Willcuts’ Small World

No matter where a crisis occurs, help is never far away. Air Serv President Stu Willcuts (’72) leads a non-profit air force that delivers humanitarian aid to some of the world’s most dangerous locations.

In the small, small world that Stu Willcuts inhabits, Sioux Falls isn’t all that far from Baghdad. So it was quite normal, driving in the South Dakota city, to veer around a plastic bag in the road. “Almost hit the curb,” says Willcuts, president of Air Serv International. “It was instinct, you know. You just don’t run over stuff like that in Iraq or Afghanistan, because you’d probably hit a bomb.”

Willcuts had just returned from another trip to the Middle East, where his organization provides air transportation for the personnel of other humanitarian agencies assisting in the reconstruction of Iraq. Since May 1, Air Serv International has been flying into and out of Baghdad and other cities, delivering medical supplies, water sanitation equipment, communications equipment, and other essential cargo.

When a truck bomb blew up the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad in August, Air Serv flew out the wounded. Willcuts, who lost friends among the 20 dead, is accustomed to danger. In his 30 years of relief and development work with several organizations in Vietnam, Liberia, Bosnia, and other countries, he’s never run away.

“People Depend on Us”

Days after the United Nations bombing, Willcuts was on the telephone with the directors of three large humanitarian organizations who wanted to know, “Is Air Serv staying? Because if you’re not, we’re going to cut our programs significantly.” They wanted assurance that Air Serv would be there if they needed medical or security evacuations.

“That tells me we are an integral part of their ability to perform their own missions, and if we leave, they leave,” Willcuts says. “If we’re not there, people aren’t being helped.

“At the end of the day we went to Iraq because our humanitarian mandate demanded it. Because without us — perhaps I’m arrogant enough to think that the 145 other humanitarian agencies who are using our services would not be able to do what their humanitarian mandate demands of them, as effectively, as efficiently, or at all. So we’re there, and we will continue to be there because people depend on us.”

Willcuts was born in La Paz, Bolivia, where his parents were missionaries. His father, Jack, later was pastor of Friends churches in Oregon and superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends — the evangelical Quakers of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

“George Fox has always been a part of the family heritage,” Willcuts says. “Dad was on the board of trustees, and an aunt, Helen Willcuts Street, was a professor for years. My uncle, George Moore, was professor of psychology. My cousin was head librarian for 20 years or more. Lots of cousins went to school there.”

“The Call” to Serve

Stu graduated in 1972. About a year later the president of World Relief called him and asked if he would direct the organization’s work in South Vietnam.

“There was a feeling that went through me — physical, spiritual, emotional, psychological, all of it. ‘This is exactly what I should do.’ It was a very mystical kind of experience that would set the course for the rest of my life.”

In 1975, World Vision called, looking for a director in Latin America. “Again there was this feeling that this is the right thing to do. Quakers call it ‘the call.’ I didn’t see Willcuts’ Small World, page 4
Letters to the Editor

Editor's Note: We welcome your response to this issue of LIFE. Letters must be signed and may be edited for space. Please include a daytime phone number. Send all correspondence to: Editor, George Fox University LIFE, 414 N. Meridian St. #6069, Newberg, OR 97132. E-mail: life@georgefox.edu. Fax: 503-554-3110.

Credit Crenshaw

Thanks for the great article about the Romania mission trip taken by Norm and Susie Langston and several George Fox students (“A Trip for Tish,” July 2003 LIFE). God used, and is using, the trip to continue his process of healing in their lives.

I wanted to let you know the central role that Andrea Crenshaw, director of outreach and discipleship, played in this trip. Without her unselfish effort and time, and her Spirit-led vision and encouragement, the trip wouldn’t have happened. I am so thankful for Andrea and for how God uses her gifts here at George Fox and beyond.

— Gregg Lam, campus pastor/director of campus ministries

Remember Ross Too

I am writing to respond to your article on Dr. Roberts being a “rescuer of alma mater” in your article “A Lasting Legacy” (July 2003 LIFE). When Milo Ross consented to come as president, he came with the same desire Dr. Roberts had maintained, that the college must make great strides in its academic standards. I believe he was the true “rescuer” of the college.

I would congratulate Dr. Roberts that he has been the “sustainer” of high academic and behavioral standards through changes of administration and faculty, when with his brilliance and degree, he could have transferred to a much more prestigious college or university.

— Kenneth Williams

(Editor’s note: Williams held several leadership posts at George Fox from 1955 to 1965 and taught part time until 1978.)

