Encouraging Character Development

The Templeton Guide recognizes George Fox University’s role in building character.

George Fox University’s high ranking in U.S. News & World Report magazine’s annual listing of America’s Best Colleges may have been topped by yet another national honor.

The “Templeton Guide: Colleges that Encourage Character Development” places George Fox in a unique position shared by just 20 colleges and universities in the nation.

The University on Oct. 22 was announced as one of 100 institutions selected for the Templeton Honor Roll for character-building colleges, and President David Brandt was chosen one of just 50 presidents in the nation recognized for outstanding presidential leadership. The double honors went to just 20 colleges.

“It is very gratifying and meaningful,” said Brandt. “To be recognized for promoting character development is, for me, the highest honor possible. It is important to understand that such an honor really is shared by the whole institution. Many George Fox individuals contribute to the character development that occurs on our campuses.”

Brandt’s perspective on the importance of character development is being noticed. It’s a growing national theme. In the past, most institutions were leery about teaching values, says Gwendolyn Jordan Dungy, executive director of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. She told the Christian Science Monitor in a Nov. 16 article that the new guide comes at a time when “people talk about moral education, civic responsibility, and academic integrity a lot in higher education.”

The newspaper reported the “Templeton Guide” is “viewed by some in the higher education community as an alternative to traditional college guides,” noting that the Templeton Guide, by identifying colleges with strong character education programs, is unlike other popular college guides that evaluate institutions on student-faculty ratios, graduation rates, and other factors.

The director of character development programs at the John Templeton Foundation said the institutions and presidents “are a model for colleges and universities nationwide. With the Templeton Guide we hope to help prospective college students and their parents who want to know what colleges are doing to promote the core values of honesty, self-control, respect and service to those less fortunate.”

The Templeton Guide chose schools to be listed through a selective process that considered the following criteria:

◆ A clear and compelling vision and mission that express a commitment to prepare students for lives of personal and civic responsibility;

◆ The significant involvement and participation of faculty in forming and shaping the ideals and standards of personal and civic responsibility;

◆ Evidence that a wide variety of programs exists to prepare students for lives of personal and civic responsibility;

◆ The significant involvement and participation of faculty in forming and shaping the ideals and standards of personal and civic responsibility;

◆ External recognition or honors; and

◆ Procedures to assess effectiveness of campus-wide character-development programs.

Established in 1989, the Templeton Foundation, located near Philadelphia, works with educators, scientists, theologians, medical professionals and other scholars throughout the world to support more than 100 programs serving three purposes: to encourage character development in schools and colleges; to encourage an appreciation for the benefits of freedom; and to stimulate serious and scientific research on the relationship between spirituality and health.

As it was being considered for listing in the Templeton Guide, George Fox was asked to respond to the following: “Describe how institutional leaders, including faculty, are actively involved in explaining, modeling and inspiring stu-
University’s Community Lifestyle Standards Focus on “Do’s” Rather Than “Don’ts”

Consider the partially filled glass of water: it’s either half full or half empty. It’s a matter of perspective. So when George Fox University revised its student guidelines and lifestyle agreement — the one each undergraduate student must sign to be admitted to George Fox — “Instead of looking at all the things that students are told not to do, I like to look at what they are told to do,” says Sharrar Durham, interim dean of students.

She explains how the student handbook outlines the positives of healthy living and good relationships.

Campus Pastor Gregg Lamm points out that while some aspects of George Fox’s lifestyle agreement might be challenged in larger society, much of it finds support among the general public.

“Our lifestyle agreement is based as much on the rules of civil society as it is on Scripture,” Lamm notes. Both of the Student Life administrators appreciate the balance reflected in the wording of the handbook. It explains that expressing God’s love means students should, in accordance with the example of Christ, “bear one another’s burdens”; “speak the truth in love”; and practice “reconciliation, restoration and restitution” in relationships.

“I’m glad that policy addresses both attitudes and actions,” says Lamm, “because that’s what Jesus did.”

The rules that guide students in character formation are addressed in the University’s student handbook, which looks more closely at the motives behind the rules. For example: “As members of a Christian community, we must remember that our behavior reflects not only on ourselves, but on other members of our community and on our Lord Jesus Christ. Whether we step out into the bigger world around us or interact in our own smaller realm, the things we say and do are a testimony to who we are and who we serve.”

While students are required to sign George Fox’s lifestyle agreement, they are not required to sign a statement of faith or indicate that they are a Christian. That allows the University to effectively reach out to some students, seeking to influence them with the Gospel of Christ. Some students enter George Fox and for the first time face active lifestyle expectations of a Christian community.

That, says Durham, actually opens opportunities for direct witness as non-Christian students probe the rationale behind University rules.

“It’s freeing,” she says. “You can ask them straight out where are you spiritually?”

“The lifestyle statement helps students to begin to ask the right questions,” agrees Lamm. As for Christian students, George Fox’s expectations prompt them to consider the importance of godly living that puts their faith into practical action. Durham says, “That’s a message we seek to give students: that if they’re not living it out daily, then what they believe and how they claim it don’t hold the same significance.”

