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OUR VISION

To be the Christian university of choice known for empowering students to achieve exceptional life

OUR VALUES

- → Students First
- → Christ in Everything
- \rightarrow Innovation to Improve Outcomes

Cover photo by Matthew LaVere



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Say 'Yes!'

We have a tradition at George Fox of bringing alumni back to our graduation ceremonies to share how God has been working in their lives. This year we welcomed Jael Chambers, a 2011 graduate and a member of the first Act Six cohort – a scholarship and leadership training initiative that brought urban leaders to the university, many of them first-generation college students. Act Six students were expected to be leaders on campus and, upon graduation, become "agents of change." Jael has fulfilled the promise of that program and currently serves as executive vice president at Lancaster Bible College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Jael shared a number of important lessons with our graduates, but the one that resonated most with me was his suggestion that, when presented with an opportunity – a call from God – say "yes!" The opportunity may lead to significant challenges and even unpredictable outcomes, but say "yes." He talked about the times in his life when saying "yes" to a God-given opportunity changed the course of his life.

At the same graduation we celebrated the retirement of Neal Ninteman (featured on page 45), one of our beloved engineering faculty members. Professor Ninteman always – I mean always – saw opportunity in the midst of challenge. He took on courses where students had struggled and chronically underperformed and turned them into some of the best on campus. He actually helped students embrace mathematics!

He led our Engineering Your Soul program as he sought to mentor engineering students and help them deepen their faith in Christ. When we considered giving up on our men's tennis program because of its perpetual lack of success, Neal asked to take leadership of the team. In just a few short years, the program would go from 0-16 to nationally ranked, laying the foundation for four consecutive conference titles. George Fox is a great place because we have people who continually say "yes" to God and "yes" on behalf of our mission.

God has always called people to lead during difficult times. He called Abram to leave his ancestral land and lead the people of God. In the same manner he called Sarah, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Ruth and millions upon millions of others to say "yes" to bring his kingdom to the world around us.

The theme of this issue is "Alumni Making a Difference." These are stories of alumni who said "yes" to God-given opportunities. I am grateful that the story of George Fox's alumni, students, faculty and staff is the story of people saying "yes."

Robin Baker President

University Sets Enrollment Record, Eclipsing 4,300 Mark for First Time

The university's enrollment hit a record high last fall – topping more than 4,300 students for the first time – to affirm its status as Oregon's largest private college for a fifth consecutive year.

An all-time high of 4,324 students enrolled in George Fox's undergraduate, graduate and accelerated online degree programs, eclipsing the 4,295 who enrolled in the 2021-22 academic year. The total included the largest incoming class ever recorded, resulting in an undergraduate enrollment record of 2,453.

The feat comes as many small private universities continue to struggle. George Fox was able to buck the trend, in part because of its recent expansion of graduate offerings, particularly in the medical sciences. Recently introduced doctor of physical therapy and physician assistant programs have driven growth, and this year the university welcomed its inaugural class of occupational therapy doctorate students, helping bring total graduate enrollment to 1,566. In addition, George Fox enrolled 305 students in its Accelerated Online Degree Program.

The university also continues to see strong demand for programs across various disciplines, including nursing, engineering, business, art and design, and education.



"Students and families seeking a holistic Christian education, exceptional professional outcomes, and a tight-knit community where students are known personally, academically and spiritually find exactly that at George Fox," says George Fox University President Robin Baker, the longest-serving university president in Oregon.

George Fox also experienced a strong number of returning students, which underscores the university's commitment to providing an outstanding first-year experience, a high-quality learning environment both inside and outside the classroom, and the fulfillment of its Be Known promise.

"We are proud to see George Fox's continued momentum in creating exceptional life outcomes for our students," says Lindsay Knox, vice president of enrollment and marketing. "We believe our world will be an even better place with more George Fox graduates leading the way."



BFA Degree to Launch in Fall of 2026

Students interested in pursuing a career in the arts will have the opportunity to boost their credentials with the university's addition of a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, set to launch in the fall of 2026.

The BFA will complement current bachelor's degree offerings in graphic design, illustration, and studio arts and arts administration, and encourage cross-disciplinary work that draws from all three majors. The highly prestigious 77-credit degree will prepare students for leadership roles in art – such as creative directors or gallerists – or

for further graduate studies. It will also offer a more well-rounded art education.

"A highlight of our BFA package is how malleable it will be," says Chandler Brutscher, chair of the Department of Art and Design. "For example, a graphic design BFA who has completed the traditional coursework for the graphic design BA can dedicate the rest of their elective credits to taking printmaking courses to understand letterpress printing, typesetting and lithography. The BFA gives them the opportunity for a more intensive study of art and design."

New Art and Cinematic Arts Building Set for Fall Opening

The long-anticipated construction of a new art and cinematic arts building is proceeding this summer and will launch a new era of creativity and collaboration when its doors open this fall.

The new facility, located east of Pennington Hall and south of the Klages Center, will provide approximately 12,000 square feet of space for the studio arts and arts administration, graphic design, illustration, and cinematic arts majors. It will include state-of-the-art ceramics and sculpture studios, gallery space, video editing labs, audio recording studios, a 66-seat theater, a soundstage, an outdoor ceramics garden, and classrooms that incorporate some of the latest industry-related equipment.

The building replaces Brougher Hall and North Street Annex – both of which are scheduled for removal this summer – which combined to house the art and design majors for decades. The new building offers more than twice the

sculpture space, 60 percent more ceramics space, and about three times the current cinematic arts space.

As for equipment, among the additions to the cinematic arts program will be the MIA Cinema Robot, which allows for complex

"Not only will this help draw more students to George Fox, it will create the exchanging of ideas that are so critical to the artistic process."

and precise camera work. The model, valued at \$125,000, was generously donated to the university by Utah-based production company Mystery Box, and gives George Fox the distinction of being one of the few colleges in the country to possess one.

For art majors with a pas-

sion for ceramics, a new gas kiln will grace the space. And because both ceramics and sculpture making will now be done under the same roof, there will no longer be a need to carry pieces back and forth between buildings.

Beyond the obvious benefits of more room and improved technical amenities, the facility will allow for more collaboration among majors. "We already have engineering majors and others who use our space to explore the more artistic side of their brains," says Chandler



Art and cinematic arts faculty tour the space that will soon become a 66-seat screening room for student films.

Brutscher, chair of the Department of Art and Design. "This will only deepen that collaboration, both because we have more to offer in terms of work space and equipment, and because of our close proximity to the Engineering Maker Hub, where many of our art students create."

The addition also enhances the university's academic reputation and will attract highly skilled artistically minded students. Currently, the three art-related disciplines boast more than 70 majors and 60 minors, while the cinematic arts major has grown 25 percent in the past four years and has received national recognition at the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) awards, the largest media arts association in higher education.

As Brutscher sees it, the facility will open up "an abundance of possibilities."

"Not only will this help draw more students to George Fox, it will create these collaborations and the exchanging of ideas that are so critical to the artistic process," she says. "And there will be space for both artistic and industrial application. This has been a long time coming, and we're so excited for our students, knowing they will now have this beautiful space to pursue their creativity."

Turn to page 74 to learn how you can help support this project.

BRUIN NOTES AVAILABLE PAR

Crace Takes the Helm of Bruin Football Program

The university landed what Athletic Director Adam Puckett called the "right guy to lead this program forward" when Spencer Crace was hired as new head coach of the Bruins' football team in February.

Crace, the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Pacific Lutheran University since 2018, arrives after helping lead the Lutes to their best season since 2014 and orchestrating one of the best offenses in the Northwest Conference in recent years. He replaces Chris Casey, who announced his retirement in January after 43 years of coaching in the Pacific Northwest - including the past 11 seasons at George Fox.

It marks a homecoming for Crace, originally from Wilsonville, Oregon. "For the longest time, this has been my dream job," he says of the new assignment. "To be able to come back home to where I grew up and to lead a program at a university that loves Jesus and is unashamed of the gospel is a dream come true."

Under his guidance, Pacific Lutheran's offense averaged 27.9 points per game in 2024 and 30 per game in 2023 as the team finished third in the conference each season. In 2024, the Lutes were second in the NWC in rushing offense and put seven offensive players on All-NWC teams while going 7-3 overall and 5-2 in conference play.

In addition to his leadership on the field. Crace served as an academic success coordinator at PLU, helping the program land 16 players on the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District team over the past three

years. Crace also heads a branch of the PNW football chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), serving as director since 2022.

"Spencer Crace is an incredible culture fit at George Fox University, deeply aligned with our mission to develop young men who will serve the world with passion and integrity through the sport of football," Puckett says. "He is a natural and charismatic leader who knows the game at a high level and has been instrumental in turning around the Pacific Lutheran program in recent years. The future of Bruin football is incredibly bright, and we believe we've found the right guy to lead this program forward – both on and off the field – the right way."

Prior to his time at Pacific Lutheran, Crace spent three seasons as



the assistant head coach and offensive coordinator at Sumner High School (Washington), helping the Spartans compile a 32-5 record, win two league championships and make two state semifinal appearances. Crace also had stops at Stadium High School (Washington) and Horizon Christian High School (Oregon) before coaching at Sumner.

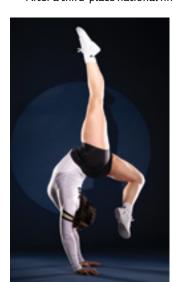
"My hope and goal for the program is that we create a brand of football that is physical, explosive and a lot of fun to watch," Crace says. "My plan is to plaster Newberg with Blue and Gold, and my goal is that we dominate the Northwest Conference in attendance. Instead of heading to Corvallis or Eugene, Newberg is going to be the place to be on Saturday afternoons in the fall."

STUNT National Championship Highlights Year of Athletic Accomplishments

It didn't take the university's STUNT team long to make an impact at the national level. Two years, to be exact.

In winning a national title this spring, the squad became the university's fifth Division III champion since 2000 and its second DIII victor in two years, following the women's golf team's 2023 championship run.

After a third-place national finish in its inaugural season in 2024, George



Fox's STUNT team, under program director Reba McClennan and head coach Beth Sanchez, defeated St. Mary of Indiana and Muskingum University of Ohio in the preliminary rounds in this year's competition before beating Muskingum again - this time in the national championship - by a score of 9-7.

The victory came in the NCAA Emerging Sports for Women classification. Previously, George Fox claimed national NCAA titles in baseball (2004), women's basketball (2009), women's track and field (2018), and women's golf (2023).



Best in the Northwest

Six teams claimed Northwest Conference championships during the 2024-25 season

The women's golf team won its 15th straight NWC title and competed at the NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championships in Williamsburg, Virginia, where they finished fourth in mid-May. Leading the way was Alison Takamiya, who placed third individually.

In lacrosse, the Bruins won their 84th consecutive conference game with a final regular-season victory over Lewis & Clark and a 12-9 defeat of Whitman in the NWC championship contest. That qualified George Fox for nationals, where the Bruins dropped their first-round matchup against No. 17 Stevens Institute of Technology.

Meanwhile, the George Fox track and field teams swept conference championships for an eighth straight season, scoring 215 and 219 points, respectively, to defeat runnerup Whitworth by more than 45 points on both sides.

In the fall, the men's and women's cross country teams swept the NWC Championship for the fourth consecutive season. Both teams qualified for the third straight Division III National Championships, with the men placing 18th and the women finishing 21st.

Bruin Benchmarks

- → Softball player Sharon Tomei broke the program record for career home runs (55), thanks to a school-record 22 home runs this season.
- → The men's soccer team finished its best season in the 21st century with a 14-5-1 record, second in the NWC.
- → The women's basketball squad recorded the greatest single-season turnaround in program history, finishing 20-7 and making the NWC championship game.
- → Momo Stokes became the first Bruin men's basketball player to be named NWC Player of the Year in 20 seasons.
- → Austin Gappa and Breanna Schmitt earned All-American status as both the men's and women's cross country teams made the NCAA Division III Championships for the third straight season.

More Than 1,000 Donors Rally to Support Students on Give Day

Whether it's the CNC milling machine engineering majors use in the university's Maker Hub or the football helmets student-athletes put on before running out on the field, so much of what students experience on a daily basis is provided by donors. Often, they don't even know it.

This spring, to help educate students on the impact donors make on their lives, and as a way to rally even more alumni and community partners to support George Fox programs, the university held its inaugural Give Day.

In total, 950 households – accounting for well over 1,000 individual donors – gave more than \$144,000 to the academic programs, athletic teams and university causes they felt passionate about, from the Bruin Community Pantry to the George Fox Rocket Team. The women's cross country team received the most individual donations with more than 200,

earning a \$5,000 bonus for the program.

To celebrate, the university hosted a Give Day Festival on the quad, with food, games and a photo booth, all designed to help students understand the positive impact that donors have on their lives.

"I am blown away by the incredible generosity of our alumni community," says Vice President for Advancement Arminda Lathrop. "Thank you to more than 1,000 community members who showed your support for George Fox students. Whether athletes, scientists or interior designers, students felt the joy of philanthropy on Give Day!"

Give Day 2025 is over, but the chance to make a difference in the life of a George Fox student isn't. Visit **giving.georgefox.edu** to learn more and give.

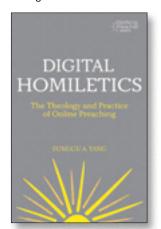






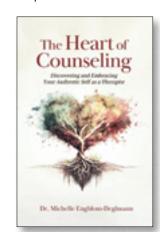


Sunggu Yang (Theology) published Digital Homiletics: The Theology and Practice of Online Preaching, with Fortress Press. The book demystifies the art of online preaching, helping readers understand both the why and the how of engaging listeners via digital formats.



Michelle Engblom-Deglmann

(Counseling) released her debut book, *The Heart of Counseling*, a transformative guide aimed at helping new therapists discover and embrace their authentic voices in the profession.



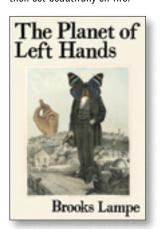


Travis Pickell (Theology) published his first book, Burdened Agency: Christian Theology and End-of-Life Ethics, with University of Notre Dame Press. As one of the reviewers observed, the book presents a "deeply Christian ethic of receptivity to the gift of our finitude and of openness to God's providential

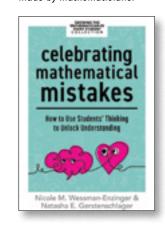


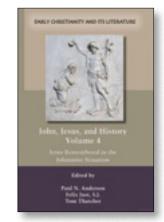
Brian Doak (GFD and Theology) released his sixth solo-authored book, *The Preacher's Hebrew Companion to Genesis 1–11*, part of a series designed to empower readers to deepen their study of the Hebrew text and preach a content-driven, engaging sermon.

Brooks Lampe (English) published a poetry chapbook with Bottlecap Press, *The Planet of Left Hands*. One of his reviewers commented that "each of Brooks Lampe's poems is like a page lovingly torn from a standard English dictionary and then set beautifully on fire."



Nicole Enzinger (Education) coauthored Celebrating Mathematical Mistakes: How to Use Students' Thinking to Unlock Understanding, published by Solution Tree. The book aims to explore why mistakes matter in mathematics and share types of mistakes made in mathematics classrooms, along with mistakes made by mathematicians.



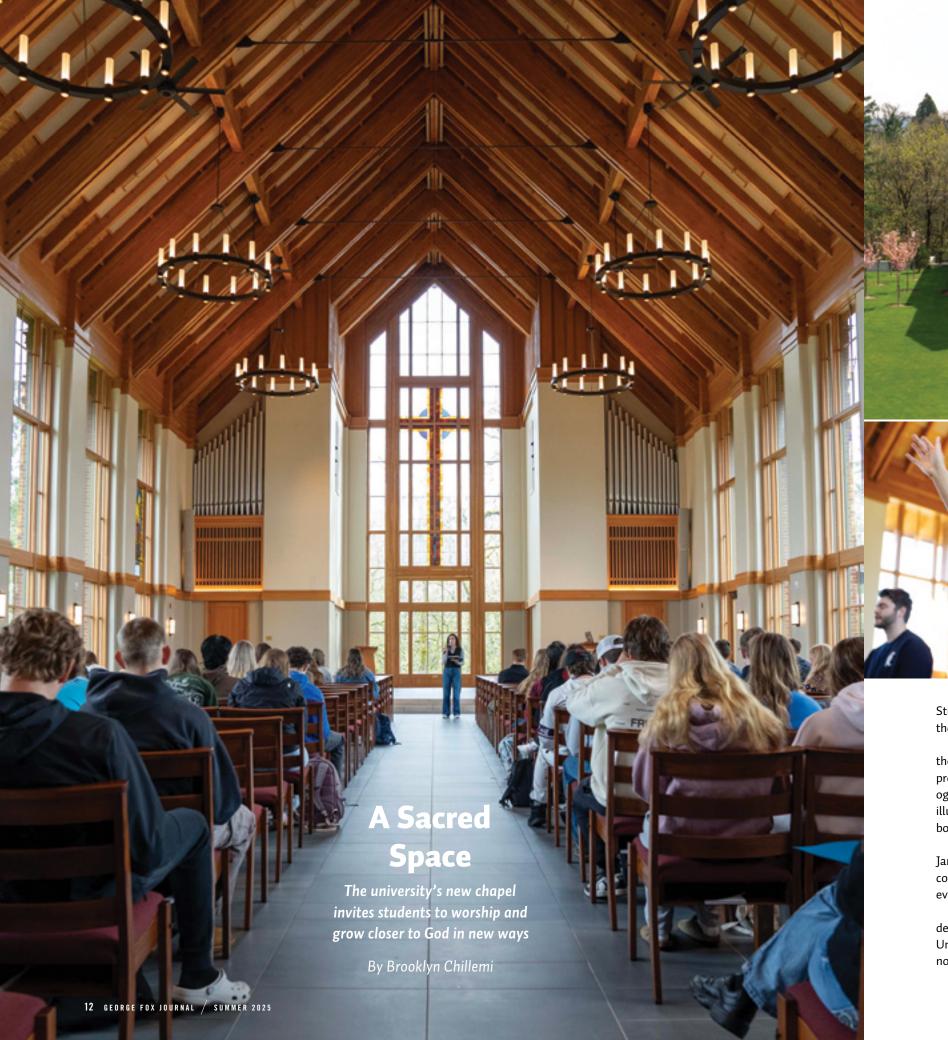


Paul Anderson (Theology) edited two books, *Quakers and the Future of Peacemaking*, Volume 8 in the Quakers and the Disciplines Series; and *John, Jesus, and History, Vol. 4: Jesus Remembered in the Johannine Situation*, the ninth volume published by the John, Jesus, and History Project, which will be released this fall.



Joel Mayward's (Theology) book proposal for Sufjan Stevens' *Carrie & Lowell* was accepted by 33 1/3, a popular book series with Bloomsbury Academic that publishes short books on individual music albums. The proposal was one of 15 chosen out of hundreds, and will be published in late 2025 or early 2026.

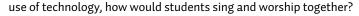












So they got creative. To address the lack of screens, the team created liturgy books with prayers, hymns and artwork. "They have been a wonderful addition to our worship in the new chapel," Johnson says, "and each semester we will create a new book that is centered on that semester's chapel themes."

And to accommodate a large number of students, the number of chapel services offered each week was expanded from two to five, each with a different emphasis to accommodate different spiritual

"The chapel changed how students enter into worship," Johnson says. "I've noticed, as people come in, there's more of a reverence. But there's more to this than just the building. It creates a more holistic experience of who God is, what God invites us into, and the story that we're a part of. It opens up our eyes and our hearts to the Creator."

Students are surrounded by light and beauty in every direction as they enter the new chapel located at the heart of campus.

Tall double doors, framed by two towering paintings depicting the Peaceable Kingdom, described in Isaiah, usher visitors in and prepare them to learn, reflect and worship. There is no technology here - no speakers, projectors or screens. Instead, the sun illuminates the space, shining through stained glass windows on both sides.

"In this space, there's no hiding at all," says University Pastor Jamie Johnson, describing the intimate 7,000-square-foot building completed last fall. "I think that's a really good thing – it reminds everyone there they are part of a worshiping community."

At first, Johnson and the university's spiritual life team wondered if this new space would work for weekly chapel services. Unlike the spacious Bauman Auditorium, the smaller venue could not accommodate all campus residents at once. And without the



Student researcher Hannah Tranby cultures human cancer cells.

Mission is important to biology professor John Schmitt. He reiterates it in class, on the university's website, and in interviews. His students easily recite it: "To better understand God's creation and ourselves ..."

But in the 500-square-foot Schmitt Lab, the focus is on something tearing at the fabric of creation with devastating impact, destroying God's creatures one person at a time.

Schmitt's goal, of course, is to stop that destroyer. This is the second part of his mission: "... and to make discoveries that advance biology and improve human health." Ironically, something called the Death Star is integral to that mission.

