Remember the name: Gina Ochsner. She’s the most critically acclaimed fiction author ever to come out of George Fox — and she’s only 32.

In the last four years, her short stories have won nearly two dozen national and international literary awards.

“The list is stunning,” says George Fox Professor of English Ed Higgins. “This kind of thing is nearly impossible.”

One of her biggest awards was the Flannery O’Connor Award that the 1992 graduate received for her first book of short stories, The Necessary Grace to Fall, published this year by The University of Georgia Press. A glowing April review of the book in The Oregonian newspaper describes her as “perched to become Oregon lit’s new It Girl.”

What makes Ochsner’s accomplishments even more remarkable is the fact she alternates between dialogue and diaries as a stay-at-home mother. While raising three children severely limits her writing time, it also provided her inspiration. A near-death experience during the birth of her first child transformed her from a frustrated graduate student to a rising young star in the literature world.

Undergraduate Drivel

Ochsner’s George Fox classmates might remember her as Gina Withnell, a quiet, freckled, academically minded language arts teaching major who participated in drama and choir.

She recalls her George Fox experience with fondness and her undergraduate writing with horror. She expresses gratitude none of the “drivel” from that era remains in her mentors’ possession.

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Learning by Failing

“Learning by Failing”

Learning by Failing

“Learning by Failing”

Learning by Failing

“I don’t write stories that workshop well,” she says, describing the sessions where writers meet to critique one another’s work. Sometimes the feedback is

see Gina’s Gift, page 5
Ankeny's Named Volunteers of the Year

Since I am committed to personally interviewing each candidate for a full-time faculty position at George Fox University, a significant amount of time each spring semester is given to that activity. At the end of the season, I find it helpful to think about the recruitment process as well as the profile of the new class. Who are the people joining us in August, and did the process work?

The procedure we follow in a nationwide search for faculty members is long and, sometimes, cumbersome. Position openings usually are posted sometime between November and January. Campus interviews begin as early as February and continue through May, with a few occurring as late as June.

The process is centralized in the provost’s office, with the undergraduate and graduate deans coordinating each search. The academic deans are the first, and primary, screen for applications that are received, but no person is hired without interviews with the appropriate dean, the provost, and me. Outstanding secretarial support in the academic offices coordinates this lengthy, complicated process.

One reason I take time to reflect on this process is that it is also expensive, both in dollars and in time and effort of many people. Much of the work needs to be done away from standard business hours.

So, how did it go? The answer is complicated. In an institution the size of George Fox University, we hire approximately a dozen new faculty members each year. When I consider this question, I see mental images of the people we hire and know the answer.

If I shared with you summary statements for each person hired, you would have a more detailed picture of the results of the process. But what can I tell you in a few lines? I will share a couple generalizations and observations from outside the process.

Recently, a team of three scientists from three institutions outside the Pacific Northwest visited George Fox University. They commented generously about the high quality of new, young faculty members we have in our science and engineering areas. Likewise, each fall semester Tom Johnson, professor of biblical theology, teaches a Christian theology course to all our new faculty members. He sees these people in an academic setting and reports high interest and ability in these new faculty members.

The most important evidence I see of a successful search process is that faculty members at George Fox University come because they are called by God to serve here. A part of every interview I have with prospective faculty members is a discussion of their walk with the Lord. We hire people who are here because God wants them here. This results in faculty members who support and further our George Fox mission and who take seriously the call to high-quality education and the centrality of the integration of Christian faith with learning. The process works and is definitely worth it.
Something Old, Something New

The University’s engineering program will get a lift from a major remodel of Wood-Mar Hall

The new and the old are merging as George Fox University’s expanding engineering major gets a new home in historic Wood-Mar Hall. The three-story Old Mac, constructed in 1911, is being renovated on two floors to house a growing engineering program that will graduate its first seniors in 2004. The program is the only one at a Christian college in the western United States that offers both electrical and mechanical concentrations.

Development of the engineering program is receiving significant financial support through a $500,000 grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation for equipment and a $400,000 grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust for building renovation.

The building’s new use undoubtedly would please Herbert Hoover, the nation’s 31st president, who was an engineer by training and a student of Friends Pacific Academy, which became George Fox University.

Hoover visited the building, and for decades Wood-Mar Hall housed a large bronze plaque honoring the former student and president.