So what happens if a students doesn’t follow the lifestyle guidelines?

Durham notes the University does not hold its rules over the students’ heads as a threat, but does seek to apply those rules in a fair, compassionate manner that constantly aims for students’ emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being.

Members of the Student Life staff approach the process of discipline with a desire to help the student be fully restored to the community. One component of the process is the importance of the Dean of Students, to suspend or dismiss a student — depending on the nature of the infraction — with the decision based on the severity of the violation and the frequency. The process is based on biblical guidelines addressing restorative goals of disciplinary action.

“I’m really glad our policy, in the way it is enforced, tends to be grace-based,” says Lamm. He quotes pastor and author Ron Mehl, who writes: “The parameters that God gives us for our lives are not to hold us back, but to set us free.”

Character Is Values Lived

We live at a time when education is being delivered in an increasing variety of ways. Educational methodology is on the agenda of essentially all workshothes, conferences and meetings. If it is not, it is discussed during breaks in the meeting.

Too often we have such discussions without being sure of what education is. Is education only knowledge transfer? Should education be expected to reach out to some persons, behaviors, to influence them with the Gospel of Christ. Some students enter George Fox and for the first time face active lifestyle expectations of a Christian community.

That, says Durham, actually opens opportunities for direct witness as non-Christian students probe the

The Lifestyle Statement

“in accordance with Christian convictions honoring the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, the University community accepts a lifestyle that forbids immoral sexual behavior and the use, possession or distribution of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs. Gambling or obscene or pornographic material or literature also are unacceptable. Students are expected to maintain those lifestyle standards both on and off campus.”

Our lifestyle agreement is based as much on the rules of civil society as it is on Scripture.” Lamm notes. Both of the Student Life administrators appreciate the balance reflected in the wording of the handbook. It explains that expressing God’s love means students should, in accordance with the example of Christ, “bear one another’s burdens”; “speak the truth in love”; and practice “reconciliation, restoration and restitution” in relationships.

“I’m glad that policy addresses both attitudes and actions,” says Lamm, “because that’s what Jesus did.”

The rules that guide students in character formation are addressed in the University’s student handbook, which looks more closely at the motives behind the rules. For example: “As members of a Christian community, we must remember that our behavior reflects not only on ourselves, but on other members of our community and on our Lord Jesus Christ. Whether we step out into the bigger world around us or interact in our own smaller realm, the things we say and do are a testimony to who we are and who we serve.”

While students are required to sign George Fox’s lifestyle agreement, they are not required to sign a statement of faith or indicate that they are a Christian. That allows the University to effectively reach out to some students, seeking to influence them with the Gospel of Christ. Some students enter George Fox and for the first time face active lifestyle expectations of a Christian community.

That, says Durham, actually opens opportunities for direct witness as non-Christian students probe the rationale behind University rules.

“It’s freeing,” she says. “You can ask them straight out where are you spiritually?”

“The lifestyle statement helps students to begin to ask the right questions,” agrees Lamm. As for Christian students, George Fox’s expectations prompt them to consider the importance of godly living that puts their faith into practical action. Durham says, “That’s a message we seek to give students: that if they’re not living it out daily, then what they believe and how they claim it don’t hold the same significance.”

So what happens if a students doesn’t follow the lifestyle guidelines?

Durham notes the University does not hold its rules over the students’ heads as a threat, but does seek to apply those rules in a fair, compassionate manner that constantly aims for students’ emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being.

Members of the Student Life staff approach the process of discipline with a desire to help the student be fully restored to the community. One component of the process is the importance of the Dean of Students, to suspend or dismiss a student — depending on the nature of the infraction — with the decision based on the severity of the violation and the frequency. The process is based on biblical guidelines addressing restorative goals of disciplinary action.

“I’m really glad our policy, in the way it is enforced, tends to be grace-based,” says Lamm. He quotes pastor and author Ron Mehl, who writes: “The parameters that God gives us for our lives are not to hold us back, but to set us free.”
Christ Reflected
Through mentoring relationships, faculty and staff model Christ and impact students’ lives.

The Templeton Foundation recognition of George Fox University includes several references to the importance of faculty and University leaders as role models — inspiring and setting examples of responsibility, helping in the character development of students (see story, page 1).

With 33 years of experience in teaching and mentoring, Glenn Moran, professor of education, says mentoring at Christian universities takes on much more significance, and that true mentoring — building relationships with God and with others — stimulates dual growth.

“The protégé gains in the spiritual realm, the classroom, or the workplace, while mentors renew their energy, increase their motivation, and feel valued,” he says. “It has to be a two-way street or it won’t work.”

Two examples of George Fox faculty helping students in their walks with Christ and on their way to careers follow:

**Carrie Jo Vincent**

“I can love you very much as a person and still flunk you as a student,” says Carrie Jo Vincent, assistant professor of theatre and dance choreography. She doesn’t say that threateningly, but as a big-time believer in “tough love” who makes her ground rules and expectations very clear to her students.

It’s part of her process of mentoring her students that extends beyond the classroom.

