How do you see George Fox University? Literally — and in your mind’s eye?

It might depend on your location and perspective — like the blind men in the fable from India, each incompletely describing an elephant they are “seeing” through their feeling hands.

To older generations of former students, George Fox is the century-old Newberg campus tucked in a residential neighborhood alongside Hess Creek Canyon.

To those in the last five years, it may be the urban campus building located between major transportation arteries in the “Tigard Triangle” of metro Portland.

To those in southern Idaho, it may be a modern low-rise, office-style building near a regional shopping center.

Each “view” is accurate. They all are George Fox University.

Similar to the elephant being described by its tail, trunk, ears or sides, each perspective is true. It’s just that a close-up doesn’t give the overall picture. An expanded panoramic view is necessary. To see only one site is shortsighted.

A Multi-Site Comprehensive University

That’s true with the George Fox University of today.

No longer is the University only the founding original campus. It’s a multi-site university that does not require a stay in Newberg to earn a degree.

Those on the Newberg campus may find it difficult to remember, at all times, that they are not the University — alone.

Those in Boise or Portland may find it difficult to identify with the Newberg campus, thinking it somewhat irrelevant to their on-site experience.

A daunting communication task faces George Fox administrators. They’ve managed remarkable changes, transforming a very traditional four-year undergraduate single-campus situation that served for a century to the current multi-site comprehensive university with graduate, undergraduate, seminar, and degree-completion programs.

While George Fox leaders contend with the complexity because they deal with it on a daily basis, it sometimes baffles those closest to the University. How do the University’s constituents keep track? Their perspective of the University may be how they first connected with it: as a student, as a neighborhood resident to a particular site, or as a regional corporate or civic leader watching a nearby educational institution.

We Are All One Body

But the parts — the sites — cannot be isolated and separated. They are not independent. They form the whole.

While those in Idaho might not see the Bruins play a basketball or soccer game, the Bruins still represent “their” alma mater. While those in Newberg may not ever visit the Boise Center, the adult students there are no less George Fox students and no more unseen than are some cohort graduate students attending school in Newberg.

While students and employees in Portland may have limited contact with Newberg, they share the same institutional mission and goals, the same administrative and academic structures — and the same president.

The various sites are more than a family relationship. It’s a body relationship: all the parts comprising the whole to make a living unit.

A Never-Changing Mission

The University, like a body, also changes over time. Body cells are totally replaced about every seven years. Yet the individual is the same being: soul, mind, basic form and structure.

So it is with George Fox University. The mission and purpose of providing Christ-centered education are constant.

The Portland Center is making changes — in physical locations within the building and in administrative structure. In Boise, the entire center is moving to a different site this July.

In Newberg, perhaps the biggest change of all: an expanded quad triggered by the new Stevens Center.

In business circles, a common understanding is that no growth and no change leads to stagnation, perhaps even the end of the line. On that basis, George Fox is thriving and well, changing to meet the times and extend its mission.

The stories on pages 2 and 3 detail the George Fox of today.

— Barry Hubbell
Stevens Center to Extend Campus Quad

George Fox’s historic Minthorn Hall could talk, it likely would have lots to say about the changes that have taken place in its neighborhood over the years.

In the early years of what is now George Fox University, the campus in Newberg was little more than a small handful of humble structures, of which Minthorn was one.

Small indeed. From 1895 to 1911, the entire campus of what was then Pacific College consisted of the “Dormitory Building,” now known as Minthorn, and the “College Building,” which eventually became Hoover Hall and was torn down in 1954. Adjacent to the latter was a tiny gymnasium, only 36 by 48 feet, that was constructed by moving two barns together in 1895.

That was about it. Even such basic amenities as hot and cold running water didn’t arrive on campus until 1899, and electric lights came three years later.

Fast forward to the year 2000, and the changes are dramatic. The “main campus in Newberg” (described as such to distinguish it from the Portland Center campus in Newberg) has expanded over the past century to become an attractive collection of almost 80 structures large and small on a 7.5-acre site.

A common feature of America’s more stately campuses is a central “quad,” a four-sided area surrounded by buildings. In recent years, George Fox’s quad has essentially been the well-manicured lawn area bordered on the west by the Hoover Academic Building and the Edwards-Holman Science Center, on the north by Brougher and Minthorn halls, and on the east by the Murdock Learning Resource Center and the Student Union Building.

Up until now, the south border of this quad has been undefined by any major buildings. Sherman and River streets have allowed local traffic through, but also prevented a firm link between the quad and Pennington Hall, as well as various smaller structures on the south edge of campus, such as the President’s/University Relations Office.

By the fall of 2001, however, that link will be firmly established. As part of the construction of the new Edward F. Stewart, Jr., Center for Academic Resources — the former student who graduated in 1974, Thomas has long kept an eye on the changing University grounds.

“Twenty-two years ago, I didn’t envision this kind of growth,” Thomas says.

“By the fall of 2001, however, that link will be firmly established. As part of the construction of the new Edward F. Stewart, Jr., Center for Academic Resources — the former student who graduated in 1974, Thomas has long kept an eye on the changing University grounds.

“What is George Fox University?”

There are many answers. It depends on whom you ask.

Questions about institutional identity are very important, but also very difficult. The difficulty arises, in large part, because we all see the University through our personal preferences, hopes, and situations. Our culture encourages us to be individuals, to emphasize our distinctiveness and to be ourselves.

Institutional identity involves several aspects of the University. For example, we have a clear position as a Christ-centered school, we are known for high-quality teaching, and, in recent years, George Fox has become known for more comprehensive university. So the University’s identity not only is important — it is also complex.

One great challenge to the contemporary, comprehensive university is to know in which sense it is a university.

A former president of the University of Chicago once said the only issues that brought together people at his university were parking problems and a faulty heating system.

How do we bring coherence and unity to an institution that has distinct parts and several campuses? How can we form community amidst so much difference?

Several years ago, a survey of U.S. college and university presidents showed what they most wanted — but didn’t think they could get — was campus community.

Community formation requires there to be something in common. When many characteristics of a group of persons are common, community becomes easier. In fact, sometimes it becomes automatic. It happens whether it’s desired or not.

When the institution becomes more complicated, more distinct parts and exists in several places, our need for community results in a desire for the “good old days.”

