that through with people who have had a completely different experience."

Central to Jodoin's time at George Fox

was integrating her faith with business acumen. "Faith permeates my business all the time," she says. "I love Jesus, and I was raised in a Christian home, so going to a school that is aligned with that was just a huge relief."

Ultimately, the MBA gave Jodoin the knowledge, skills and confidence to embrace every part of her business.

"I dabble in everything now," she says. "From making sure deliveries are on track, to ensuring we're making enough popcorn, to marketing, to planning for the next three years – I have to be good at all the different parts of it."

And Jodoin is good at it.

In 2020, in the middle of the pandemic, she was driving down Highway 99W outside of Newberg when she noticed a "For Lease" banner hanging on the side of an old, ugly autobody shop.

"It was just staring me in the face," she

says. "And I thought, 'That's it. That's going to be our kitchen.' So we tracked down the landlord, and he said, 'You want to do what with it?'"

The building was full of tractors and oil, with auto grease everywhere. And it was overgrown, with blackberries growing in the back. "We cleaned it out and turned it into an FDA-certified kitchen and retail space in just four months," she says.

Today, the building, painted black, is beautiful. It is the company's primary kitchen and its secondary retail space. With flavors from snickerdoodle to sea-salted caramel chocolate drizzle, Miss Hannah's popcorn is more popular than ever. The company employs about 20 people now – up from just three when Jodoin came on board.

She knows these relationships are the key to success. Miss Hannah's is still a family business, she says, "It's just a little larger now."



Britta (Stewart) Mansfield (B18) is using her history degree as executive director of the Willamette Falls and Landings Heritage Area Coalition, based in Marylhurst, Oregon. She started in 2021 after serving as director of the Hoover Minthorn House Museum in Newberg for three years. In that role she wrote *Newberg: Past and Present*, a 96-page paperback book released in October.

Adam McGuffie (M18) is living in Eugene, Oregon, but remotely serves as manager for advancement for the American Bible Society, headquartered in Philadelphia. He started in 2023. He also continues as principal of Joy Ethic, his own creative agency helping mission-driven organizations use their brand for productive fundraising.

Keenan O'Hern (B18, M22) is cofounder of Revino, started in 2020 with the purpose of developing a system of refilling and reusing wine bottles after washing. With more than 40 wineries committed to the program, they hope to put 2.4 million bottles into circulation next year. He and his company were featured in a September story in the *Oregon Business* magazine.

Josh Pratt (M18) is starting his second year as associate principal at Sherwood (Oregon) High School, moving up last July from his position as dean of students. He was a middle school language arts and social studies teacher in Newberg prior to joining the Sherwood High teaching staff.

Jon Abels (B19) was featured in Portland-area local weekly newspapers in November in a Pamplin Media Group special section honoring area military veterans. He served in the Army and in 2007 was in Iraq when his squad was ambushed in a village and his right arm was severely shattered, ending his infantry career. A Newberg resident, he now volunteers at a local wood ministry and with Meals on Wheels, and has helped at Portland Rescue Mission for the last 11 years.

Elaine Agee (B19) began in September as a social worker with Cascadia Health, a non-profit providing integrated mental health, addiction, primary care and housing services in Portland. She earlier was a crisis counselor with the Yamhill County Health and Human Services Department.

Anna Alsager (B19) is back with the cinematic arts program from which she received her degree with an animation concentration. She is an instructor of animation at George Fox, starting last fall. Since 2020, she's also been the lead animator with So Peculiar, in charge of all character animations and scene timelines and cutscenes.

Joseph Bridgeman (D19) is now deputy chief information officer for the State of Oregon's higher education agency in Salem, starting in October. Before that, for seven months, he was an information technology operations and policy analyst.

Michael Chaney (B19) is beginning his second year as a tax manager with Moss Adams, the national accounting, wealth management and consulting firm in Portland. He moved up from tax senior after two years.

Jason Deuman (D19) is lead pastor at Creekside Church, an Assemblies of God Church in Lynnwood, Washington, serving in that role for the last nine of the 20 years he's attended. He's also an adjunct faculty member in the College of Ministry at Northwest University in Kirkland. But it's his side gig that garnered attention in January, when *My Edmonds News* published a feature story on his being a standup comic two or three times a month in local and Seattle comedy clubs, both at open-mic sessions and occasional paid performances. He calls it a fun hobby and a chance to model Christian faith values.

