

President's Prologue

Sometimes being in the national news isn't all that advantageous. Consider the last two weeks, when two of George Fox's sister institutions gained national attention. Wheaton College landed on the front page of the Wall Street Journal for releasing a faculty member in philosophy after he became a member of the Roman Catholic Church, and Oklahoma Christian University (OCU) became a national focal point when it published – then rescinded – a policy that would not allow divorced persons to work for the university. Both stories drew significant reaction – mostly negative.

These institutions invoked their right as private institutions to employ only those people they want to employ. In the OCU situation, the policy was criticized severely – both inside and outside the university. When it rescinded the policy within a few days, the institution made it clear this was an internal matter and that the change resulted from the internal conversation, not external pressure. Wheaton College continues to stand firmly behind its decision to be an institution that is Protestant in its hiring and retention of employees.

These incidences raise questions in my mind, including:

1. Why does the public care when a private institution sets its hiring policies?
2. To what extent does our culture dictate our beliefs, rather than our beliefs dictating how we live?
3. How should a Christ-centered institution make and implement personnel policies?

I won't even attempt to fully answer these questions, but here are a few observations on each.

One of the most precious gifts we have from our government is the right for religious-based institutions to hire as they wish. We should not find it surprising or shocking that these two institutions made rules with which we might not personally agree. I am grateful this right can be exercised freely.

My second question always needs to be on the "front burner." In the past 50 years, Christ-centered institutions of higher education have made many changes in how we live out our Christianity. In my opinion, these institutions have kept their commitments to orthodox Christian theology during these changes. I find there are few challenges to the George Fox University Statement of Faith, but numerous challenges to our community lifestyle requirements. This is encouraging to me. It also is important to me how we process any potential changes.

The culture in which we live poses challenges to our beliefs and lifestyle. The George Fox University community always must understand that the work and life of Jesus is the center of our belief system and that this belief must show itself as "salt and light" to those around us. The words to a familiar song say, "They will know we are Christians by our love." We need to make sure our lifestyle brings love and justice to the world.



Heading Home

This year's homecoming celebration is set to unfold Feb. 3-4 on the Newberg campus. Special affinity reunions are planned for those who sang in the a cappella choir under the direction of **Jerry Friesen** or participated in track and/or cross country under coaches **Rich Allen** and **Wes Cook**. In addition, class reunions are scheduled for the classes of 1996, 1986, 1981, 1976, 1966, and 1946.

The event begins with a Sports Hall of Fame dinner at 4:30 p.m. Friday in the Klages Dining Room. Saturday's schedule includes an alumni celebration brunch at 10:30 a.m., an alumni a cappella choir concert at 1:30 p.m., campus tours, class reunions, affinity reunions, a homecoming buffet at 4:30 p.m., and women's and men's basketball games. For more information, visit homecoming.georgefox.edu or contact **Nate McIntyre** (Alumni Relations) at ext. 2130.

Construction Update

Construction crews still project August as the month work will be completed on the Hoover Academic Building. The new portion of the building will be ready for occupation by May 1, at which time the contractor will begin remodeling the older Hoover structure. Some faculty and staff who teach summer courses will be moving into the new Hoover side for the summer.

Work on the second major campus project, the residence hall, was delayed after the discovery that most of the University Hall parking lot was fill dirt. Removing the fill dirt required the construction of an unplanned basement. Regardless, the plan is to have the residence hall ready by the fall.

The amphitheater is essentially completed and will be ready for use sometime this spring.

Ready for *Ballyhoo*

George Fox University Theatre's production of *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, a Tony Award-winning comedy, is scheduled in Wood-Mar Auditorium Jan. 26-28 and Feb. 2-4. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. The play is set in 1939 and tells the story of the Freitag family as they get ready for Ballyhoo, an extravagant ball for Atlanta's Jewish elites. George Fox employees receive one complimentary ticket. Additional tickets cost \$10 for

general admission, \$8 for alumni and seniors, and \$6 for students and children under 12. Tickets are available at the box office (ext. 3844), or at theatre.georgefox.edu.

Portland Planning

The university has instituted a planning committee at the Portland Center that provides the president and cabinet with specific plans regarding student services at the center. Led by committee chair **Mark Weinert** (Seminary), the group addresses issues including financial aid representation, security, and the need for additional space in the Portland area. The committee meets every two weeks, with its next meeting scheduled for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Portland Center.

Sporting a New Look

The George Fox's athletic website has undergone a design upgrade with added features to make the site more user-friendly. The new home page features "Bruin Highlights," with weekly scores and schedules as well as a comprehensive menu of athletic links. Each of the sports in season is featured in the "Highlights." The new look incorporates design elements created by Peterson & Co., a Texas-based design firm.

First Class

The first class of 40 nursing students began its curriculum this semester, taking three courses specific to the major: nursing fundamentals, nursing fundamentals practicum, and health assessment. While work continues on Hoover Academic Building, where the nursing program will be housed, the Friendsview Retirement Community has volunteered to provide classroom space. In addition, the Chehalem Health and Rehab Center in Newberg has agreed to allow nursing classes in its facility.

Library Art

The Portland Center Library is hosting an opening reception for artist Sandy Gunderson from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 1. Gunderson, a professional artist for 30 years, is a George Fox Evangelical Seminary student. Her pieces, which include paintings and sculptures, will be on display at the Portland Center through the end of the month during regular library hours. Inspiration for many of her works comes from hearing others' spiritual journeys.

COMINGS AND GOINGS



Student Financial Services hired **Catherine Sanchez** as its associate director on Jan. 5. The job presented Catherine with an opportunity to return to George Fox, where she was associate director of financial aid from 1996 to 1998. Before that, she attended Point Loma Nazarene College in San Diego in pursuit of a master's degree in education. She earned a bachelor's degree in business from George Fox in 1988. She and her husband, Tim, live at Tilikum with their 8-year-old son, Dakota. The family attends Newberg Nazarene Church.