"John likes Star Wars, so he calls it the Death Star," says biology major Sophie Denham as she works with the \$50,000 molecular imaging system in the Schmitt Lab. "I'm not exactly sure if there's any more reason to it than that."

But Schmitt's eyebrows rise at the question. The reason for the moniker is obvious: "It makes a super cool sound as a chamber inside opens and closes, and uses lasers to illuminate the molecules," he says. While the Star Wars Death Star vaporizes planets

in the galaxy, Schmitt's Death Star cracks open a single cell to understand what's happening inside.

Battle at the Cellular Level

Last summer, students Hannah Tranby, Jessie Bailey and Denham fed and multiplied cancer cells, probed membranes, analyzed proteins and experimented on killing what they grew – to put it in layman's terms.

Bailey, a biology and biochemistry major, has a personal tie to cancer, but not in a way you might expect. She had asymptomatic appendicitis as a child, and after her appendix ruptured, her body went septic. Following surgery, she recovered in the surgical pediatric oncology wing of the hospital, surrounded by kids battling cancer.

"Being there with other kids, knowing that I was going to leave and they might not, that really started my interest in cancer," Bailey says. "It was hard for me to reconcile with the fact that these kids I was playing with in the recovery rooms were potentially never going to leave that hospital – and I was only there for a week."

Initially, Bailey viewed the summer job in Schmitt's lab as a stepping stone to a medical degree.

"When I was thinking of going into the medical field, I thought I wanted to do pediatric oncology, and research just seemed like a great segue," she says. "Then I realized this is actually my passion. I eventually want to teach as well,

but there's so much knowledge left to be gained and I'm fascinated by the way cancer works."

While Bailey worked on an experimental method called the Western Blot, a technique commonly used in cellular and molecular labs to detect specific proteins, Denham, a biology major, probed membranes – a crucial step involving proteins and the Death Star.

"All the proteins we collect end up on a membrane that is analyzed in this Death Star," she says. "It uses lasers that illuminate the proteins from cells to show us what proteins are present."

The student researchers then add compounds like estrogen or inhibitors to cancer cells and observe as the Death Star reveals how the proteins change as a result of the cell treatments. Bottom line: The Death Star helps researchers determine what might successfully alter, and hopefully kill, the cancer cells.

Though Denham plans on medical school, a summer of research is helpful. "Research is what the medical field bases treatments on," she says. "So even though I'm not going into research specifically, I can still appreciate the work, because I have this opportunity to see how they do it."

While deciding between the PhD or medical school route, Tranby, a biochemistry major, used last summer to exercise a personal vendetta against cancer; her great aunt recently died of leukemia. after having breast cancer.

"When I heard that my aunt died – it was while I was doing research here – it just made me want to work even harder in the lab and try to do as many experiments as possible over the summer, just to learn as much as we can about it," Tranby says. "It's really frustrating when you don't get results, but it puts into perspective that everything we're doing here is helping the research. We understand the cell better, and that can help so many people across the world."

Professional Careers Start Here

Schmitt has mentored more than 30 students in his lab the past 20 years, with a number of them applying to work a second year. Together, they explore the causes and behavior of breast, prostate and bone cancers, giving these 20- to 22-year-olds the opportunity to interact in the global scientific community by submitting their work to further decades-long research in an ongoing war. To date, more than 15 students have coauthored papers with Schmitt for scientific publications.

"The kind of hands-on research they are able to do is unique for



Professor John Schmitt loads a sample containing proteins into a LI-COR molecular imaging system nicknamed the "Death Star."

undergraduates, as it requires problemsolving and technical skills that are associated with graduate-level students," Schmitt says.

Several interns have continued in the medical and research fields. Luke Fletcher, MD ('09) went on to USC and is an oncologist. Renee Geck, PhD ('14) graduated from Harvard and teaches at

Gonzaga. Others have gone to medical school at Oregon Health & Science University, Loma Linda University, Duke University and Tulane University, with careers in pediatrics, family and internal medicine, anesthesia, nursing and emergency medicine.

"Students at George Fox, in particular in the sciences, are in a position to really do cutting-edge research," Schmitt says. "At a large university, it might be difficult for an undergraduate to have a good hands-on project where they get to make some of the decisions, help plan out their experiments, evaluate their results, and present that information in a professional way. The kinds of questions they're asking, the kinds of hypotheses they're pursuing, are complicated, fascinating, and go way beyond the scope of your

teaching lab."

Bailey, Tranby and Denham had a summer of exacting, repetitive work that holds the promise of discovery. A summer of identifying options – for cancer treatment and for their futures. A summer of working individually and as a team. All three presented their research at various symposia this past

traditional undergraduate

"Students at George Fox, in particular in the sciences, are in a position to really do cutting-edge research. The kinds of questions they're asking ... go way beyond the scope of your traditional undergraduate teaching lab."

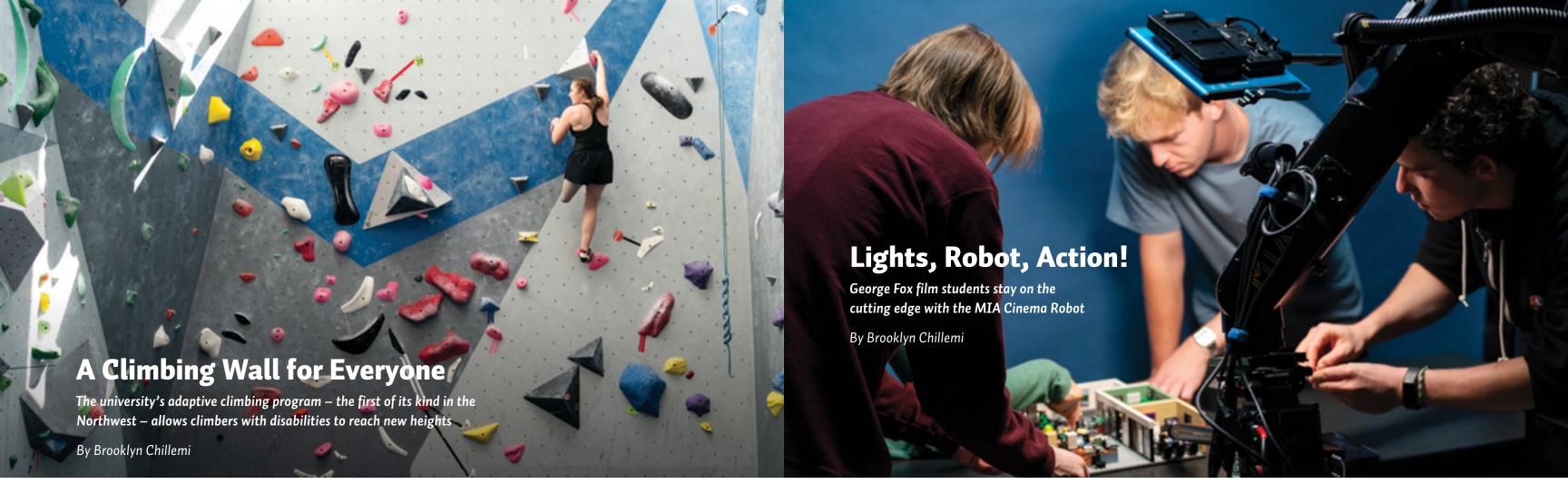
year. Bailey was given a top poster award at the Murdock Research Conference last fall for her project and presentation.

One year later, Bailey is working with youth and women through a missions organization in Sierra Leone, after graduating a semester early. Denham, now a senior, is working in the Schmitt Lab again this summer, and plans to apply to medical school next spring.

Tranby, who graduated in May, also decided medical school is her next step, but a summer of research added a depth to her future that was unexpected. "Research and medicine go hand-in-hand in a lot of ways," she says. "I think it's really cool that the research we do leads to medical treatments and patients are able to live because of it."



Watch a video to see the research team in action at georgefox.edu/CancerWars



Rock climbing stands out from other forms of exercise. Each route is a puzzle that takes technique, coordination, power and precision – not to mention the mental challenge of looking down when you're 40 feet in the air.

Adaptive climbers at the university's Hadlock Student Center rock wall see that challenge and raise it. Some do routes blind, while amputees may use their residual limb to climb.

"The goal has always been that the climbing wall should be for everyone," says Nate Freeman, assistant director of university recreation. "This is something that we've identified as a need for campus, but also for the greater Portland area, and something that we want to be one of the forerunners on."

After hosting several informal adaptive climbing nights, last fall the university rock wall team took its efforts to new heights, purchasing specific gear and hosting a clinic where staff learned new techniques from Paradox Sports, the premier organization for adaptive climbing in the U.S.

George Fox is the first university to complete adaptive climbing training in the Pacific Northwest, and one of only a handful on the West Coast.

"It really changed not just our physical setups, but the mentality behind how we can serve people better," Freeman says.

Isabelle James, who has had a prosthetic leg since childhood, remembers that first time she tried to climb the Hadlock Student Center rock wall her freshman year.

"I initially tried to climb with my prosthetic on – that's how I used to do it when I was a kid," she recalls. "But prosthetics change and your body changes over time, and I thought to myself, 'This isn't working."

For James, the feeling was nothing new. "There are so many things in the world that are made for only able-bodied people," she says. "It's hard to find people who share the same life experiences. Sometimes it makes you feel so different and separated from others."

But when James attended a recent adaptive climbing night this past spring,

she instantly felt a sense of belonging in a relatable community.

"It was really cool," she recalls. "There was another amputee there and she told me, 'Oh yeah, this same thing happens to my stump all the time when I climb, too.' I was like, 'Oh my gosh, me too!' And it was just one of those moments where I felt that, 'Wow, I'm not alone."

Since that first attempt freshman year, James, now a senior nursing major, has learned to scale the rock wall with ease. When it's time to climb, she leaves her prosthetic behind – it's just her and the wall. One more hold to reach, one more route to conquer.

"It's been such a good outlet for me," she says. "Everyone can do it, and everyone has their own individual way. It doesn't matter how high you climb or how far you go. What matters is having fun."



Watch a video to learn more about the program at georgefox.edu/ AdaptiveClimbing Meet MIA. Over the past year, this \$125,000 cinema robot has helped George Fox students capture stories in ways they could previously only dream of.

The MIA Cinema Robot has a 3-foot-7 reach and can be programmed for smooth panning, precise tilting and tracking – shots that would otherwise require a manual videographer to defy gravity.

It can also be programmed to exactly repeat specific shots as many times as needed, which helps overcome what is usually a significant challenge in the filmmaking process.

The MIA Cinema Robot is considered industry standard equipment, but it's rare for college students to get experience with one. In fact, George Fox is one of only a few schools in the country where students can use this technology in the classroom.

"It's a signal to students that we're continuing to invest in the program, not just in our teaching practices," says Alex Chung, director of the university's School of Cinema. "I want them to know, 'This is what's out there. We want to introduce you to it."

Adjunct professor Daniel Hurst and a company he cofounded – Motorized Precision, which creates specialty software and motion-controlled robots for the film industry – played a big part in making that introduction, working with Utah-based production company Mystery Box to secure the generous donation after learning they were upgrading to the newest model.

Hurst, who is also owner of VIA Films, has been instrumental in providing students with real-world experience, whether that's

through utilizing his industry connections to acquire equipment donations or putting students to work on the set of his own projects.

"It's been a great collaboration with George Fox in the cinematic arts program," he says. "I've had several students who have ended up coming out and helping me on shoots and eventually becoming super valuable crew members on the team."

Once Hurst secured the donation and MIA made the trek from Utah to campus, a group of students, faculty and staff went through a certification process to operate the machine – a highly sought-after specialty in the industry.

And while not every student who underwent the training plans on specializing in the kinds of shots MIA can achieve, developing these skills makes them more employable in the marketplace, especially in commercial filmmaking.

"I want my students to feel comfortable around an enormous and expensive piece of equipment, to think about new ways of seeing and discovering," Chung says. "And this provides them an industry standard on which to develop their skills and bring that experience to the marketplace in four years."



Watch a video to see the MIA Cinema Robot in action at georgefox.edu/CinemaRobot



An Impact that Lasts Beyond the Grade

For art professor Marvin Eans, empathy design goes beyond industry standards

By Kimberly Felton

You can let your experiences lead you to shut people out or let them make you more empathetic. "You choose," says Marvin Eans.

Eans, assistant professor of art and design and director of internships for the department, chooses empathy, and hopes to guide his students in the same direction.

From Industry to Ministry

Born in Indiana, Eans came from a home that knew brokenness. He loves his dad – this is what he leads with if he says anything about his childhood. His dad finally came to Christ and got clean; that's where Eans focuses. But he experienced the pain an alcoholic parent brings.

Moving to Florida after college graduation, Eans made a name for himself as a freelancer in the Daytona Beach area. When a marketing company hired him full time, he designed direct mail pieces for Toyota and BMW, later changing his focus to branding and print collateral.

"Teaching was not in my trajectory at all," he says. Neither was using his skill in ministry. But he was drawn to his church's outreach efforts and joined Midnight Angels, a group that witnessed to and

"I want students to leave the classroom not only with stronger portfolios, but with a deeper understanding of how their talents can be tools for transformation." prayed for people on the streets of Daytona Beach. He understood their stories. Each one had someone, perhaps a son, who loved them. Before long, his church discovered he was a designer. When they asked for design help, he gave it. And when they offered him a full-time job as an art director for marketing, he took it – and found ministry more satisfying than the industry.

Then the church's high school academy tapped him to teach a

graphic design class, and he discovered he liked working with youth. "It just became a part of me. I wasn't searching for that – it organically grew," he says.

Eans felt God nudging him toward the classroom full time. But that would require a Master of Fine Arts degree, and he fought the idea of grad school. Who was he to think he could attend grad school, let alone become an educator? This script wasn't part of his family.

The deal Eans made with himself – or perhaps with God – was this: He would apply to two grad schools. If he didn't make it in, that was that. When the prestigious Savannah College of Art and Design accepted him, he kept his end of the bargain. Postgraduation, he received notice of a position at a university he'd never heard of in Newberg, Oregon. When he visited the George Fox campus, it felt like home. He, his wife and two children moved from the Southeast to the Northwest in 2021.

Tools for Transformation

"There are people who grew up in situations where they see things, and they can become that or they can learn from it," Eans says.

Perhaps he'd help shelter ministries even if he and his mom hadn't sought shelter from an abusive husband and father. Or maybe he would show concern for people on the street even if his dad hadn't been homeless for a time. It's hard to say what might have been, but easy to see that Eans chose empathy.

Driven to find projects for students that are fulfilling, both spiritually and professionally, he integrates purpose with practice, connecting students with places like Portland Rescue Mission and Habitat for Humanity to create branding, campaign materials and storytelling pieces. He guides students to consider the impact design has in the world, how it shifts narratives when it focuses on the good. "It's more than a design exercise – it's an invitation for students to step into the real world and witness how their work can uplift, restore dignity and build community," he says.

But Eans wants more for his students. His heart beats steady and strong for reaching hurting people outside the church.

Combining forces with Rus St. Cyr, the university's pastor for service and soul care, Eans merged a spiritual life service trip with an opportunity for students to use their design skills. They spent five days at the Philadelphia Dream Center, based in a historic Catholic stone church surrounded by barbed wire fencing in a dicey part of town. They cleaned up streets, talked with people in and around the center, and collaborated on print and online materials that would help the Dream Center be known throughout the city.

"On that trip, I prayed that God would speak to the students' hearts and reveal something about themselves," he says. What Eans didn't know – or expect – was how God would use his past to help a student make sense of their own.

In one of those "organic moments offline," as Eans calls them, a student brought up a tough family situation. "We have similar



upbringings," he says. "I talked about the voices being handed to us and working through the pain."

Vulnerability is not Eans' strong suit; he's working on it. "Just learning to let those guards down and be open – I've seen how that has impacted this student, at least," he says.

With industry portfolios in mind, Eans will introduce a footwear design class in spring 2026 with Wilson Smith, a retired Nike senior designer, as guest lecturer. And if God is tugging students toward ministry, Eans wants them to know their gifts are needed there, too. "It was through the church that I realized I can use design as a way to amplify the gospel message," he says.

Philippians 4:13 has carried Eans far, and he emphasizes it fre-

quently to his students. "'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' It's a reminder that they're not doing this alone and Christ gives us strength not just in life, but also in our creative work and studies," he says.

"These two truths of how we're created by a creative God, and that we're strengthened by him, are at the core of how I support and encourage students. Their creativity has a purpose, and they can move forward with confidence in the gifts God has placed in them. I want students to leave the classroom not only with stronger portfolios, but with a deeper understanding of how their talents can be tools for transformation. That kind of impact lasts far beyond the grade."





Striking a Balance

Biomedical engineering graduate Frankie Alcalá works at the intersection of people and technology to bring hope to patients with Parkinson's disease

By Jaime Handley

Walking into the Oregon Health & Science University Balance Disorders Laboratory, a world of technology surrounds you. Wearable sensors and monitors, as well as equipment you might see in a gym class, occupy the space. It's a world that might feel intimidating for the participants who donate their time to help researchers learn more about Parkinson's disease.

But Frankie Alcalá, a 2023 George Fox biomedical engineering graduate, ensures everyone who comes to the lab feels cared for each

step of the way, merging her education as an engineer with her love for people as she supports the neurology department's efforts to research diseases that have affected so many, and in the process, improve her patients' quality of life.

"I find my strengths in the in-between space," says Alcalá, a clinical research coordinator at the lab. "I enjoy and love the technical side of engineering, but engineering is for people, and I love people."

This love for people is reflected in every aspect of Alcalá's role, from putting patients at ease during their first visit to physically walking alongside them as she uses various technologies to track and monitor

their movements. She loves knowing the lab's research creates practical solutions that help people better navigate the difficulties of their Parkinson's journey.

Caring for People Where They Are

An observation on a service trip to Kenya before her senior year of high school led Alcalá to explore the field of biomedical engineering. Noticing the lack of infrastructure available in Kenya, she began to connect some important dots.

"If there's no infrastructure for a wheelchair – like ramps on buildings – giving someone a wheelchair is going to be more harmful than helpful," she says. "Thinking about how to care for people right where they are was the start of my inspiration to study biomedical engineering."

With the desire to meet people in their lived experiences and the thoughtfulness to wrestle with how, Alcalá began looking for programs. The opportunity to attend George Fox on a merit scholarship led her to consider making the journey north from her home in Orange County, California, to Newberg, Oregon.

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Alcalá contributes

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and feel a sense

of hope.

to research that

for people with

"The scholarship got me in the door, but visiting the campus and seeing the environment and the community sealed the deal," she says.

And that "yes" set a trajectory for Alcalá toward her unique role in the OHSU Balance Disorders Laboratory. "One of the many things I use from my engineering education at Fox is knowing how to be open to learning wherever, whenever and however the opportunity presents itself," she says.

This openness also means pivoting when things don't go exactly as planned.

"Being open to failure is drilled into us from the start, and it's easier said than done," Alcalá says. "Learning how to learn, how to approach different situations from different angles, and problem solving holistically, that is something I get to apply to my job pretty much every day."

As she works with a population learning how to navigate life with emerging neurological challenges, Alcalá's kind and welcoming demeanor is an instant relief to her patients who aren't sure what to expect when they come into the lab.

"I feel called to be a vessel of love and joy to these patients," she says. "A lot of them are nervous when they come in. They don't know what it will be like, and I love welcoming them and showing them the warmth and love of Christ."

Whether working with technology like APDM's Opal sensors to analyze gait and balance data or using gloves with vibrational patterns in an effort to alleviate Parkinson's symptoms, Alcalá contributes to research that seeks new pathways for people with Parkison's disease to live a better life and feel a sense of hope.

Hope on the Horizon

Alcalá is bolstered by the many participants who willingly donate their time to improve outcomes for future patients.

"I can't count the number of times a patient has come in saying they don't know if the study will help them, but they hope it will help someone else," she says. "It's an active way that patients can not only give hope to themselves, but also know that they're providing hope for the future. At the same time, they are physically helping us with research and learning more about certain symptoms of Parkinson's, as well as treatments and interventions."

Protocols and testing can be tiresome, but Alcalá is inspired to see how these participants and their support communities continue to show up. She recalls a particular individual whose wife comes with him for testing and is always ready with water, a snack, a word of encouragement or whatever he needs for a quick boost of energy to keep going.

"Not only are we looking to help individuals with Parkinson's

via our research at the lab, but we're seeking to help the communities around them," she says. "There are so many people invested. Seeing those moments when family members come together to support a patient is overwhelming. It inspires me."

Faith in Action

After graduation, Alcalá realized she missed the faith element of her George Fox community. She wanted to find ways to meet God in her daily interactions, while working within the boundaries of a secular organization like OHSU. "God is with me here now, so I started asking myself how I could choose to be with him, even in my work in the lab," she says.