There also may be a distorted view that the institution consists only (or at least mostly) of the individual’s specific part of the institution.

For all of our organizational complexity, George Fox is fortunate to have much in common beyond parking problems and heating systems. Our commitment to Christ-centered education is pervasive. It holds at the Portland Center, in Newberg, and in Portland. It is part of the education in the traditional undergraduate programs, the non-matriculated, non-traditional undergraduate programs, and our graduate programs.

None of these places or programs has a special or more intense commitment. We all share it.

George Fox University has become a place where the traditional undergraduate school consists of less than 60 percent of our students. Our challenge is to bring this reality to all aspects of the University. The challenge is related to how community is formed in the current reality of George Fox University. Community depends on trust — and communication — across “lines” that are new and were not an issue in the past.

George Fox University will become an increasingly more complex, more comprehensive university — not less. The challenge to maintain and strengthen community will increasingly need to be more deliberate. The really good news is that such community formation is possible because of our common commitment to providing outstanding Christ-centered higher education.
seems to be coming from the west side, on the sidewalk between the Hoover Academic Building and the Wood-Mar Hall/Edwards-Holman Science Center complex. However, she says a main entrance will soon take form on the south side of the Hoover building, between that structure and the new Stevens Center, in the vicinity of the intersection of Meridian and Sherman streets.

The University’s main sign already is located there, and adjacent to it is what is now the International Student Center.

The only University-owned residence in that part of the campus that hasn’t been moved or demolished this summer, it is designed to soon become a formal “Welcome Center” for campus visitors. Those entering campus at that point will naturally gravitate toward the Stevens Center, which is being described as the new “signature building” on campus.

Although the growth in both buildings and enrollment on campus has been extensive, Thomas is pleased the expansion has not caused the University grounds to decline aesthetically.

“With a very open campus, with the way the buildings are spaced apart,” he says, “there’s a feeling of freedom, of openness. And I take a lot of pride in what’s there. I want it to look good.”

Thomas knows that even though a university campus can change greatly over the years, the memories made there are permanently etched in the hearts of many people.
C
ould there be two history instructors named Kerry Irish on the George Fox University campus?

Many students, and even a few faculty members, sometimes think so.

The first Irish is a reserved, introverted and thoughtful man who loves golf and is an insatiable reader.

The other Irish pounds on the classrooms walls in mock fury, bellows, hurries objects across the room, and on occasion cries during his lectures, which are more like intense and riveting stories.

One of these, or perhaps both of them, depending on your view, was recently named George Fox University’s 2000 Professor of the Year.

A committee composed of faculty and students bestowed the annual honor on Irish, who has forged a reputation as a demanding taskmaster, a meticulously prepared instructor, and a passionate and compelling lecturer.

Chair of the Department of History and Political Science, Irish super-charges himself; his classroom, and his history students with excitement through his dynamic and fiery lectures.

His theatrics and sound effects are carefully crafted, but his emotions are genuine.

As passionate as Irish is about history, he stresses critical thinking and reasoning skills above emotional reactions or simply memorizing facts and dates. By dramatizing the events and personalities that have shaped our present world, he inflames students with the desire to know and understand more.

Once, reenacting a duel involving hotheaded frontier president Andrew Jackson, Irish shot his adversary, Charles Dickinson, dead in the classroom. “He insulted Jackson’s wife, Rachel, and he took a bullet in the chest for it,” Irish explains.

History professor Kerry Irish says he’s a composite of every teacher — as well as a few ministers. “Teaching can be and should be a ministry,” he says. “The God of the Bible is the God of history.”

If teachers focus on matters that are relevant, he strives to involve each student through classroom discussions, which are graded, and admits that he loves to startle them during his drama-filled lectures.

Irish, who says he is a composite of every teacher he’s had — as well as a few ministers — approaches teaching history as if it were his full-time ministry.

“Teaching can be and should be a ministry,” he says. “The way I look at it, the God of the Bible is the God of history.”

Although Irish has been nominated for the George Fox University teaching award every year since becoming full time, as well as for several national honors, he constantly works to add value to every class he teaches. That means improving lectures and changing the reading assignments and supplemental films.

Although his teaching style hasn’t changed much over the years, he now crams less information into his classes to focus more on concepts and fundamental values — such as liberty and equality — that are still relevant today. He long ago scrapped any notions of relying on typical seven-point lectures in favor of telling what is important today.

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Irish, 46, attended George Fox, graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree in history in 1985. Returning to George Fox in 1993, first as an adjunct instructor, he has forged a reputation for holding uncompromising standards as an instructor and as a follower of Christ.

Knowing when and how events transpired isn’t enough, Irish says. “I want students to ask ‘why?’ and to see how historical ideas and values still relate to us today.”

In 29 years of experience in higher education as a student, teacher and administrator, GFU Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies Mark Weinert says he’s never encountered a professor with a higher level of dedication to his students or to the craft of teaching.

“Dr. Irish brings to the classroom a passion for his subject and for teaching that students find contagious,” adds Weinert, who also is a history professor.

Irish, who earned master of arts and doctoral degrees in history from the University of Washington, was named assistant professor of history in 1995. The next year he became the department chair, and in 1999, he received associate professor status.

After becoming department chair, he helped reorganize the history department with a goal of attracting more students. Classrooms are now full, and George Fox has a record number of history majors.

Andrew McCellan, a former George Fox history major who now attends the University of Portland, says Irish transformed his life. “Never before did I have a professor or teacher who made me think or come to my own conclusions the way Dr. Irish has,” he says.

He credits Irish for challenging assumptions and encouraging students to stretch their mental framework.

“Students appreciate how open he is to various opinions and interpretations of history, while never compromising the facts,” Weinert says.

“I have no interest in creating 50 new Kerry Irishes, and if I did, the students would soon ignore me,” he says. “I just as I came to discount the views of the professors who did that to me.”

— John Rumler

Summer Research Grants Awarded to 16 Faculty Members

America’s 34th president, water absorption in salamanders, and marital satisfaction. What do they have in common?

All three are among the topics of research to be pursued this summer by George Fox faculty members — thanks to special grants from the University.

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James Clemons, who has joined his former professor at Portland Trail Blazer basketball games and on the golf course, says Irish is a man of few words outside the classroom, but in front of his students, something inside him is released.

“Kerry puts so much into his lectures the atmosphere almost crackles with electricity.”