Darcy Hansen (M19, D22) started last July as associate director of doctoral programs at Portland Seminary. She had been teaching at the seminary for two years as an adjunct professor in both spiritual formation and Adult Degree Program classes. The owner and director of her own spiritual direction ministry since 2020, from 2017 to 2019, she was hospitality coordinator on the community life team at the seminary.

Tim Migaki (M19) has a dual career as a substitute teacher in the Beaverton (Oregon) School District, starting in 2022, and as a submarine educator with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) on the Willamette River in Portland. He explains and educates about the USS Blueback, which served the U.S. Navy from 1959 to 1990.

Evangelina Montelongo (B19) has left her position as an account manager with Maxim Healthcare Group, in Los Angeles County, California, to join Waves, Inc. in Franklin, Tennessee, as a marketing associate. She is in her second year with the organization that helps children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Donald Phillips (M19) is back at his other alma mater, Oregon State University, from which he graduated in 2016, in the newly created position of coordinator of veteran and military-connected student mental health and wellness. He served for four years of active duty as an Army medic, including deployment to Iraq for a year. He is using his George Fox degree in clinical mental health counseling as he works with veterans impacted by military trauma, PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, depression and substance use.

Kyler Shumway (D19) is president and chief clinical officer of Deep Eddy Psychotherapy in Texas, where he's turned a small therapy practice in Austin into one of the leading outpatient mental health organizations in the state. He has grown the practice to 225 therapists and 34 administrative staff in Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. He started with the practice in 2019, moving up to the role of president in January of 2023. He's also been a TEDx speaker and authored four books.

Gabriel Taylor (M19) received a law degree from Willamette University in Salem in 2022, and in 2023 established his own practice in Wilsonville, Oregon, specializing in estate planning, wills and trusts, and tax issues.

Aren Thomas (B19) is an engineering graduate working for a Christian non-government organization in Morocco helping to set up a climbing gym in Marrakesh. On Sept. 8, he experienced and helped in the aftermath of the devastating 6.8 earthquake that killed more than 2,900. He and friends loaded a borrowed four-wheel-drive vehicle with as much water as they could buy and drove to a nearby village where half the buildings were destroyed and many people were killed. They spent the night searching for survivors, digging through rubble and comforting victims.

2020-23

Scott Crane (D20) started in September as the supply pastor and head of staff with the First Presbyterian Church in Corvallis, Oregon. Previously, starting in 2015, he was pastor of the Trout Lake (Washington) First Presbyterian Church.

Caleb Fernandez (B20) has two titles. He works full time as a supply chain coordinator with Northstar Chemical, starting that position in February after three years as an accountant and IT specialist. He's also the George Fox men's golf coach, rejoining the program as an assistant in 2020 after four

years as a Bruin player, and named head coach in 2022.

Brandon Harvey (M20) is senior director of edge infrastructure solutions, with Honeywell, working remotely from Sweet Home, Oregon. He was promoted in October after serving as director of IT strategy and architecture-infrastructure.

Rick Kavanaugh (D20) is in his 27th year serving Framework Church in Presque Isle, Maine, where he is pastor for leadership and formation. He was lead pastor of the church for 20 years, until 2008, when he left to pastor Wesleyan churches in North Carolina and Ohio, returning in 2019. Also

an artist, his work in October was exhibited at the Aroostook Agency for the Aging in Presque Isle.

Shelby (Bauer) Kool (B20) is in her second year as senior account executive with Fort Mare in San Clemente, California, a firm that handles market planning, media management, publicity and brand experience events. She has been with the company for nearly four years after almost eight years as a freelance photographer.

Austin O'Donnell (B20) is in his second year with Compassion International as a soft-

Continued on page 67



"I just love to learn, to be curious and try new things while your professors are there to help you. And they really get to know you as a person, not just as a student. They are really interested in what you've got going on outside the classroom. I feel like they care about you as a person."

Chris Nickelberry

Senior biochemistry major, pictured with chemistry professor Carlisle Chambers



Location: Edwards-Holman Science Center General Chemistry Lab



Creating Safety for a Vulnerable Humanity

Whether it's a broken arm or a broken heart, Will Coker is 'all in'

By Brooklyn Chillemi



Flames stretched up to 30 feet in the air from underneath the upturned car, which had skidded to a stop alongside the highway.

"You're fire attack," **Will Coker's** (M19) lieutenant shouted over the noise as the fire engine screeched to a halt. The report said the car had rolled over with a 16-year-old driver and two passengers inside.