So, as she walks beside her patients, monitoring their gait or spotting them as they attempt a difficult task, Alcalá silently prays. "I walk in their shadow in case I need to catch them, and I pray for them. I don't know much about their life – maybe I get little tidbits here and there through the small talk – but I love walking and praying with them, even if they don't know it," she says.

These simple prayers have become a way for Alcalá to incorporate her faith into her daily boots-on-the-ground work and her calling into her career.

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Now that she's two years into her career, Alcalá fondly remembers her experience at George Fox. From the professors in the honors program who taught her how to incorporate faith into every aspect of life and see beauty even in seasons of struggle, to her fellow female engineers with whom she still FaceTimes and often goes line dancing, Alcalá credits her college experience with deep personal growth.

"George Fox was renewing, challenging, refreshing and fulfilling," she says. "There are so many precious memories. The person I was when I went to George Fox is different from the person I was when I graduated, and that's a good thing!"

Today, Alcalá feels like this is where she belongs – at the intersection of people and technology, career and calling. At the same time, she's excited to see where the future will take her as a biomedical engineer and a woman with a heart for service and faith.

"I don't know where my path will lead, but I trust God will lead me there," she says. "I'm so glad that my calling to care for and love people is present in this career. I'm excited to see where it takes me."



Watch a video with more of Frankie's story at **georgefox.edu/FrankieAlcala**





Farai Piloto was always a curious kid, asking endless questions and trying to figure out how things worked. He loved to build things, too. "As a child, I used to build mock-ups out of paper or anything else

I could find to create infrastructure for my toys, like cities and roads," he says. He moved on to creating three-dimensional airplanes and then through video games fell in love with designing cars.

Piloto's passion for design led him to George Fox University, where he pursued a degree in art and design with a concentration in studio art, graduating in 2017. With the encouragement of university professors, he went on to earn a second degree in transportation design from the ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena, California.

The education set him up for a position at General Motors as a creative digital sculptor, turning 2D sketches of vehicles into 3D digital models. Digital sculpting is the step between the initial sketches and the clay modeling phase of a new design. Using digital and rendering tools, Piloto brings to life the vehicle's concept in all of its design detail. The ability to work on a team is essential. "It takes a lot of people working together to get a car to reality," he says.

The job is a dream come true for the self-described car enthusiast, but landing at General Motors was no accident. It took hard work, persistence and vision.

Piloto was born in New York but has family all over the world and grew up between New York and Zimbabwe. It was while living in Zimbabwe that he developed his passion for designing cars, falling in love with "the beauty of intentional design," as he explains it. He couldn't help but observe that the cars in Zimbabwe weren't as beautiful as those he saw in the video games he played. "I knew what I was seeing in the video games was real and that someone had to make it," he says. The realization proved to be a catalyst.

After completing high school in Zimbabwe, Piloto returned to the U.S. for college. Researching schools with a Christian emphasis, he chose George Fox because he saw it as a place where he could blend his faith with his artistic interests.

Piloto's faith plays a central role in his passion for art and design, and George Fox provided the canvas for him to explore faith and art in tandem. "I'm a very visual person, and when I see something beautiful like a sunset or beautiful scenery, I see something God has made," he explains.

In turn, when Piloto creates, the process and result feel like a gift – as if "I'm creating alongside the Creator

within his creation," he says. He describes working in a state of flow – that state of deep absorption – as a humbling and spiritual experience, one that allows him to connect with God.

Piloto also credits his professors with encouraging him to pursue his interest in projects that were different from his classmates' work. "My work wasn't traditional art at all but essentially industrial design in some form," he says. Although Piloto loves all kinds

of art, he is drawn to 3D design, and as he moved through his studies, he narrowed his focus. "I was basically chasing my passion," he says.

For his senior project at George Fox, Piloto designed a sports car out of a type of potter's clay, not the usual material for a car model. "I had quite a few failures, including one I worked on for quite a while that blew up in the kiln," he says. Initially frustrating, the project was ultimately a success: a sleek blue sports car fea-

turing the minute detail of curved fenders, side mirrors, door panels and sporty wheel wells, all in clay.

His professors picked up on Piloto's creative process, including his preference for creating a "deep story" behind his work, and nourished it. Before starting a project, his method is to look for the meaning and reason behind it rather than embarking without a plan. The process requires research, finding inspiration, and linking the story to the visual representation he creates. "Every piece I create has a story behind it," he says.

His senior project at ArtCenter – designing a vehicle for senior citizens – illustrates the way Piloto works. Before designing the car, he asked himself guiding questions: What would give the driver a sense of independence? What would provide a sense of comfort? What would bring a sense of nostalgia? He looked to nature for inspiration, zeroing in on different types of flowers and using the shapes to guide his design of the interior.

> At George Fox, professor Jillian Sokso nudged him to explore his deep-story process and "planted seeds to think about what the next chapter looked like," Piloto says. Professor Jeff Cameron also encouraged him to think about his next chapter.

> At their suggestion, he pursued his second degree in transportation design. During that time he also secured an internship at General Motors as a digital sculptor intern, which even-

tually led to a full-time position.

When Piloto creates,

the process and

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the Creator ..."

Piloto can see the throughline when he looks back over his education and career trajectory. George Fox provided the perfect building-block program, he says, because he was able to explore many types of art media and then pursue his 3D design interests with the blessing of supportive professors.

Still, he wishes he'd known more about career possibilities well before college, and he wants to build awareness about what's possible for students who love cars as much as he does.

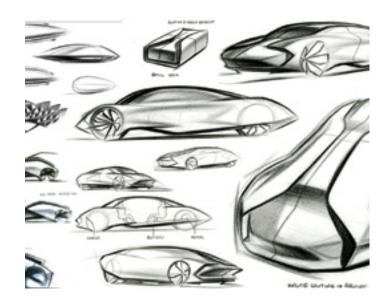
One way he does that is by mentoring Michigan high school students interested in design to introduce them to the auto industry. As a teen, Piloto had no idea 3D digital sculpting was a career option. "I feel like being exposed to that earlier in life would have made the journey easier," he says. "I pretty much had to figure it out as I went."

When he mentors high schoolers, he explains what car design is and what he does as a digital sculptor, while sharing his knowledge of the auto industry. His aim: to provide career support he didn't get. "It's not a well-known career path for some reason," he says.

He also explains to his mentees the need for determination and persistence. "The biggest thing is passion," he says. "It's not an easy industry to get into, so personal drive is important."

Piloto suggests students learn as much as they can about the car design process from end to end, and, if possible, to devote resources to developing and honing their skills.

But most of all, he wants these students to find what motivates them and stick with it. "It's really important to listen to that internal voice, even though it might not be what other people are doing."





Piloto works from 2D sketches to produce realistic 3D models of vehicles, similar to these images from his student portfolio at ArtCenter College of Design, where he continued his education after George Fox.



A conceptual design of a vehicle for senior citizens, part of Piloto's senior design project at ArtCenter.





Human by Design

Microsoft business architect Monica Seidel ensures healthcare technology stays focused on what matters most — people

By Jaime Handley

With tools like AI now powering many of our day-to-day tasks, it's reassuring to know someone like Monica (Schreffler) Seidel, a 1996 George Fox graduate and a principal business architect with Microsoft's Healthcare and Life Sciences Division, is working to ensure these technologies serve people well.

Seidel takes a person-centered approach to translating solutions between her customers and the software engineers who design Microsoft's various platforms.

"When we are helping a customer implement a new solution, somebody steeped in their day-to-day delivery isn't necessarily going to understand everything the technical architect tells them,

"Building community, helping people get and stay connected, knowing that we're looking out for each other, that's my passion."

ultimately to put myself in the customer's shoes," she says.

so my role is not only as a translator, but

Game-changing Technologies

Electronic medical records are a prime example of technology revolutionizing an industry we all encounter regularly: healthcare.

If you've gone to your doctor's office lately, your provider may have asked for permission to record your visit. Microsoft's Dragon Ambient eXperience (DAX) Copilot allows clinicians to create chart notes efficiently and quickly, helping to reducing burnout and fatigue.

"The AI does a great job drafting that chart note for providers," Seidel explains. "Once the note is created, all a provider has to do is scan for completeness and accuracy, press 'approve,' and they're done."

This technology not only saves providers valuable hours of work, it also creates a more complete medical record. DAX, along with other advanced AI-powered capabilities, can capture and summarize clinical conversations, create a streamlined and thorough note, scan past visits, notice abnormalities, and prompt providers with real-time suggestions. In the medical world, it's a game-changer.

"There are some very powerful things happening right now," Seidel says. "In my experience, we rarely have something that improves quality and saves time. There's potential in every sector of healthcare."

Social Work: A Wider Lens

As a social work major at George Fox, Seidel learned valuable people skills that inform her work with some of the largest systems in the world, from health insurers and hospital systems to state and local governments.

Seidel uses her unique skill set to guide companies in considering the factors that help and hinder user outcomes. Blending this wider lens with her ability to apply data allows her to understand access to technology holistically.

"If a customer has one lens, we help them think through the other elements that might affect their clients' access," she says. "My job is to ask those hard questions and prompt people through those discussions around how people and systems work."

Seidel sees her time at George Fox as an invaluable asset.

"I told somebody recently that I use my social work degree more than anything else in this job because sometimes in those meetings, I am pulling out a lot of what I learned in group therapy courses," she says. "How do we get people with strongly held opinions to reach a common understanding? I find myself stepping into that space quite a bit."

Coming from the healthcare arena, Seidel learned that the best approach when working out a problem is to put the patient – or the eventual user of any system – at the center.

Remembering a book she was required to read during her senior year at George Fox, Sociology Through the Eyes of Faith, Seidel reflects on how the ethical frameworks of the medical community borrow from the intrinsic ethics of Christianity. These frameworks around human dignity serve as guideposts as she seeks to use emerging technology with care.

"For ethical frameworks, like where your moral opinions come from, you've got to pick a source," she says. "Our healthcare system and its ethical frameworks around human dignity are connected, by and large, to Christian values. And we can also connect these frameworks to the ethical use of technology."

Building Community

Just as Seidel integrates a person-centered approach in her work with Microsoft, she also takes this ethos into other areas of her life.

Recognizing the potential of Microsoft's employee charity matching program, Seidel led last year's giving campaign for her division.

"The giving campaign was fun because we invited people to



share stories about why they give and talk about the different programs," she says.

She encouraged fellow Microsoft employees to max out the matching program. Though this type of sacrificial giving is countercultural in most workplaces, she credits the practice of tithing with a personal ethic of charitable giving.

Seidel also made good use of Microsoft's matching grant for volunteer hours and spent several years on the board of a shelter for single parents in Portland. Using free software granted by Microsoft's Nonprofit Solutions program, she was able to help the shelter streamline and manage its day-to-day operations.

Being a long-time Portland resident, Seidel relishes the opportunity to invest in her community.

"We have a very tight-knit neighborhood," she says. "This

shelter was beautiful because several churches in North Portland formed a group called AllOne Community

Services to establish it. My husband and I wanted to get involved, so we started volunteering and giving financially. I eventually joined the board to help with strategy and management."

Making an impact in her local community is imperative to Seidel. And this lens of serving real people in real spaces impacts how she helps her clients use technology ethically as well.

Whether working to create usable systems for huge corporations that will impact communities across the United States or helping to develop sustainable systems of care in her own backyard, Seidel seeks to serve wherever she can.

"Building community, helping people get and stay connected, knowing that we're looking out for each other, that's my passion."



In July 2021, Justin "Mooch" DeLoretto stood in line at a Subway in Indiana when a member of the Black Pistons Motorcycle Club aimed a loaded gun at his chest. Minutes earlier, he and 30 of his fellow Mongols had been enjoying a warm breeze and the freedom of the open road. Now, he was frozen, wondering if he'd survive what should have been an ordinary day.

DeLoretto watched the scene in slow motion – employees fled to the back room, a shocked family cowered in a booth, and rival club members sat on high alert. His allies were also ready, clutching their vests and warning the shooter to back off. He thought about his two close friends who had been murdered in a similar incident only months before, and he worried. "Would this scared kid – motivated by a turf war – get himself killed? Or worse, would he incite a shootout where innocent people might die?"

A lifetime of fighting had prepared DeLoretto for many things, but this time it was his power of perception that came to his aid. Could he talk the gunman down? He didn't know. But he had to try.

Harrowing moments like this fill DeLoretto's 2023 memoir, The Ride of My Life: From Street Gangs to Motorcycle Clubs to Social Worker.

Much like that day in Subway, his life has been a battle between the flinch to fight and the urge to heal.

A Tough Guy

DeLoretto learned to fight early. He grew up roughhousing with his identical twin, Jeremy, and through sports like boxing and wrestling learned to execute punches and takedowns with precision. When he joined a street gang in high school, he was well-prepared for the initiation – defending against simultaneous attacks from senior gang members. According to DeLoretto, his tough-guy persona saved him from the invisibility that adolescents fear. "I went from being the nerdy outcast to having a reputation where people showed me respect," he says. "All of a sudden people were recognizing me, and I had an image."

His reputation gave him power, but it came with a cost. At 16, he was charged with juvenile felony assault and received three years probation. At 17, after another high-profile fight, he fled from authorities. His grandfather, a man he loved and who helped raise him, begged DeLoretto to turn himself in but he refused, not want-

ing to go to jail. "Me running broke his heart," he writes in his book. "I don't think I will ever forget it."

Years of gang life followed, culminating in an existential crisis. At 24, gang leaders ordered him to carry out a retaliatory hit after his brother was nearly beaten to death. He desperately wanted to avenge Jeremy but realized the risk was only to his life, not theirs. Did he even matter to them? The answer to his question landed like a sucker punch.

He bought a large Gatorade and a bottle of sleeping pills and went to bed. In one of many miracles, his ex-girlfriend discovered him, called an ambulance and saved his life.

When DeLoretto awoke in the hospital, the second chance felt real, and he left street gangs for good. Soon after, he found a new home in the Mongols Motorcycle Club, which offered him something more than an identity – it offered him belonging.

There's a logic to motorcycle clubs that outsiders rarely understand, according to DeLoretto. Men leaving fraternal networks like the military or gangs are drawn to structure and brotherhood. The Mongols offered both. In addition to a shared love of motorcycles and fellowship, they expected members to work full time, work out three times a week, and stay away from hard drugs. But

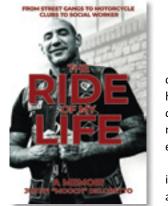
their outlaw reputation and chronic turf wars made DeLoretto the enemy of hostile clubs and law enforcement alike. His membership in the Mongols kick-started a new round of arrests and jail time, with charges ranging from assault to menacing to reckless driving.

A Better Man

The last time DeLoretto went to jail, a familiar prison guard told him something that changed his life. "I lost a bet," he told DeLoretto. "I didn't think you were coming back." Those words conveyed a message he needed to hear — he had what it took to change his life, and even his jailer could see it. He looked around and decided to do better. He decided he was better.

DeLoretto wanted to make a difference with his life. He learned that the field of social work accepted people like him – those with felony records and many visible tattoos. It took six years and three universities to complete his undergraduate degree, but he did it. In 2015, he graduated from George Fox's Accelerated Online Degree Program, and two years later earned his master of social work degree from George Fox as well.

For the last eight years, DeLoretto has worked with at-risk youth, helping them avoid detention and foster care. As an MSW clinical supervisor at Grace Harbour Behavioral Health in Savannah, Georgia, he now supervises therapists who train parents to maintain boundaries long after their work together ends. DeLoretto is proud of the amazing outcomes he has witnessed firsthand. "Every



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It resonates with me

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day we're helping kids change the path they're on," he says. "It resonates with me because no one ever came and talked to me about these things, and maybe if someone had, it might've made a difference."

As his career grew, other areas of his life flourished. He developed new passions like jiu-jitsu and began a meaningful relationship with his future wife, Ashley. He distanced himself from the

Mongols, but leaving the brotherhood was difficult. He decided to use his newfound skills to mediate between rival clubs and began doing major sit-downs. "I had to read people and take the high road," DeLoretto says. "I had to think, 'Why is he thinking like this?" He had no way of knowing that one day he'd ask these same questions to save his own life and the lives of others.

One More Miracle

At Subway, seconds from disaster, DeLoretto reasoned with the gunman. "Did he really want to die? Wouldn't he rather take the fight outside?" In a miracle moment, the shooter lowered his gun, and DeLoretto and everyone else walked away unharmed. Soon after, he retired from the Mongols and began a new chapter of his

life — literally — with the publication of his life story.

DeLoretto's struggle to exit the club gave him compassion for the difficulty other men face. His career, family and jiu-jitsu club eased the transition, giving him purpose, but he knew it was not that easy for everyone. Today, DeLoretto helps ex-members from rival motorcycle clubs process their losses and find common ground through his podcast, *Patched*. Here, his guests rely on his therapy skills. "We're just a bunch of guys talking about our feelings," he says.

DeLoretto is also driven to help others who feel lost or insignificant. In addition to helping

at-risk youth, he supports veterans, moderates a recovery group, and has become a devoted animal rescue dad. He and Ashley share their home with four rescue dogs, including 18-year-old Marco, a Maltese he adopted after learning he'd been abandoned. "He's blind and deaf and sleeps in my bed," DeLoretto says. "We're trying to give him the best few years of his life."

Living his best life is something DeLoretto and Marco have in common. Since publishing his book, DeLoretto has been able to share his story with thousands of people and collaborate with others who believe in healing old wounds. In early 2024, his criminal record was expunged – an important step in his redemption story. Looking back, he's grateful for the hard lessons and hopeful his journey inspires others. His advice to his younger self? "Never give up," he says. "Times get hard, but you gotta push through."



Growing up in Sisters, Oregon, Keenan O'Hern's philosophy of sustainability was shaped as much by place as by people.

At 13, he met the renowned zoologist Jane Goodall, and his high school created multidisciplinary opportunities to study the outdoors.

"We'd learn how to repair a riparian zone along the river and then write a song about it, perform it for the Deschutes Watershed Council, and even record it," he recalls. "I developed a robust appreciation and respect for nature there, taking personal ownership of the Leave No Trace principles."

But as O'Hern grew up, he realized that the burden of stewardship was on the shoulders of his generation.

"You have this expectation as a kid that there will always be

somebody to step in and steward those spaces," he says. "As you get older, you realize you have to jump in. You are it!"

Planting a Seed

As a Ford Family Foundation Scholarship recipient, O'Hern chose to attend George Fox to study marketing, completing his bachelor's degree in 2018. "I had planned to travel around Italy and work on organic farms. And then I ended up getting the scholarship," he says. "I was looking for a tight-knit community similar to where I'd come from. That whole Be Known promise of George Fox was appealing to me."

During his time as an undergrad, O'Hern had the opportunity to study abroad in Rome, which planted the seed for what would

eventually become his company name, Revino.

"It all stemmed from being exposed to vino sfuso and the fiasco bottles in Italy," he says. "I saw how reuse was in step with their wine-rich history and felt the combination of the Re (meaning "again" in Latin, and also a nod to the 3R's – reduce, reuse and recycle) with Vino was a perfect marrying of two inspiring concepts. It also just sounded good!"

O'Hern began further exploring the glass bottle reuse industry while pursuing his MBA at George Fox, which he completed in 2022. Realizing that the U.S. is far behind the global reuse curve, he looked at other markets, like his mother's native Netherlands, to see how glass reuse could be improved.

He saw an opportunity in his own backyard to create a reuse

"It's quite astonishing when you think about it. Glass is the only material that's infinitely reusable."

ecosystem that could serve local farms and businesses and make a marked environmental impact.

"The largest component of a winery's carbon emissions comes from the packaging and transport of glass bottles," O'Hern says. "There was no working solution."

With the input of another George Fox alumnus, Austin Ziegler (B18), a vision for Revino was born. O'Hern then brought in George Fox alumni Sarah Reid (B08), McKenzie Young (B19) and Kayin Griffith (B08, M19) to help shape Revino's digital marketing communication strategy.

Adam Rack of Cooper's Hall Winery joined O'Hern in 2022 to bring his expertise and begin building the company.

O'Hern and Rack then hired Callie Edwards, an industry expert with the Oregon Beverage Recycling Collective, who was arguably the only person in the U.S. with experience running a reuse ecosystem

With their team in place, Revino was ripe for success.

Gap Turned to Gain

As he researched, O'Hern saw that the rise of single-use packaging replaced the once-thriving U.S. glass reuse infrastructure of the mid-20th century. Where others might see a gap, he saw an opportunity.

"It's quite astonishing when you think about it. Glass is the only material that's infinitely reusable. It's a material you can break down – it's super easy to crush and make right back into glass," he says.