Another history major, Shannon Bennett, agrees. “Kerry pulled out all the stops in his lectures; no detail would escape him,” says Bennett.

Irish prepares so diligently and pours so much of his heart into his lectures, students want to give their all in his class, she says. “I never worked that hard in my life, but I loved it.”

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A Dynamo in the Classroom

Kerry Irish, the University’s 2000 Professor of the Year, tells ‘stories that matter’
or 12 years, the Edward F. Stevens Center has been just a dream. It didn’t have a name back in 1988, but that’s the year conversations began about the need for a one-stop student services center. Andrea Cook, now vice president for enrollment services, was on a student retention committee that identified a problem at George Fox:

“Services were distributed in lots of different offices and lots of different places on campus,” she says. “Students were feeling like they were getting a lot of run-around.” The issue came up regularly in exit interviews with departing students and, to some degree, in the student satisfaction inventory.

Changes were made to improve customer service. Key areas were grouped together in the Hoover Academic Building.

“We’ve learned we need to have the registrar’s office, student accounts, and financial aid working together,” she says, “because what students are registered for impacts both their bill and their financial aid. We’ve learned students need a team approach in that process, rather than being shuffled back and forth between those offices.”

While the present location of those three offices side by side in Hoover has benefited enrolled students, prospective students need easy access to admissions, as well. But because of the University’s growth, admission staff for undergraduate, graduate, and degree-completion programs now are located in three different houses that have been converted into offices.

It’s a dilemma that has its solution in the Stevens Center, the University’s dream come to life. In what will be the largest building on campus — three stories and 40,000 square feet — students will have access to financial aid, student accounts, and the registrar’s office; undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education admission; the institutional technology department and six technology-rich classrooms; and student life, career services, and Christian ministries.

All under one roof.

**Designed for Students**

The design of the Stevens Center will reflect “how we want to work with and serve students,” says Andrea Cook, the vice president who headed up the task force charged with its planning.

“We wanted it to promote a team environment, to be accessible, to feel welcoming to students, and to provide a comfortable atmosphere, one of service.”

An open floor plan and natural light will characterize the new building.

Usually, offices with exterior walls and windows to the outside are reserved for people with the highest level of positions. In the Stevens Center, private offices will be on the west side of the building, which will have smaller windows to conserve energy.

“The south and north sides will basically be all windows, and that’s where all the staff will be,” Cook says. “No person will be more than 30 feet from natural light.”

The building also features an open floor plan. Of 112 office spaces, only 20 are enclosed. The other 92 exist in an open, teamwork type of environment with low partitions. In fact, in most areas, the atrium at the first-floor area would want a service counter,” Cook remembers. “We showed them the plans, and they said, ‘Get that counter out of there. We don’t want it. We want students to be able to walk in to us, to feel welcome instead of feeling like there’s a barrier.’”

“Putting the design together, we initially thought the staff on the first-floor area would want a service counter,” Cook remembers. “We showed them the plans, and they said, ‘Get that counter out of there. We don’t want it. We want students to be able to walk in to us, to feel welcome instead of feeling there’s a barrier.’”

Another distinctive of the building is the raised floor design, in which electrical, phone, and computer wiring — as well as heating and air conditioning ducts — run under the floor. The advantage, Cook says, is a building that can be reconfigured at any time without the limitations of walls or inaccessible wiring.
### Great Beginnings

The man so many knew simply as “Ed” clearly was in everyone’s thoughts as ground was broken April 27 for the new $7 million, 40,000-square-foot Edward F. Stevens Center.

“Lord, we all wish Ed could be with us today,” Bill Wilson, vice chair of George Fox University’s board of trustees, stated in his opening prayer at the ceremony on the Newberg campus. “But in a special way, he is, and we thank you for that.”

Ed Stevens was president of George Fox from 1983 until his death from cancer in May 1998. His 15 years of leadership took George Fox through unprecedented growth and into university status.

Although illness prevented Stevens’ widow, Linda, from flying from Arizona for the groundbreaking, daughters Carla Stevens and Cathy Kassebaum joined about 250 spectators for the event.

“It is particularly fitting that the building being dedicated in my father’s name is the student services center,” Carla Stevens said. “We’re especially honored that you share our love for Ed Stevens, and his love for the students.

Stevens’ presence was in everyone’s thoughts as ground was broken April 27 for the new $7 million, 40,000-square-foot Edward F. Stevens Center.

“We’re especially honored that you share our love for Ed Stevens, and his love for the students,” Carla Stevens said.

From the President

Places are important. George Fox University has demonstrated its understanding of this principle by using unusual means to preserve Wood-Mar Hall. The Newberg campus has changed a lot, but alumni from earlier eras can continue to bring children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren to certain rooms in Wood-Mar and tell them, “This is where your grandmother and I were in class together.”

When the bricks across the Jordan River on dry ground, God told them to build a memorial so future generations would tell their children the story of how God cared for his people. Buildings used for God’s purposes become memorials for us to tell the next generation stories of how people were cared by God to work in our lives. Because universities change and mature, there needs to be change and growth in the facilities that support the programs. 

The Edward F. Stevens Center is essential to provide the academic and administrative environment for today’s George Fox University. The increasing importance of technology requires adequate space. Classrooms must be equipped to bring technology into all aspects of the learning process, and student services must be provided in “user friendly” ways. The Stevens Center will do all that. In addition to its functionality, this new building also will be a memorial to Edward F. Stevens — 15-year president of George Fox. I believe it is fitting and proper that the building will be an ongoing reminder of Ed Stevens and his great contributions to the University. I hope it will stimulate some of us to share Ed stories to those who follow us.

David Brandt, president George Fox University

The camera actually has been operative since May 8, about the time that work started on removing seven University-owned houses on the project site on the south side of campus. The houses were turned over to qualified tenants in a much-publicized “giveaway” that attracted hundreds of applicants last fall.

Those seven houses were moved to their new or temporary locations, allowing contractor Robert Gray Partners, Inc., of Sherwood to begin the first phase of work on the Stevens Center site.

Nationally, it is common for colleges and universities to place Webcams at the site of campus building projects. By accessing the camera page on the George Fox site, a Web browser downloads a simple Java applet that automatically “refreshes” the image once every two minutes. The archived photos for each day can be seen by accessing the archives page.