Changing of the LIFE Guard

This issue of George Fox University LIFE is the first since 1994 to be published without Anita Cirulis as editor. This summer, Cirulis resigned as director of university communications to take a position at Northwestern College in Iowa. She has editing experience with PennWell Publishing and the Tulsa World newspaper.

Stories of Service

Service to others seems to me to be somewhat ironic in nature. At George Fox University, we talk a lot about how important service is, yet we tend to hide it when we do it. It is hard for us to talk about.

An attitude of humility is inherent in the nature of real service. In Matthew 25, when Jesus gives praise to those who fed the hungry, gave water to the thirsty, showed hospitality, and clothed the needy, they showed surprise. Those who serve best seek no credit or glory, and most of the time they get none.

When our students and employees put aside their normal routines for our George Fox Serve Day, they rarely get any recognition besides a thank you or two. But sometimes it is invaluable to share stories of service. I want to share two stories from this year’s Serve Day that demonstrate why — in its fifth year — we still make it a priority.

Sometimes the most powerful impact of service isn’t the task itself. That was evident when several of our students went to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post in Newberg to help clean and organize items for distribution to veterans with medical needs. Inspired by the patriotic images she was working with, one of our female students spontaneously began singing the national anthem in a clear soprano voice. Also in the room were several other students and four gray-haired veterans. The elderly gentlemen all stopped, stood, and put their hands over their hearts. The other students followed suit, singing with them until the anthem ended. After that special moment, the rest of the afternoon was a bit brighter and more productive.

In another part of Newberg, our George Fox head librarian of 22 years was randomly assigned to serve Newberg Public Library. While the library setting was very familiar to him, his job was very different from the usual personnel, budgets, and policy issues that cross his desk at George Fox. His assignment was to sort books and clean library shelves; projects he normally supervises. With eagerness, he went to work at the humble, but important tasks. The director of the public library told us the library had had a tough year and the work of our employees and students has been invaluable for getting them organized.

These stories are examples of servant attitudes of George Fox students and employees. The university needs to continue to nurture the value and centrality of service for the followers of Jesus. The agencies we serve are grateful for the help, but the greatest benefit comes to those of us who are involved in the service. To my delight, Serve Day continues to have an impact on those of us who participate.

Service often goes unnoticed. Most accreditors or those who rank institutions of higher education don’t recognize it. But service is still central to the mission of George Fox University.
“Dave’s To-Do List” Update

“Dave’s To-Do List,” the cover story in the January 2003 issue of LIFE, identified six goals established by President David Brandt and the board of trustees in their three-year strategic plan for strengthening George Fox University. Ten months later, here’s a status report.

Establish and Improve the Financial Health of the University

The university’s effort to stabilize undergraduate enrollment began well. New traditional undergraduates numbered 480 this fall, an increase of 7 percent from last year. With 1,392 in the traditional undergraduate student body, the goal of 1,500 by fall 2005 is within reach. Overall marketing efforts are being centralized, and the university has hired a consulting firm to assist with marketing efforts and publications.

Continue to Improve the Quality of the University and Develop a Definition of Quality

“This goal will never be complete,” says Brandt, who states he is pleased with the quality of the 15 new faculty hired this summer and the credentials of the incoming new students. Since the fall of 2002, administrators and faculty have been conducting a university-wide self-study, which will be used to establish specific goals for institutional quality. The report also will be provided to several accrediting organizations scheduled to visit this academic year.

Cancer Claims Social Work Professor Sherrie Schulke

Few students knew Sherrie Schulke had battled cancer repeatedly since eighth grade. The George Fox assistant professor of social work did miss class because of her treatments, but she didn’t often share the details of her private struggle.

This coming February, the 1982 George Fox graduate planned to publicly celebrate life as a 30-year cancer survivor. She didn’t quite make it. After a brief hospitalization, Schulke died Aug. 21. Days later, more than a hundred of her friends gathered to celebrate her life, complete at age 42. They remembered a woman who always planned to live.

As a social work professor, social worker, and recorded minister, Schulke was an expert on the issues surrounding dying, but she never acted as if death might come to her. She told friends of God’s healing touch on her life. She led student trips to Europe. On her final weekend, she went camping with her cherished nieces and nephew. She earned three master’s degrees and was writing a doctoral dissertation on the social and psychological adaptation of childhood cancer survivors. Several colleagues have committed to finishing it.

Prepare a New Campus Plan

Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership (ZGF) began work in September to create a new master plan for George Fox facilities in Newberg, Portland, Salem, and Boise. ZGF is Portland’s largest architecture, planning, and interior design firm and has done numerous projects for universities including Cornell and Northwestern.