Leaping out of the truck, Coker hustled past pedestrians on the street. Out of the corner of his eye, he spotted an Air Jordan shoe in the middle of the roadway, and to his right, a young woman was screaming, "You have to get him out of there!"

Coker stood in front of the vehicle and began to douse the fire, but something caught his attention: a pair of human legs, trapped beneath the bumper, not moving. He grimaced, but could only con-

tinue to mitigate the fire.

A few months later, Coker received a call from the mental health counselor at his station, informing him that the mother of the boy he saw under the car would like to speak with one of the first responders on the scene that day.

Without hesitation, Coker volunteered, and he found himself in their family living room.

Coker started the conversation as he does with every scene he responds to. "Hi, my name is Will," he said. "What's your name?"

The boy's mother introduced herself, and between sips of tea, she explained that she didn't want to know more about the accident. After sharing a bit about her own life, she asked what she truly wanted to

know – she wondered if Coker could feel her son.

"I had to ponder and rethink what she was asking," he says now, recalling the conversation. "I didn't have any physical contact with her son – I wasn't part of the crew that extricated and removed his remains, so I never physically touched him – but that wasn't what she was asking. She was asking if I felt his spirit."

As Coker considered his reply, he thought about the calm, empty silence of the highway after the patients had been transported away. He pictured how the tall grass swayed in the wind, lit up by blue and red flashes from the emergency lights.

"He's at peace," he told her after a few moments. Although Coker could not physically save her son, he hoped that listening to her story and sharing authentic empathy would bring her some comfort.

Later in life, Coker would need similar support during his own time in counseling.

In the summer of 2001, Coker enlisted in the Oregon Army National Guard after he saw the second plane hit the World Trade Center. He was well-respected by his team, and recalls frequently being woken up at night by his peers to help calmly resolve interpersonal conflicts between soldiers.

Later, in May of 2009, he was deployed to Iraq as a first lieutenant, where he served until April of 2010. While Coker loved serving his country, this unfortunately meant missing the first year of his son's life. He also experienced a lot of loss during his time in battle, which weighed heavily on him.

Shortly after he returned home, after another argument, his wife told him he was acting differently.

"She was right," he says. "I was suffering, but I was in denial. I wasn't ready to deal with it."

It took several years for Coker to eventually seek help for the battle fatigue and post-traumatic stress he was experiencing, but once he did, "I came back amazed," he says.

After Coker got the help he needed, he questioned his initial denial and negative response to the idea of counseling. His curiosity brought him back to something he had previously considered – graduate school. He wondered why he was so averse to seeking help, and if he could learn to help others like him overcome that fear.

That is why he decided to earn his master's degree in marriage, couple and family counseling, and why he enrolled at George Fox in the fall of 2016.

"George Fox intentionally helps you unpack and understand your story of trauma and heartbreak, no matter what that is," he says. "We are all dealing with something that nobody else knows about."

Coker graduated with his degree and a certificate in traumatology in December of 2020.

Today, he sees clients for counseling on Mondays and Wednesdays, both at Fir Counseling in McMinnville, Oregon, and through his own counseling service, First Responder Families. In addition, Coker works 10 to 14 shifts per month as a firefighter paramedic.

"I have been given a very special front-row seat for life and death on planet earth," Coker says. While this often comes with difficult conversations, he says, "We can take hard news."

In less than two years, Coker's time as a firefighter paramedic will come to a close, and he will focus on counseling full time. "It is so special to enter into a unique space, to share the worst news with another human being, but to do that work as gently, as compassionately, as genuinely and authentically as humanly possible, so that the next stage of their life can begin," he says.

In all of Coker's positions, he aims to emphasize, "I see you, I hear you, I care and I understand" – four statements that help others feel validated, which he learned from professor Daniel Sweeney during his time at George Fox.

ware engineer. He is working remotely from home in Newberg. Previously, he was with Tech Elevator, helping with 14-week boot camps to educate software developers.

Whitney (Standal) Scholars (M20, D23) is in Salt Lake City with the Utah Center for Evidence-Based Treatment. She started in September and is a licensed clinical psychologist and post doctoral psychology resident.

Comfort Smith (B20) is a violinist as both a performer and instructor. She's in her second year as section violinist with the Vancouver (Washington) Symphony Orchestra and also a kindergarten violin teaching artist with the Junior Orchestra of Yamhill County, also in her second year. She continues as a private violin teacher in Newberg.