With 10 million glass bottles going into landfills daily in the U.S., Revino sought to engineer a solution. Enter the Revino reus-

able bottle. This unique, standardized bottle provided not only a solution for local wineries to save on cost but also found an avenue to extend the life cycle of their packaging, keeping some of those landfill bottles circulating.

As O'Hern moved from ideation to execution, he found support in George Fox's MBA program. "At every step of the way, I had three incredible cohort members review my business plan," he says. "I would go to my professors and ask very specific questions. It was like an active case study."

The support O'Hern received from his George Fox professors and classmates brought clarity and vision.

"Their openness to my 'What if?' and 'Why can't we?' questions was instrumental in developing my entrepreneurial mindset," he says. "Notably, Debby Thomas, dean of the College of Business, has been an incredible supporter, providing guidance and encouragement that have been vital to my journey."

And that collaborative spirit has extended into each growth phase of the Revino brand. Case in point: O'Hern brought 75 wineries from across Oregon to the table to help develop the Revino reusable bottle.

An Ethos of Partnership

What started as a local model has expanded beyond this Oregon native's backyard.

"From the get-go, we were getting requests from people on the Eastern Seaboard - New York, Finger Lakes, Maine - saying, 'We want these systems here,'" O'Hern savs.

As O'Hern and his team look to expand, they are solving an old problem – the limitations of the current glass sorting and washing system - with a ground-breaking solution. "We're building the first industrialized commercial-scale glass bottle washing facility in the United States, opening new

revenue streams and laying the foundation for a large-scale bottle washing system," he says.

Revino has the ability to wash and reuse its specialized bottles along with any other glass bottle on the market. But the company is about so much more than reusable wine bottles – it's about creating a lasting impact for the next generation.

"As I've become a father and thought about what I want to leave to my son, I've become even more engaged in creating solutions." O'Hern savs.

And these solutions center on collaboration. O'Hern and his Revino partners have a heart for collaboration and community care. "Partnership" is a high-use word in

their vocabulary.

"Partnership with the communities we support is everything," he says. "We couldn't have done this without people who came to the table, took an hour for coffee, or even our spouses and partners who walked with us through this process."

And O'Hern loves to pour into the communities that have poured into him, whether leading trips for his former high school in Sisters or mentoring George Fox students alongside his wife, Stacy, through the university's Ignite program.

"I'm a firm believer in paying it forward," he says. "I also believe that not every situation in business has to be two-sided. At Revino, we love helping people, even if we don't get something in return. Authenticity

and integrity have paid off for us in droves."

"We want to

be able to step

into a community

and be partners,

not takers."

Environment, Community and People

As Revino looks toward the future, the company continues to lean into its superpower of collaboration, partnering with Recyclops, a national organization seeking to widen access to convenient recycling.

"We're planning our expansion across the Western coastline

right now, with Washington wineries onboarding in the next two months, as well as expanded locations for drop-off of Revino bottles," he says.

The company is also pursuing advocacy and policy work to influence the legislative landscape in Oregon and across the U.S.

What they've built in Revino is unique - a thriving business that centers on the formation of hope through sustainability.

"This is rooted in faith. We want to be able to step into a community and be partners, not takers," O'Hern says. "Ultimately, the impact we want to make is tied to more than dollars; it's directly tied to the environment, the community and the people. That's our bottom line."





Love is Listening

Mindy Sutton uses equine-assisted therapy to help her clients process complicated emotions and begin to heal

By Emmy King and Sean Patterson

"God is brilliant," says Mindy Sutton. "He just allows horses to interact with us in a way that can be so impactful and healing, without having to use any words at all."

Sutton, a 2023 graduate of the George Fox Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling program, employs a unique approach in her counseling practice: equine-assisted therapy.

Horses are naturally intuitive, she says, allowing them to easily pick up on whatever clients might be feeling under the surface. This

"It's really hard to explain without experiencing it, but somehow God uses animals to do this work." helps individuals process their complicated emotions in a way that can feel more natural than a traditional sit-down session.

Ironically, Sutton had never even heard of equine-assisted therapy until taking an elective on the subject as one of her trauma certification courses at George Fox. The practice is experiential and metaphorical, resembling the sand

tray therapy that uses objects to represent certain aspects of a person's life.

"You may be having a challenge with your parents, so you pick little items and place them in a tray to either represent your parents or represent how you feel about them," she says of sand tray therapy. "The metaphors that our brain makes in sand tray therapy are exactly what happens in equine therapy, only the 'tray' is alive in the form of an animal. Our brains can make metaphors about them specifically as animals, or they can represent people, feelings



or anything else your brain imagines."

Sutton is hard-pressed to explain it, but the sessions are fruitful, leaving her amazed at how wondrous the human brain is. "Even if we aren't articulating exactly what's happening out there, our brains are processing it," she says. "And these deep traumas that we really don't think about on a daily basis? Our brains don't ever forget them.

"Sometimes these experiences or emotions can bubble up and be either viewed in a different way, depending on what happens out there, or the healing can start happening, whether we're cognizant of it or not. It's really hard to explain without experiencing it, but somehow God uses animals to do this work."

Sutton has her own private practice, Heart Attach Counseling, in Newberg, and partners with a local organization, Helping Hands Horse Rescue and Equine Therapy, to offer the service. "It's just Old MacDonald's farm out there," she laughs. "The surrounding area and any of the animals could impact someone's life and be part of their story. That's pretty amazing, and it's a big part of my practice."

In her prior career, as a vascular tech with Harborview Medical Center, OHSU and Salem Health from 1993 to 2020, Sutton particularly enjoyed the connections she made with her patients. When that came to an end, she knew she wouldn't be content to simply retire. Her passion for helping others wouldn't permit it. So, when it came time to embark on a new career, Sutton knew it had to involve personal interaction. She found her niche in relational therapy.

"I'm passionate about what I do because of relationships," she says. "I believe that we were designed for connection, so having a strong connection to a few people in our lives is essential. Helping people work on their relationships with the people who mean the most to them is critical for their well-being in every aspect of life."

Sutton's own life experiences also influenced her decision to become a counselor. Years ago, as one of her children suffered from depression, people rallied around her family in support.

"I got to see a part of a world that I wasn't expecting and was never exposed to, and there were some amazingly kind and loving people in our lives at that time who supported us," she says. "And I thought, 'I just really want to give back.' I just want to be there for people who are either going through something similar or something just as devastating."

Ultimately, as an equine therapist, Sutton wants to give clients a space to process their difficult experiences. "It's an honor to sit



with people, talk with them and hear their stories," she says. "I've had such amazing clients with lots of hurt, strength and determination. There are people whose marriage was pretty much over when I first got to know them, and now they're getting closer and working it out. It's so gratifying to be a part of their journey. It's humbling because it's not what I did that got them there, but it's the work that they put in."

Sutton is especially interested in serving first responders in the future. Three generations of her family have been in the fire service, including her husband and both of her kids. "I know the impact that a stressful job can have on a marriage, on a family, and on an individual, so that's an area of clientele I would like to focus on," she says.

She credits her George Fox education for not only enabling her to help others, but for encouraging her own personal growth. "There's this huge emotional component of the counseling classes I wasn't super aware of prior to enrolling" she says. "But it's amazing how all of the classes I took

enrolling," she says. "But it's amazing how all of the classes I took prepared me to be a better human. Even if I never had a client come and see me, it was so worth it."

Ultimately, counseling gives Sutton an outlet to love others, imitating how Jesus loves us. For her, love is listening.

"My belief in Jesus and my love for him impacts everything that I do," she says. "I just hope to be able to love others the way that I feel loved by Jesus."

A Father's Love

From hospital housekeeper to pediatric nurse, Noriel Sanchez's ongoing journey to care for his son put him in a position to help other kids as well

By Kimberly Felton

Two years ago, Noriel Sanchez's greatest hope for his son was a peaceful death.

Sanchez was three months into the nursing program at George Fox, attending classes during the day and working nights, seeing his family in between naps that sufficed for sleep, when it seemed his second son – his inspiration for entering the profession – was dying. Sanchez was no stranger to loss, but this one felt impossible to absorb.

Stranger in a Strange Land

Born in Panama, Sanchez grew up in a working-class family. "We knew the only way to better ourselves was to work hard and do our best in whatever was in front of us," he says. At 17, he entered an architecture firm and began studying for his degree. Six years later, Rebecca arrived – a young missionary from the United States who needed assistance with a building project.

Building plans led to wedding plans, and they settled in to raise a family. Soon after, their first son, David, was

Life's trajectory was altered – only temporarily, they thought - when Rebecca's father needed care after a heart transplant. Sanchez was 29, handling drafting, designs, administration of small projects, budgeting and planning for a civil engineering firm that built skyscrapers. As they packed for a planned one or two years in the U.S., Sanchez paused in writing his thesis, focused on his English, and planned to continue pursuing his degree in America.

Unfortunately, things didn't go according to plan. Sanchez discovered his credits didn't transfer, and he didn't have the time nor money to start his degree over. He needed to support his family, and felt the acute frustration of the immigrant underestimated for his knowledge and ability. He found work at a grocery store while Rebecca took office work. But that was OK; it was just for a short time. Then Oliver was born.





Sanchez's pursuit of a nursing degree included studying, working full time, and sometimes even completing 12-hour clinical rotations.

From Architect to Housekeeper

Oliver was missing a heart valve. Surgery corrected this, but other problems surfaced. He was diagnosed with a "microdeletion of chromosome 6, arm p, location 21.1." He was the fifth child worldwide diagnosed with the condition.

With precious little research on the ailment, Oliver's condition doesn't even have a name. It manifests in multiple complications:

"I want to give back

in Oliver's name.

Many of my future

coworkers cared for

Oliver in the past -

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inspired me to pursue

a career in nursing."

mental delays, speech impediments, fragile bones. A urologist, hematologist, cardiologist, pulmonologist and nephrologist are among the 20-plus specialists on Oliver's team.

A return to Panama was out of the question. Oliver had to remain in the U.S. to get the accessible and affordable healthcare he needed. Sanchez would not be an architect after all, and they did not have a Plan B.

Six months later, a Kaiser Permanente job advertisement offered the necessities: healthcare benefits and better pay. The architectturned-grocer became a housekeeper in the medical-surgical ward.

Between his job and numerous overnighters with Oliver at Randall Children's Hospital, Sanchez observed and experienced the impact of nurses on the lives of patients and families. The nurses taught him skills to care for Oliver at home, from tube feedings at

birth to daily medication injections, and helped him advocate for Oliver's changing needs.

At home, the family grew. Cora was born, and the family of five settled into the complicated yet simple existence of living the moments. Walking down the dirt road to the pond at the end. Driving around Hagg Lake, listening to music. Playing games, laughing and loving.

> Sanchez became team lead on the night shift in housekeeping and trained as a certified nursing assistant – not for a promotion, but to better care for his son's physical needs.

> "When my son is in the hospital, my wife, who's an English speaker, would deal with a difficult conversation with the medical staff. and I would focus on caring for him," he says. "I would change his diaper or the bed or feed him. Many people were telling me, 'I think you should study nursing.' But I wasn't called to be a nurse at that point."

Then Oliver had a stroke.

Sanchez remembers sitting alone during a work break soon after. "I was thinking, 'What are we gonna do? This is happening now, plus all the other health conditions." He decided he needed more medical knowledge to be able to advocate for Oliver. "I remember the next day I sat with my wife and said, 'I think I want Nursing professor Loretta Krautscheid observes as Sanchez examines a patient in the George Fox nursing skills lab.

to be a nurse. I think that's gonna help us financially, it's gonna help us care for him, and it's gonna be my way to process everything, to maybe assimilate what we're going through.' That was, for me, part of it."

Rebecca took a deep breath and agreed to the madness that was to come while he managed school, in addition to work.

Strength for the Impossible

Sanchez completed prerequisites at Portland Community College, then transferred to George Fox for the final two years of nurse training. That is when Oliver, suddenly, was on the edge of death. He was 9.

Oliver's immune system attacked his cells. A mere sneeze caused copious bleeding; his blood would not clot. With Oliver hooked up to machines and in an induced coma, doctors worked to stop the bleeding. In that moment, Sanchez suspected that his nursing skills would never help his own son. He asked God for a peaceful, painless transition for Oliver into the next – the better – life as they began palliative care.

When nursing professor and program director Loretta Krautscheid learned of Oliver's tenuous situation, she began asking Sanchez for updates before each class, praying with him.

"What impressed me wasn't what she said. The thing that stuck with me was that she was willing to be uncomfortable," Sanchez says. "For a nurse, you have to be comfortable being uncomfort-

able. Being able to listen, and not think of what you have to say. Just listening. That was a learning moment for me."

Oliver recovered enough to come home – along with yet another medical diagnosis of thrombocytopenia, where blood cannot clot. "My favorite thing about Oliver, he is very strong," Sanchez says. "He has gone through a lot of health issues and he's still going forward, always." But life remains tenuous, and the family continues to hold on to the moments.

Before graduating in May with his nursing degree, Sanchez was hired by Randall Children's Hospital – the same place where Oliver has received care and life-saving treatment since birth. "It's a fullcircle moment that gives me a sense of purpose," he says.

For Sanchez, the transition from hospital housekeeper to pediatric nurse is not just about supporting his family financially, or having the skills to better care for his son – it's also a way to advocate for families like his, to make a difference in the lives of kids

"I want to give back in Oliver's name," he says. "Many of my future coworkers cared for Oliver in the past - the same nurses who inspired me to pursue a career in nursing. This is where, many

times, I walked the halls with Oliver; now I will do

times, I walked the h
it with my patients."

Watch a video with more
georgefox.edu/NorielS

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

The 'Ministry' of the Classroom

In their combined 61 years at George Fox, professors MaryKate Morse and Neal Ninteman saw countless lives transformed through their mentorship, prayer and a genuine concern for students' well-being

By Sean Patterson

hat inspires someone to pour 36 years of their life into one profession? For Portland Seminary's MaryKate Morse, the answer comes down to mission and relationships.

"My purpose was to come alongside Christian leaders to companion and resource them toward conforming to Christ in their lives and engaging fully in God's mission," she says. "Teaching at Portland Seminary gave me a meaningful place to do that."

To that end, Morse modeled the love of Christ herself, passing on a passion for Scripture, leadership and spiritual formation, and community, while listening to and praying with students eager to lead well for Christ. She retires this spring after serving a number of roles – most recently as a professor of leadership and spiritual formation, and previously as executive dean of the seminary, director of the seminary's masters programs, and director of strategic planning for the university.

"Being a part of God's work in the church and the world through hundreds of students who have gone through my courses is what I loved most," she says of her tenure, which began with an adjunct instructor role in 1988. "I am encouraged and inspired by their bravery, gifts and heart to make a difference with God in their lives and in the world around them."

Along the journey, she experienced a wide spectrum of moments – from the embarrassing to the sacred. In an example of the former, she laughs as she recalls hosting an artist for a prayer class.

"She had come to Christ through art, and she was telling her story through a series of life-size paintings of Vietnam vets who were wearing only their helmets and weaponry," Morse recalls. "It was all moving and tasteful – until I looked toward the door with its large glass side panels. Our dean was giving a tour for Friendsview

Manor people, and he was desperately trying to block the windows with his body. He thought a prayer class would be a safe bet for the tour group. Apparently, not that day. I was called to his office to explain."

In a recent encounter, doctoral students in the leadership and spiritual formation program shared their heartfelt story around a controversial topic, using the indigenous practice of a talking circle. "It was a holy time," Morse says. "We experienced what it is like to be around Christ's table with different views and life experiences, but united in love."

She says teaching doctoral students for the past 10 years was a highlight of her career. "It's been an honor to journey with them. I was able to design the culture and the curriculum to help them develop in both character and capacity in a formational learning community."

Morse stayed more than three and a half decades for a simple reason: She believed in the mission of George Fox.

"I am loyal, and I believe in the mission of the university and the seminary," she says. "I trusted that those leading the university cared deeply about the mission and students. I am committed to its three values – Students First, Christ in Everything, and Innovation to Improve Outcomes. Students should be first, Christ is in everything, and I thrived in the innovative culture of the seminary and the university."

Looking ahead, Morse will continue to teach her doctoral students as an adjunct professor to finish out two cohorts. Beyond that, she hopes to finish several book projects, continue with speaking engagements, and support ministry leaders as a coach and spiritual director.





o say Neal Ninteman's path to becoming a university professor was a "non-traditional" one would be an understatement. This wasn't the life he was supposed to lead after earning civil engineering degrees from Cal Polytechnic State University and Stanford in the mid-1980s. The plan was to go into business and eventually take the reins of his father's company, Ninteman Construction, in Southern California.

"I heard Nancy DeMoss speak at a conference when I was in my 30s," Ninteman reflects. "She said, 'God's plans for our lives are often different from our own – and they are always better.' That pretty much sums up my story."

In his case, "God's plans" meant spending nearly a decade after college serving in full-time missions work alongside wife Susan with Campus Crusade for Christ in Russia. It wasn't until one

"'God's plans for our lives are often different from our own – and they are always better.' That pretty much sums up my story." of their furloughs home, in 1999, that the idea of teaching was first ignited.

A providential conversation with a George Fox mathematics professor, Hank Helsabeck, opened the door for Ninteman to adjunct teach an algebra class at George Fox. It sparked a passion he didn't know existed.

"Susan and I had a desire to continue in ministry with college

students, as we had been doing in Russia, but we felt called to do it from a different angle," says Ninteman, an associate professor of engineering who retired this spring after 25 years at the university. "Then God orchestrated a meeting with Hank where he mentioned the idea of me teaching at George Fox, and I thought, 'Are you serious? Sure!'

"Hank saw something in me that I wasn't really even aware of. When I taught that first class in 2000, I experienced something I'd never felt before — a sense that this is what God made me to do.

The funny thing is, if you had told me in my college days that I'd be teaching, I would have told you that that's the last thing I would ever do. In my speech class at Cal Poly, we had four speeches we had to give - I faked being sick for all four of them. I was petrified of talking in front of people."

Upon discovering a love of teaching, Ninteman found an outlet to combine his two passions – teaching math, engineering and physics, and ministry. It's a marriage that resulted in countless meaningful conversations and relationships, formed both in the classroom and on the court during his 10 years as head men's tennis coach.

"The remarkable thing about our Be Known promise is how accurately it describes the George Fox experience," he says. "It's just perfect. I honestly can't think of a better summary of my 25 years here. And while we typically talk about it from the students' perspective, there is a reciprocal reality as well. I've had the privilege and blessing of being known by hundreds of students, which has made for an incredibly rich and meaningful journey."

During his quarter-century at the university, Ninteman served as an assistant professor, associate professor, and as associate dean of the College of Engineering. He's taught everything from mathematics and general education courses to physics and engineering classes

What he did in them all was treat each class as a place for learning, relationships, ministry, and the building of memories. "From day one this has never felt like a job to me," he says. "I've never really considered it work. It's more of a mission, a calling."

Ninteman is unsure of what's next. What he does know is it will involve staying active in serving others.

"God has been working in our hearts a desire to work with the disadvantaged, distressed and vulnerable – 'to do justice, love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God' (Micah 6:8). Exactly where that is, and what, we don't know. We are excited to find out what he has planned in the next chapter."

How to Stay Known

July 26: Show Your School Spirit

Wear your navy and gold and represent George Fox University in the Newberg Old Fashioned Festival parade. Visit georgefox.edu/parade to sign up.





Sept. 14: Catch the Action Join us at Stoffer Stadium for the first home football game of the season and see our new coach take the

field for the first time!

Oct. 3-4: Help Plan Your Homecoming Reunion

This fall we're celebrating 10-, 20-, 30- and 40-year reunions! Email alumni@georgefox.edu to help plan yours!





It's our biggest music event of the year! Tickets will be available for purchase in mid-November.

Activities and events to keep you connected to George Fox

Mentor a Student

Share your wisdom with the next generation of Bruins through spiritual discipleship, career guidance and more. Email alumni@georgefox.edu to get started!



Get the Band Back Together

You don't need to wait until your reunion. Email alumni@georgefox.edu for help reconnecting with your old study group, sports team or your entire class!



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News and Life Events | By Barry Hubbell

ALUMNI KEY

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

1960-69

Kent Thornburg (B67) in April was featured on Portland television station KOIN's New This Morning show to discuss his ongoing work to change the way we view nutrition and chronic disease. He is the former director of the Knight Cardiovascular Institute's Center for Developmental Health at Oregon Health & Science University. He retired this year and now lives in Newberg.

Christine (Shipman) Cranmore (B68) earned a Cochise County (Arizona) Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of the Month award for her work in assisting foster families and children to achieve their goals. She works with a local judge to reunify families, sometimes through adoption. She also volunteers with the Salvation Army.