While the camera is operating from early morning to late evening, hours will be adjusted depending on the season.

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Dick Espejo

When George Fox students entered a Faculty Lunch last fall and spent time praying for their professors, Dick Espejo, trustee, businessman and donor, was in the room.

“I don’t know how many there were, but it was just packed,” he recalls. “There was wall-to-wall kids. And to have those young people touch you and pray for you directly was just overwhelming.”

Afterwards, Espejo, who was visiting the campus to discuss making a gift to the Stevens Center, good-naturedly accused Dave Adrian and Dana Miller, members of the University Advancement Office staff, of setting it all up.

While the two men had no idea what would be happening in Faculty Lunch that day, Espejo says, “if they did, it was a great selling technique, because I’m sure if there would have been any more business owners in there, they’d have just laid down for the program.”

It’s that belief in the kind of education that takes place at George Fox that has made him a regular supporter of the University. Not only does Espejo give financially as a member of the President’s Council, but he serves on the board of trustees and co-chaired the alumni portion of the University’s 1987 Century 2 Campaign.

“Fox stands for something different,” he says. “Fox will not sacrifice those things that are important.”

Espejo tells of first meeting former President Edward F. Stevens, for whom the building is being named.

“From the moment he walked in,” he says, “our spirits met. We prayed many times in my office, which still blows me away that a college president would take the time to do that.”

The Vietnam War limited Espejo’s time as a George Fox student to just one year, and upon his return, financial constraints forced him to enroll at Western Business University in Portland, where he earned his business certificate.

Espejo and his wife started their business, Valley RV Center, Inc., in 1985. Their first giving opportunity was to the Century 2 Campaign. Upon fulfilling their pledge, they provided equipment trailers for the Stevens Center, since that is where the University has the greatest need. But each year they give to George Fox through their business certificate.

The Espejos give both tithes and offerings.

“We’ve done that because we want to be obedient, but we also believe God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him,” he explains.

Not only do they give personally, but each year they give to George Fox University through their business. Over the course of the next three years, the latter will take the form of a three-year gift to the Legacy Campaign for construction of the Stevens Center.

“God had put a figure on my heart before they’d even asked me,” Espejo says of the five-figure gift coming from his company, “and I thought it was a fourth more than what they expected. Our prayer is that we’re actually able to give more.”

He talks excitedly of the Stevens Center and the difference it will make. Of those involved in the design he have tried to capture exactly what Stevens would have wanted for students.

“It was a dream of Ed’s all along,” Espejo says. “Ed loved education. He loved all the things that come with that, but I think Ed loved the kids the most.”

Florence Rocks

As a financial planner, Florence Rocks recognizes the difference that even a little, given regularly, can make. The same principle that governs saving for the future, she says, applies to giving.

“I teach people about money — how money works. Add up a little bit, and it makes a lot,” she says about preparing for retirement. “Don’t ever think your small amount isn’t going to have an impact. And when you get comfortable with that amount, you increase it.

“It’s the same way in giving. Every little bit adds up into a bigger amount. I don’t care if you have $5. I don’t care if you have $10, and that’s what you’re going to give. You think, ‘Oh, that’s not enough.’ It is, too. If that’s what it is, it is enough. And the next time, when you get used to that, $20 will be fine. That’s how it works.”

Rocks lives what she preaches. The president of Pro Planning Group, a financial services firm in Portland, she is a member of the University’s President Council and has made monthly gifts to George Fox for the past nine years. In March, in response to the Legacy Campaign, she doubled those gifts.

“Dave (Adrian, a member of the University Advancement staff) just looks at me, and I say, ‘OK, I’ll give more,’” she jokes.

While not an alumna, Rocks grew up in the Friends Church and has two brothers who attended George Fox. Older brother Bill not only graduated, he met his wife at George Fox, sent his children to his alma mater, and even served as chair of the University’s board of trustees.

“George Fox has come a long way from the mud holes when my brother played football,” Rocks says. She credits former President Edward F. Stevens with inspiring her to begin giving. “To me, he brought a new light to George Fox.”

But it’s her belief in the value of Christian higher education that keeps her giving.

“Young people are very important to me,” she says. “In what I can afford to give, I want to give in an area that truly will help young people.”

For the Legacy Campaign, her giving is going towards the Stevens Center, since that is where the University has the greatest need. But while she is pleased George Fox is naming the building to honor a man she greatly admires, she is clear about the motivation for her gifts.

“It’s not the building; it’s what it’s going to be used for,” she says. “It’s not for the name; it’s for what will happen inside that building. “The bottom line, for me, is young people.”

— Anita Cirulis
Those entering the Stevens Center will find themselves in an atrium open to a skylight on the roof, with each successive floor pulled back so the space opens upward and outward. Soft chairs will be available on each floor of the atrium, with plentiful balcony seating for students outside of classrooms.

Enrollment services, the registrar, student accounts, and financial aid will be located on the first floor, along with two classrooms seating 35 and 40 students.

On the second floor, the entire north and west sides of the building are devoted to admission services for undergraduate, graduate, and degree-completion programs. A “living room” in the all-glass northeast corner of the floor — with accompanying fireplace and adjacent conference room — will extend out into the quad, providing prospective students with a welcoming introduction to the campus. Three large classrooms, each designed to accommodate 48 students, line the south side of the floor.

While all the classrooms are wired for computers, the one on the third floor is designed to be a “heavy-duty use, technology teaching area,” according to Cook. It’s adjacent to the area housing the institutional technology department, including a computer server room, instructional media center, and computer help desk.

Wrapping around the west and north sides of the top floor is the student life, career services, and campus ministries office area. And capping the floor — and building — is a resource room in the northeast corner of the Stevens Center, with glass walls that extend into the quad and a ceiling that is raised above the building’s roofline.

“It’s designed to be a very inviting, comfortable place for students to come and explore various resources related to ministry, leadership or careers,” says Cook. “It’s a place to engage students in conversation, a place that’s intentional about helping them find God’s call in their lives.”

Former President Ed Stevens often talked about being called to George Fox University. It’s fitting a building named in his memory will help students discover where God is calling them as they leave the University.

**Breaking the Log Jam**

“This is going to be the building that relieves the log jam,” Andrea Cook, vice president for enrollment services, says of the Stevens Center. Where there aren’t any faculty offices in the student services center now under construction, its completion will bring more faculty into the Hoover Academic Building, into space currently used for administrative offices.