“A life in the theatre is incredibly rewarding, but also physically, emotionally and psychologically draining, Vincent says. “I learned early on the importance of developing a support system to help me take risks.”

Now she is helping her students do the same, and more. Vincent strives to show students how she integrates her family life (a married mother of two), her professional life and that mentoring shows.

Tonya Lynne Wildhaber, a senior communication video production major from Raymond, Wash., credits Vincent for being “a professor, a mentor, a ‘mom,’ and most important, an friend.”

Vincent teaches students far more than theatre competencies. Wildhaber says, “She leads by example and inspires students to hold on to their Christ-inspired dreams and passions.”

“Carrie Jo is more than a teacher and more than a mentor,” Wildhaber adds. “She’s an amazing woman of God, a humble servant who seeks to serve and encourage those around her.”

Vincent’s parents encouraged her to channel her creativity as quickly as a lack of trust.

While Vincent shares the students’ excitement, she also helps them calm down and stay grounded because she has been through it all, says Kristina Russell, a senior from Shoreline, Wash., who is majoring in communication arts with a theatre emphasis.

“It’s a blessing how she helps us develop as artists and humans. I’m amazed at how she helps us grow in faith while working through difficult and painful times.”

Russell and Wildhaber are two of as many as 200 students Vincent may come to know during the course of a year. Vincent’s first objective is to bond with her students and to encourage them on their faith walks.

“In this craft, we use our own voices, expressions, and movements to express everything from anger and joy to hysterical laughter,” she says. “Acting can seem unnatural, uncomfortable, and even foolish. Nothing will shut down creativity as quickly as a lack of trust.”

Vincent notes that Christian artists — especially her young students — walk a line between the secular world of theatre and their own spiritual calling. Those forces, she says, can create an undertow of emotions. Knowing that, Vincent chooses to get to know her students personally.

A fourth-generation teacher, Vincent has been focused on drama since the seventh grade when she entered her first drama class and was smitten. As early as she can remember, Vincent says, she acted out various roles, and as toddler, she would even mimic her family cat.

Her parents encouraged her to channel her energy in theater.

She pursued a life’s work in drama, earning a master’s degree in theatre arts from Western Oregon University in 1991. She began her teaching at George Fox in the fall of 1998 after 16 years teaching theatre and dance choreography to ages from kindergarten to senior citizens.

**Mark Terry**

It might surprise some to hear that assistant professor of art Mark Terry, in his third year of teaching at George Fox, does not claim teaching is his calling. Instead, he says he feels called “to guide students to be good stewards of their gifts.”

The distinction is important, because it explains student response to his role as a mentor.

Russell and Wildhaber are two of as many as 200 students Vincent may come to know during the course of a year. Vincent’s first objective is to bond with her students and to encourage them.

“By having his perspective, whether it’s about academic or personal stuff, it is a huge support,” Terry describes his job as “to help my students be successful, and to do that, I have to get to know them,” adding “I don’t hide my feelings from them.”

Terry describes his job as “to help my students be successful, and to do that, I have to get to know them,” adding “I don’t hide my feelings from them.”

Forming relationships with up to 40 or 50 students a year is rewarding, Terry says, but also time consuming, and the line between his personal and profession life often becomes blurred.

He says the hardest part of his job is critiquing the work of his students because “artwork is so personal, it is like an extension of our personality. It isn’t as cut-and-dried as, say, scoring a calculus test.”

While some secular artists may be striving to express truth through their art, Terry says he sees his students and himself as lights in the darkness. His quest, and what he instills in others, is to instead seek truth in Christ and reflect that in art.
Four students say their path to George Fox University this fall took them through a hell on earth. With emotional scars from the recent war still vivid in their minds, the ethnic Albanians from Kosovo are pursuing a new life in Oregon.

The refugee students are among 45 throughout the United States receiving scholarships at 22 private liberal arts colleges and universities, coordinated by Carol Detweiler, wife of Richard Detweiler, president of Hartwick College in New York. The Detweilers are former Peace Corps volunteers who, because of their international experiences, wanted to offer scholarships to two Kosovars to attend Hartwick. Detweiler asked her husband if other schools would be interested in doing the same.

About two dozen schools across the country responded. George Fox is the only one in the western United States.

“I felt it was something that fit our mission as an institution,” said Dale Seipp, director of undergraduate admissions, who was quick to act on the inquiry from Detweiler. “In our Quaker tradition, we realized we could provide an education to people coming from a war-torn environment.”

Seipp said Detweiler’s program identified a top group of college-age students from among the Kosovar refugees, most of whom came to the United States through Fort Dix, N.J. Those who wanted to take advantage of the program were then enrolled in interested schools based on the students’ academic interests and on the regions to which they had been relocated. In the case of the George Fox students, they and their families had moved to either the Northwest or California.

Most of the students are receiving scholarships for up to five years. That includes one year to study English as a second language. As refugees, the students are eligible for federal financial aid, and George Fox created a financial aid package for them that includes the federal aid, grant money and work-study funding.

About 20 percent of the students’ costs aren’t covered, and the University is pursuing additional funds through church groups and refugee programs.