“Establish and Improve the Financial Health of the University”

Preliminary conversations were held between university and hospital representatives. An appraisal was done in September. Serious negotiations are expected this fall.

Complete Several Important Current Initiatives

The George Fox development office is putting together materials and proposals to seek funds for a new outdoor athletic field complex. A track oval and soccer, baseball, and softball fields will be constructed near the Newberg campus on property donated by Ken and Joan Austin. Donor contacts have begun.

Bring Health Care Programs to George Fox University

The process of adding degrees in nursing and pharmacy began. University administrators are in communication with the Oregon State Board of Nursing. A proposal will be submitted in November. The nursing program could begin admitting freshmen as early as fall of 2004.

Investigate the Possible Acquisition of the Property Belonging to Providence Newberg Hospital

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“We’ve given ourselves an ambitious agenda,” says Brandt of the six goals. “I’m pleased with our progress so far. George Fox University is an outstanding Christ-centered university and we’re making it stronger.”

Images of Serve Day 2003

More than 1,300 George Fox University students and employees spent Sept. 10 volunteering at nonprofit organizations, schools, parks, and churches in the Yamhill County and Portland areas. It was the fifth time that George Fox has cancelled classes and closed offices for the annual Serve Day.
have to go get counsel and advice. I just knew it, from the top of my head to the bottom of my feet.”

Although Interaction, a coalition of humanitarian agencies that includes Air Serv, lobbied against the war in Iraq, Willcuts prepared for Air Serv pilots and mechanics to be among the first to set foot in Iraq when the security ban was lifted May 1.

“It’s what we do, and it was the right thing to do,” Willcuts says.

That conviction settles many decisions. Late in June, Kurdish Human Rights Watch asked Air Serv to provide an emergency flight for an infant born with spina bifida. Little Ahmed Mahmod Khoshnaw would die without an operation at Nashville’s Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital, which Sen. Bill Frist hastily helped arrange. The baby and his parents needed transportation from northern Iraq to Amman, Jordan, to begin their 7,000-mile lifesaving journey.

In a sea of human suffering, why invest scarce resources to help a single child?

“It’s what we do — we exist to help suffering people. What’s the value of one human life? There’s no answer. That child perhaps is a symbol, perhaps is a reminder to all of us what a situation like Iraq costs.

“How do you measure the value in dollars and cents? There’s no way. Let’s say you could figure out what the airplane costs per hour to operate. But that never entered my thinking. I don’t think anyone in Air Serv asked how much it was going to cost. We just said, ‘Of course. When and where? How fast?’ I would feel guilt and think I was violating my call if I didn’t say yes to a situation like that. An airplane is no different from the cell phone on this table. It’s a tool — a 2-million-dollar tool. What difference does that make? You use it to help people. We don’t exist because of airplanes; we exist because of people.”

That people-priority leaves warm feelings of satisfaction when a mission is successful, giving a Kurdish baby a future, for example. Willcuts also knows the empty feeling of helplessness when there is no answer. Several years ago, village leaders in Burkina Faso refused to permit a medical team to undertake a measles vaccination program. Why save the lives of children, they asked, for a bleak future?

“So their decision was to let nature take its course,” Willcuts says. “Some kids would live and some would die, as they had throughout their history, and our outside intervention was only a post-ponement of the inevitable.

“That was a lesson about choices and values and life. What was it they used to say, ‘your comeuppance?’ We Americans are highly motivated to do good things. It’s like the lady said after Sept. 11: ‘Don’t they know we’re good people?’ But we do not have a good sensitivity to what other people think. In Burkina Faso I realized for the first time that people have their right to say no to things. It’s their town; we play by their rules. Usually people welcome you with open arms, especially in a Muslim culture, which is very hospitable. You welcome the stranger. In this case to have someone say, ‘No, thank you. We have other ideas,’ was heartbreaking.”

The world traveler who spends half of his life outside of America used to lecture occasionally on Americans’ global responsibility in Professor Ralph Beebe’s history class.

“Somehow we have to begin to educate people to the fact that the world is a very small place,” he says. “Globalization is here whether we like it or not. A bus blows up in downtown Jerusalem; you know about it 10 minutes later. Decisions made in the Middle East today affect you and me by the end of the week. The world has become so small.”

Small enough that a baby in northern Iraq is every American’s neighbor.

— Mike Unkundi

Within hours of President Bush’s declaration of the end of combat operations in Iraq, Willcuts arrived at Saddam International Airport to begin organizing relief efforts.

More About Air Serv

Founded 1984: Air Serv was formed to bring aid during a crisis in Africa.