Hailey (Hartney) Swenson (B20) is back on campus as the associate athletic director of operations, starting last fall. She worked the previous two years as an event manager with the Fairgrounds Site Management Group in Ridgefield, Washington. A former four-year player with the Bruin women's basketball team, she now lives in Vancouver, Washington.

Jana Whitworth (M20) is using her master of divinity degree as the associate rector with the Church of the Good Shepherd in Vancouver, Washington. She is in her second year with the church, started in 1968. She was ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church last June.

Mike Stroud (D20) is a physical therapist with the Intermountain Medical Center in Murray, Utah, starting last October. He moved from Hanford, California, where he was a physical therapist supervisor for two years with Hanford Post Acute. He also is teaching online with South College, headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Sydney Zuyus (B20) is back in her hometown of Palmer, Alaska, where in July she started in a new communications associate role with the Mat-Su (Matanuska-Susitna) Health Foundation. Previously, she was the web, graphics and sponsorship coordinator for Nashville Songwriters Association International and a freelancer.

Brianna Bliquez (B21) in December started as a patient care coordinator with Active



This is
Joy

“When I’m performing, I love how everything just falls away – you can’t see anything except what you’re doing. That makes it so easy to worship, because you’re not even thinking about the people in the audience. You just have tunnel vision, and it’s just about you and the Lord.”

Anne McCook

Sophomore engineering major and music minor

Location: Bauman Auditorium stage

Path Mental Health in Clackamas, Oregon, leaving the same position at Schlenker Chiropractic Associates in Gladstone, Oregon.

Kayla Bose (M21), just after her graduation, became principal of Hosanna Christian School in Vancouver, Washington. She also is a student in George Fox’s Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership program.

Tricia Caldwell (M21) in January became vice president of marketing and development with Medical Teams International in Tigard, Oregon, the nonprofit organization that provides life-saving medical care for people in crisis in 58 countries. She started as marketing manager in 2020 after four years with the Stash Tea Company.

Kailey Doutt (n21) completed a degree in forensic science at Utah Valley University in December, and in January started as a crime lab assistant with the city of Salem (Oregon).

Suhail Khan (B21, M23) has started a new position as property and casualty vice president with USI Insurance Services in Portland, providing risk management and insurance consulting services. He joined the firm in May of 2023 after nearly 10 years with the Northrup Corporation in Portland, where he was executive VP the last two years.

Dana Lawson (M21) last June opened her own business, Compassionate Couch Counseling, in Tigard, Oregon. She moved from a two-year position with Dr. Sanderson and Associates in Tigard, where she was a professional counselor associate and referral coordinator.

Maggie Lynn Beil (B21) is now with the San Diego Orthobiologics Medical Group, starting in September as laboratory lead. Previously, for two years, she was a back office lead with the Tri-City Medical Center in Oceanside, California.

Matt Miller (D21) is now teaching full time at George Fox, starting in January as an assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology. He moves up from being an adjunct professor for a year and a half, as well as serving as an interim lead therapist with the university’s Physical Therapy

Community Clinic. He also is co-owner and operator of Elevate Physical Therapy in Newberg.

John (Afanda) Muhanji (D21) is in his 20th year as director of African ministries with Friends United Meeting in Richmond, Indiana. He is in Kisumu, Kenya, where he coordinates work in healthcare, education, church planting and social gospel efforts.

Kasandra (Silva) Oylear (B21) in August started her new position as human resources manager for classification and compensation with Washington County, Oregon. She started with the county in 2022 following seven years at George Fox University, her last position as the associate director of human resources-operations.

Megan Stewart (B21) has moved across the country to Burlington, Vermont, where she started last July as a government reporter with the daily *Burlington Free Press* newspaper. A journalism major and two-year co-editor of the campus student publication, *The Crescent*, she started her career as a general assignment reporter with the *Newberg Graphic*.

Stephanie Andrade (B22) is in Elgin, Illinois, where she started in March as a behavioral health technician at the Ascension Saint Joseph Hospital.

Marlee Baker (B22) is using her social work degree as an education and outreach specialist with the Fair Housing Council of Oregon. She facilitates training on state and federal fair housing laws and conducts community outreach meetings. She spoke on campus in November on the topic “Diversity Dialogue: History of Housing Discrimination in Oregon.”

Gwyn (Schwartz) Curtis (B22) is in her second year as an executive assistant in George Fox’s advancement office. She moved from a position as a human resources coordinator, involving employee benefits, with the Jubitz Corporation in Portland.