“I believe our students from Kosovo are contributing a perspective to our student population and community that is valuable to understand,” said Andrea Cook, vice president for enrollment services. “They are all aware of the Christian environment and lifestyle expectations of our university, and are very grateful to have the opportunity to study here,” she said.

The four students — Mirsade Bejiqi, Blerim Berisha, Mentor Visoka, and Latif Latifi — have traveled a long and horrifying road to get to where they are today. Hiding, being threatened by soldiers and deported to refugee camps have left them with haunting memories. “You don’t know what you have until you lose it,” says Berisha. “They are grateful for a new life at George Fox,” she said.

Bejiqi told how she and about 50 friends and family members hid during the war in the basement of a neighbor’s home with hardly any food and water. When Serb soldiers finally arrived, they took her money and threatened to kill her if she and the others didn’t leave quickly.

Despite days without food or clean clothing, she and the others made their way toward refugee camps in Macedonia.

“I saw too many dead bodies,” she said. “Even now I have nightmares.”

Berisha told of studying secretly in private homes after Serbs closed schools to ethnic Albanians. His Muslim father was fired from a university teaching job.

The Kosovo Liberation Army and Serb forces fought battles near Berisha’s home. When the NATO air strikes began, he and his family fled Kosovo.

“NATO brought life back to Kosovo (as Kosovars call their country),” he said. “Now the people are free in Kosovo and have a chance to rebuild their lives.”

Today, distance and the passing of time have separated the students from the circumstances that caused such pain. All four say they are enjoying their new lives in America, and at George Fox. While all expect to return to Kosovo on visits during the next several years, they are focused now on American college life.

The color photos depict msiltization of not only adults, but children as young as 2 years old.

“The Serbs said they didn’t kill anyone but soldiers, but these pictures speak the truth,” said Latifi, who fought tears as he spoke.

“I want to be strong. I don’t want to cry, because crying won’t make me feel better,” said Bejiqi.

“You don’t know what you have until you lose it,” said Berisha.

“I like everything here,” said Bejiqi, who studied English in her homeland.

Bejiqi’s story isn’t unique. She’s one of several Americans among the Kosovar students, all of whom are Americans.

Latifi and Berisha both hold work-study jobs on the University’s security staff.

Unlike the other three students, whose parents are still in America, Latifi’s parents have returned to Kosovo. He communicates regularly with them, although phone calls to that part of the world tend to be expensive.

Latifi majored in economics in his homeland, but hasn’t yet chosen a major here. He is thinking of political science.

“For us, studying is harder here in that we don’t speak very fluent English yet,” he said. “Also, Americans don’t understand our jokes. Sometimes it’s difficult for us.”

Berisha is from Gjilan, a Kosovo city that had about 70,000 people prior to the war. A volleyball enthusiast, he majored in physical education back home but now plans to pursue a degree in international business.

By living on campus, the Kosovo students have had an opportunity to share their unusual stories with Americans of the same age.

“It’s really neat to get someone with a different background on our floor,” said Carrie Johnson, a junior from Bend, Ore., who is resident assistant for the residence hall floor where Bejiqi lives. “We get to hear different aspects on things.”

“I’m far from my homeland, far from my family. I really miss them a lot. I don’t know what else to say except ‘God bless you.’”

— Latif Latifi

Johnson noted that Bejiqi has “made a lot of friends really quickly. She’s really easy to talk to.”

The Kosovo students explained that they are eager to move on from the horrors that they have witnessed, and that they are appreciative of the opportunity to study at an American university.

“I’m far from my homeland, far from my family,” said Latifi at the audience for the Peace Supper. “They really miss them a lot. I don’t know what else to say, except God bless you, United States, and God bless you, George Fox University.”

“Thanks for everything that you offer us,” Bejiqi added. “Don’t look at me like a stranger. I’m your friend. Thanks for being my friend.”
A supercomputer that ranks near the top in world performance competition using parallel processing has been created by George Fox University professor Brent Wilson and one of his students.

A Web site (www.haveland.com/povbench) that keeps track of global competition of computer performance listed the new George Fox cluster tied for No. 15 in the world in terms of speed.

Wilson, assistant professor of computer science, and student Jim Snow, a junior computer science major from Amity, Ore., have developed what the National Aeronautics and Space Administration describes as a "Beowulf cluster": a network of personal IBM-style computers on a Linux operating system that work together as a single parallel computer. Specifically, Wilson and Snow linked eight Pentium III, 450-megahertz machines, and created the potential to link up another 30 in the specialized network.

As a benchmark for comparing the performance of such computer clusters, technical experts since May 1994 have used a color, three-dimensional image of a vase on a pedestal surrounded by mirrors. While the average lone computer on a George Fox faculty member’s desk might take several hours to do the multitude of computations required to render that standard image, Wilson said, supercomputers elsewhere in the world have it done in as little as two seconds.

Wilson’s cluster accomplished the rendering in 13 seconds.