Dangerous Destinations: Air Serv has flown missions to provide aid all over the world, including Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Ivory Coast, Iraq, Mozambique, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Spotless Record: Air Serv pilots have flown more than 140,000 flights and 16 million miles, with no flight-related accidents or serious incidents.

More than 60 Employees: Air Serv employs 18 headquarters staff, 48 international staff, and numerous local national staff.

International Resumes: Air Serv is based in Warrenton, Va., but flies pilots and ground and maintenance crews from the United States, Canada, Australia, Belgium, France, Congo, and South Africa.

Aid to Iraq: The U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance provided a grant of $2.2 million to Air Serv for aviation service to humanitarian organizations in Iraq.

On Time: Air Serv claims a “schedule reliability” of more than 96 percent.

Fleet: The Air Serv fleet of 14 aircraft includes Cessna Caravans, Cessna 208s and 210s, King Air 100s and 200s, and DHC-6 Twin Otters. More are leased as necessary.

More Information: www.airserv.org

An Air Serv plane loaded with relief and development supplies and personnel is met by a group of Afghan villagers in Central Afghanistan.
Student Snapshots

George Fox University has 2,913 students this fall. Here’s an opportunity to meet five of them.

Gena Minnix
Graduate student, Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy
- Age: 27
- Previous degree: Bachelor’s degree in psychology from University of Texas at Austin
- Husband’s name: Jason
- Children: Jordan, 3
- Where were you born? Austin, Texas
- Current home: Beaumont, Ore. (We love the Northwest now!)
- Post-graduation plans: Celebrate my family to Mexican food. Have another child? Seriously, I’m enjoying my internship at the Veteran’s Center and would love to continue training in trauma counseling.
- One word that describes you: Skillful
- Why did you come to George Fox? I met with Dr. Rand Michael, and that sealed the decision for me.
- What do you do for fun: Catch bugs with my 3-year-old, play guitar, hiking, beach, I took martial arts last year, that was fun ... and painful!
- Work experience: Waitress, nanny, I give guitar lessons.
- Favorite class: Images of God, because it dramatically changed the landscape of my spiritual journey.
- Hardest class: Social and cultural foundations on the right of 9/11 because, wow!

Ken and Lori Niles
- Current home: Selfwood/Monland neighborhood of Portland
- Children: Sylvia, 25; Lue, 23; Almen and Zachary, 16; Erin; 12; Matthew, 10; two grandchil- dren Calyon, 9, and Eric, 2; and three crabs, two tarantulas, two frogs, one hamster, a Persian cat, and uncatchable fish.
- Ken Niles, Seminary student, Doctor of Ministry in Leadership and Emerging Culture
- Age: 53
- Previous education: Master of arts in coun- seling from University of San Francisco; four years of study at Theology-Equivalent de Novan Seine, a seminary outside Paris, France; bach- elor’s degree in psychology from Simpson College
- Current employment: Senior pastor of Mount- vernum Community of the Nazarene, affiliate faculty at Nazarene Bible College in Colorado Springs, Colo.
- Post-graduation plans: Continue in the pas- toral ice and beach
- Why did you come to George Fox? I had seen the quality education that Lori had received, and also saw that the Wesleyan studies were very good.
- What do you do for fun: Read (sci-fi/anthology), ski, bicycle, archery, watch movies, watch football
- Languages spoken: English and French
- Hobbies: When I do them, woodworking, ham radio, 5-scale model railroads
- Summer activity: Direct Camp Kellogg, a one-week summer children’s camp near Oakland, Ore.
- Lori Niles, Graduate student, Doctor of Education
- Age: 47
- Previous degree: Master of Arts in Christian Ministry at George Fox, bachelor’s degree in education from Mid- America Nazarene University
- Current employment: Monland Family Presbyter, associate pastor at Monland Community of the Nazarene, affiliate faculty at George Fox Evangelical Seminary, Simpson College, and Nazarene Bible College
- Post-graduation plans: Rent! and have one teaching job with the opportunity to pursue research interests
- One word that describes you: Growing.
- Why did you come to George Fox? The unique structures of the Educational Foundations and Leadership (EDFL) program in conjunc- tion with the openness of the seminary allowed me to pursue a degree in education that incorporates an emphasis on spiritual for- mation and allows me to sculpt the program so that I can learn according to my calling.
- What do you do for fun: Spend time with my family, mostly going to seek meals, basketball games, and individual “dates.” Direct a one-week summer camp of children’s summer camp. I’m pretty weird — actually do research for fun.
- Hobbies: Graphic design, crafting, playing the piano for my own entertainment.
- Writing projects: One of my favorite things is writing a regular column about preschoolers for Children’s Ministry magazine, and some freelance writing. Ken and I recently contributed to a small group Bible study series called “Live It, Learn It” Bible Studies.