“Hoover is called an academic building, and yet it’s ended up having student services and enrollment services offices in it,” she says.

The Stevens Center will redefine other buildings. “Hoover, Wood-Mar Hall, and even the library will be restored to more pure academic usage,” says Dana Miller, vice president for university advancement. Indeed, much of the lower level of the Murdock Learning Resource Center is taken up by institutional technology offices, while student life, career services, and Christian ministries occupy portions of Wood-Mar.

Currently, professors are spread out in different locations around campus, some in houses that have been converted into offices. Just as the Edwards-Holman Science Center brought faculty and students together in a way that fosters their interaction and collaboration, so will the Stevens Center help centralize academic areas.

“When classrooms and faculty offices are together, so that students and faculty can come and go and interact with each other,” Miller says, “the environment for learning is enhanced.”

Along with freeing up space for faculty offices, the Stevens Center will also provide six classrooms to a campus strained for space.

Perhaps the most significant change, however, relates not to the Stevens Center itself but to the University’s main entrance.

Originally, River Street, with its southern approach to campus, was to usher visitors to George Fox. But when the full details of the planned reconfiguration of River Street were revealed, it became apparent Meridian Street further to the west would be a better entry.

Thus, planning for the Stevens Center was integrated with the development of the main entry. The building will help with campus identification, both as an entrance and as a focal point.

Sherman Street east of Meridian will become a tree-lined drive leading toward the center of campus and providing access to the main parking lot for the University. From there, a pedestrian pathway will draw people to the front of the Stevens Center, which faces the campus quad.

A plaza with benches and planters — an “outdoor living area” — will sit on the edge of the campus quad and in front of the building.

“We really wanted the Stevens Center to be integral to the campus quad, because it’s really a building that serves both enrolled students as well as prospective students,” says Andrea Cook, one of the University’s vice presidents.

“Everything is designed to draw people in on the boulevard pathway into the center of campus.”

**The Task Still Ahead**

Edward F. Stevens, the former president of George Fox for whom the University’s new student services center will be named, laid much of the groundwork for the Legacy Campaign.

“Clearly, some of the leadership gifts came relatively easily because of the work done on a preliminary basis by Ed Stevens and others around him at that time,” says Dana Miller, the vice president whose office is charged with the task of raising $22 million by the end of 2001, “specifically, the $3 million anonymous gift that really began the campaign in earnest — without question, Ed played the most significant role in developing that relationship.”

With more than $1 million left to be raised, Miller remains confident the University will reach both its overall campaign goal and the goal for the new building, although he admits his staff still has much hard work ahead in order to achieve both.

Actual start of construction builds excitement and interest, he says, and should help raise money for the building. Giving also should get a boost from a Kresge Foundation challenge grant. The foundation will match gifts to the Stevens Center up to $500,000, providing George Fox with the remaining funds to complete its $22 million campaign goal by Jan. 1, 2002.

Ultimately, Miller and his staff will be looking to people who had a unique or special relationship with Stevens — or alumni who were in school during his presidency — for it is people like that who will most want to see Ed’s dream of a student services center become a reality.

— Anna Cirulis

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**Regional Events Schedule**

Throughout the 2000-01 academic year, George Fox University is hosting special meetings in six regions throughout the West. These Legacy Campaign events will feature student performances and testimonies, a campaign video, President H. David Brandt, and more. Alumni, parents of students, and friends are encouraged to attend this complimentary, no solicitation event. Watch the mail for your invitation.

**Fall Event**

Boise Area Legacy Campaign Event — Saturday, Oct. 22, 2000, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. dinner, Riverside DoubleTree Hotel, 2900 Otten Blvd, Boise, Idaho.

**Spring Events**

Los Angeles Area Legacy Campaign Event — March 2001, specific date, time and location to be announced.

Spokane Area Legacy Campaign Event — Friday, March 30, 2001, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. dinner, Caanughnaght River Inn, 700 N. Division St, Spokane, Wash.

Seattle Area Legacy Campaign Event — Sunday, April 1, 2001, 1 p.m. luncheon, Embassy Suites Hotel, 20610 44th Ave. W., Lynnwood, Wash.

Eugene Area Legacy Campaign Event — May 2001, specific date, time and location to be announced, Eugene, Ore.

Medford Area Legacy Campaign Event — May 2001, specific date, time and location to be announced, Medford, Ore.

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LEGACY CAMPAIGN REPORT • JULY 2000 • 4
‘As for Me and My House…’

Meet the students chosen to participate in George Fox University’s first themed residence

Until this past academic year, a duplex on the south side of George Fox’s Newberg campus has been just one of the many places students hang their hats. But its eight most recent residents may one day look back on it as their launching pad, of sorts, for meaningful lives of both Christian service and leadership.

Now going into its second academic year, the first-ever theme house at George Fox has a special focus on encouraging students to show positive leadership throughout their lives.

Last year, with the University’s blessing and guidance, eight students (all of whom were at least sophomore) formed a self-governing “Service Leadership House,” based on responsible leadership and community service.

“They definitely helped me to extend my understanding of leadership past the roles that I had been given,” says Matt Henshaw, an elementary education major from Spokane who last year was a junior. “I was able to understand how leadership involves every part of life.”

Henshaw’s three male roommates on one side of the duplex were Aaron Dahl of Beaverton, Ore., Nick Willis of Wilsonville, Ore., and Parker Owens of Tigard, Ore. Occupying the other half of the duplex were female students Angela Dierickx of Forest Grove, Ore., Janelle Davis of Battle Ground, Wash., Evelyn List of Sherwood, Ore., and Amy Chapman of Newberg.

All eight were either involved in leadership-oriented activities or have an interest in them. For example, Dierickx and Chapman were members of a committee that plans an annual spring conference at George Fox on student leadership, while Dahl was supreme court chief justice for the student government, and Willis, who graduated in May, was student body treasurer.

“The theme house was set up under the guidance of Sharrta Durham, interim dean of students. By application, reference and interview, the eight were chosen to occupy the house, and all dedicated their year to exploring their aptitudes for leadership and service.

The students even wrote their own mission statement: “We are committed to growing in leadership as we serve and impact our fellow students and the Newberg community.”