1970-79

David Robinson (B72) is senior pastor emeritus at Acts Church Northwest in Vancouver, Washington, where his two sons also are pastors. In full-time ministry since 1973, he previously was youth and music pastor at the church. Earlier, he pastored two other Vancouver churches: Vancouver First Friends (senior pastor) and Crossroads Community (assisting pastor). He authored Progressive Power: Releasing Spiritual Power, a 216-page paperback released last June.

Steven Fellows (B76) in January was chosen by the Santa Barbara (California) City College Board of Trustees as one of nine members for its citizens' bond oversight committee. A 20-year city resident, he has a 40-year career in healthcare administration, retiring after 16 years as executive vice president and chief operating officer for Cottage Health.

Tim Weaver (B76) in November was elected to his fifth term on the Dundee (Oregon) City Council. He was first elected in 2012 to guide the city of 3,800. He served with the Newberg-Dundee Police Department for 33 years as officer/sergeant before retiring in 2011. He is now owner of Chehalem Safe Drive, a traffic safety and drug abuse education program with diversion courses for violators, and is a first-call responder for Attrell's Newberg Funeral Chapel.

Dave Hampton (B76) started in March as interim chief financial officer for Friendsview Retirement Community in Newberg. He is filling in on an interim basis following a sudden departure of the former CFO. He retired from the position in 2023 after eight years. Earlier, he was director of finance with the Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends for 12 years.

Rawlen Smith (B78, M95) is in Eagle, Idaho, in his fourth year as desktop support specialist with Unisys, a global security and digital workplace company. He previously was with Hewlett Packard Enterprise in Portland for 19 years after 20 years at George Fox as computer store manager from 1979 to 1999.

1980-89

LeAnn (Nash) Beebe (B80) and Ken Beebe (B82) have just celebrated 30 years at Twin Rocks Friends Camp and Conference Center. The 120-acre camp on the Oregon Coast provides facilities for up to 350. He has served as executive director since 1994, while she has been a registrar, bookkeeper, volunteer coordinator, and the manager of Undertow Espresso.

Jan Cammack (B8o) is director of global outreach for the Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church, starting Oct. 1 on a volunteer/part-time basis working under NWYM Superintendent Jim Le Shana (B81). She is a retired chemistry professor, teaching at both Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon, and George Fox.

Ed Woods (B81) in February received the Outstanding Technology Leader of the Year award in Seattle, from the four-state Northwest Council for Computer Education. He has been with Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon, for 20 years, the last 10 as director of the Mid-Willamette Education Consortium, composed of 24 high schools, two community colleges and three online charter schools.

Paul Almquist (B84, M91) in July completed his 25th year as senior pastor of West Chehalem Friends Church in Newberg. This follows eight years as pastor of the Rosedale (Oregon) Friends Church. He also has been an adjunct professor at George Fox since 1998 and is a new member of the George Fox Board of Trustees.

Lorna (Evans) Schilling (B84) is the 2024 Master Gardener of the Year for Multnomah County, Oregon's most populous county. She has been serving as a master gardener since 2000 and for many years was editor of the *Grapevine* newsletter, covering activities, education and outreach. She earlier was chapter president for two years.

Darrel Lamb (B85) in March was promoted to senior vice president at the Old Republic Surety Company in Portland. He had been regional vice president in Portland since 2012, when he joined the financial guarantee company. Previously, for eight years, he was senior account executive/bond manager-security, credit and political risk, with Zurich Insurance in Portland.

Marianne Funderhide (B88), after 32 years, this spring ended her career with the Sherwood (Oregon) School District. She started as a physical education teacher, became principal of Middleton Elementary in 2012 for a year, and has served as Sherwood Middle School principal since 2013.

1990-99

David Brown (B90) in October changed affiliations to join Raymond James Financial Services, leaving the Edward Jones financial group after nine years. He and his business partner started Vista NW Wealth Management in 2015, headquartered in Vancouver, Washington, after he was with the city's government for nine years.

Andy Hyatt (B90) in February retired after 17 years with Plexus Corp. in Neenah, Wisconsin, a developer and manufacturer

of electronic components. He started with the company in 2002 and was there for eight years before taking positions in Oregon and British Columbia for six years, returning to Plexus in 2015 and spending the last two years as chief customer officer.

John Fowler (B90) received the national 2024 Microtunneling Achievement Award for making a lasting impact on the market in the United States, awarded in Scottsdale, Arizona. He is cited for "successfully completing complicated projects and advancing the microtunneling industry." He is president and son of the founder of J.W. Fowler Company, a heavy civil works contractor company based in Dallas, Oregon.

Pat Casey (B90), a legendary Oregon baseball coach, continues to earn honors, the latest being his induction into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame in October. The former Bruin

baseball coach guided his teams to three NAIA District 2 titles between 1988 and 1994. He then coached the Oregon State Beavers from 1995 to 2018, winning the 2006 College World Series and repeating the next year. He retired from coaching after winning his third national title in 2018 but continues at OSU as senior associate athletic director.

Christine (Seideman) Ward (B92) is now an instructional designer with Education Associates in Baltimore, working remotely while living in Marysville, Pennsylvania. She is in her second year after working at Colorado State University Global for nearly nine years, the last year as instructional design manager.

Lisa Ditto (B92) started last July as principal at Buckman Elementary School in Southeast Portland, where she had been assistant principal for nearly three years. Earlier, she

was an elementary school teacher, literacy coach and teacher on special assignment with the district for eight years. She received a doctor of education degree from the University of Portland in 2024.

Christine (Deboy) Drazan (B93) is back as minority leader in the Oregon House of Representatives, reelected by Republican members in November after she reclaimed her seat representing Clackamas County, where she resides in Canby. She represented the area from 2019 to 2022, including two years as minority leader, before stepping down to run for governor.

Jeff Coleman (B93) started last June as high school principal at the American International School of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, continuing his international experience. Previously, for 11 years, he was with

Continued on page 52



'A Full-Circle Moment'

Alumni Demi Guild and Jensyn Lown have teamed up to create custom golf carts for celebrities, athletes, major brands, and even their alma mater

By Sean Patterson

Demi Guild (B21) has figured out the ideal recipe for a thriving business. Simply combine three ingredients: a product you're passionate about, second-to-none customer service, and hardworking, close friends to make it all happen.

It's a formula Guild employs as the cofounder and CEO of Guild Golf Carts, a family-founded business she runs with her brother Dakota. Last year, the company sold more than 1,000 units, did about \$10 million in sales, and collaborated with celebrities from the world of entertainment and sports – including actor Jamie Foxx, the NFL's Marshawn Lynch and Davante Adams, and women's basketball coaching legend Dawn Staley – to build a national following.

The sales figures and big names are impressive, no doubt, but Guild doesn't dwell on them. She's more excited to talk about the origins of the business and the people who are making it thrive.

In addition to her brother, she relies on a longtime friend, Jensyn Lown (B21, M22), a fellow George Fox alumna, to work as director of marketing and operations. Two more George Fox graduates -Josh Nutter (B22) and Justin Trimble (B20) - serve as branch managers at stores in Seattle and Las Vegas, respectively. They are part of a team of 22 employees.

"Jensyn and I have been best friends since the fifth grade, so it's pretty cool to have her on board," Guild says, smiling. "I always knew she was somebody I'd want managing in my company. She is so detail-oriented and honest, has great integrity, and is just a highcaliber individual."

Guild Golf Carts began by chance. Growing up with three brothers on five acres in Damascus, Oregon, Demi and her siblings were

charged with taking care of the property. Things needed hauling, and steep terrain posed a challenge. "We just thought, 'A golf cart would really help with all this," she says.

The family bought a cart for \$500. Then, several months later, they decided to upgrade to a nicer model. The individual who sold them the newer cart offered to sell them a second one. They said yes, and a business was born.

"We really couldn't use that

second cart, so we just thought, 'Let's clean it up a bit and sell it,'" Guild recalls. "We paid around \$600 for it and sold it for \$1,300. We were like, 'OK, we just doubled our money. How many things can you double your money with that quickly?""

The Guilds reached out to the same seller and offered to buy more. Before long, the siblings were purchasing fleets of golf carts a practice that continued through high school. They sold carts separately for a time before Demi and Dakota decided to join forces and

Incorporated in 2019 and based in Portland, Guild Golf Carts is a dealer for four manufacturers - Evolution Electric Vehicles, Denago, Tomberlin and Columbia – while also selling used carts that have been refurbished or customized. The business has five stores – in Portland, Seattle, Las Vegas, Bend, Oregon, and St. George, Utah.

Highly publicized collaborations with celebrities and companies like Mercedes-Benz, Formula One and the Jordan Brand have given the business national exposure and made it among the top-10 golf cart dealers on the West Coast. But it was a recent sale that Guild is especially excited about – one she and Lown made to their alma

Last fall, George Fox Athletic Director Adam Puckett, who knew both women from their time as athletes at the university, reached out to Guild to inquire about purchasing carts – a call that this spring resulted in the purchase of two four-person carts and two sixperson carts, for use by various university departments as needed.

"It's something we've talked about doing for some time, so I was thrilled we were able to move forward with it," Puckett says. "These

> benefit not only us in athletics, but several other departments on campus. For example, if advancement has a donor who would like a guided tour and has trouble getting around, we now have a cart for

> Lown designed the custom carts one of which is athletics branded, with the tagline "Ready. Fearless. Strong." She loves the fact they will fill a role in the university's athletics department.

"I'd say the biggest thing ath-



After delivering four golf carts to their alma mater, Jensyn Lown (left) and Demi Guild take one for a spin around the football field.

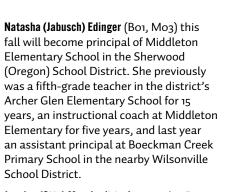
letics taught us that transfers to the business world is that character and discipline are key to making a team successful," says Lown, a track and field athlete who earned a degree in marketing and later an MBA at George Fox. "Those things are required in a sport, and I would say Bruin athletics prioritizes character over almost anything. So, to connect a product we're passionate about with a place we're passionate about is special."

For Guild, the deal afforded the opportunity for a "coming home" of sorts, as she and Lown personally delivered the carts to the Newberg campus on a sunny afternoon in early March.

"I love the fact we were able to connect with Fox in this way," says Guild, a finance major who played basketball for the Bruins. "Both Jensyn and I had a great experience here, so to come back and do this in person is amazing. I learned a lot about business particularly the accounting aspect of it – when I was here. I do all the accounting for our company, and I still use the tools I learned. The classes I took here have helped a ton, so this is a full-circle

Beyond brokering a generous deal for the carts, both Lown and Guild have connected with the university in the classroom as well as mentors in the Ignite Program, an initiative that pairs George Fox students with industry mentors who provide professional guidance in regular one-on-one meetings. "It's fun to pass along some of the business knowledge we've picked up and just try to help students out," Guild says of the experience.

Her passion for the business stems from the nature of the product. "Golf carts are just something that represents fun and gets people excited, so there is a lot of joy around it," she says. "I think that just sets the tone at work. Our employees are excited to do what we're doing because they are bringing joy into people's lives."



Jeanine (Otto) Murphy (Mo1) started in January as a senior employee relations specialist with Community Memorial Healthcare in Ventura, California. Previously, she was a special education advisor-school counseling with BlazeWorks, an advisory service for special education, based in Peachtree Corners, Georgia.

Carrie (Crossland) Wise (Bo2) started in November as the director of revenue integrity with Denver Health Medical Center in Colorado, after earning a master's degree in organizational leadership from Regis University in Denver the year before. She

previously was manager of clinical documentation improvement with Children's Hospital of Colorado.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Karen (Cartmell) Benson (Mo2) is now a health and education research project manager with the Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs, affiliated with Oregon Health & Science University in Portland. She started in August after four years with the Estacada (Oregon) School District, where she was a learning specialist the last three years.

Benoit Berho (Mo2, Do8) retired last year from teaching in the Forest Grove (Oregon) School District and continues in his business, Los Andes Shop, in Newberg. It sells Ecuadorian textiles of alpaca wool wholesale, at fairs, markets and online. The shop was established in 1988 with his wife, Debbie Berho, a former George Fox professor of Spanish.

Ginger Damron (Bo3) became a budget manager with the city of Portland in October after being a financial analyst with the city

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Explosion of Colors

Students toss colored powder in the air at the start of the Color Run, a favorite event held at the beginning of fall semester.

the Qatar Foundation in Doha, where he was school principal for eight years and associate director of inclusion and wellbeing his final three years. Last year, he earned an educational doctorate from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Samuel Adams (D93) is a clinical psychologist and marriage and family counselor in private practice in Austin, Texas. Boasting 30 years of Christian counseling experience, in January he released his newest book, The Feel-Good Marriage: Principles & Practices for a Joyful Christian Marriage, a 175-page volume that blends relatable stories, biblical wisdom and practical therapeutic tools to encourage and guide couples.

Anndrea (Howe) Moore (B94) has been promoted to training specialist with the Veterans Administration in Denver. She started with the VA in 2015.

Susan Lee (B94) in December became the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's division chief in Denver. She moved from a position of division chief with the U.S. Department

ing for the Bureau of Land Management for more than 13 years, her last position as deputy division chief for nearly three years.

Danielle Armstrong (B94) is in her first year as the new band director at Battle Ground (Washington) High School. She's new at the school of 1,800 students, but has been with the district for 21 years as band director at Chief Umtuch (formerly Lewisville) Middle School. In March of last year, she received the employee recognition award for her teaching of four grade levels of concert band, two levels of jazz band, and the marching band.

Trey Doty (B95, Moo) has combined his social work and divinity degrees into his work with the FBI in Portland as an employee support specialist coordinator, for which he provides mental health and wellness counseling and referrals. He is in his second year after nearly 12 years as president/CEO of Responder Life in Portland, which helps first responders with mental, emotional and spiritual support.

of Interior for two years after earlier work-

Jason Ogden (B97) is now city manager in Sweet Home, Oregon, as well as police chief. He was named in March after seven months as pro tem manager. He has been chief of police for the city of 10,000 since 2022 after joining the department in 2003 and moving up the ranks.

Zachary Hansen (M95) is head of the upper

school at Memphis University School, a

Tennessee college preparatory indepen-

through 12. He began in April 2024 after

serving as director of college counseling

since 2017. Previously, he was director of

college counseling at Annie Wright School in

Tacoma, Washington. In February, he com-

pleted an MEd through Teachers College,

Aaron Downs (B₉6, M₉7) is superintendent

of the Sherwood (Oregon) School District,

leading 4,700 students and 650 employees

since last July. He left a position of superin-

tendent in the nearby Canby School District

seven years as assistant superintendent in

the West Linn-Wilsonville (Oregon) School

Lori (Richner) Garrard (B96) is executive direc-

Bank, based in Klamath Falls, Oregon. She

ering a 23,000-square-mile area in spring

tant at Oregon Institute of Technology in

Klamath Falls after nearly six years.

2024, leaving her role as an executive assis-

started guiding the agency with 23 sites cov-

tor of the Klamath-Lake Counties Food

after three years, and previously served

Columbia University, in New York.

dent day school for 650 boys in grades six

Amber (Bliss) Calderon (B97) started in October as an English for Speakers of Other Languages instructor at the Portland Community College Newberg Center after previously serving as First Scholars Program coordinator at Linfield University in McMinnville, Oregon.

Jimmi Sommer (B₉₇) is using her degree in international studies as a human resources officer with the U.S. Department of State in Guatemala City, Guatemala. She started in August, leaving her position as senior policy advisor with the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee for a year between international work experiences. With the State Department since 2008, her assignments have taken her to Matamoros, Mexico; Calgary, Canada; Manila, the

2000-09

Public Schools.

America.

Kimberly (Grimes) Porter (Boo) is now in Tokyo as a universal design for learning coach and support specialist with the American School in Japan. It's her seventh teaching stop on four continents. She started in August after two years as a primary school mathematics coach at United World College of South East Asia, in Singapore, for two years. Earlier, she taught in Budapest, Hungary; Nairobi, Kenya; Newberg; and Chengdu, China.

Philippines; The Hague, Netherlands; and

Aaron Newkirk (B98, M99) is a social studies

teacher at Oregon City High School, in his

26th year, but is perhaps better known as

since 2012 after seven seasons as an assis-

tant. This spring, his team was ranked No.

7 in Oregon, standing atop the Three Rivers

League. His wife, Heidi (Rueck) Newkirk (B95,

M₉6), is the children's pastor at Mountain

after seven years teaching sixth and seventh

grade. In 2020, she was commissioned as a

Suzanne West (B99, Mo7) is superintendent of

the Forest Grove (Oregon) School District,

starting last July. She has been a teacher,

elementary and middle school levels, and

previously was director of strategic initia-

tives and director of elementary curriculum

and instruction with Salem-Keizer (Oregon)

assistant principal and principal at the

pastor by the Evangelical Church of North

View Community Church in Oregon City,

the boys' basketball coach – in that role

Guayas, Ecuador.

Steve Barela (Boo) started in October in Nampa, Idaho, as plant supervisor with FlexXray, a food products inspection system detecting foreign material contaminants. He previously was general manager with The Perfect Rug in Boise, Idaho, for nearly four

Sabrina Bailey (Boo, Mo8) is completing her second year as chief executive officer of Fiducient Advisors in Chicago. She has been in the financial services industry for 20 years, previously for two years with the London Stock Exchange Group in Chicago, as global head, investment and wealth solutions. In April, she was selected for listing in Marquis Who's Who.



Saying Goodbye

At Welcome Weekend, parents prayed over students, and shed a few tears, before leaving them to experience college life with their new Bruin family.

Bigger than Life

Zach Luworo begins his nursing career inspired by the legacy of 'Cowboy Kyle'

By Victoria Payne

"The most rewarding part of my job is just getting people out of the hospital," says Zach Luworo (B24). He stands outside PeaceHealth Sacred Medical Center in Eugene, Oregon, wearing gray scrubs and a nursing badge. The letters "RN" fall just below his name, complemented by a shiny cowboy boot pin.

Zach completed his bachelor's degree in December and was hired as a cardiac surgery nurse in his hometown. Naturally, his mom – whom he considers his biggest role model – was proud. He told her first. Then he called two people who, months earlier, had been complete strangers: Joe and Nadine Kincaid.

The Kincaids had been following Zach's future with great interest since October, when the couple invited the remarkable nursing student, Bruin football player, and recipient of the scholarship they started in 2022 to their home. The Kincaids established the annual scholarship in honor of their son, **Kyle** Kincaid (Bo9), a trauma nurse who died in a 2021

Kyle left behind many who loved him, including his twin sister Kaisa (Kincaid) Butcher (Bo9) and his own growing family. Just 11 days before he died, Kyle and his wife Kristin (Kelso) Kincaid (Bo9) had welcomed their second son. Meeting Zach offered the Kincaids a meaningful connection and another way to honor Kyle's legacy of generosity and service.

A Lifetime of Serving Others

motorcycle accident.

"He was bigger than life," Nadine says. At his memorial in Canyon Commons on the George Fox campus, more than 250 attendees shared stories about Kyle and his bottomless well of support and encouragement. A family friend described him this way: "He made everyone feel like you were his best friend. If you needed help, he'd drop everything and come dig you out of a ditch with a smile."

The Kincaids knew they wanted to honor Kyle's legacy of faith, service and caring for others in cowboy boots - a habit he picked up when he started his nursing career in Texas. "I think his love of nursing came from his ability to figuratively wrap

people in his arms and to brighten an otherwise traumatic situa-

A year after Kyle's passing, the Kincaids began the Cowboy Kyle Kincaid Scholarship, awarding two nursing students \$2,500 annually. They recently converted the fund into an endowed scholarship, extending their investment – and Kyle's memory – beyond their lifetimes. While they expected the nursing department to find exceptional recipients, meeting Zach came with an unexpected bonus: the discovery that he embodied Kyle's big heart and passion for life.

A Big Man with a Big Heart

Zach is the youngest of four in a close family, led by their single mom. Although they struggled financially, he found inspiration in his mother's passion for teaching children with

special needs and her relentless work ethic. Her dedication, exemplified by her pursuit of a PhD at the University of Oregon while raising him, significantly influenced his college journey.

> "My mom represents what you're really able to do," Zach says. "You might not have a lot of money, but it doesn't mean you have to miss out on anything else."

At 6-foot-4 and 330 pounds, it may come as a surprise that Zach, a star offensive lineman on the Bruin football team, almost missed out on college football. "Going to camps and recruiting events can be expensive. We couldn't afford it, so I never sent my tape out," he recalls. When a George Fox coach visited Eugene to scout another player, he discovered

Zach instead.

Zach earned All-Northwest Conference First-Team honors in 2022 and 2023. Along with practices, classes and homework, he worked as a caregiver at Friendsview Retirement Community. During his senior nursing clinicals, he found a passion for acute care - and its connection to football - during medical surgery rotations at Providence Newberg Medical Center.