He notes that one project elsewhere two years ago cost researchers nearly $5.5 million to hit the No. 2 spot with a three-second rendering. His project at George Fox cost markedly less — $8,500 — and uses equipment that Wilson says can be purchased at most any computer parts store.

The work of Wilson and Snow took an estimated 15–20 hours a week from May through August. "It took a whole lot of trial and error," Wilson said. "It was an interesting collaboration between theory and practice."

"The biggest surprise — and delight for Wilson was that the whole exercise succeeded. He says he and Snow simply stared in awe for a while as their eight computers actually started working as one.

Wilson says, with a smile, that with his new creation, he initially felt a bit like Dr. Frankenstein, excitedly exclaiming, "It’s alive!"

"I had been expecting failure," he said. "This was (originally) going to be a purely academic exercise." Wilson, who lives in Salem, Ore., is pursuing a doctorate in computer science through Nova Southeastern University, as part of a Christ-centered lifestyle that he describes as "a great service to students at George Fox."

"This is cool technology," Quinn said. "There are all kinds of opportunities for undergraduate students to get their hands on parallel computers. What Brent has done is a great service to students at George Fox."

Wilson gave additional focus to supercomputers in November, when he attended a national conference in Portland that drew an estimated 25,000 to 35,000 people to the Oregon Convention Center. The supercomputing ’99 Conference was sponsored by the Association of Computing Machinery.

Wilson joined the George Fox faculty in 1994 after previously teaching at Chemeketa Community College and South Salem High School, both in Salem, and at Cascade Union High School in Turner, Ore.

"We have as much processing power now as computers that cost millions," he said.

There is great economic incentive in American industry to advance the technology of supercomputers because of their ability to do enormously time-consuming tasks in a fraction of the time, Wilson said. But he says the role of the new computer cluster at George Fox is going to be "pretty academic."

"We’ll use it in our program to teach students about parallel processing," he said. "It really is the next wave. Our students are excited. They want to get their hands on it."

Michael Quinn, head of the department of computer science at Oregon State University in Corvallis, praised Wilson for his efforts at George Fox.
When Florence Lienard graduated from Pacific College (as George Fox University was known in 1927), she was close friends with everyone in her senior class.

But then Lienard — who will be honored as the University’s oldest living alumnus at a special luncheon on Feb. 12 — says her graduating class included just seven students.

Over the past half century, Lienard, 97, has traveled, lived and worked throughout the Pacific Northwest, but she always has maintained close ties to her alma mater and jokingly admits feeling “like she owns the place.”

“We never imagined it would grow to its size. To us, it was great the way it was.”

Of course, the University has grown up physically and changed names, but Lienard says it, and indeed the world, has undergone transformations she never dreamed possible.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, June 3, 1902, Lienard was the youngest of seven siblings. She moved to Seattle at the age of 6. When she was in her early teens, the family moved again, this time to Newberg, where she attended public high school, graduating in 1920. After taking one year off from school to help at home, she enrolled at Pacific College.

“It wasn’t a question of whether or not I would go to college — my parents expected that,” Lienard explains. “The only question was where.”

Pacific College was a logical choice for several reasons. First, she only lived a few blocks away. Also, the children were all raised as devout believers, and Pacific was a well-regarded Christian school founded by the Friends Church. Finally, her father, George H. Lee, taught church history and Bible studies for several terms there, and her sister, Ruth Lee, also taught in the high school academy that was located in a wooden building behind the college and was the the forerunner of the college.

Lienard recalls being one of approximately 20 freshmen. “There were enough of us to fill up two rows in the chapel. It was an even mix of boys and girls,” she said. Like the other freshmen, Lienard had to wear a green cap and undergo an initiation that lasted several weeks. “It wasn’t done out of cruelty, but we were put in our place. It was mostly good-natured.”

Lienard was active in the Oratorical Society, the Drama Club, and she sang in the student chorus. She also was an ardent sports fan, and she cheered the Bruins on in their fierce rivalries with McMinnville College (now Linfield).

Every year at homecoming, the McMinnville students would try to steal away Pacific College’s mascot, a bearskin named Bruin.

“We guarded it around the clock, and whenever they came after it, we were waiting in the bushes. Baseball, basketball and football were very big. All our sports had a strong following then,” she said.

Looking through her photo album stirs many old memories to new life. Lienard fondly recalls a few favorite teachers, including Alexander Hall, the music director, and Russell and Mary Lewis, both in the English department.

Then there were the May Pole celebrations every May 1, and of course, every spring the students would meet for one day and scrub the entire campus, inside and out, until it sparkled. Afterwards students would share their sack lunches on the campus grounds.

Standard attire for female students at the time was long dresses, while male students often wore white shirts with jackets and ties. The atmosphere was very prim and proper, with administrators and faculty being supportive but quite stiff.

“Yes, it was strict, regimental. There was no dancing whatsoever, and we all lived by rules then,” Lienard says. “We enjoyed life and had a great deal of fun. That was the only way we knew.”

In those days, the campus seemed to exist independently, almost as a world of its own. Lienard says there was a notable exception: George Fox students would always build a large float and participate in the city’s annual Berry Parade.