“The Service Leadership House gave me the opportunity to integrate my leadership and service involvement with a group of people who were also like-minded,” says Henshaw, who last year coordinated the service leadership house. “It gave all of us opportunities to further develop our leadership skills. And one of the requirements of living here was taking a seminar on leadership, taught by Craig Johnson and Scott Wade.”

Johnson is professor of communication arts, and Wade is student leadership advisor. For the past five years, George Fox has offered its undergraduate students who are at least sophomores a minor in leadership studies. Participants learn important leadership concepts and theories and put these principles into action through hands-on leadership experiences.

Davis agrees with the others that the year in the house was enjoyable. “It’s been an incredible experience,” she says, adding that the eight residents made a special effort to “just be available” to serve both the University community and the larger local area.

This was done through special service projects. They included running concessions at a Newberg High School basketball game, volunteering in a local Christmas wreath-making project to help decorate campus houses, conducting a car wash to benefit the nearby Friendsview Manor retirement center, sending cards of encouragement to University faculty and staff, and even just emptying the trash from other campus houses.

Durham says the theme house fits in well with George Fox’s mission. “We are trying to produce students who have a life goal of being student leaders.”

The students, in turn, appreciate how they were free to set their own goals and pursue them. “Sharrta Durham set it up so we felt like we really had ownership (of the program),” says Henshaw.

A new set of students will occupy the house for the coming year. Before school wrapped up in May, the new residents met with last year’s group to discuss how to make their coming year in the house especially meaningful.

— John Fortmeyer

Volunteer of the Year, 2000

Beryl Woodward is honored for her commitment to the University

At 94, Newberg’s other Mayor Woodward has had a long time to give to others.

And for decades she has done it, volunteering her time to help where needed: youth, older folk, churches and institutions.

The Friendsview Manor resident June 6 was named George Fox University’s 2000 Volunteer of the Year. President David Brandt presented the award at the 14th annual Volunteer Thank You Luncheon on the Newberg campus.

Woodward was cited for her participation in several programs at the University, for her help at the Newberg Friends Church, and for her assistance at Friendsview Manor.

She is one of about 70 people who gave their time to the University this past academic year. Volunteers worked on a variety of tasks, including preparing University publications for mailing, assisting campus Red Cross blood drives, and helping with construction projects and gardening. The volunteers’ efforts annually save the University thousands of dollars.

“Of the neatest things about our George Fox volunteer services would be that they show this is recognized, not even for this lunch,” Brandt told those attending the luncheon. “They do this because it is their service to God.”

“People who have a heart to help others are among the best gifts the Lord gives us. So it is most fitting that George Fox’s Volunteer of the Year arrived as a Christmas Eve gift in November almost nine-and-a-half decades ago,” said Brandt as he surprised Woodward with the award.

The daughter of a Quaker pastor, Woodward eventually moved with her family to California. She met her future husband, George Fox alumus Davis Woodward, in the Friends Church in Berkeley.

At the encouragement of Milo Ross, president of what was then George Fox College, the Woodwards moved to Newberg in 1963. Davis Woodward taught sociology courses at the college, and his wife became an active volunteer at the Newberg Friends Church, their new home church.

The Woodwards had historical ties to George Fox in making their move. Davis was the grand nephew of Ezra and Amanda Woodward, George Fox founders. The “Wood” part of the University’s historic “Wood-Mar Hall” name stands for Woodward, in their honor.

Davis Woodward died in 1969, and Beryl Woodward moved 23 years ago to Friendsview Manor retirement center in Newberg. After 37 years as a Newberg resident, she is well known locally for her decades of volunteer services to her church, to the Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church headquarters, and to the University.

In addition to working as a secretary to George Fox’s faculty dean in the 1960s, as well as in the campus library and admissions office, Woodward founded the original group of volunteers that began helping with the processing of the University’s mailings to alumni and friends. She’s been a continuous and active volunteer, even noted in one newspaper article in the mid-1980s for helping recruit others to volunteer.

She also has been active in the George Fox Auxiliary, on occasion serving as an auxiliary officer and often assisting at the annual Auxiliary Holiday Bazaar.

Through a special program of George Fox’s women’s basketball team, Woodward has become a “substitute grandmother” for several players. Residents of Friendsview Manor link up with the players, watching their “granddaughters” in action on the court and spending special and private times together.

Woodward’s son, Ron, who surprised his mother at the luncheon and presented her with flowers, notes that it always has been a part of his mother’s personality to serve others.

“I’d almost say that volunteerism is a kind of hobby with her,” he says. Of his active mother he adds, “She never ceases to impress people.”
save the date!
George Fox University’s 20th Annual Family Weekend
November 3-5, 2000
• Attend some classes and meet the professors you’ve heard so much about
• Enjoy the pops concert or see a musical, and the comedy sports
• Join your student for some great meals and a barbecue dinner
• Don’t miss the fantastic Sunday morning chapel service

For more information, contact: Office of Alumni and Parent Relations
George Fox University
415 N. Meridian Street, Newberg, OR 97132
503-554-2534
alumni@georgefox.edu

I t’s a long way from the migrant camps of southern California to the top administrative office of Portland Public Schools, the largest dis-

trict in Oregon with more than 35,000 students, 100 schools and an annual budget of $600 million.

For Merced Flores, the district’s chief of staff, since April 1997, there were many stops on the journey, but few, if any, he says, were more important than his stay at George Fox University, where he graduated in 1973.

The son of migrant farm workers, Flores was born in the back seat of his uncle’s car near Reedley, Calif., and grew up moving from one farm to the next with his family from town to town. Many days the family toiled together in the sun-baked fields, from dawn to dusk, picking peaches, cotton, oranges, grapes, or whatever was in season.

Often in the shadows of the gang, and never far from the tentacles of drugs, alcohol and violence, Flores attended 18 different schools before graduating from high school — but he was never absent for even a single day. While he realized that an education was his passport out of the fields, he didn’t know that he would later devote most of his life to helping educate Latino children and adults in migrant camps throughout Oregon.

He credits his mother, Rachel, for keeping him and his 12 siblings in line. “Mom was a toughie,” he says. “She would never allow me to fall into the gang life. She always called me, ‘Hijo de mi vida,’ or ‘Son of my life.’”

As a standout baseball player, Flores was offered a free ride at several large California colleges, but a friend raved about George Fox, and he decided to visit Newberg. After attending the school’s orientation, he enrolled — even though the small liberal arts college had only a partial scholarship.