"Football is funny because it influenced what I wanted to

→ FOCUS ON GIVING



do," he says. "Sometimes you're hurting, you're bleeding, but you look back and it's nothing," Zach says. "It prepares you for hard times. They shape who you are. They help you become a man, a father and a participating community member."

A 'Simple Man' and His Growing Legacy

First meetings don't usually feel like a reunion, but the day Zach met the Kincaids felt different. Hugs were exchanged, and soon everyone gathered to swap stories.

Joe shared the story of Kyle, a young nurse who developed a hobby of cutting up fallen trees with his chainsaw. He donated the firewood to people in need, calling it the "Simple Man Project."

Nadine shared that Kyle loved many things, in addition to his wife, their boys and their farm – baseball, fishing, motorcycles, rodeos. He especially loved George Fox football. Nadine, a season ticket holder, attended every home game with Kyle.

When asked how Kyle might feel knowing Zach received a scholarship in his honor, she didn't hesitate: "There's cowboy boots stomping in heaven," she said. "Start listening, Zach. You're gonna hear it."

During their visit, the Kincaids gave Zach a special memento:

a cowboy boot pin, commissioned for friends and family in Kyle's

Carrying a Legacy Forward

Months later, the pin was the first thing Zach added to his nurse's uniform. More than a personal touch, it offered warmth and softened his first impression as a 6-foot-4 former football player. But its purpose also runs deeper. "I didn't want to put it in a drawer and forget about it," he says. "I wanted to carry it with me." For Zach, it's a constant link to Kyle – a man he never met but whose legacy inspires him.

As a fellow nurse, Zach sometimes wonders what it would've been like to work together. "I know we would have been good friends," he says. "Everything his parents said about him are values I want to implement in my life, and I want to show them their investment will benefit not just me but the people I hope to help someday."

Zach's "someday" has already begun, as he finds purpose in helping patients heal and return home. "Caring for them on their worst day and sending them back to their families – that's a great feeling."

Learn more about starting a scholarship georgefox.edu/ StartAScholarship

for nearly six years. She is in the public safety service area.

Roslyn Barnfield (Bo₃) in October joined Thesis, a Portland marketing agency, as head of accounts for Nike. She earlier was a freelance commercial growth and operations consultant in Portland after nine years in London in several positions, the last with Octagon as global managing director for Milkmoney Films.

Keri Ingraham (Bo3) is senior fellow and director of the American Center for Transforming Education at the Discovery Institute, a politically conservative think tank in Seattle. In that role, she was invited to the White House on March 20 to watch President Trump sign the executive order to end the federal Department of Education. In her fifth year in her current position, she also is a senior fellow with the Independent Women's Forum, based in the nation's capital, in that capacity since 2023. She continues as a self-employed educational consultant.

Ginger Damron (Bo3) is in her seventh year with the city of Portland. In October, she became budget manager in the public safety service area. She had been a financial analyst prior to the promotion.

Rebecca Dorsey (Bo5) last August started her own business, The RE Group, in Knoxville, Tennessee, where she is an executive coach helping people start new projects, build teams and redesign. She authored the book Why Meet: How to Design and Run Purposeful Meetings, Workshops, and Conferences, and in December her article titled "How To Find Mentorship When Employers Don't Offer It" was published in Forbes magazine.

Abigail (Rine) Favale (Bo5) is in her third year with the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame, where she is professor of the practice. In February, she was the St. John Henry Newman Lecture Series speaker at Loyola University in Chicago, where she recounted her journey to Catholicism. She has a PhD in English literature from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and has published three books, the latest The Genesis of Gender: A Christian Theory.

Andrew Paine (Bo₅) has joined the faculty of Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota,

moving from Hope International University in Fullerton, California, where he earned his MBA in 2011 and continued on as an associate professor of business, chair of the online undergraduate program, and women's soccer coach, for four years. He is now an associate professor of business at the university of 3,500.

Alice (Long) Knotts (Bo₅) is a consultant pharmacist in pharmacy and healthcare innovation with the Cornerstone Whole Healthcare Organization in Payette, Idaho. She started the position in October after serving in a similar capacity for more than a year. Earlier, she was with Kootenai Health in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, for three years, most recently as manager of ambulatory pharmacy clinic services.

Sarah (LaChapelle) Stevens (Mo5) in April became vice president and chief people officer with the Knife River Corporation, based in Bismarck, North Dakota. She is the first in the new position after 19 years with the company, most recently as vice president of human resources. Living in Bend, Oregon, she now oversees HR, compensation and benefits, compliance, team member relations, recruitment and retention, and training and career development. Knife River mines aggregates and markets crushed stone, sand, gravel and related construction materials.

Tanya (Muirbrook) Hall (Mo5) started in October with Discovery Behavioral Health as a clinical outreach representative, working remotely while living in Beaverton, Oregon. She previously was director of business development with Cyti Psychological, a telehealth group.

Susan Barker (Bo6) is in Georgia with Augusta University, where she is a counselor with the student counseling and psychological services department. She started in May 2023 after receiving a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling.

Dana Benedict (no6) has relocated to Chandler, Arizona, where, starting in December, she is a senior benefits specialist with Vensure Employer Solutions. She moved from Portland, where she was a benefit analyst with Perkins Coie, a global law firm.

Kerry (Jacobson) Waterman (Mo6) has been promoted to assistant vice president, retirement plans operations, with The Standard Insurance Company in Portland. With the company since 2004, she has held several positions, most recently senior director of operations, starting in 2020.

Jason Roberts (Do6) has moved from Florida to Kansas, where he is pastor of River City Church in Lawrence. He started at the Free Methodist congregation in March 2024 after more than 11 years as pastor of Cornerstone Community Church in St. Petersburg, Florida, and earlier pastorates in Washington and Oregon.

Jeremy Snyder (Bo7) is vice president of high impact philanthropy with Mercy Corps in Portland, in his 16th year. He has been in his current role for three years after being managing director of high impact philanthropy for three years. In October, he became an advisory board member with The Giving Block, a platform that connects donors and nonprofits through cryptocurrency.

Dan Wentzell (Bo7) in February became managing director of investment banking mergers and acquisitions with UBS in New York City. He joined the global financial services company last June as executive director, investment banking mergers and acquisitions. Previously, he spent nine years in New York City with Barclays Corporate and Investment Bank, the last two years as director of investment banking in the global consumer retail group.

Chris Cadwell (Mo7), after a career in banking in Idaho, now is with First Citizens Bank in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he is a commercial credit officer - supply chain finance. He started the position last June after joining the bank in 2022 as vice president, underwriting and portfolio manager. He previously was with Sunwest Bank in Boise, Idaho.

Rick Chromey (Do7) lives in Star, Idaho, and is a river cruise leader and guide. Last summer marked his third season with American Cruise Lines, delivering 250 history, culture and destination presentations to more than 1,800 participants on Columbia and Snake River cruises in Oregon and Washington. This year he began his nonprofit educational services company, MANNA! Tours, offering trips to Greece and Italy. He is in his 14th year as an online professor for a variety of courses with Hope International University.

Bryson Reynolds (no8) is now a principal cloud DevOps engineer with Halcyon, a cybersecurity firm in Austin, Texas. He started in August after more than 10 years with uShip, an Austin-based online shipping marketplace, where he was principal engineer the last four years.

Ashley (Woodard) Lopez (Bo8) in October was promoted to customer success manager with Paychex, a payroll accounting business in Las Vegas, after three years as a customer success consultant.

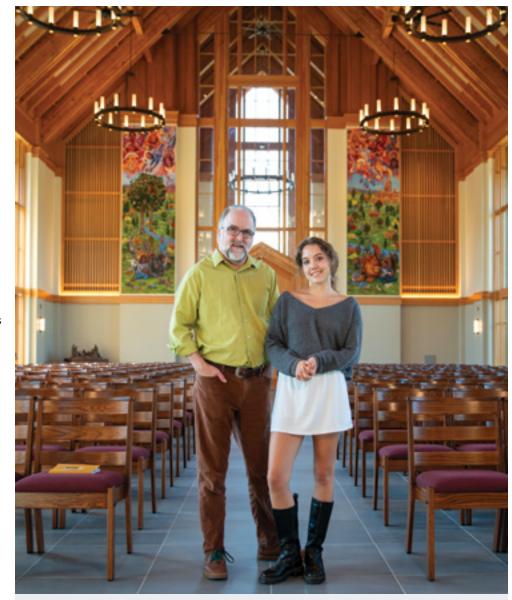
Daniel Bennett (Bo8) has been promoted from associate to full professor of political science at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, starting last fall. He also was named director for JBU's Center for Faith and Flourishing, after being assistant director for the last five years. He started at John Brown in 2016 after receiving a doctorate in political science from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Erica Aitken (Bo8) is now a partner with the Roseburg, Oregon, firm Wicks Emmett Certified Public Accountants. She was named assurance partner in May 2024 after more than seven years as audit and accounting director. Previously, for three years, she was a controller with CHP Group, an integrative healthcare firm in Beaverton, Oregon.

Dave Duncan (Mo8) started in November as a human resources manager with the Bethel (Washington) School District, which employs 2,200 and serves 21,500 students in 27 schools. He left his role after more than nine years with Infinite Home Theater in Meridian, Idaho, where he was director of people operations following 16 years with Hewlett-Packard in Boise.

Ethan Rhodes (Bo9) last year was promoted to senior electrical design engineer at Cadwell Laboratories in Kennewick, Washington, where he has been since 2011. The company is a manufacturer of diagnostic and monitoring products for the neurophysiology industry.

Jill (Lepire) Schlosser (Bo9) is in her second year as a health forms analyst with the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services in Salem, Oregon. She previously was a benefit development specialist with Cambia Health Solutions and with The Standard Insurance Company as a



The Peaceable Kingdom

Professor Tim Timmerman and art major Alissa Hrushka worked throughout the summer of 2024 to create two large murals, located in the chapel, depicting a George Fox version of this wellknown scene described in Isaiah 11.

senior medical underwriter for eight years in Portland.

Ann Cascio (Bo9) started a year ago as a psychological associate with the Institutes of Health in Riverside, California. She earlier was a psychological associate with Collaborate Psychology Group, also in Riverside, for a year. She earned a PsyD degree in 2022 from California Southern University, an online program based in Chandler, Arizona.

Luke Fletcher (Bo9), after working at the Willamette Valley Cancer Institute and Research Center in Eugene, Oregon, since 2021, has been made a partner at the clinic. He is a physician in hematology-oncology after receiving his medical degree from the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. He also is on the Leukemia Executive Committee of the Sarah Cannon Research Institute, a network of

Continued on page 60

'Something Bigger Than Myself'

From military medic to empowering educator, Roy Adams finds his purpose in serving others

By Brooklyn Chillemi

Only a few of Roy Adams' (M18) high school students know he used to jump out of airplanes.

Adams remembers the yelling, whooping and hollering of his fellow soldiers, which he could barely hear over the rushing wind as the airplane doors opened 900 feet above the ground. He can still picture the green light next to the door and the jump master's voice barking, "Go, go, go" until it was Adams' turn to jump out into the chaos. He recalls, once his parachute was open, the moment of serenity – when everything went quiet – before it was time to land and serve those who were injured on the field.

But students at McKay High School in Salem, Oregon, know a different side of Adams.

To them, he's simply "Mr. Adams" who has taught business and marketing classes for eight years. One high school senior experienced their first airplane ride with Adams while traveling to a student business competition, but there was, of course, no jumping. Mainly, students see Adams as a mentor who wants them to succeed.

Teaching Through Service

When Adams' time in the military came to a close in 2014, he didn't immediately feel the call to teach. He used his GI Bill benefits to earn a master's degree in organizational leadership, which he planned on using for a career in business.

After completing his degree, he tried various job opportunities, but none of them were fulfilling. He missed serving others like he had in the military.

"I knew to be fulfilled in my work, I had to do something that was bigger than myself," Adams says.

That sense of service drew him to education. In 2017, he enrolled in the Master of Arts in Teaching program at George Fox. Soon after enrolling, he learned he could earn a Career and Technical Education teaching license quickly based on his previous master's degree and experience in the business world. As a result, he was offered a position at McKay High School and began to teach.

"What I love most about teaching is building a trusting relationship with students and getting them to open up to what I'm teaching about success, goals and discipline," Adams says. "My goal is

that they will learn from my mistakes and have an easier life so that they won't have to experience some of the struggles that I've gone through."

Adams says his discipline comes from his time as a combat medic, but he hopes to teach students a similar sense of discipline in the classroom – and that happens one relationship at a time.

Building Confidence, Breaking the Cycle

One of the biggest projects in Adams' Marketing and Business Management class is the Scot Shop, a student-run store inside the school named after its mascot. Students run the store, developing skills in product creation, cost analysis, promotion and marketing.

> These skills are valuable, but more importantly, Adams hopes projects like these build confidence.

> > "Unless students are confident in themselves and willing to put themselves out there to apply the learning, then what I teach in content is not as important," he says.

A number of students at McKay come from socioeconomic backgrounds that can create barriers to their success. As a Title I school, it has a 100% free or reduced lunch and breakfast program. Many students work in addition to attending school to help provide for their families.

With challenges like these, it can be difficult for some students to remain consistent and disciplined in their classwork. But Adams counters this mentality with a simple question: "Why not be your best?"

"No student has been able to answer that yet," he says. "I think there really isn't a good answer."

And if Adams expects students to be consistent and disciplined, he knows that they'll expect the same from him. "I had one student who wrote me a note saying that I was the reason she kept showing up," he says. "So me showing up was the reason she would show

Ultimately, he hopes his business classes will teach his students skills that allow them to accumulate generational financial stability.

"The reason I stay is for them," Adams says when asked if he ever considered moving to a school with more resources. "I love





talking with students about personal finance and how they're spending their money – they could be the one to turn around a family cycle."

New Job, Same Goal

Looking forward, Adams hopes to make an even bigger impact by becoming a high school principal, and he's back at George Fox being equipped to do just

that in the university's Master of Education program, which he'll complete in August.

"Right now, I affect the lives of about 300 students who come through my door each year," he says. "But as a principal, I can affect a lot more lives on a larger scale through the policies I make."

He'll soon begin this new journey by applying for assistant prin-

"I love the challenges that we face here. I love connecting with students and getting them to wake up and start investing in themselves and investing in their future."

cipal positions in the area. If he has his way, Adams will end up at McKay – or a school just like it.

"I think I would be less satisfied in a school with a higher socioeconomic student population," he says. "We have our challenges at McKay, but I love the challenges that we face here. I love connecting with students and getting them to wake up and start investing in them-

selves and investing in their future. That's what I find rewarding."

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

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Taking FlightSenior point guard Momo Stokes strikes a pose, mid-air, at Athletics Media Day. Stokes was named Northwest Conference Player of the Year.

oncology sites in 24 states that conducts clinical trials for drug development.

Josiah Zukowski (no9) is now president of MW Design Workshop in Salem, Oregon. He joined the firm in 2010 as a project manager and has worked his way up as operations manager and vice president of sales the last four years. The company produces custom staircases, railings, entry doors and architectural features.

Amy McClung (Mo9), after 10 years as a mental health therapist in private practice in Beaverton, Oregon, is now owner and part

of a group mental health therapy practice, Two Sparrows Counseling, in Beaverton.

Joel To (Mo9), after 14 years as pastor of Missio Community Church, an Evangelical United Brethren Church in Portland, has launched a new ministry, SoulRoots, also in Portland. Started in September 2023, it provides soul care and spiritual formation to people of color, helping professionals and preempting soul-depleting burnout.

Alex Bryan (Do9) is the 24th president of Walla Walla College in College Place, Washington, guiding the Seventh-day Adventist college of 1,400 students since last July. He previously was on campus as senior pastor from 2009 to 2018, then joined Adventist Health in Roseville, California, for 12 years, serving in several positions – the last four as senior vice president and chief missions and philanthropy officer. Earlier, he was a pastor for 13 years in Georgia and Tennessee.

2010-19

Jordan Schatz (B10) started in August as a math instructor and assistant athletic director at Pacific Northwest Christian College in Kennewick, Washington. He earned a master's degree in math teaching education in 2017 from Western Governors University and also is a mathematics teacher at nearby Pasco (Washington) High School, in his fourth year.

Jordan Beanblossom (B10) has been promoted to head of corporate and executive communications at A-dec, the Newbeg dental equipment company. He started with the company as a marketing operations clerk in 2017 and has moved up through five positions, the last as corporate communication and outreach manager for four years. Last June, he was elected to the Oregon Business & Industry's Research and Education Foundation Board of Directors. He is leading A-dec's involvement in two community initiatives: the Newberg Workforce Housing Consortium and a childcare development project in partnership with George Fox.

Matt Campbell (B10) is cofounder, starting in January, of The Quester Community, a nonprofit production company that creates videos for children, exploring life's biggest questions through a biblical worldview. He is a video director and a board member for the Medford, Oregon, company. Earlier, he honed his skills at several marketing agencies.

Rachel Henley (B10) in January started as an academic teacher with Thrive Tutoring in Denver, after earlier working as a literacy teacher with Scholars Unlimited, also in Denver, for 17 months. That followed three years with Denver Public Schools as an early childhood education teacher.

Forrest Cammack (B10), who started with the firm in 2017, is now construction foreman and owner of Winterbloom, Inc. in Tigard,

Oregon – an artisanal landscaping design and installation company founded in 1983 by **Phil Thornburg** (173) and sold a year ago to an employee cooperative.

Henry Balensifer (B11) is senior sales accounts manager - general aviation/military with Oshkosh AeroTech, a manufacturer of aviation industry equipment and vehicles. He started in February 2024 after working as a sales and marketing manager with JBT AeroTech for a year. The mayor of Warrenton, Oregon, since 2017, he was in the news in February when the coastal city of 6,000 was without power for hours after a car accident took down power poles.

Jennifer (Dale) Lovegren (M10) is in her second year as the clinical manager of onboarding at ProtoCall Services in Portland. With the company since 2014, she moved up after more than four years as a clinical training manager. The firm provides behavioral health solutions and mental health crisis care.

Kacey Parks (B11) is at Oregon State University in Corvallis, where she started in July as a research administration training manager after a year as a training coordinator. She previously was a sixththrough eighth-grade teacher at the nearby Perrydale School District for a year.

Connor Campbell (B11) is a women's soccer assistant coach at Black Hills State University in South Dakota. He's in his second year after serving as the men's soccer head coach at the University of Jamestown in North Dakota for three years. He coached previously in Oregon, Ohio and Florida after being a Bruin player from 2007 to 2010, then a men's soccer team assistant in 2011 and

Scott Culbertson (B11) is a Lenovo services business development manager with Insight IPS in Chandler, Arizona. He started in October with the technology company after serving as chief operating officer with Firm Tech in Gilbert, Arizona.

Brenna White (M11) is an art and design teacher at Tualatin (Oregon) High School, completing her ninth year. She also started as an adjunct instructor in the George Fox MAT program last summer.

Tracy (Olsen) Ellwein (M11) has been named by Idaho State University as one of 11 to receive its 2025 Professional Achievement Award.

Awardees are cited for their contribution to ISU, their profession and community. She earned a bachelor's degree from ISU in 1983. She is senior vice president and area operations manager with HDR Engineering, a national architectural, engineering and consulting firm, at its Portland headquarters. She is in her 13th year with the company, in her current position since January.

Curtis Conde (B12) in November launched his own company, GreenIdahoRoofing.com, based in Garden City, Idaho. He previously was in sales with Silver Lining Roofing and Exteriors in Meridian, Idaho.

Amanda (Grandon) Fink (B12) is completing her first year as a pediatric and fetal cardiac sonographer with OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland. She moved after nearly nine years in a similar position at Northwest Congenital Heart Care in Tacoma, Washington.

Tim Shaw (M12) and his wife have established a new store, BOLD Coffee & Books, in the Goose Hollow district of Portland. Opened in October, it specializes in books to support marginalized communities, with an emphasis on groups such as LGBTQ+, BIPOC, immigrants, disabled/differently abled, and adoptees.

Sarah King (M12) in October became SEC process manager for demand and allocations with Nike in Beaverton, Oregon. She moved from her role as senior product manager, global demand and supply management, a position she held for two years. She started with the company in 2015 after working at George Fox for nearly seven years, the last two as director of institutional research.

Marilyn Lahue-McCully (D12) is a new teacher mentor with the Woodburn (Oregon) School District, in her eighth year after joining the district in 2012 as an English language arts teacher.

Casey (Bowman) Hostetler (B13, M14) is a digital communications coordinator with Christian radio station WCQR in Gray, Tennessee, in her second year. Previously, she was self-employed as owner of Ignite Marketing in McMinnville, Oregon, started in 2019. Between 2017 and 2018 she and her husband quit their jobs, sold their possessions and traveled 14 months, driving 31,000 miles across the U.S. six times, visiting all 48 contiguous states, Canada, Mexico and the Bahamas.