Christian Kofi
Freshmen, business administration major
- Age: 22
- Where were you born? Liberia, West Africa
- Current home: Aloha, Ore.
- Friends call you Kofi (KOE-Fee)
- Post-graduation plans: I want to work with my father (the founder and president of African Christians Fellowship International), plan to work at my church back home in Liberia or work at all the headquarters here in the States.
- One word that describes you: Self-confi- dence, I believe I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- What did you do this summer: I worked at Renaissance Academy in Portland. It’s a music school for inner-city kids who are less fortunate. I taught African drums.
- Most surprising thing about college: The most surprising thing at Fox was the respect I have gotten from students and staff members. At first, I thought coming to an almost all-white school would have been a problem for me, especially coming from Africa. But it’s been great and everyone is very lov- ing and accepting.
- Extracurricular activities: I am currently playing on the soccer team.
- What do you do for fun: I like playing my guitar and my drums.
- What you miss about high school years: My high school band and friends
- Work experiences: I have worked with Liberian-Acapella, a singing group brought here to tour and raise awareness and funds for orphans back in Liberia. I was a performer and the group’s secretary. I was also involved with promotion and some sales.
- Languages spoken: Kru, English, Creole, and Pigen English.

Juniour, chemistry and biology double major
- Age: 27
- Where were you born? Portland
- Post-graduation plans: I hope to attend Stan- ford School of Medicine. I would like to be a pedia- trician, possibly entering pediatric surgery.
- One word that describes you: Determined.
- What you did this summer: This summer I was doing physical chemistry research with George Fox chemistry professor Mike Everett. We furthered the current research on a new technique of spectroscopy that promises to revolutionize analy- tical chemistry. The research title was Condensed Phase Cavity Ring-Down Spectroscopy. Essentially, we proved that the great benefit of cavity ring- down analysis can be brought to both liquid and solid phase analysis. Students at Stanford University graduate school were doing research in the same area this summer. (Our results were even slightly better in some respects!) Also accepted to: University of Portland, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.)
- Why did you come to George Fox? I have always given my all academically, and many universities took notice of this when it came time for me to choose where to attend college. There was something about George Fox that intrigued me though. I visited many university campuses, such as Stanford, MIT, The University of Portland, George Fox, and others. I remember what interested me most was the way that it seemed like each student had a unique relationship with the professor. Though they maintained their profes- sional role, each professor worked with each student in the success of each of the students in his or her class. I was further intrigued when I saw that many professors had both academic and spiritual guid- ance for their pupils — often intermingling matters of faith and matters of scholarly study, science in my case. This blew me away. I had always believed that all truth that can be discovered brings you closer to the God who created it, and I could sense that from the teaching here at Fox.
- Extracurricular activities: I love going to the various worship meetings led by students. I enjoy playing my guitar with a group of guys and worshipping God together. Intramural sports are great; there is always some team that is one man short.
- What do you do for fun: Midnight trips to Southeast. I love to run — I enjoy the track and gym for working out.
- Describe your roommates: Matt is great; if you want somebody to do a random thing with, he is the guy to ask. I can always count on Jeff for some Frisbee golf. Dave is a clown — always great for a laugh. But the greatest thing is that I can trust all three of those guys with anything. These are the three best friends I’ve ever had. We can always count on each other to be there when one of us needs help or a buddy or a prayer. And we keep each other accountable. I have grown closer to God thanks to the friends- hips I have with these guys.
- Favorite class: Analytical chemistry. It combines all of the subjects that I thoroughly enjoy — math, physics, and chemistry. I am a puzzle solver, and this was a very fun course.
Alum Named to Oregon’s Second-Highest Court

Darleen (Mock) Ortega (84) was named by Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski to Oregon’s Court of Appeals in August. The Oregon Court of Appeals is the state’s second-highest court. Ortega has been a partner at the Osha Wright Temrah law firm since 1998 and had been an associate attorney with the firm for three years. She has handled cases at the Oregon Court of Appeals, the Oregon Supreme Court, the Washington Court of Appeals, the Washington Supreme Court, and the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Ortega graduated summa cum laude from George Fox in 1984 with a B.A. in writing and literature. In 1989, she graduated cum laude from the University of Michigan Law School.

A Leading Lady

Yolanda Karp (97/PSIS) was named a 2003 finalist for Woman Entrepreneur of the Year by the Business Journal of Portland. A Mexico City native, Karp is CEO and president of Hacienda Community Credit Union. She founded the credit union in 1994 to provide financial services for low- and middle-income Hispanics in the Portland area. Hacienda, the first credit union created in Oregon since 1990, is one of a handful of Hispanic credit unions in the United States. Karp is currently an MBA student at George Fox.