When Florence was a sophomore, she accepted an invitation from Floyd Lienard, a high school senior, to attend the college’s annual sports banquet. In spite of the age difference, the couple grew close, and while both were in college, became engaged to be married.

The Lienards, who were wed in 1927, raised three children: Ruth, now 58, living in Idaho; George, 70, in Arizona; and Edith, 65, in nearby Dayton, Ore.

After graduating, Lienard survived the depression and enjoyed a variety of experiences as a schoolteacher. She also helped run a farm for 12 years and a hardware store for seven years. After living throughout Oregon and Washington, she returned in 1992 to McMinnville, where she now lives in an assisted living center.

Through the years, she stayed close to several of her old college friends, but now all have passed away. She also recently lost an older brother, Arthur, who lived to be 102.

But Lienard, who smiles often and laughs easily, is blessed with good health. Although she uses a cane, she is still mobile. Now a great-grandmother, she spends much of her time reading spiritual books and fiction, and visiting with friends and relatives.

Although her life is full of fond memories, her college days are something special, she says, gently patting her well-preserved college photo album.

“Oh my, such memories, such wonderful memories...”

—John Ranler
Editor’s Note: Because some alumni news submitted via our Web site was not received prior to December 1, 1999, if it is not in this issue of LIFE.

Ron Barnick (G54) and his wife, Grace, are charter members of The Covered Bridge Society of Oregon, which works for the preservation and restoration of the state’s covered bridges. The Barnicks were recognized in the fall 1999 issue of The Bridge Tender, the society’s official publication.

Gary Brown (G68) received his commercial hot air balloon pilot’s license in October 1999. He flies primarily with Vista Balloon Adventures, Newberg.

Neil Robbins (G78) is the associate director for Portland Youth for Christ.

Susan (Gallahan) Rice (n79) is an elementary school counselor for Immaculate Conception School and the play therapist for a women’s and children’s treatment center in Fairbanks, Alaska.

David Myton (G60) has been appointed acting dean for the College of Natural and Health Sciences at Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He continues as chair of the chemistry department.

Charles Upchurch (G80) is a claims adjuster for Allstate Insurance, Seattle, Wash.

Gary Friesen (G83) is executive vice president for Pecoskeeman Ministries, a non-profit organization in Billings, Mont., which assists Christians in responding biblically to conflict.

Kevin (n89) and Coreen Schlmetzer (G89) Stanton and their family have recently returned to Oregon after completing a one-and-a-half-year assignment in Denmark with Intel Corporation.

Katie (Wagner) Robyn (G90) is a zookeeper at the Kansas City Zoological Gardens, Kansas City, Mo.

Mike Warren (MHR90) is employed by the Washington State Patrol, overseeing patrol operations in Adams County, Wash. He also oversees the Commericial Vehicle Enforcement Division.

Ann Marie Frisch (G91) teaches sixth grade at Otto H.H. Petersen Elementary School, St. Helens, Ore.

Todd Munsey (MHR91) is member services director for Douglas Electric Cooperative, a member-owned electric utility in Douglas County, Ore.

Rich Swingler (G91) launched in New York City his newest one-act play, “The Acts,” which focuses on the growth of the early Church as God’s Spirit empowers his people. He has also recently performed in Washington, D.C., and Israel.

Kim Stafford-Galavuz (G92) teaches English at Shelton (Wash.) High School.

Mac Pennington (MMHR93) is the transportation services supervisor for the Lake Oswego ( Ore.) School District.

Mark Herold (n94) has finished two marathons this year: Las Vegas, Nev., and Portland. He lives in Longview, Wash., where he maintains a tree farm.

Ruben Montenegro (MHR94) is a supervisor in the medical reports department for Kaiser Permanente Northwest, Portland.

Janet Killary (G89) is a firefighter/paramedic for the City of Ellensburg (Wash.) Fire Department.

Jacob Coleman (G97) is an account representative for Columbia Funds, Portland. His wife, Dawn (Napier) (G98), is in the children’s ministry intern for Valley Christian Church, Wilsonville, Ore.

Iva (Trusell) Quinlan (G97) teaches third grade and sheltered English at Trost Elementary School, Canby, Ore.

Carol George (GES98) is pastor of family ministry at Faith Lutheran Church, Keizer, Ore.

Joe Litzinger (MHR98) is customer business manager for Pacific Power in the Grants Pass ( Ore.) area.

John McNamara (G98) is pursuing a master of aeronautical science degree at the El mendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, chapter of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Sharon Tata (G98) entered the Master of Divinity degree program at Western Seminary in Portland in June, 1999.

Nate Barnett (G99) has been signed by the Everett (Wash.) AquaSox baseball team for the starting lineup at first base. The AquaSox are a part of the minor league farm system for the Seattle Mariners.

Aaron Haynes (G99) is a first/second-grade teacher at Gilchrist ( Ore.) Elementary School. His wife, Robyn (Ross) (G98), is the child development specialist.

Adam Hieb (G99) is employed by The Equity Group Realtors, Portland.