Daniel Rodriguez (B₁₃, M₁₆, D₁₉) is in Kaneohe, Hawaii, where he is a clinical psychologist with Desmond T. Doss Health Clinic, starting last August. This follows three years as a clinical psychologist with Cornerstone Clinical Services in Tigard, Oregon, and as an assistant professor of clinical psychology at George Fox.

Carissa (Hoffman) Gobble (B13) is an Amazon bestselling author with her third volume of Becoming Jesus People, released this year. The books tell stories about the Jesus People Movement started in Eugene, Oregon, in the 1960s and '70s. She works from her Damascus, Oregon, home, where she's also a video and event coordinator with Gobble Productions and Consulting.

Stacey Adams (B₁₃) in September was promoted to assistant editor of the *Auburn Journal*, moving up from her position as a reporter since 2020. The newspaper serves the city of 13,500 in northern California, with a circulation of approximately 9,500.

Bryce Ashlin-Mayo (D13) on Oct. 31 was formally installed as president of Ambrose University in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, after taking office nearly six months earlier as head of the 920-student, 40-acre campus. He previously served as dean of theology for two years, also serving more than 25 years as a pastor within the Alliance Canada denomination.

Jennifer (Gorrell) Coleman (B14) is in her second year as a registered mental health counselor with Heart Bonds Counseling in Orlando, Florida. This follows receipt of a master's degree in mental health counseling in 2023 from the University of Central Florida, also in Orlando.

J.D. Mowery (B14) is in Raleigh, North Carolina, starting in October with Bora Pharmaceuticals in the newly created position of president of its contract development manufacturing organization. It's his 10th career stop. Previously, he was in Tokyo as president and CEO with KBI Biopharma for 18 months, after positions in Copenhagen, Seattle, San Francisco, and Lexington, Kentucky, after starting in Columbus, Ohio.

Ryen Salo (B14) started in August as client experience manager with Herbein + Company, a CPA advisory firm in Portland. Previously, for nearly 10 years, she was

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ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Lessons in Hope and Healing

Alumna Christine Thiessen finds healing and purpose by creating a scholarship that supports students like filmmaker Tack Flitter, transforming her grief into a lasting legacy of hope and generosity By Victoria Payne

It's a quiet spring afternoon at George Fox - birds chirp, students lounge on the quad, all is calm. Then, tires screech. A white sports car whips onto campus, engine roaring as it tears across Crisman Crossing, blurs past the bookstore and drifts around the new chapel.

The tail slides, freezing mid-turn - just long enough to catch the bumper sticker: Faith. Grit. Joyride. With a final flourish, the car halts in front of Bauman Auditorium and the door swings open. The driver exits and removes his helmet, revealing the mystery racer's identity. It's President Robin Baker.

The action sequence may sound like a dream mashup, but the events actually occurred - minus, of course, President Baker operating as the stunt driver. That was a bit of cinematic editing. The short film, which opened the 2025 Fox Film Festival, was directed by then-senior Jack Flitter, who graduated this May. Jack collaborated with a team of cinematic arts students and industry professionals to create the car chase, which debuted on campus to thunderous applause.

Two years ago, Jack would have been hard-pressed to imagine the creation of such a film. As his freshman year ended, his family received two devastating blows: His father was laid off and his grandfather passed away. He moved home just as his grieving grandmother moved in. "It was definitely a low point in my college journey," he says. "We were dealing with a lot financially, so staying home felt like the right choice."

Jack worked all summer, saved what he could, and prayed that God would help him find a way to get back to George Fox. He began his sophomore year online from California – all while missing the friendships and experiences of campus life.

As the year ended, Jack received an unexpected call from a friend: His name had just been announced onstage at the 2023 Fox Film Festival. He'd won the Tim Thiessen Cinematic Arts Scholarship. The \$2,500 award gave him the motivation to keep saving and the crucial support he needed to help close the gap in his college expenses and return to school the next year.



The Thiessen family had just wrapped up a joyful year in 2018. Tim and Christine (B87) had just celebrated their 30th anniversary, their youngest had graduated from George Fox, and the holidays had brought everyone together again. But as the new year began, everything changed. Tim, just 53, passed away suddenly. The shock and depth of their loss was overwhelming. "It was almost hard to breathe," Christine recalls. "Tim had been my partner for 30 years. How was I supposed to live my life now

Faith, friends and family helped the Thiessens keep going - but healing was a slower, more personal journey. Wise counselors encouraged Christine and her adult children, **Sydney** (B₁₆) and Jake (B18), to try therapy, which brought some comfort. But what helped most, Christine says, was simply talking about Tim - sharing stories, laughing through memories, and reflecting on the man he was to each of them.

Those conversations brought Tim's generous spirit and boundless imagination vividly back to life. Christine remembers Tim, a computer animator and youngest of six, as "a big kid" who loved drawing cartoon characters, collecting Sunday comics and going to Disneyland. Sydney treasures his artistic side, especially the Daisy Book – a series of sketches he made of their family dog. For Jake, it's the "dadisms." He compiled a collection of Tim's sayings into a book for his mom's birthday last year. His favorite? "You are unique, just like everybody else."

A year after his passing, Christine realized they were onto something. As a professional fundraiser for Providence, she had seen families heal through philanthropy

and began to see the connection between Tim's life and helping others. As a family of cre-

ators, starting the Tim Thiessen Cinematic Arts Scholarship just made sense. "A big part of my healing was thinking about how we could remember Tim in a positive way and create a legacy that would support students in the same field that all of us earned our degrees," Christine says.

The opportunity to help students also allowed the family to carry forward Tim's big heart for service. "I felt like it was a way for him to support students because the money to start the scholarship came from his life insurance," Christine says. She launched the fund with a \$5,000 annual

Senior Jack Flitter directs a student film that debuted at the Fox Film Festival.

→ FOCUS ON GIVING



pledge, only hesitating when it was time to name it. Tim had been a joyful giver, but Christine knew he wouldn't have wanted the spotlight. "The one thing he might be upset about is that his name is on the scholarship," she says. "He'd say, 'It shouldn't be about me.' But we're making it about him because we loved him so much."

Joyride

Christine, Sydney and Jake returned to the Fox Film Festival in April to kick off the fifth installment of the scholarship, where they shared Tim's story and announced upcoming recipients. This year was especially significant because they also spent the afternoon with Jack, hearing for the first time about the double heartache that kept him home his sophomore year.

"Knowing that we created this scholarship out of our own personal loss and that Jack was one of the recipients made it even more special," Christine says. "He is so gifted, and I think he's exactly the person that Tim would want to see us support. He's just going to be fantastic."

Jack, too, has marveled at God's perfect timing and how the scholarship motivated him to keep going. "Receiving a scholarship is so meaningful," he says, "because it shows you that

someone out there cares about you."

Jack, who will marry his college sweetheart this summer, is excited about the future and grateful for the financial support that made graduating in four years possible. "I

really feel like the scholarship was about more than furthering my education but about investing in my faith and my ability to build community and a life after school," he says. about starting a

Stories from scholarship recipients like Jack have inspired Christine to develop the scholarship into a self-funding resource for cinematic arts students. This year, she rallied friends and family to help turn the scholarship into an endowed fund, allowing it to grow indefinitely. Her ambitious goal to raise over \$100,000 through collective gifts and a designated estate contribution will take time, but it will also ensure that Tim's legacy of helping oth-

ers will endure long after they're both gone.

Watch a video with more of the Thiessens' story at georgefox.edu/ThiessenScholarship

in customer success management with ClearlyRated, an online business directory that helps business-to-business service providers translate client feedback information.

Bethany Hagen (B14) followed up her George Fox biology degree with a master's degree in public health from Oregon State University in 2018. She then earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from OSU in 2022. She is now a field veterinary medical officer, in her third year, with the United States Department of Agriculture in Beeville, Texas, where she is with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Kristin Shaffer (M14), in her 15th year with Daimler Truck North America, was named support manager, senior vice president of engineering, last September. She was promoted after three years as a strategic project manager.

Michelle Hughes (D14), with a 34-year background in high school and college education, is now self-employed as founder of Heart-full Educational Consulting in Goleta, California. She started it after 14 years at

Westmont College in California as an education department professor and chair, and 20 years with the Santa Barbara (California) School District as a teacher and administrator. In June, she published a book, Dispositions Are a Teacher's Greatest Strength.

Ariel Hortert (B15) in November became project manager for Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin, overseeing technology integrations, operational efficiency and data collection for the musculoskeletal integrated practice unit. She was promoted after three years as a research associate. This follows completion of a master's degree in health care transformation at the university in August.

Bailie (Bowey) Salcido (B15), after receiving a master's degree in Spanish language and literature in June from Portland State University, started in November as a Spanish language sixth-through eighthgrade teacher in Portland Public Schools.

Ana (Fakkema) Kidder (B15) last year opened a new veterinary clinic facility in Oak Harbor, Washington, returning to her home area

of Whidbey Island. She purchased the business, Heritage Veterinary, in 2022 after graduating from Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2019. The clinic now has nine employees, including four veterinarians.

Brad Ward (D15), in his ninth year as an associate professor of business administration at Milligan University in Johnson City, Tennessee, delivered the school's 2024 Faculty Lecture Series talk Nov. 5 on the topic "Do Mission Statements Matter? A Study of Small-Cap Financial Companies." He is also a consultant and is the author of the book The Motivated Worker. Previously, for five years, he was a professor of business management at Kellogg Community College in Michigan.

Rebecca Olson (B16) is now an assistant athletic trainer at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. She works with the women's gymnastics team, starting last July. She left a trainer position at California Baptist University in Riverside, California, after three years.

Alysia Bunch (B16) started in January as a human resource professional with Princeton Property Management in Portland. She is a certified senior human resource professional, previously working with the National Alliance on Mental Illness Multnomah in Portland for a year.

Tori Roberts (B16) is now senior manager, call center operations, with Providence Health & Services in Portland. She started in October after nearly three years as operations man-

Zachary Maurer (B16) is in his second year with the Newberg artisanal coffee roasting company Caravan Roasting. He is packaging lead and coffee room host after more than three years with Portland Center Stage as an operations assistant.

Jennifer Sharp (B16) started in October as a strategic customer success manager for BackBox, a St. George, Utah, firm offering network automation and security solutions. She is working remotely while living in Medford, Oregon. Previously, for nearly three years, she was a senior account manager with Anitian, a cloud security and compliance automation provider.

Kyler Shumway (M16, D19) has returned to Oregon and in January launched his own clinic, Time For Therapy, in Portland. He moved from being president and chief clinical officer with Deep Centered Mental Health in Texas for more than two years. For five years, until 2023, he was a professional speaker with the American Psychological Association.

Nathan Bagent (M16) is starting his second year with the Walsh Construction Co. in Vancouver, Washington, as a project manager. He has 27 years of construction experience, working previously as a project manager with TEAM Construction, also in Vancouver.

Catherine Flaherty-Ng (B17) is a graphic designer with Pivot, a marketing and branding agency in Portland, starting her fifth year. She transitioned from being a self-employed freelance designer for more than two years.

Robert Mitchell (B17), a Newberg police officer since 2018, has been promoted to detective, in that position since March 2024.

Larissa Harper (B17, M20) is a mental health specialist at Clackamas County (Oregon) Health Centers, which serves four high schools. She started in November after nearly five years as a family intervention specialist with Youth Villages in Portland.

Benjamin Saks (B₁₇, M₁₈) is now a full-stack software engineer with GENIE AI, a developer/producer of legal documents in Gilbert, Arizona, starting in July. He previously was an accounts receivable specialist with LeadVenture in Lake Oswego, Oregon, for more than two years.

Esther (Hunt) Boyle (B17) is a natural catastrophe research scientist with Chubb Insurance in Philadelphia. She started in March 2024 after earning a doctoral degree in statistics from Arizona State University, where she was a research assistant for four years.

Amanda (Guest) Aban (B17) and Charles Aban (B₁₇, M₂₀) live in Newberg, where she works remotely as a purchased transportation analyst with YRC Freight in Kansas City, starting her third year. He is a data scientist with Ultra Clean Technology in Hillsboro, Oregon, in his fifth year in that role after starting with the firm in 2017 as a process engineering technician. They met on a George Fox Juniors Abroad trip and now continue their travels together – so far to several U.S. states, Canada, Barcelona, Florence, Budapest, Tokyo and Reykjavík.

Ali Nasiri (M17) in September became the senior benefits coordinator at Portland State University, moving from benefits coordinator the previous three years. He started with PSU in 2010 as a human resources assistant and is in his fifth HR position.

Kayla Sheets (B18) is completing her first year as chief operations officer with Bergin College of Canine Studies in Canyonville, Oregon. The nonprofit institute offers degrees in how to train service dogs and also provides assistance dogs to veterans and those with mobility difficulties.

Jessica Navlet (B18) is a clinical social worker with Legacy Health in Portland. She started in October after three years at Portland State University, where she was a CARE (connecting students with resources) advocate for two years after working as an assistant director of residence life and residence hall director.

Bob Day (B₁8) in February was unanimously approved for a three-year term to continue as police chief of the city of Portland. He began with the Portland Police Bureau in 1990 and rose through the ranks, from sergeant to lieutenant, captain, commander and then deputy chief before retiring in 2019. He was asked to return in 2023 to serve as police chief on an interim basis and has now agreed to continue after the 12-member city council lauded him for the trust he has built with the community. He was a guest on campus in March to speak in chapel.

Benjamin Hortaleza (B18, M20) is a mathematics teacher at North Medford (Oregon) High School, starting last fall. He moved after three years as a math and science teacher in the Grants Pass (Oregon) School District.

Jakob Michael (B18) is now a licensed professional engineer, licensed by the state of Washington in April 2024. He's in that position with HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc. in Yakima. He started with the firm in 2020 as a project engineer after receiving a master's degree in renewable energy systems from Ingolstadt University of Applied Sciences in Germany.

Benjamin Hortaleza (B18, M20) is completing his first year as a mathematics teacher at North Medford (Oregon) High School, where he's also an assistant track and field coach. He moved from Grants Pass, Oregon, where he also was a math and science

teacher and assistant track and field coach for three years.

Jeff Rogers (M18) is back at Subsplash, starting in August as senior manager of content marketing, working remotely with the Austin, Texas-based company involved in church technology. He was with the company for nearly five years, the last year as a marketing content strategist, before a short stint at VictorReach in Austin as a content strategist.

Maci (Jokumsen) Luther (B19) is a clinical therapist with SOL Mental Health in Denver. starting in September. Previously, she was an individual and family therapist with My Denver Therapy for nearly two years after working as a primary therapist with Eating Recovery Center, also in Denver, for three years.

Kaley (Martin) Dolan (B19) is in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she is in two roles: instructor with Pure Barre, a body workout program, and administrative assistant with Lighthouse Church in Parker, Colorado, in her second year.

Mallory Barber (B19) is in her first year as a graduate student assistant athletic trainer at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, where her primary sports are women's soccer and men's and women's tennis. She moved from Greenville, South Carolina, where she finished a fellowship at Furman University.

Chloe Tomlinson-Austin (B19) started last fall as an application support specialist with Trimble, a construction software provider in Lake Oswego, Oregon, leaving her position in technical support with Varonis in Portland, a cybersecurity company.

Brittney (Baird) Sarkhoshyan (B19) has moved across the country to become a security and loss prevention manager (site lead) with Amazon in Memphis, Tennessee. She is in her second year after moving from Newberg. Previously, she spent more than five years at Nike in Beaverton, Oregon, most recently as a global supply chain security incident specialist. In June she became a Certified Forensic Interviewer.

Nicholas Peterson (n19) is an enterprise sales development representative with Hightouch, a composable customer data

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Dive In! Students enjoy some fun in the sun on the nearby Willamette River at RecFest, sponsored by University Recreation.

Keeping the Faith

CEO Aly Salz found her calling to ministry in an unexpected

place – her business

By Joanna Nesbit

In the beginning, printing custom T-shirts was a stopgap job for **Aly Salz** (M12) and her then-fiancé, Rick. Something to pay the bills until they could figure out a pathway into full-time ministry. Salz was on her way to a bachelor's degree in Bible and pastoral ministry and felt that the church was her calling.

While the young couple was still in college, they obtained a business license to be able to purchase wholesale tees. They had many friends who needed custom-printed shirts for summer camps and church groups, and the pair collaborated with these organizations to meet their branded apparel needs.

That was 36 years ago for the George Fox MBA alumna.

Today, that small T-shirt business is a \$10 million enterprise, Righteous Clothing Agency. Salz is CEO of the Portland-based business that evolved from printing tees to designing corporate swag, apparel and custom uniforms. "Our emphasis is on tangible branding – apparel, workwear, and promotional gear that communicates brand values," Salz says.

Righteous serves hundreds of clients, including regional and national restaurant chains, the industrial and manufacturing sector, colleges, hospitals, healthcare systems and more.

Clients include Red Robin, Jollibee, the University of Iowa, PeaceHealth, and Oregon Health & Science University. The company also runs online ordering platforms for about 70 of its customers.

platforms for about 70 of its customers.

For the first several years in business, the couple was torn. They felt that planting a church and going into ministry was the path they were supposed to pursue, but they also felt called to their growing venture. Their pastor at the time helped reframe their thinking. "Why don't you think of your business as a ministry?" Salz recalls him suggesting.

I'm here for a reason."

protocols smuggle in a Bible col

Invited into this new purpose, Salz pondered her company in a broader way, deciding to expand beyond "the Christian space" to businesses in every sector and industry, including restaurants, banks, hospitals and beyond, determining how to best serve the market and make a positive impact.

It was a winning strategy, and the rest, as they say, is history. Along the way, Salz came to a realization. "There was this whole paradigm shift for me where I realized you don't get to choose your significance. You only get to choose your faithfulness," she says.

"Where God puts you matters. I'm here for a reason."

Leaning into her company, Salz decided to enroll in George Fox's

MBA program, 20 years after obtaining that first business license to buy wholesale T-shirts.

The MBA program's infusion of faith and business spoke to Salz and guided her, inspired by the example set by her professors in the classroom and refined through the business education that helped her manage Righteous as a wise steward.

"I realized I really love what business has to offer. It matters in people's lives," she says.

Salz blending her business and her faith – her career and calling – can materialize in a variety of ways. It can mean regularly praying for her employees, conducting business ethically, giving back financially, and always striving to do what is right, even if it affects the bottom line

And as time went on, Salz found ways to live out her faith and pursue her call to ministry outside the business world as well. Last September, she traveled to Seoul to attend the Lausanne World Congress, which connects global evangelical leaders and ideas for the purpose of promoting evangelical Christianity throughout the world. And as a leader in the Foursquare Church, she introduced the

"Where God puts

you matters.

Faith at Work movement to help members connect their work lives with their faith. The movement – a global network of marketplace leaders and clergy – encourages Christians to embrace their work as part of God's purpose.

Sometimes, it turns out, business and ministry overlap in unexpected ways. While on a business trip to China in 2017 to review workplace safety

protocols for an outside vendor, Salz was offered the opportunity to smuggle in Christian materials for distribution. Someone who ran a Bible college in Hong Kong connected her to the clandestine mission

She and other couriers loaded up backpacks and bags, navigated security at the border, and traveled by taxi to a hotel, where they were directed to a specific room lined with trunks to unload their contraband. At the time, Salz didn't think much of what turned out to be a relatively uneventful adventure – a sign, perhaps, of just how much her two worlds of business and faith had converged.

As Salz stays busy with the many needs of a bustling company, she stays connected to her alma mater in a number of ways. Previously she served on the George Fox MBA advisory board, and more recently she attended the university's Women of Impact golf



event, where she had the opportunity to not only have fun with Bruin student-athletes on the golf course, but to serve as a positive role model for these young women in the process.

Last year, her company supplied branded merchandise for the university's homecoming celebration, in addition to branded baby blankets that the alumni relations office sends to new parents.

For Salz, following a faith-informed business path wasn't always easy or obvious, but she learned to trust God's plan through the

twists and turns. The result: a thriving multi-million dollar company that gives back.

As George Fox students consider their post-college pathways, Salz recommends staying open to where God leads, because you just never know. "God's plan is sometimes surprising and it's often difficult, but there's a purpose in it and it's OK not to know what it is," she says. "God's plan is always good."

Here Comes the Bride

Sharia (Hays) Jones (Bo2) holds the distinction of being the first George Fox graduate to get married in the new chapel. More than 20 alumni attended the ceremony in addition to the entire George Fox student life office, where she works.



platform in Seattle. He started in September after being with Amperity, also in Seattle, for three years.