Prominent in Portland

2000 MBA graduate Morgan Anderson has been named one of Portland’s most influential 40 executives under 40 by the Business Journal of Portland. A Morris County native, Anderson is CEO and president of Portland-based Community Credit Union. She founded the credit union in 1994 to provide financial services for low- and middle-income Hispanics in the Portland area. Hacienda, the first credit union created in Oregon since 1990, is one of a handful of Hispanic credit unions in the United States. Karp is currently an MBA student at George Fox.

President Dave and Melva Brandt cordially invite George Fox University friends and alumni to a traditional

George Fox Christmas Celebration at the Pittsford Mansion

Plan to please us for an evening of holiday music, hors d’oeuvres and desserts.

Monday, Dec. 8, 2003
7 – 9 p.m.

The Pittsford Mansion
3229 NW Pittsford Drive

$16 per person

Due to limited space, your RSVP is required by Dec. 2. Tickets will be sent in the mail.

503-554-3211
dechaner@georgefox.edu

Homecoming 2004

It might take more than a click of the red glitter shoes to get you here for this annual celebration, but once you’ve arrived it’ll be well worth it.

Class Reunions
10 year — Class of 1994
20 year — Class of 1984
25 year — Class of 1979
30 year — Class of 1974
40 year — Class of 1964
50 year — Class of 1954

Affinity Reunions
Residence Life: Come and celebrate the 25th anniversary of Walkabout with fellow residence lifers. Held at Tilikum Retreat Center. Band with Dr. Dennis Hagen: Reminisce with fellow band members that played under the direction of Dr. Hagen.

Questions? Contact the Office of Alumni, Parent, and Church Relations at 503-554-2110. For more information on homecoming events, go to www.georgefox.edu.

Business Is Brewin’ for Bruin Alum

Mark Thompson (’76) made his layoffs known this summer when he opened Brewin’ Bear Coffee a few miles down Highway 990 from the Newberg campus. The loyal Bruin offers carhop-style service at his drive-in coffee shop in Dundee. He also operates a Brewin’ Bear espresso cart at the George Fox Portland Center.

Lavonna Zeller-Williams (G82) is the executive director of the Oregon Travel Information Council in Salem. She has served the Travel Bureau since 1992.

Amber Bailey (G02) serves as an assistant registrar in George Fox University’s registrar’s office.

Steve Miller (G02) is a licensed massage therapist. Located in Norcross, his office specializes in Swedish, deep tissue, and pregnancy massage.

Dina (Harrison) DeYoung (G93) teaches first grade at a Community Charter School.

Jen Kinsey (G02, MA03) has joined the Outreach team as a remodeling consultant in Salem, Ore.

Amy Varlin (G93) is in the new mobilization direc-
tor position.

Marriages
Megan Hoasly (G02) and Dave Cuter, May 5, 2003, Anchorage, Alaska.
Jenny Apan (G71) and Dan Brulee, Feb. 1, 2003, Portland.
Abigail Popp (G82) and Nicholas Holloway, July 19, 2003, Hood River, Ore.
John Cahill (G69) and Penny Nickles, July 8, 2003, Aurora, Ore.
Denise Wohler (G95) and Josephine Martens, Sept. 14, 2003, LaPaz, Ore.
Michelle Harper (G92) and Joel Little, July 12, 2003, Norcross.
Michael Moody (G99) and Carolyn Pelley, June 29, 2003, Bellingham, Wash.
Matthew Reynolds (G99) and Alexis Hasour (G95), May 12, 2003, Morrow, Ore.
Andrew Fudge (G72) and Diane Boyce, July 13, 2003, Roberson, Wash.
Stephanie Hamor (G93) and John Lordikian, March 22, 2003, Eugene, Ore.
Jason Schweins (G90) and Adrienne Gerick (G08), Oct. 16, 2003, Jacksonville, Ore.
Melissa Burns (G01) and Edike Lishoy, Aug. 16, 2003, Olympia, Wash.
Elise Campbell (G99) and Daniel Willis, Aug. 10, 2003, Tigard, Ore.
Rachel DeYoung (G02, MAT03) and Zachary Davidson (G02, MAT03), June 24, 2003, Damascus, Ore.
Raymond Gittleson (G99) and Mandy Yates, June 27, 2003, Grants Pass, Ore.
Matt Gustafson (G99) and Amanda Sue Golden (G03), July 12, 2003, Norcross.
Christy Wong-Leong (G02) and Daniel Sanders, July 19, 2003, Gladstone, Ore.
George Fox University's 23rd Annual Family Weekend
November 7–9, 2003
for parents and families of George Fox University students

✓ Explore the campus life your student experiences every day
✓ Enjoy musical and theatrical performances by our student artists
✓ Participate in a weekend full of family-style events
✓ Worship the George Fox community at the Sunday morning chapel service

For a list of local hotels offering discounts to George Fox families, visit
http://www.georgefox.edu/about/newberg/index.html

Tuition purchases can range from $500 to more than $130,000.