The Boise Center welcomed **Kris Thompson** as an admissions counselor this month. Kris joins the university after running her own business, the Ultimate Cup, a specialty coffee shop, in Nampa, Idaho, since 1999. In 2001, she earned a management and organizational leadership degree from the Boise Center. Before that, she attended Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa. She also worked for nine years as an office administrator at her home church, Deer Flat Free Methodist Church, in Caldwell, Idaho. She lives in Nampa with her husband, Tony, and two teenage children, Kindra and Jace.



Judy Deale joined the education department this month as an administrative assistant in the MAT program. For the past six years, Judy has worked as a secretary at Woodburn High School. From 1978 to 1996, Judy and her husband, Jocque, were pastors in several states with the Church of the Nazarene before his death in 1996. Judy grew up in South Africa, where her parents were missionaries, and she attended Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego to study business administration. She lives in Woodburn and has three sons. She attends Athey Creek Christian Fellowship.

Melody Velez (Financial Affairs) has left the university. Her final day was Jan. 17.

MOVERS & QUAKERS

Sandi Gregory is now an admissions counselor and an administrative assistant II in Boise after serving as a graduate and DPS admissions counselor at that location.

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Mark Hall (Political Science) published an article entitled "The Sacred Rights of Conscience: America's Founders on Church and State" in the Fall/Winter 2005 issue of *Oregon Humanities*, published by the Oregon Council for the Humanities. Mark also presented his Chautauqua lecture, "Respecting an Establishment of Religion," at Portland State University on Jan. 12.

Melanie Mock's (Writing/Literature) essay, "From Afar: A Review of International Adoption Memoirs," was published in the Winter 2006 edition of *Brain, Child*.

Sue O'Donnell (Psychology) attended a National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology conference in St. Petersburg Beach, Fla., Jan. 2-5.

"Becoming a Teacher of Literacy: The Struggle Between Authoritative Discourses," written by **Donna Kalmbach Phillips** (MAT) and **Mindy Legard Larson** (MAT) was published in the December 2005 issue of *Teaching Education* (Volume 16 Issue 4).

Ed Higgins (Writing/Literature) had an essay, "Art & Christianity," published in the December 2005 issue of *The NW Drizzle: A Monthly Arts, Music & Culture e-zine* (nwdrizzle.com/drizzle/0512/eh.html). He also has had several poems published, including "wounds" in the December issue of *Lily: A Monthly Online Literary Review* (freewebs.com/lilylitreview/3_1higgins.html); "Houdini's Final Escape" and "The Letter" in the fall 2005 issue of *Contemporary Haibun Online* (poetrylives.com/CHO); and "Sleepless Night" in the August 2005 issue of *Red River Review* (redriverreview.com).

Robin Baker (Provost) is serving on the Student Academic Program Committee for the Council for Christian Colleges. He was one of six individuals asked to serve as an academic accreditor for the council's off-campus study programs. This past fall, the committee examined the Oxford Scholars Program, giving Robin the opportunity to visit with four George Fox students at Oxford.

IN THE FAMILY

Mark Doyle (Biology) continues to struggle with intestinal problems and has not significantly improved in several months. Prayers are requested for Mark and his wife Beth.

BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 23 Bill Buhrow
John Johnson
Jan. 24 Barry Hubbell
Jan. 26 Tory Cole
Jan. 27 Karen Henry
Jan. 30 Manfred Tschan
Jan. 31 Missy Terry
Feb. 1 Bonnie Jerke
Andrea Byerley
Feb. 2 Dave Adrian
Russ DeVore
Feb. 3 Mark McLeod-Harrison
Carolyn Stansell
Feb. 4 Chris Schlarbaum
Feb. 5 Josh Cadd
Jeremy Stephens

CALENDAR

Monday, Jan. 23

Newberg Chapel
Spring Theological Conference
Larry Shelton, 10:40 a.m.
"How Christ's Death Saves My Life"

Spring Theological Conference
Panel Presentation, Hoover 104, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 24

Faculty Lunch, Noon

Gary Witherall, Operation Mobilization
"How to Make My Life Count"
Hoover 104, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 25

Newberg Chapel
Spring Theological Conference
Phil Smith, 10:40 a.m.
"Your Greatest Enemy Wants to Make Peace"

Thursday, Jan. 26

Spring Theatre Production
The Last Night of Ballyhoo
Wood-Mar Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 27

Faculty Business Meeting
Hoover 104, 10:40 a.m.

Spring Theatre Production
The Last Night of Ballyhoo
Wood-Mar Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 28

Spring Theatre Production
The Last Night of Ballyhoo
Wood-Mar Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 30

Newberg Chapel
Winter Serve Reports, 10:40 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 31

All-Employee Lunch, Noon

Wednesday, Feb. 1

Newberg Chapel
Brad Lau, 10:40 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 2

Spring Theatre Production
The Last Night of Ballyhoo
Wood-Mar Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 3

Faculty Committee Meetings, 10:40 a.m.

Sports Hall of Fame Dinner
Klages Dining Room, 4:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Puget Sound
Wheeler Sports Center, 6 p.m.

Spring Theatre Production
The Last Night of Ballyhoo
Wood-Mar Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. Puget Sound
Wheeler Sports Center, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 4

Alumni Celebration Brunch
Klages Dining Room, 10:30 a.m.

Homecoming Buffet
Klages Dining Room, 4:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Pacific
Wheeler Sports Center, 6 p.m.

Spring Theatre Production
The Last Night of Ballyhoo
Wood-Mar Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. Pacific
Wheeler Sports Center, 8 p.m.