“Really liked the friendly, close-knit community and the smaller classes,” he says. “It is a Christian college, and that made a big difference to me,” he says.

Flores, 49, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in psychology, sociology and Span-
ish. He credits George Fox with helping him grow as a leader and giving him a solid foundation of skills to build on.

“Many of the professors went out of their way for me. I’ll never forget the relationships and individual contact, and mentoring I received,” he says. “I got more than just an education. I really grew and matured as a person.”

The first year was the only Latino on campus, and he admitted at times feel-

ing like a stranger in a strange land.

“There were people, even administrators, who stereotyped minorities. I did my best to communicate my feelings, and that helped.”

Merced Flores (G73) brings his love of people and education to the Portland Public Schools, where he serves as chief of staff.

One of Flores’ fondest memories is of Randy Winston, who in the early 1970s was a very few African-American students at George Fox. Winston befriended Flores and on weekends invit-
ed him to the family farm in Battle-
ground, Wash., on the Lewis River.

However, the vast majority of George Fox students were Caucasians from small towns and had little or no contact with Hispanics, African-Americans or Asians, he explains. “Some hurtful things were said in the dorms and other places because people didn’t know any better. I got together with several other minority students, and we led a cultural awareness program at the chapel. I think that started changing the way people related to us.”

Craig Taylor, now director of athletics at George Fox, was a roommate of Flo-\n
res in 1971-72. He played on the base-

ball team with him as well.

“Merced loved baseball, but it wasn’t the center of his life,” Taylor says. “He was people-oriented, and he went out of his way to help us understand his culture. He was very patient with us.”

The first member of his extended fam-

ily of more than 100 relatives to formal-
ly complete high school or college, Flo-

res discovered his relatives weren’t going to let his George Fox graduation pass by quietly. Thirteen family members drove an old beat-up car all day and all night from California to Newberg to help him celebrate. All of his younger brothers and sisters have since graduated from high school or college.

Flores got off to a shaky start.

“I wasn’t the best or the brightest. I wasn’t sure I had the stuff to make it.”

But after earning a 1.67 grade point average his first term, he buckled down and raised his grades considerably, even making the dean’s list several terms before graduating.

It wasn’t easy. Besides playing baseball, Flores worked three jobs while at George Fox. He cooked at a restaurant at Nap’s IGA and worked at SAGA, the campus food service pro-

vider, under Joey Soon, the college’s food service director until 1974. Soon, who graduated from George Fox in 1969, says Flores did everything from grilling steaks and pans and mopping floors to grilling steaks and organizing banquets.

Soon noticed that Flo-

res was driven, in a quiet way, and says his maturi-

ty, leadership and organi-

zational skills were stand-

ing out.

Flores also worked as a tutor in migrant camps in Yamhill County, in the office of Tina Garcia, director of the county’s Education Ser-
vice District, hired Flores, and in a strange twist, ended up working for him 20 years later when he became the state coordi-

nator of migrant education in 1993. She describes him as empowering, focused, driven.

“Merced was extremely popular with everyone, especially the kids,” she says. “He’s characterised, committed to helping, and so down to earth.”

But as a student far from home and culturally isolated, Flores at times felt the pain of loneliness.

During one rough stretch, he says, Dale Orkney, a biology teacher, boosted his spirits by taking him trout fishing on the Nisqually River.

Flores says Spanish teacher Bob Gilmore, a former Quaker missionary, also offered him constant support and encouragement.

After Flores graduated and went to work in the state education department, Gilmore visited him several times in Salem.

“You weren’t impressed by the work he was doing for the Hispanic community,” Gilmore says. “It was something Merced cared deeply about.”

Although he retired as a professor emeritus in 1995, Gilmore continued to teach in the master of education program and invited Flores back several times to speak to students. “Merced is very sincere and inspiring. He’s a great role model.”

After leaving George Fox, Flores earned a master’s degree in education from Linfield College and climbed his way up the ladder in the Oregon Depart-

ment of Education. In 1997 he became the associate superintendent of the Office of Student Services, where he oversaw Head Start, early childhood education, bilingual education, home schooling, and several other programs.

From his new position as chief of staff, his goal is to continue working to ensure that high-quality education and comprehensive services are available to every child in the state, especially those with economic and cultural barriers.

“If our schools are not reaching every child, that is a crisis,” he says.
Alumni Association Seeks Award Nominations

The CPU Alumni Association urges alumni, friends, and students to submit the names of people they believe should be considered for recognition of their contributions to church, society, and George Fox University.

I nominate . . .

Name of Nominee(s) ____________________________
Address __________________________________________
City ___________________________ State ___________ ZIP __________
Home Phone ( ) ___________ Work Phone ( ) ___________ Home Phone ( ) ___________ Work Phone ( ) ___________

☐ Alumnus/Alumna of the Year
Through years of preparation, experience, dedication, and exemplary character and service, the recipient of this award has achieved professional or, occupational distinction. He or she has displayed support and sympathy with the mission, goals, and purpose of George Fox University.

☐ Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna
A graduate of either a continuing education or traditional program, this person is distinguished in a special area of life and reflects the ideals of George Fox University through his or her commitment to a profession, the church, the community, and the University.

☐ Special Award
Special recognition is awarded to a graduate or nongraduate who has uniquely served the University. This award is optional and may not be given every year.

Name of Nominator ____________________________
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To be considered for the 2001 alumni awards, this form must be completed and returned to the Alumni Office by April 30, 2001. Please call, write or e-mail the Alumni Relations Office at George Fox University, 414 N. eastern St., Newberg, OR 97132, (503) 554-2114.

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Sometimes it’s not the top-flight athletes and all-stars who bring the greatest pride to Wes Cook. “You can make a difference in the life of anyone, in a way that transcends just the running part,” he says. “That’s servanthood, from my perspective: doing the best with what I’ve been given.”

He believes in me before I believed in myself

Brandon Workman, George Fox All-American
track, field, cross country and distance runner

“Coach Cook is the reason why I run, but he’s the reason I run as hard as I do.”