Fox has joined the Student Loan Xpress (n64), Aug. 3, 2003, Federal Way, Walter Peery King could save a significant amount of money on repayment options and restrictions. Borrowers should contact their lender or servicer to get information on their situation. For general guidance from George Fox financial aid counselors, call 877-272-7828. Ask for Student Financial Services.

Got Student Loans?

Low-interest rates can be locked in through loan consolidation, but always read the fine print.

Alumni now repaying federal student loans could save a significant amount of money by consolidating their loans and locking in this year’s low interest rates. Rates for different federal loans, but some are now as low as 2.82 percent.

The interest rate for consolidation is based on weighted average of all loans being consolidated. Rob Clarke, director of financial aid and student financial services, says borrowers need to be aware that extending the payment period will increase the amount of interest they pay. He warns alumni to make sure they do their research on repayment options and restrictions.

To learn more about consolidation, contact Student Loan Xpress at 888-765-4369. Ask for Student Financial Services.

Loan Consolidation Resources: Direct Loan
http://loanchconsolidation.ed.gov/
800-557-7392

ASAP/NetUse
http://www.asapnetuse.com/Students
877-272-7828

Oregon Student Assistance Commission
http://www.ogsclenguin.org
541-687-7480

Student Loan Express
http://www.mycalomp.com/
866-300-8056

For more information, call 888-719-7878 or visit www.indiegofund52plan.org
Hoops and Harmony

Nike executive Eric Lautenbach (’88) is as comfortable making music as he is making deals with Hall of Fame coaches.

Minutes after winning the college men’s basketball national championship, Duke University coach Mike Krzyzewski stood on a podium at center court and looked out into the cheering frenzy around him. He spotted Eric Lautenbach, made eye contact, and acknowledged him with a triumphant raised fist.

Just a few days before, the two sat in Coach K’s hotel room reviewing game tape. They even joked about what position Lautenbach’s George Fox team would have run against Duke. “Lautenbach’s plays only work if some-one like Michael Jordan is running them,” quips Krzyzewski.

Welcome to the sports fantasy world of Eric Lautenbach, director of college basketball sports marketing for Nike. Here world-famous coaches become family friends and trips to big games often end with locker-room celebrations.

Nike pays Lautenbach to help sell shoes and other athletic apparel. Because kids and adults often buy what they see their sports heroes wearing, Lautenbach makes sure the best teams in college basketball are wearing the Nike “swoosh.” That means negotiating equipment and licensing deals, making sure the players have the “right” Nike “swoosh.” That means negotiating equipment and licensing deals, making sure the players have the “right” Nike “swoosh.”

Music was his hidden hobby.

Piano lessons had been a “bas-co” in third grade, but Lauten-bach taught himself to play in high school by listening to top-40 pop songs and reproducing them on the keyboard. In col-lege, he would take his head-phones and play in the piano practice rooms in Ross Center. He remembers crossing paths with his teammates one night when he was on the way to Ross. Rather than telling them where he was going, he made up a story.

He no longer hides his music talents. His third CD — a Christ-mas album — is due out this fall (www.ericlautenbach.com). His friendship with local profession-al musician Michael Allen Harri-son provides him with a musical mentor and access to a recording studio, although he recently built one at his own home. Lauten-bach’s piano-based “contemporary instrumental” music can sometimes be heard in the evening on Portland radio station KINK.

Lautenbach performs at Nike functions and at other events. Last spring, he imperson-ated background music at the mansion of heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield during an NBA all-star weekend fund-raising event attended by the famous and wealthy. A couple times a month, he plays piano for the Saturday night worship service at Cedar Mill Bible Church.

Lautenbach also is developing a reputation in the Nashville, Tenn., Christian music scene. “My strengths are really in songwriting and scoring,” he says. He has done album production or writing for tobyMac of Grammy-winning dc Talk; KJ-52; Superchick; as well as the Left Behind 2 movie soundtrack.

His music blends into his work life. When ESPN magazine asked Buzz Peterson — coach at University of Tennessee — what was in his CD player, he named Lautenbach’s music.