Engineering program director Bob Harder likes to point out that Hoover considered engineering a most noble calling.

“To the engineer falls the job of clothing the bare bones of science with life, comfort and hope,” Hoover once said.

The renovation will recylce the once-doomed building back into teaching and laboratory space — something it housed for decades. In recent years, the first and second floors have contained administrative and service areas — and no classrooms.

The building’s third floor was renovated in 1995 and houses the remodeled (that historically themed) Wood-Mar Auditorium. The estimated $1.2 million construction project to convert the more than 11,000 square feet of space is expected to be complete in January 2003. Already, campus crews have gutted the interior of the bottom two levels, with the project now awaiting contractors to rebuild the interior for the new use.

That new use will include first-floor labs for mechanics, mechanical engineering research, energetics, electronics, microprocessors, robotic controls, and computer-aided design, as well as a project engineering shop. Six faculty offices and an electrical engineering research lab are on the second floor, along with new space for the Office of the President and the Office of Academic Affairs.

The Wood-Mar Hall location for expansion of the engineering program made sense: the 91-year-old building is literally buttedress by the adjacent Edwards-Holman Science Center, which currently houses the initial engineering program.

In the current renovation, the original westside access to the landmark building will be reopened. Originally designed as the main and front entrance, the doors have been closed since the late 1950s, replaced by the north and south entrances as the only access points. The original entrance space was converted into administrative and service offices on both the first and second floors. That space is being recaptured for the entrance, and the side doors will be closed to allow for construction of additional laboratory and office space.

George Fox University’s 3:2 engineering program was started in 1987. Under that plan, students attend George Fox for three years, taking most of their general education, mathematics and science, and lower-division engineering courses.

In doing so, they qualify to then transfer to any engineering school, where they spend two years in any one of several engineering curricula, including aerospace, chemical, civil, computer, electrical, or mechanical engineering, or engineering management.

Students completing the five-year program receive two bachelor of science degrees: an applied science degree from George Fox after their four years, and an engineering degree from the engineering school after their fifth year. More than 100 students have completed degrees in this way.

Now, George Fox is offering a four-year bachelor of science degree in engineering (B.S.E.), with concentrations in either electrical or mechanical engineering.

According to Harder, about 45 students are expected to be enrolled in the program this fall, which began accepting students in the fall of 2000.

Students take a total of 129 credit hours to earn their degree, with core engineering courses offered the first two years, after which they concentrate on electrical or mechanical engineering as juniors and seniors.

An eventual enrollment of 90 students in the engineering major is projected. While the majority of engineering students are choosing the four-year major, the 3:2 applied science program will still be an option.

The four-year phase-in of the major includes the hiring of three additional engineering faculty. Dr. Harder, the University’s professor of mechanical engineering, is the engineering program director and has been teaching at George Fox since 1988. In 1995, John Natzke, who earned a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, was hired as associate professor of electrical engineering.

This fall, Mike Magill, who has a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University, will join the department as professor of mechanical engineering. Dr. Magill comes from Purdue University, where he has been a faculty member for the past seven years. Also this fall, a search will be conducted for two more engineering faculty, one of whom will be from the electrical engineering field.

Junior engineering majors Matthew Mickelson and Melissa Workman are members of the first class of students who will graduate with bachelor of science degrees in engineering in 2004. In January 2003, the first and second floors of gutted Wood-Mar Hall will house new engineering classrooms and labs, thanks to a $1.2 million portion of a recent capital campaign effort. The Office of the President will also be located on the second floor.

Administration News

Cook Takes Indiana Post

Andrea Cook, vice president for enrollment services, has accepted the position of vice president for institutional advancement at Goshen College in Indiana. Her last day was July 3.

Cook served at George Fox for 15 years in several positions in continuing education and enrollment services. During her tenure, enrollment almost quadrupled. About 100 employees gathered to say goodbye at her farewell reception in June.

Vice Presidents Alter Titles and Duties

George Fox’s top administration has been reorganized to allow President Dave Brands to spend more time on external affairs.

Mike Goins, vice president for financial affairs, will continue to oversee all financial matters and is adding Student Financial Services to his responsibilities.

Robin Baker, formerly vice president for academic affairs, is now provost and will oversee all internal functions of the University. Her responsibilities include student life as well as academic personnel and programs. Brad Lau continues as vice president for student life and will report to Baker.