“Anyone who wanted to go into coaching could model themselves after Coach Cook and do well,” says Brandon Workman. “He always comes up and giving you a hug, asking how you’re doing, making you feel like you’re the most important person in the world,” says senior pole vaulter Heather Hunt. “And he’s that way with everybody. When we’re on the road, he carries these little ‘running bear’ pins that he uses to promote George Fox track, and he’ll pass those out to people and it really makes their day. He’ll talk to anyone about us, the team, the programs, and the world in general as opportunities for making the Christian faith evident to all, fulfilling the mission of George Fox University.”

“Cook’s efforts to impart Christian principles for life after college have made their impact on more than one George Fox athlete.”

The strong finish and conference title earned the Bruins a spot in the national championship for the second year in a row as a host team. The Bruins were seeded as the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Div. II West Regional at Georgetown, Texas, where the season ended with losses to California Lutheran University and Southwestern University. However, Coach Pat Bailey was named NCAA coach of the year for the third time in five seasons. Pitchers Ryan Alvis (Seattle, Wash.) and Kati Romano (Vancouver, Wash.) and catcher Derek Brelify (Battle Ground, Wash.) were first team all-conference selections.

Softball

In Chris Gross’ eighth season as George Fox University softball coach, the Bruins posted a 6-25 record and went 3-7 in the Northwest Conference for the second year in a row as a host team. Top players for the Bruins were No. 1 Todd Hammons (Eugene, Ore.), No. 2 Ryan Cruz (Bellingham, Ore.), the coach’s younger brother. Both were named first team all-conference. Hammons was 14-6 in earning all-NWC honors for the second straight year. Cruz, a second team pick last year, was 12-8. As a doubles team, the pair was 15-5 and ranked 13th in the West Region.

Women’s Tennis

It was a learning season for a young and inexperienced George Fox University women’s tennis team as the Bruins went 1-15 overall and 0-12 in the Northwest Conference for the second year in a row as a host team. Cook’s selection as 2000 Northwest Conference women’s coach of the year is the latest in a long list of honors. He has been coach of the year at the district or conference level 13 times, at least once in each of the four sports he coaches. In 1988, he was national coach of the year in women’s cross country in the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA), and in 1992, he received the same honor in the NAIA. Cross Country magazine declared his program the best in the nation at the NAIA level in 1992.

Cook, a Nebraska native and University of Northern Colorado track standout, also is an associate professor of health and human performance, and sees the classroom, the track, and the world in general as opportunities for making the Christian faith evident to all, fulfilling the mission of George Fox University. “It doesn’t make any difference what you believe if it doesn’t make any difference in your life,” Cook states emphatically, “so it’s important for me to set an example, for our athletes to see the consistency not just of what I say, but of what I do. That hasn’t always been easy for me. This can be an all-consuming profession, and I wish I had had more time to devote to things that would have made me a stronger Christian.”

“You don’t always know how the kids are going to turn out, because you don’t always get to see the finished product 10, 20, 30 years down the road. All you can really do is give them your very best, and try to instill in them some of the principles for living that are important.”

Cook’s philosophy. “Yeah, I’m selfish to a degree, and the awards and recognition are nice, but they aren’t what motivate me. I’ve never set out to be coach of the year; that’s a result of hard work by the athletes.”

Cook’s selection as 2000 Northwest Conference baseball coach is a commitment to improve, to put forth an effort to be the best he or she can be.” However, individual athletes under Cook’s direction have won 83 All-American awards.

The strong finish and conference title earned the Bruins the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Div. II West Regional at Georgetown, Texas, where the season ended with losses to California Lutheran University and Southwestern University. The Bruins captured their third Northwest Conference crown in the last five years with an 18-6 league mark. The strong finish and conference title earned the Bruins the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Div. II West Regional at Georgetown, Texas, where the season ended with losses to California Lutheran University and Southwestern University. However, Coach Pat Bailey was named NCAA coach of the year for the third time in five seasons. Pitchers Ryan Alvis (Seattle, Wash.) and Kati Romano (Vancouver, Wash.) and catcher Derek Brelify (Battle Ground, Wash.) were first team all-conference selections.

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Women’s Tennis

It was a learning season for a young and inexperienced George Fox University women’s tennis team as the Bruins went 1-15 overall and 0-12 in the Northwest Conference for the second year in a row as a host team. Cook’s selection as 2000 Northwest Conference women’s coach of the year is the latest in a long list of honors. He has been coach of the year at the district or conference level 13 times, at least once in each of the four sports he coaches. In 1988, he was national coach of the year in women’s cross country in the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA), and in 1992, he received the same honor in the NAIA. Cross Country magazine declared his program the best in the nation at the NAIA level in 1992.

Cook, a Nebraska native and University of Northern Colorado track standout, also is an associate professor of health and human performance, and sees the classroom, the track, and the world in general as opportunities for making the Christian faith evident to all, fulfilling the mission of George Fox University. “It doesn’t make any difference what you believe if it doesn’t make any difference in your life,” Cook states emphatically, “so it’s important for me to set an example, for our athletes to see the consistency not just of what I say, but of what I do. That hasn’t always been easy for me. This can be an all-consuming profession, and I wish I had had more time to devote to things that would have made me a stronger Christian.”

“You don’t always know how the kids are going to turn out, because you don’t always get to see the finished product 10, 20, 30 years down the road. All you can really do is give them your very best, and try to instill in them some of the principles for living that are important.”

Cook’s philosophy. “Yeah, I’m selfish to a degree, and the awards and recognition are nice, but they aren’t what motivate me. I’ve never set out to be coach of the year; that’s a result of hard work by the athletes.”

Cook’s selection as 2000 Northwest Conference baseball coach is a commitment to improve, to put forth an effort to be the best he or she can be.” However, individual athletes under Cook’s direction have won 83 All-American awards.

The strong finish and conference title earned the Bruins the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Div. II West Regional at Georgetown, Texas, where the season ended with losses to California Lutheran University and Southwestern University. The Bruins captured their third Northwest Conference crown in the last five years with an 18-6 league mark. The strong finish and conference title earned the Bruins the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Div. II West Regional at Georgetown, Texas, where the season ended with losses to California Lutheran University and Southwestern University. However, Coach Pat Bailey was named NCAA coach of the year for the third time in five seasons. Pitchers Ryan Alvis (Seattle, Wash.) and Kati Romano (Vancouver, Wash.) and catcher Derek Brelify (Battle Ground, Wash.) were first team all-conference selections.

Softball

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