When Bobbi Olson — wife of University of Arizona Coach Lute Olson — died of can-cer in 2001, Lautenbach wrote and recorded a song in her memory. It was played at the funeral. “He’s been very supportive,” says Coach Olson. “I view him as a close friend of not only mine, but of the whole family.”

About a year ago, Lautenbach flew to Italy with Olson’s family to attend the wedding of the coach’s son. He also went to Krzyzewski’s daughter’s wedding. “I love Eric,” says Krzyzewski. “He’s like part of the family.”

Lautenbach knows he’s succeeding when his busi-ness relationships develop into personal friendships. “It’s the art of the job,” he says.

A job for a multitalented artist.

— Rob Felton

Showtime Again for Harrison

Former Harlem All-Star Les Harrison Launches Youth Sports Program

Winning isn’t everything. That’s one of the lessons Les Harrison (’92) says he wants to teach through Showtime Athletics, a new youth sports program he founded this summer in Portland. After playing basketball at George Fox in the mid-’90s and internationally with teams led by Steve Schmidt and Gaboritter Meadowlark Lemon, Harrison now plans to teach basketball and life skills to kids.

He saw the need when his daughter Shamirah enrolled in a city league. “I went to one of her practices and was very disappointed that the coaches didn’t seem to know what they were doing,” he says. “All they were having the kids do was shoot the basketball. I took it upon myself to show them a couple of drills, and the next I knew, I’m their coach.”

Harrison, 39, says Showtime will combat the problems that arise with untrained volunteer coaches and out-of-control parents. He plans to pay and train coaches to teach sportsmanship and to promote personal and team growth over winning. Parents will be required to attend live practices during the lessons to learn both the game and how to support the kids being taught.

Showtime (www.showtimeathletics.com) held its first camp in mid-June with Lemon as a guest instructor. Four other camps were held during the summer, and a Showtime league began this fall.

Former Bruins Win Hood to Coast Relay

Former George Fox runners John Mantalas (’00), center with baseball cap, and Brandon Workman (’01), with black headband, led a team of 12 former college athletes to victory in this year’s 198-mile Hood to Coast Relay.

Mantalas, the captain of the NCAA All-Stars, said his team entered the race with the third-best time. “We were battling back and forth with another team for first when the race started on Friday, but then it got dark and we lost track of where we stood,” he says. “All they were having the kids do was shoot the basketball. I took it upon myself to show them a couple of drills, and the next I knew, I’m their coach.”

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Eric Lautenbach, director of college basketball sports marketing for Nike, works in a sport fan’s dream world. In his 15 years at Nike, many of the nation’s best-known coaches have become personal friends.

Nike. Here world-famous coaches become family friends and trips to big games often end with locker-room celebrations.

Nike pays Lautenbach to help sell shoes and other athletic apparel. Because kids and adults often buy what they see their sports heroes wearing, Lautenbach makes sure the best teams in college basketball are wearing the Nike “swoosh.” That means negotiating equipment and licensing deals, making sure the players have the “right” shoes at the right times, and maintaining friendly rela-tionships with the famous and the up-and-comers in the basketball world. Lautenbach can’t discuss contract details, but he does negotiate portions of the multi-million-dollar deals Nike negotiates with big-time athletic programs. The most famous coaches are reported to receive contracts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Nike — which lead to prominence with superstar endorser Michael Jordan — is the dominant brand in the basketball business. Of the 3h Division I basketball programs, more than 200 have Nike contracts or receive free Nike equipment.

“Lautenbach’s music,” says Lautenbach. “Week in and week out, 22 of the top 25 (ranked) teams are Nike schools.”

Lautenbach, now 37, built up a small collection of rejection letters from Nike before he eventually landed a position in Nike customer service. When he moved into the college basketball division, he worked his first assignment at the 1991 NCAA Final Four: Six months later, he found himself in a limousine playing host to NBA stars Michael Jordan and Charles Barkley. “That was surreal,” he says.

Lautenbach is outgoing and bonds quickly with peo-ple. He met his wife, Deanna — who is not a basketball fan – during college while he worked at a department store. She came to the store as a customer, and he asked her out on a date. As she walked away he wrote himself a note: “I have just met my future wife.” They’ve been married for years, between his junior and senior years of college and now have two girls, Hailee, 9, and Abbey, 5.

Lautenbach, a four-year basketball lettermen at George Fox, hoped to play professionally overseas. A serious knee injury his junior year ended that dream, but he returned as team captain and his teammates voted him “Most Inspirational.” An excellent shooter, he briefly rank- ed among the national leaders in free-throw shooting percentage.

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