Troy Fisher (D22) in April was named the new superintendent of the St. Paul (Oregon) School District, with two schools and 300 students. He moved from his position of two years as principal of Harvey Clarke Elementary School in Forest Grove, Oregon. He has been a George Fox adjunct professor in education since 2022.

Roxanne Jackson (B22, M23) is using her new social work degree as a clinical social worker with LifeStance Health at its Clackamas, Oregon, office, starting last September as a therapist for children 6-17.

Sara Jane Lance (M22, D23) is using her skills as a new physician assistant at Harney County Hospital in Burns, Oregon, where she provides medical care for 8,000 residents scattered across 10,000 square miles. The 25-bed hospital is the only medical help available within a five-hour drive. She is helping the hospital restore its orthopedic program. She earned her George Fox degrees after already becoming a neuroscientist with a degree from UC Santa Cruz in California.

Jennylin Lopez (B22) is using her civil engineering degree at Miller Consulting Engineers in Portland, where she is a structural designer. She started last June, working on fire escape assessments and residential and commercial designs.

Shay Mikalson (D22) holds three education positions in Eastern Oregon. Last July, he was named assistant superintendent of the Jefferson County School District in Madras. He became superintendent of the Jefferson County Education Service District in July of 2021, also in Madras. And, since 2020, he has been chief student success officer with the High Desert Education Service District in Redmond, servicing four districts and 14 counties.

Jake Redmond (M22) has moved from teaching business at Cleveland High School in Portland to the Beaverton (Oregon) School District, where, starting in August, he again teaches business but also an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) course, designed to prepare all students for college readiness, at Aloha High School.

Ariane Rosas (B22) is on campus both as a student and employee. She started in January as a simulation and lab operations technician after graduating with a degree in kinesiology. She also is enrolled in George Fox’s physician assistant program. She has 16 years of medical field experience, most recently as an exercise physiologist with Providence over the past year.



Resilience Personified

Forced to leave her homeland as a teen – and faced with the sudden deaths of family members – school counselor Mirna Pani models for her students what it takes to overcome hardship

By Sean Patterson

Mirna Pani (M23) was 10 years old when the war began. Her brother, 10 years her senior, was among the first to volunteer to fight in a civil war that ultimately dissolved her native Yugoslavia and left her hometown of Sarajevo – blockaded and bombarded with artillery and tanks for nearly four years – in ruins.

Perhaps that's where her fascination with the resilience of children began. She herself was given no choice. It was either be strong and adapt, or give in to hopelessness and despair.

She didn't know it then, but Pani was destined to work with kids. Today, she is fulfilling that calling as an elementary school counselor at Boones Ferry Primary School in Wilsonville, Oregon, where she does the very things – sits, listens and cares – that she longed for but didn't receive as a refugee in a new land.

"What started me on this journey was this fascination I've always had with the fact that children are naturally resilient and more naturally able to adapt," says Pani, a 2023 graduate of George Fox University's Master of Arts in School Counseling program. "And then, being a survivor myself, I knew that I wanted to be in the mental health field, and more importantly, support the journeys of children and youth going through trauma."

Pani's own journey not only sparked an interest in coming alongside children, but birthed in her a passion to learn more about the healing and restoration process. What is mental fortitude? How does one find hope in adversity? How can we encourage in others the ability to be resilient – to overcome?

Even as the questions rattled around in her brain, Pani had to find answers to them herself – beginning with the war that resulted in her family fleeing their homeland, and later dealing with the sudden deaths of her father and identical twin sister.

After earning a bachelor's degree in psychology, she launched a career helping trauma-impacted youth, first as a residential youth counselor and later as a resource specialist, medical assistant and recruiter.

But the appeal of a school setting prompted her to enroll in George Fox's school counseling program in 2018. Within months of enrolling, however, she second-guessed her decision upon learning her twin sister Lana – the person she was closest to all her life – was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer.

More devastating news hit the family in the summer of 2019, as Pani's father died unexpectedly. She took more time off school to tend to family affairs, deciding she would return in January of 2020. It was then, however, she learned Lana's condition had taken a turn for the worse: Her beloved sister was given only four months to live.



Pani decided to take the year off to help take care of her sister, all the while vowing she would eventually return to finish the program. After all, Lana had insisted on it.

"I get tears in my eyes just thinking about it," she says. "In 2023, I walked across that stage, on May 3, with my degree. Lana died on May 4, 2020, almost exactly three years before. That was a bittersweet moment for sure. I know she was there

that day, just not in a physical presence."