Dana Miller, formerly vice president for university advancement, will oversee all external affairs as vice president for marketing and advancement. In addition to his previous advancement responsibilities, she is responsible for admission and marketing functions.

As part of the change, President Brands this fall will begin meeting monthly with representatives of approximately 10 university-wide committees such as technology, marketing, facilities, registration, and enrollment. Other committees will be formed later this year.
Top Teachers

Caitlin Corning and Steve Delamarter earn the 2002 Faculty Achievement Awards

Faculty Achievement Award for Undergraduate Teaching
Queen of History—Leads Crusade Against Historical Misperceptions

On special occasions — such as her birthday or when she teaches about the last Russian ears — history professor Caitlin Corning wears her tiara to class. It’s costume jewelry given to her by students who have christened her the “Queen of History.” At age 34, she’s youthful royalty and one of the youngest-ever winners of the Faculty Achievement Award. Cheerful and lively, she enjoys showing modern feature films in class and ripping them apart. You can rile her by mentioning Braveheart.

“I hate that movie,” says Corning. “I can’t watch it. There are few historical films worse than that one.” She can list dozens of inaccuracies, including the costumes and sequence of events. “If you want history,” she says, “don’t go to Hollywood. There’s a big difference between the popular notion of history and reality.”

Corning became infatuated with history in grade school as she studied ancient Egypt. She considered a career in archaeology but found she was allergic to dust. “Now I get to work with it after they’ve cleaned it up.”

After finishing her undergraduate degree at Seattle Pacific University, she earned a doctorate at the University of Leeds in England, where she examined the relationship between the early Celtic and Roman churches in the seventh and eighth centuries. She finds there’s a tendency to romanticize and project modern ideals on the early church, just as people like to idealize and mythologize the values of the American founders.

“Everybody likes to think there was a time that things were perfect,” she says. “If we went back and talked to people then, we’d learn it wasn’t perfect. We want to go back to something that never really existed. It’s more helpful to go back to what really happened. Truth is much more helpful than fantasies.”

Corning has found her dream job as a professor. “They pay me to talk about history,” she says. “I do it all the time anyway. I really love working with the students — challenging them to ask, how do we know what we know about history when we can’t always trust our sources?”

Corning shares her enthusiasm for seeking historical truth in both general-education Western civilization classes and specialized, upper-division courses that cover subjects such as English history and medieval Europe.

Her students appreciate her narrative approach to teaching. “We are not there to absorb facts but to relive stories that have shaped our present day world,” says one student who nominated Corning for the faculty award.

“He devotes time to all students, not simply those in his instructed classes.”

That commute ended in 1997 when George Fox asked him to choose one vocation or the other. After 26 years in pastoral ministry as a youth, music, associate, and senior pastor, he stepped out of the pulpit. Teaching at George Fox Evangelical Seminary became his ministry. As the 2002 Faculty Achievement Award winner for graduate teaching, it appears his choice has been rewarded.

“I tried for a long time to keep one foot in academia and one in pastoral ministry,” he says. “Then the Lord showed me that it’s OK for me just to be a professor. Frankly, I think I’m a much better professor than I was a pastor.”

His students appreciate his decision. “Dr. Delamarter goes out of his way to aid and assist students at all levels,” says one student who nominated him for the award. “He devotes time to all students, not simply those in his instructed classes.”

The spiritual formation course he designed and taught on spirituality and creation was raved about by Seminary students for months after the class ended. One said the class “should be a required course for all who seek to know God.”

The Old Testament professor also is the high-tech visionary at the Seminary. He’s the director of the Seminary’s Lilly Grant Endowment, a $300,000 gift being used to bring technology into the Seminary’s education programs. He’s guiding the creation of an Internet component for the Doctor of Ministry Program that will use Web pages, chat rooms, and e-mail. Whether it’s in the class or online, Delamarter has found his place of ministry.

— Rob Felton
Gina’s Gift
continued from page 1

useful and other times “it’s the blind leading the blind and not being very nice about it.”

“Everything Came Together”

In 1996, Ochsner brought her son Connor into the world and nearly lost her own life. Complications from the birth caused extensive bleeding, and two weeks later her doctor told her she was dying. She signed a will and was asked if she’d like to meet with a priest before going into a last-chance surgery.

“I said, ‘This can’t really be it. I’m only 25.’”

She says the experience made her reconsider what kind of a life she wanted to live.