Mary Hinckley (WES99) is providing counseling services specializing in career issues and adult attention deficit disorder.

She is in private practice in Portland and also serves clients affiliated with Washington County.

Jenae Huck (G99) teaches third grade at Columbia City Elementary School, St. Helens, Ore.

MARRIAGES

Valerie Crooks (n71) and Randy Jackson, April 10, 1999, in Yorba Linda, Calif.

Roger House (G75) and Lydia Garman, July 4, 1999, in Pearl City, Hawaii.

Esther Smith (G92) and Marty Hagen, June 26, 1999, in Ains, Ore.

Tammy Daniels (G93) and Brian Keepers, Aug. 14, 1999, in Camano Island, Wash.

Michelle Brown (G94) and Scott Roberts, Sept. 11, 1999, in Newberg.

Polly Payse (G95) and Aaron Brunko, Sept. 18, 1999, in Boise, Idaho.

Tim Ahuas (G96) and Christi Cannon (G99), Aug. 28, 1999, in Newberg.

Kori Ristow (MAT96) and Eric Taylor, June 26, 1999, in Portland.

Karen Balz (G97) and Patrick Gibbs, Aug. 8, 1999, in Portland.

Jacob Coleman (G97) and Dawn Napier (G98), June 5, 1999, in Newberg.

David Roller (G97) and Miranda Ham, July 31, 1999, in Ridgefield, Wash.

Caleb Williams (G97) and Kara Fouts (G98), May 22, 1999, in Lynnwood, Wash.

Tamara Anderson (MAT98) and Jeffrey Poush, July 24, 1999, in Gig Harbor, Wash.

Benjamin Boyer (G98) and Allison Malakowski (n80), Oct. 28, 1999, in Hillsboro, Ore.

Kristina Gerdes (MHR99) and Richard Mihulak, Sept. 11, 1999, in Cornelius, Ore.

Ken Gilmore (G98) and Corrie Hoennhous (G99), Oct. 30, 1999, in Tacoma, Wash.

Keith Johnson (G99) and Jen Schlipperoort (G99), July 31, 1999, in Sunnyside, Wash.

Laura Glover (G99) and Jessiah Was- son, July 11, 1999, in Woodinville, Wash.

Rebecca Kunze (G99) and Christopher Archer, Oct. 16, 1999, in Vancouver, Wash.

Melanie Lambert (G99) and Dale Goodno, Sept. 25, 1999, in Tigard, Ore.

BIRTHS

Steve (G81) and Nancy Morgan, a girl, Abigail Lois, Oct. 23, 1999, in Oregon City, Ore.

Howard (GL4) and Linda Perry, a boy, Jared Ross, Nov. 10, 1999, in Aamarillo, Texas.

Vicki (Bisbee) (G84) and Angel Valdez, a girl, Jessica Mecia, May 3, 1999, in San Ramon, Calif.

Debra (Crane) (G85) and Michael (n87) Goosman, a girl, Ciera Venesta, June 14, 1999, in Portland.

Michelle (Downing) (G89) and Dave Barnhart, a boy, Andrew Brett, Oct. 4, 1999, in Portland.

Christine (Armstrong) (G89) and Kevin (G90) Lucke, a girl, Karyn Eliza- beth, Aug. 10, 1999, in Sublimity, Ore.

Cindy (Comfort) (n89) and Marc Olson, a boy, Carter Jay, July 10, 1999, in Oregon City, Ore.

Pam (Vance) (G90) and Marc (G91) Wollam, a boy, Luke Thomas, Oct. 6, 1999, in Boise, Idaho.

Chad (G91) and Krisit Moore, a girl, Megan Bethany, Sept. 6, 1999, in Grass Valley, Calif.

Linda (Funderbide) (G91) and Kurt Rason, a boy, Evan Richard, Oct. 5, 1999, in Tualatin, Ore.

Karim (Mainwaring) (G93) and Jeff (G94) Goodman, a girl, Jessika Marie, June 27, 1999, in Portland.

Jason (G93) and Trudy (Kitt) (n93) Koop, a boy, Caron Fischer, Aug. 6, 1999, in McMinnville, Ore.

Herbert (G94) and Naedene Duran, a girl, Kaylin Brandy, Sept. 2, 1999, in Hillsboro, Ore.

Sarah (Morse) (G95) and Matthew Pile, a boy, Kai Emerson, Aug. 1, 1999, in Portland.

Sherry (Ortlieb) (G96) and Troy Jones, a boy, Brett Michael, June 4, 1999, in Redding, Calif.

Erik (G96) and Jaylene (Wisman) (G96) Weeks, a girl, Lillian Grace, Sept. 22, 1999, in Ishaca, New York.
Better Late
A Bruin soccer star arrives late for practice — but what an excuse!

Bryan Erickson was over a week late for preseason practice. The George Fox men’s soccer starting forward had a good excuse, though. He was in the war-torn country of Kosovo, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through his life and words with a people starving for a little “good news.”

“We didn’t actually start out with plans to go to Kosovo,” said Erickson, referring to the small international group of soccer players with whom he traveled for three months this past summer under the auspices of Youth With A Mission (YWAM).