Pani credits her experience at George Fox for equipping her with the skills to tackle the challenges of her position. "What I loved about George Fox beyond the amazing education was the fact they cared for me as a whole person," she says.

Madeleine Teel (B22), after receiving a master's degree in philosophy of religion from the University of Cambridge in England last June, started in July as an admissions specialist with George Fox's honors program. She was in the honors program while a student, serving as a peer advisor and as an office and professor's assistant.

Evan Teter (B22) took the field in the spring as the new head baseball coach at Sweet Home (Oregon) High School. He was an assistant coach last year and is an elementary physical education teacher in the district's Foster Elementary School.

Kristine Adams (M23) has moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where she is a counselor at the University of Wisconsin, starting in November. Before the career change she taught English as a Second Language and English as a Foreign Language, both state-side and abroad, for 10 years.

Desiray Anderson (D23) is starting her second year as a physical therapist at the Providence St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington. She is in a system that pairs her position directly with physicians, assisting with musculoskeletal issues.

April Bingaman (M23) is using her new social work degree as a mental health specialist with Columbia Community Mental Health in St. Helens, Oregon, which helps residents with behavioral and mental health, substance abuse and gambling-problem issues.

Katie Birtell (B23) is starting her career using her new psychology degree as an applied behavioral analysis therapist with Life Stance Health, a mental healthcare facility in Tualatin, Oregon.

Rebekah Burns (B23) is using her new nursing degree as a mental health RN in Salem at the Oregon State Hospital, a psychiatric treatment facility. She started in October.

David Clancy (B23) started last July as a medical assistant with Spinal Diagnostics in Tualatin, Oregon, a medical practice diagnosing and treating spinal pain.

Megan Clausen (B23) is with Ethos Civil in Wenatchee, Washington. Using her new degree in civil engineering, she is a civil designer with the firm, serving as lead

designer for a 123-unit assisted living community project in Spokane, Washington.

Christina Deleon Guerrero (M23) immediately started using her degree in social work as a psychiatric social worker with the Oregon State Hospital in Salem. She conducts initial and ongoing strength-based assessments and works to stabilize the mentally unwell as she advocates for and helps them in court with the purpose of restoring them to the community.

Andrew Ellestad (D23) is now assistant professor of business at the College of Idaho in Caldwell, and also has been an adjunct at nearby Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa. His turn to academia follows 15 years in corporate positions, the last being with LURN, Inc., a Maryland-based company, as director of technology and IT.

Catherine Enger (D23) graduated in December with a doctor of physical therapy degree and the next month became director of the university's Physical Therapy Community Clinic. Before receiving her degree, she spent three months in Uganda, evaluating and treating children with disabilities in an urban boarding school and patients in rural outpatient and primary care settings.

Cole Florio (B23) is a researcher at the University of California, Davis, helping in a project on pulmonary embolism, while planning to apply for medical school.

Alyssa Gilmore (B23) is back on campus using her degree in cinematic arts as a video production specialist after being an assistant editor with Perennial Films in California, working remotely from Rathdrum, Idaho. She received cinematic arts' Outstanding Senior Achievement Award her final year.

Melinda (Malvik) Harp (B23) has started her teaching career as a learning specialist in the Riverdale School District, near Lake Oswego, Oregon, an independent district of 600 families with a single 1-8 grade school and a high school.

Whitney (Mayforth) Henkel (B23) is starting her nursing career as a progressive care nurse with Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland.

Haley Holman (M23) earned a master's degree in leadership from Portland Seminary last year and is now enrolled in its spiritual

direction certification program. She also started in January as the seminary's admissions counselor. For the past three and a half years she was director of children and youth ministries at Cedar Creek Church in Sherwood, Oregon, where she also worked as an office coordinator and grant advisor.

Timothy Johnson (D23) is with the Visalia (California) School District as an elementary and middle school string instructor, starting last fall after working in the Fairfax Unified School District in Bakersfield, California, for a year as an after-school music director. He is planning to become an administrator to use his new doctorate in education. His dissertation was given the Norman and Judy Aldred Award for outstanding dissertation in the program.

Tony Kelly (D23), owner of his own realty firm in Portland, TLK Group Properties, for nearly 21 years, is now in his second year as president of the 8,000-member Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors. He also is state director and vice chair of the government affairs committee for Oregon Realtors, a Salem-based trade association of 18,000 members, and has appeared in seven episodes of HGTV's *House Hunters* series.