Laura Gifford (M19) in August was named editor-in-chief at Augsburg Fortress Press, the official publishing house of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She has been with the Minneapolis company since 2022, starting as an acquisitions editor, working remotely in Portland. Earlier, she was in various positions in Portland with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, starting in 2016. With a PhD in American history from UCLA, she has served as a scholar-in-residence at George Fox.

Alyssa Clary (M19) started in June as a clinical social worker with the Recovery and Wellness Center of Eastern Washington, based in Richland. She previously was a school-based mental health therapist with the behavioral health agency for nearly

Sal Villegas (D19) last fall transitioned from assistant professor of management in the

School of Business to lead the banking and finance services program at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He joined the faculty in 2020 after a career in banking and financial services, the last as assistant vice president and branch manager for U.S. Bank in Nampa, Idaho.

Charity-Mika Woodard (D19) in October was named Outstanding Higher Education Art Educator of the Year by the Kansas Art Education Association. She is an associate professor and director of art education at Emporia State University after teaching at Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri. This is the second time she has received the award, first being recognized

James Kim (D19) is using his clinical psychology degree by starting his own private practice, UH Psychological, in Philadelphia, working online only. He started in November after three years as a staff psychologist and group coordinator at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

2020-24

Cameron Backus (B20) is using her biology degree with Twist Bioscience, a manufacturer of synthetic DNA products in Wilsonville, Oregon. She started in 2023 and in December was promoted to manufacturing associate II.

Jonathan Wilson (B20) in March started started as a civil engineer with Ethos Civil, leaving 3J Consulting in Portland after nearly five years. In his new role, he is lead engineer for the Mountain Highway Baptist Church (Spanaway, Washington) addition project. His new company has three Washington state locations, but he is located in Portland to help grow the company's Oregon presence.

Samuel Barnes (B20) is a manufacturing automation engineer, starting in October, with Sig Sauer in Tualatin, Oregon, a manufacturer and distributor of firearms and related accessories. He moved from Nikon Precision, Inc. in Hillsboro, Oregon, where he was an application engineer for three years.

Jalyn Rutledge-Brazen (B20) is an athletic trainer with Bon Secours Mercy Health in Greenville, South Carolina, in her second year, after earlier working as an athletic trainer at Bob Jones University, also in Greenville. She earned an MEd in athletic leadership in 2023 from Clemson University in South Carolina.

Jess (Mau) Howell (B20) is a strategic planning senior specialist, in her second year, with the American Honda Motor Company, while working remotely from her home in Denver.

Rebeca (Whitecotton) Dummer (B20, M24) started last fall as a seventh- and eighth-grade teacher at the 97-student St. Paul (Oregon) Parochial School.

Lacey Dean (B20) received a doctor of physical therapy degree in 2023 from Loma Linda University and is now a physical therapist with Ampersand Therapy in Medford, Oregon, starting last August. The year prior, she was with Therapeutic Associates Physical Therapy in Central Point, Oregon.

Jeremy Rick (M20) is completing his first year as a licensed professional counselor with Brightways Counseling Group, with six Oregon locations. He works remotely via telehealth while living in Portland. Previously, for nearly four years, he was a professional counselor associate at the Crossing Bridges Counseling Center in Stayton, Oregon.

Jayson Albert (M20) started in February as a customer service representative with Van's Aircraft in Aurora, Oregon, which produces low-wing monoplanes for home building and experimental flying. He left a position as an operations coordinator with Arena Club, a digital collectible card marketplace in Portland.

Hannah Jodoin (M20), president and CEO of Miss Hannah's Gourmet Popcorn in Newberg, was one of 30 women featured in an April publication, Women in Business Newberg, a complimentary business promotion magazine circulated in the area. Her family business, started in 2001, now has more than 40 small-batch, handcrafted flavors. In 2024, the Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce named her Business Person of

Krzysztof Bryniuk (D20) was named a 2024 Professor of the Year by Broward College. He is in his 11th year teaching business courses online for the Florida college, which

has four campuses. Living in Aventura, Florida, he also manages his own accounting and tax services firm after gaining experience in accounting, finance and business management in academia, banking, hospitality and real estate.

Sara Turner (B21) earned an occupational therapy doctorate from Pacific University in July and is now an occupational therapist at Providence Newberg Hospital. She also has been volunteering with a therapy dog at the McMinnville (Oregon) Public Library.

Cana (Buckley) Whitted (B21) and Ethan Whitted (B21) are in Madrid, Spain, starting in October. She is an English language teacher and also works to promote global awareness through literature, films and art, working with the North American Language and Culture Assistants Program, a project of the education office at the Spain embassy in Washington, D.C. She left a three-year position as a recruiting manager with IsoTalent, working remotely. He is working remotely as a software engineer with Silverpine in Portland, starting in February, and is a freelance web developer with multiple clients. He left a six-year career with Soma Games, a Christian-based video games company in Newberg, where he was a project manager for more than two years.

Nicholas Rogers (M21, D24) is using his new PsyD degree as a clinical psychologist with Lepage Associates in Durham, North Carolina. He started in September, focusing on helping teens.

Leslie Taylor (M21) is a self-employed licensed professional counselor with Oak Hills Counseling Center in Tigard, Oregon. She started in October after working as a professional counselor associate with Leslie Taylor Counseling in Portland for more than three

Beth Thompson (M21) started last fall as a fifth-grade teacher with the Pine Tree Independent School District in Longview, Texas. She moved from Newberg after three years teaching the fourth and fifth grades. She also is a self-employed professional musician and music educator.

James Karan (D21) is now at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, where he started in August as a lecturer in the Daniels School of Business. He moved from Marietta College in Ohio, where he was an associate

professor of accounting for the last seven

Joshua Simpson (B22) is in his second year as a paraplanner, a professional assisting a financial planner, with Bain Wealth Management, a family-owned firm in Salem, Oregon.

Nicolle Nitta (B22), with Hoffman, Stewart & Schmidt, P.C. since graduation, in January became a senior audit associate, promoted from the role of audit associate by the Portland accounting firm.

Jesse Freitas (B22) is an algebra teacher at C.S. Lewis Academy in Newberg, where he's also in his third year coaching track and field, with more than half of the high school's 60 students participating. His team hosted its own Watchmen Invitational in May at George Fox, where as a student Freitas competed as a hurdler.

Ariya Wongyong (M22) is a payroll administrator, starting in October, with David Evans and Associates in Portland, an engineering and planning firm. For two years prior, she

was a payroll specialist with NessCampbell Crane + Rigging in Portland.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Stephanie McLain (M22) is in Albany, Oregon, where she is a marriage and family therapist associate with Transformative Health and Wellness. She started in December after being in a similar position with Oregon Directions, also in Albany.

Jenna Wagenblatt (M22) is in Liverpool, England, where she is a primary care physician assistant with St. Joseph's Physicians Family Medicine, in her third year. Her volunteer work has taken her to Haiti. South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Elyse Grant (D22) started in August as a physical therapist with Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She moved from Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she was an outpatient orthopedic physical therapist with Lovelace Health System for two years.

Tiana Ringer (B23) is using her mechanical engineering degree as a project engineer

Continued on page 72



A Glimpse into the Future Interior design student Jessica Bode uses a VR headset to explore a project site in Paris as professor Casey Martin provides guidance.

'Instructions in a Nutshell'

Dave and Debbie Powell returned for a 50-year reunion and left with a renewed sense of purpose and calling in their lives

Dave and Debbie connect with

By Victoria Payne

"Recount an experience when you needed to fully trust God for a college decision or life direction."

Over the last year, more than 180 George Fox students explored this open-ended prompt, submitting heartfelt essays about God's direction in their lives. While their goal was to receive the Proverbs 3:5-6 Scholarship, an endowed fund started in 2024 by <code>Dave</code> (B74) and <code>Debbie Powell</code> (M10), the process itself has given students a profound opportunity to see God's direction in their lives. Only one student receives the award each year, but every recipient experiences the priceless benefit of locating God's faithfulness in their story — and that is by design.

Debbie, a Portland Seminary graduate, is a spiritual director who guides people looking for a deeper relationship with Jesus. She and Dave returned to campus for his 50-year reunion last May, hoping to reconnect with old classmates and revisit the place that shaped the early years of their marriage.

But Debbie also attended with some trepidation. Was this the university she remembered? She had heard rumors that maybe George Fox was no longer holding firm to its Christian values. "She was worried the school had lost its way," Dave says.

Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart

Over the course of that weekend, Debbie asked many questions, finding the answers – and the hope – she was looking for. Through conversations with faculty, staff and students, she found a university deeply committed to a Christ-centered education and a community that held fast to biblical truth while remaining welcoming to those still seeking faith.

"I was so encouraged," Debbie says. "Obviously not everyone who comes here is a Christian, but I believe it is a mission field. You have those who come because they love Jesus, and you have those who come because they need to hear about him."

The discovery became a breakthrough. They had reserved some money to help others but weren't sure what to do with it. "God had blessed us with a surplus," Debbie says, "and we felt that we were supposed to pass it on."

As they toured campus, something stirred. They revisited cherished places like Weesner Village – the campus apartments where they began their married life. They toured the new chapel,

remembering the tennis courts where Debbie had once played. They looked back on those bygone years with fondness but also remembered the financial strain of being young and married. Debbie paused her college journey so she could bring in some much-needed income as Dave finished undergraduate studies in religion and philosophy. As they walked the grounds and gazed into the rearview mirror, they could see God's hand in it all.

"Suddenly, it just made sense – we should start a scholarship," Debbie recalls. "Not just to help financially, but to invite students to reflect on how God is directing their lives."

Lean Not on Your Own Understanding

That fall, they established the Proverbs 3:5-6 Scholarship. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will

make your paths straight." It's a Scripture that's never failed them.

"It's instructions in a nutshell of what a relationship with God will lead to," Debbie says.

Their own lives have been shaped by the passage, as they've trusted God's call to serve. Dave initially worked as a youth pastor before devoting his long career to the people of Eugene and Springfield as a paramedic and firefighter. Debbie eventually returned to school, becoming an ordained Free Methodist minister and spiritual director. Along the way, they raised four children – including adopting their youngest from Russia – guided by a sense that God's hand was always directing their path.

scholarship recipient Daniel Chase. their path.

Creating the scholarship felt like a natural y not everyis a mission checks, Debbie wanted the application itself to be a moment of Jesus, and you bout him." spiritual reflection. She crafted it to help students pause and consider how God might be guiding their lives – sometimes subtly, sometimes unmistakably.

Among them was Daniel Chase, a first-generation college student who grew up in a Christian home but entered his senior year of high school quietly drifting from faith. Choosing George Fox was a way of honoring his parents' example, even if his own belief felt uncertain. "I came to Fox because I wanted to give my faith a fair chance," Daniel says. And he did.

→ FOCUS ON GIVING



Dave and Debbie Powell pose atop the stairway of Weesner Village Apartments, where the couple began married life in the '70s.

And He Will Make Your Paths Straight

As a freshman, Daniel, who will graduate next year with a degree in business administration, found a network of professors, mentors and friends who welcomed him with authenticity and grace. Their encouragement rekindled something in him. Writing his scholarship essay gave him the chance to look back over his spiritual journey and realize that even when he felt distant from God, God had never been distant from him. He began to see his story with new eyes – not just as a student surviving financial strain, but as someone who is supposed to be here.

"Every summer, I work as many hours as possible, just working and looking at my bank account and wondering, 'Do I have enough money to make it back?' Receiving the scholarship lifted

some of that stress off my shoulders," Daniel says. "It reminded me to surround myself with solid people, like my parents and the people I met here."

The Powells had the opportunity to meet Daniel this spring, a full-circle moment for them all. For Daniel, it solidified the realization that the faithfulness of others – people who listen for God's prompting and act – can open doors for someone else's transformation

For Dave and Debbie, the meeting affirmed the very heart of why they started the scholarship: to encourage students to listen for God's voice, even amid doubt, and to recognize the guidance that often comes before we even ask for it.

at the Portland headquarters of Swinerton, a national construction company. She started with the company immediately after graduation as an intern project engineer and advanced to her current position in February of 2024.

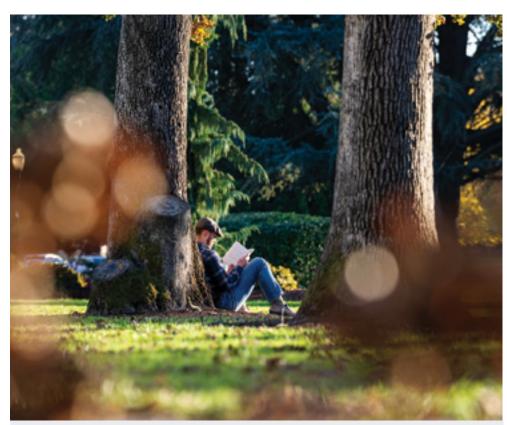
Beth (Wegener) Schott (B23) started last July as a programs manager with Lifeline Pregnancy Resource Center in Nampa, Idaho. She previously was a social media assistant with Living Waters of Hope in Canby, Oregon, for more than a year.

Shane Orelski (M23) last fall joined the Oregon Medical Group - Davies Clinic in Canby, Oregon, as a physician assistant. His focus is in family medicine.

Joshua Varon (M23) is Oregon's 2024 Teacher of the Year, according to Crumbl, the franchise chain of bakeries. He is a sixth-grade English teacher at Leslie Middle School in Salem, Oregon, where he is involved in the school's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, helping close the achievement gap and advocating for underserved populations.

Christa Rohrbach (M23) in September was announced as a Regional Teacher of the Year, representing Jefferson County, where she is an English teacher at Jefferson County Middle School in Madras, in her fourth year. She also is coordinator of Where Everybody Belongs, a sixth-grade transition program, and is yearbook advisor. Recognized as part of the 2024-25 Oregon Teacher of the Year awards, she was cited for "fostering an inclusive, safe and enjoyable learning environment for all students."

Adrian Cortes (D23) in November was elected to the Washington State Senate, representing District 18. He is in his 10th year as a special education teacher at Camas (Washington) High School and also is an associate teacher with City University of Seattle in Vancouver, Washington. He is a member of the Battle Ground (Washington)



Among the Trees A student reads a book on the quad on a sunny November day.

City Council, serving since 2022, and previously was mayor from 2020 to 2022.

Tim Johnson (D23) is completing his first year as the secondary principal at John Adams Academy in Roseville, California. He also is a virtual classroom guitar instructor with Arizona State University Prep School, in his

Kelly (Anderson) Johnson (B24) is starting her teaching career as a third-grade teacher at Steins Pillar Elementary School in Prineville,

Elyssa Emerson (B24) is in Auckland, New Zealand, where she is with Ormiston Junior College as a performing arts educator, starting last June. She is a Whanau Ora Learning Coach, performing pianist, vocalist and chorister. She also is a freelance writer and voice actress.

Ashley Foster (B24) started in July as a marketing and recruiting specialist with RiverBend Materials, a construction company in Salem, Oregon. She is the company's first employee in this new position.

Ty Davis (B24), days after graduation, started as a graphic designer with Bench Craft Company in Portland, an advertising specialties company serving 4,000 golf courses with ads for benches, display boards, scorecards and course guides. He is also a freelance graphic designer with the athletic apparel company Official League and with his own Ty Davis Design, LLC, specializing in sports graphics, brand identity and apparel design.

Grace Umfleet (B24) is at Willamette Valley Medical Center in McMinnville, Oregon, as part of a new year-long nurse residency program it started in June. She works in the medical/surgical unit and was featured in a September story in the McMinnville News-Register.

Julia Brant (M24) started in March as a physician assistant with High Lakes Health Care Upper Mill in Bend, Oregon. She is one of four PAs with eight doctors in the independent practice.

Nicole Meyer (M24) started in March as a physician assistant with Sky Lakes Medical Center, a community-owned acute care hospital in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Scarlet Harrison (M24) is now an art teacher at the 350-student Nestucca Valley Elementary School in Cloverdale in southern Tillamook County, Oregon.

Adam Lundstrom (M24) in August returned to Integrated Surveillance and Defense in Wilsonville, Oregon, as an integrated logistics support manager. He was with the company earlier for nearly nine years, leaving in December 2023 as an aircraft systems and project engineer.

Dwayne Jones (D24) is using his Doctor of Ministry degree as a chaplain with Century Hospice in Austin, Texas. He is in his second year, developing a pastoral care center and working to become a licensed professional counselor.

Christian Filer (B25) will put his business administration degree to work starting this fall as an area manager for Amazon. First, he'll serve as a camp counselor this summer at SAMBICA, a Christian summer camp and retreat center.

Savannah Hamilton (B25) will start this summer as a nurse at the Providence Portland Medical Center – a job she secured prior to graduating in May. She'll work in Providence's Diabetic & Renal Medical-Surgical Unit after returning from an international medical mission trip to Kenya.

Emily Larson (B25), after completing her engineering degree in May, will pursue a master's degree in electrical engineering this fall at Oregon State University.

Tom McMillan (B25) was hired as an engineer at Intel after getting his foot in the door last summer with an internship. A track and field and football athlete during his time at George Fox, he'll continue to stay connected to athletics as a coach at Sunset High School.

Sam Cimbora (B25) was accepted into Duke Divinity School and will begin this fall, studying Christian health ethics and theol-

Peyton Wood (B25), after graduating in May, will use his dual degree in financial planning and business administration as a client service associate at Mariner Wealth Advisors in Tigard, Oregon.

IN MEMORY

Elenita (Mardock) Bales (B43), Oct. 24, 2024, in Newberg.

Helen (Antrim) Cadd (B49), June 9, 2024, in

Norval Hadley (B49), Dec. 28, 2024, in Stanton, California.

Harold Johnston (n50), Nov. 23, 2024, in Gresham, Oregon.

Marion Comfort (n51), Sept. 3, 2024, in Newberg.

Verne Martin (B54), June 24, 2024, in Newberg.

LeRoy Lindahl (M55), Aug. 7, 2024, in Raymore, Missouri.

Lynn Ostrander (B56), June 9, 2024, in Syracuse, New York.

Joanne (Joanis) Hartley (B57), April 24, 2025, in Newberg.

Margaret (Hancuff) Lamm (n57), Nov. 15, 2024, in Portland.

John Johnson (B61), Dec. 13, 2024, in Greenleaf, Idaho.

Lyla (Bury) Hadley (n62), Dec. 13, 2024, in Port Hadlock, Washington.

Brian Beals (B65), Aug. 31, 2024, in St. Maries,

Edgar Madrid (B65), April 16, 2024, in Chiquimula, Guatemala.

Roy McConaughey (B66), May 29, 2024, in Newberg.

Linda (Wilhite) Walker (B69), April 17, 2025, in

Randall Haveman (n70), Sept. 26, 2024, in Newberg.

Robert Thornburg (B70), Jan. 20, 2025, in McMinnville, Oregon.

Gloria (Hightower) Hiratsuka (n71), Oct. 5, 2024, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Tim Jacobson (B71), Oct. 9, 2024, in Vancouver, Washington.

David Downie (M74), Oct. 10, 2024, in Centralia, Washington.

Meyer Louie (B76), Jan. 2, 2025, in Omak, Washington.

Bobbi (Goettling) Quiring (n77), Nov. 6, 2024, in Salem, Oregon.

Lon Austin (B79), March 24, 2025, in Prineville,

Gregg Lamm (B80, M84), July 3, 2024, in Newberg.

George Fox campus pastor from 1991-2005.

Kenn Willson (B8o), May 1, 2024, in Beaverton, Oregon.

George Fox professor emeritus of music from 1989-2021.

Patty McGhehey (B82), March 13, 2025, in McMinnville, Oregon.

Thomas Heaton (n88), March 24, 2025, in Oakland, Oregon.

Dalana (Franklin) Hatfield (B91), Aug. 15, 2024, in Kodiak, Alaska.

Deborah Donohoe (B92), June 1, 2024, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Deborah (Ireland-Davis) Jackson (B92), Dec. 26, 2024, in Port Angeles, Washington.

Mary Gill (B93), Aug. 24, 2024, in Florence, Oregon.

Stan Baker (M94), Aug. 17, 2024, in Albany,

Kathleen Gentile (B96), Dec. 18, 2024, in Boise, Idaho.

Catherine "Caye" (May) Poe (M96), April 11, 2025, in Dayton, Oregon.

Joseph Kwiecinski (B98), Aug. 21, 2024, in Happy Valley, Oregon.

James Moss (Mo1), July 20, 2024, in Portland.

Clyde Dilg (Bo6), June 4, 2024, in Idaho Falls,

James "Ben" Dort (Bo7), Aug. 14, 2024, in Roy, Washington.

Angela Lasley (D13), Feb.1, 2024, in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Pete Snow, June 16, 2024, in Newberg. Founder of George Fox art program and professor of art from 1967-89.

Becky Le Shana, Nov. 5, 2024, in Scottsdale,

Wife of David Le Shana, president of George Fox from 1969-82.



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