“We were only supposed to go through Norway and Sweden, but we wound up in Italy and received an invitation to a group in Kosovo to come over, and that’s where we spent August.”

Erickson and six other players worked in the town of Prizenie as “activities directors” for about 150 children from five different schools.

“We took the kids each day to ‘safe zones’ — areas that had been cleared of land mines left over from the war with the Serbs — and did anything we could to keep them off the streets where it might still be dangerous. Soccer, basketball, four-square, drawing, games — you name it, we played it!”

Because most Kosovars are Muslim, an open Gospel presentation was not always possible, “but many were curious about why we were there and what our faith meant to us, and that gave us some opportunities.” Erickson remembers. “There were several teenagers who acted as translators for us, and they especially had lots of questions, and we were often able to share the gospel that way. One of them even became a Christian!”

Erickson was pleasantly surprised by the Kosovars’ attitude toward him as an American.

“You might think they’d hate us for all the bombing we did over there,” he says, “but somehow they knew we were trying to get the Serbs to leave them alone, and they’re really grateful. They are so happy to be free again, and were very friendly. When they pass you on the street, you can’t just say ‘Hi’ and keep going; you must stop and talk!”

“They hate what the Serbs did to them, and it hurts them to feel that way, because they’re really very caring people.”

Erickson’s European adventure began with a decision to take the second semester of his freshman year off to serve with YWAM, an organization with which he is very familiar. “My parents (Warren and Cheryl Erickson of Chehalis, Wash.) had been with YWAM in Sweden for five years when I was younger, and I became fluent in both Swedish and Norwegian,” he admitted.

In March, Erickson headed to Sweden for three months of Discipleship Training School. The original plan was to send an international team of soccer players through Scandinavia, playing local teams and conducting clinics as a means of opening doors for the Gospel.

“Because of some economic problems, only a few of the Brazilians made it, so we didn’t have a full team,” Erickson recalled. “So, while we didn’t get to play as many exhibitions as we wanted to, we did hold clinics in parks, speak to youth groups, and do street evangelism.”

The team spent June in Norway and July in both Norway and Sweden before driving to Italy in early August, where they received the invitation to visit Kosovo.

Despite missing some practice time, Erickson’s contributions to the 1999 Bruins’ soccer team were not diminished. Just as in his freshman year, he was second on the team in points produced, with 18, scoring five goals and passing off a team-high eight assists.

Would he make the trip again, even if it meant missing more soccer time?

“Absolutely,” Erickson affirms with no trace of doubt. “It was an eye-opening experience, and only strengthened my desire to go into full-time Christian service, says Bryan.

The women’s soccer team recorded its second straight winning season with an 11-8-0 mark. In the Northwest Conference, the Bruins finished fourth with a 7-7-0 record. Sophomore forward Kari Holub (Pleasant Hill, Ore.) was named First Team All-Northwest Conference after finishing second in the league scoring race with 30 total points, collecting 14 goals and two assists. She already ranks second on the all-time team lists for career goals (29) and total points (67), trailing only record holder Gigi Bonera (32 goals, 79 points).

Junior midfielder/defender Megan Deffenbaugh (Eugene, Ore.), a four-year starter, was a Second Team All-NWC selection.

Men’s Soccer
The 1999 men’s soccer season was not the sort to which the Bruins have become accustomed. Their 13th straight winning season with an 11-8-0 mark. In the Northwest Conference, the Bruins finished fourth with a 7-7-0 record. Sophomore forward Kari Holub (Pleasant Hill, Ore.) was named First Team All-Northwest Conference after finishing second in the league scoring race with 30 total points, collecting 14 goals and two assists. She already ranks second on the all-time team lists for career goals (29) and total points (67), trailing only record holder Gigi Bonera (32 goals, 79 points).

Junior midfielder/defender Megan Deffenbaugh (Eugene, Ore.), a four-year starter, was a Second Team All-NWC selection.

Cross Country
It was a most unusual year for veteran coach Wes Cook and his George Fox cross country teams. For the first time since his initial year with the program in 1995, the Bruins did not have anyone qualify for the national championships. The Bruins’ best bet to make it this year, men’s senior Brandon Workman (Moscow, Idaho), became ill a few days before the regional meet and was not at full strength on the day of the run, finishing out of the chase for a berth in the nationals.

Workman finished well enough, though, to earn NCAA Division III All-West Regional honors, as did sophomore surprise Steve Wilmer (Fullerton, Calif.), both also earned All-Northwest Conference honors as the Bruins ran a strong second to conference champion Puget Sound. Freshman Jarnes Eubank (Aldotia, Ore.) finished one slot out of both All-Conference and All-Region honors.

During the regular season, Workman captured the Bear Fete Invitational and the Willamette Open, earning NWC Athlete of the Week honors both times.

The men’s team was hampered at mid-season by the loss of its top runner, junior Marisa Merritt (Portland, Ore.), to a stress fracture in her left foot, but the other Bruin runners showed continued improvement as the season progressed.

By CHERVON KIMBROUGH