Logan Keppel (B23), after interning for Apollo Mechanical in Hillsboro, Oregon, is now a project engineer with the company, which

specializes in mechanical construction for correctional facilities, hospitals, high tech data centers, schools and industrial facilities.

Samuel Imlig (B23), who graduated with George Fox's outstanding computer science student award, is continuing on campus as a computer support specialist in the institutional technology department.

Jake Loomis (B23) returned to campus in March to become assistant director of university recreation. In his final two years as a student, he was a building and facilities manager in the Hadlock Student Center. He had been a sales and marketing administrative coordinator at Friendsview Retirement Community in Newberg since August.

Kira Negrete (D23) is using her new doctor of physical therapy degree as one of 10 team members with Therapeutic Associates Newberg Physical Therapy in downtown Newberg.

Evan Richards (B23) started the new year back on campus as a computer support specialist, using his degree in computer science with a concentration in cybersecurity.

Tiana Ringer (B23) is using her mechanical engineering degree at Swinerton in Portland, a nationwide commercial construction company, where she is a project

engineer. She started in February after five months as an intern project engineer with the company.

Michelle Robertson (M23) is putting her master of social work degree into use, establishing her own business, Ripple Effect Counseling, in Tigard, Oregon. She left behind a career in accounting areas and 14 years with Pacific Corp in Portland, as a business analyst.

Luis Rojas (M23) started last June as a tennis teaching professional at the Rome Tennis Center at Berry College in Rome, Georgia, a facility with 57 courts on a 30-acre site.

Carter Smith (B23), a security team officer with George Fox's public safety office for three years as a student, remained on campus as a full-time safety officer, starting last June. He earned his degree in psychology with a criminal justice minor and has worked security for upscale hotels in Portland.

Julieanna Stafford (B23) has moved to Washington, D.C., where she is an interior designer with Design Case, which focuses on hospitality, interior and impact design with real estate developers, government organizations and small businesses.

Mindy Sutton (M23), a marriage and family therapist, last year started her own private practice, Heart Attach Counseling, on First

Street in Newberg. Her speciality is equine-assisted therapy, which uses horses in a therapeutic setting to help speed up the healing process without necessarily needing to talk about feelings.

Josh Zimmer (B23) has joined George Fox's data analytics and foresight team as a market research analyst. He started in January after working as a marketing subcontractor with Demand Gen Experts in Bellingham, Washington, for eight months.

Kendyl (Sanderson) Zwetsch (B23) started in February as a nurse at Hillsboro (Oregon) Medical Center, a 167-bed hospital formerly called Tuality Community Hospital.

IN MEMORY

Wilma (Koontz) Loeks (n48), Oct. 28, 2023, in Sherwood, Oregon.

Marion Wilhite (n50), May 5, 2023, in Newberg.

June (Knobel) (May) Warner (n51), Sept. 17, 2023, in Newberg.

Donna Jefferson (B52), Dec. 11, 2022, in Concord, California.

Dealous "Dea" Cox (B53), Sept. 15, 2023, in McMinnville, Oregon. George Fox Board of Trustees, 1983-2008; Honorary Trustee 2008-2023.

Ellen (Haines) Martin (n56), Jan. 15, 2024, in Newberg.

George Andrews (n57), Jan. 20, 2024, in Tualatin, Oregon.

Leroy Jeffery (n58), Sept. 7, 2023, in Pullman, Washington.

David Hanson (n59), Feb. 8, 2024, in Moscow, Idaho.

Damon Heinrich (B60, M67), March 3, 2024, in Monroe, Louisiana.

Richard Phillips (n60), Dec. 20, 2023, in Milwaukie, Oregon.

Judi (Retherford) Nolta (B61), May 23, 2023, in Newberg.

Lonny "Lon" Fendall (B64), Oct. 15, 2023, in Newberg.

Raelene (Barnes) Fendall (B64), Sept. 26, 2023, in Newberg.

Roy Johnson (B65), April 7, 2024, in Newberg.

Richard Lakin (B65), March 24, 2024, in Newberg.

Anne (Thornburg) Roberts (n65), Oct. 7, 2023, in Portland.

Richard Whitten (n65), Sept. 2, 2023, in Gladstone, Oregon.

Carolyn (Dokken) Bagley (n67), Feb. 11, 2023, in Estacada, Oregon

Lorraine (Root) Brown (n67), June 24, 2023, in Citrus Heights, California.

Koneta (Wilkins) Morrill (B68), March 12, 2023, in Battleground, Washington.

Lynn Dunton (B69), March 28, 2024, in Mulino, Oregon.

Joe McCullough (B69), Oct. 6, 2023, in Moses Lake, Washington.

Edgar Meier (B69), Oct. 15, 2022, in Salem, Oregon.

Dana Burns (B70), Oct. 17, 2023, in DuBois, Pennsylvania.

Mic Gwilym (B71), Oct. 3, 2023, in Kirkland, Washington.

John Beck (B73), July 21, 2023, in Caldwell, Idaho.

Ken Carsley (n74), May 20, 2023, in Newberg.

Jack Jaffe (M75), Dec. 23, 2023, in Newberg.

Thea (Bales) Cowley (B77), Dec. 4, 2023, in Newberg.

Cheryl (Wacker) Hewitt (B78), Nov. 9, 2023, in Chandler, Arizona.

Kenn Willson (B80), May 1, 2024, in Beaverton, Oregon. Assistant professor of music, 1987-2020.

Steven Dick (B81), Sept. 22, 2023, in Salem, Oregon.

Gordon Martin (B82), Nov. 24, 2023, in Hope, British Columbia.

Nancy (Meinert) Atkinson (B86, B91), May 16, 2023, in Portland.

Joseph Rourke (B88), July 23, 2023, in Newberg.

Jonathan Umfleet (B90, M95), May 9, 2023, in Newberg.

Edward Cates (n91), Nov. 12, 2023, in Seymour, Indiana.

Sonja (Brooks) Dazey (B91), Jan. 1, 2024, in McMinnville, Oregon.

Sam Farmer (B92), Sept. 13, 2023, in Newberg. George Fox Board of Trustees, 1969-1988.

Tim Tank (n96), Jan. 1, 2024, in Beaverton, Oregon.

Richard Lamontagne (D02), Oct. 26, 2023, in Fresno, California.

Julie Koch (M04), March 23, 2024, in Beaverton, Oregon.

Thomas "Moose" Rich (B04), Jan. 3, 2024, in Yachats, Oregon.

David Fears (M05), May 27, 2023, in Banks, Oregon.

Jeff Davis (M06), Aug. 6, 2023, in The Dalles, Oregon.

Cole Hardman (B09), Aug. 17, 2023, in Portland.

Mark Stahlnecker (M11), Oct. 15, 2023, in Murrieta, California.

Daniel Pavlina (B15), Oct. 23, 2023, in Camas, Washington.

Rebecca Farwell (M20), Aug. 24, 2023, in Oregon City, Oregon.

Ron Eroen (D22), Jan. 4, 2023, in Torrance, California.

Zaid Fackenthal (student, Class of 2025), Oct. 24, 2023, in Stanwood, Washington.

Bob Moore, Feb. 10, 2023, in Milwaukie, Oregon. Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, 2015; founder, Bob's Red Mill; donor.

Tim Tsohantaris, Sept. 11, 2023, in Middletown, Rhode Island. George Fox associate professor of biblical studies and Greek; chaplain; men's soccer coach, 1985-1990 and 1993-2020.

Kathryn Eichenberger, Jan. 16, 2024, in Newberg. George Fox Student Accounts Office, 1963-1996.

Casey Elected to National College Baseball Hall of Fame



Anyone familiar with college baseball in Oregon – or nationally, for that matter – knows all about **Pat Casey** (B90).

It came as no surprise, then, that the former George Fox head coach was inducted into the National College Baseball Hall of Fame in Overland Park, Kansas, in February. It was a fitting bookend to a career that included three NCAA Division I national championships – with Oregon State University, in 2006, 2007 and 2018 – and 900 victories.

In addition to three national titles, Casey guided the Beavers to three straight 45-plus win seasons, including back-to-back Pac-10 championships, and six trips to the College World Series. The Beavers are one of just two programs nationally with three titles this century, and his 900 victories rank sixth all-time in Pac-12 history.

All told, Casey amassed a 1,071-572-7 (.651) record in 31 seasons as a collegiate head coach, including a 171-113-1 (.602) mark in his seven seasons at George Fox (1988-94), where he won six conference championships and three NAIA District 2 titles, and qualified for three NAIA regional competitions.

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“Graduating and celebrating on the quad was filled with more excitement, love, joy and support than I could ever bottle up in those special few hours. Being surrounded by my family as well as the friends who have become my family was a huge reminder of God’s faithfulness to me during my time at George Fox.”

Mauhia Kimata
2024 graduate (biology)