“God is so good,” she says. “I had no idea what purpose he had for me — probably to be the best mother possible to this little boy.”

“Since I’ve had children, everything has come together,” she says. “I attack things with a greater sense of urgency. I realize now the horizon could be a lot closer than most people realize.”

Mortality became a theme in her stories. “Maybe I’m trying to write my way to an understanding of death,” she says.

Ochsner eams praise for her treatment of what might be a rather morbid, depressing topic. “She is playful and fearless in her search to understand life through suicide, terminal illness, violence and war,” says the reviewer for The Oregonian. “Yet, she possesses an innate light-heartedness that takes the edge off the Grim Reaper’s scythe … Her lack of intrusiveness is refreshing; it conveys a profound wisdom that’s almost spooky coming from a writer who’s barely 30.”

She describes herself as a writer of faith. “I have a deep abiding and intense faith in a benevolent and personal God who’s in charge. I do think it comes through.”

Children and Writing

She and her husband, Brian, raise their children in a tree-shaded cul-de-sac in Keizer, Ore., a suburb of Salem. She seems an unhappier mother. Sitting on her deck on a recent June day, she calmed child care two nights a week. Most of her work is accomplished then.

Although she can’t write much while watching children, she snatches every opportunity to read. Ochsner picked up the love of literature from her mother, Gayle, a substitute English teacher with a passion for Shakespeare. Ochsner recalls reading even during childhood house cleaning chores. “I remember I had a book propped up on the toilet while bowl washing,” she says. “I’m still like that.”

All Things Russian

Walk into Ochsner’s kitchen and the book lying open near the stove is as likely to be a Russian grammar book as a cookbook.

In preparation for a monthlong trip to Russia, she spent this spring brushing up on her Russian language skills — just one of the Slavic languages she studied at Iowa State. She’s also teaching the language to her children, figuring it’ll help them “think around a problem in a couple different ways.” Her fascination with the Russian and other icy northern cultures appears frequently in her work and in her everyday life. Her biological family — she was adopted as an infant — is mostly Danish, but includes some Russian heritage. Her 1-year-old daughter bears a Russian name, Natasha, and the family attends a Russian Orthodox church.

Family and Business

After years of unsuccessfully entering about 50 writing contests annually, her writing began winning awards. Ochsner’s New York-based editor who also handles the works of influential Czech writer Franz Kafka — approached her after she won her first major award in 1999, an international short-story contest sponsored by an Irish publishing company. A book of the prize-winning short stories was published using the name of her contribution: From the Bering Strait. Ochsner used her prize money to travel to Ireland with her husband to meet the editor.

Despite his initial concern, her father is now her No. 1 fan. Ochsner says. Still, he wishes she’d write a story Brad Pitt could star in. “He tells me, ‘This literature is all fine, but where’s the action?’”

Within, a successful Williamette Valley auto dealer, followed her book sales ranking on Amazon.com closely and did his part by buying numerous copies and spending the prize money on top books posters. Ochsner says she doesn’t want to know about the sales numbers. “To me, it’s a superstitious thing.”

by watches Soren, her 2-year-old, stir her coffee with his toy kitchen utensils freshly made from the cup.

When she says “the divine brushes with the very ordinary.”

“Most people don’t examine their lives until absurd, baffling things happen to them,” she says. “A lot of people read because they don’t want to examine their lives. It’s an escape. Yet they’re willing to examine someone else’s life.”

She’s asked if she thinks about how the reader will respond to her work as she is writing.

“No, never,” she says. “I’m just having fun. I tell my husband if it stopped being fun, I would stop. Life’s too short to not do what you love.”

— Rob Felton

Excerpts from “Cartography of a Heart,” a short story included in The Necessary Grace to Fall

“Because O’Neil’s heart had been skipping and had threatened to give up altogether, the doctors decided to give him a new one. O’Neil was not a very important man. He had fought in a war, an unpopular one, and had in fact already nearly died several times. For these reasons and a few more he would have been hard-pressed to name, O’Neil was tempted to call off the replacement procedure.

“Finding a perfectly fitting heart proved to be even harder than the doctors thought it would be. For several months O’Neil waited, not to think about the tightness in his chest or the person who would have to die in order for him to have a new heart. But when the phone rang beside his bed one afternoon he knew even before he picked up the receiver that it was the hospital calling, that someone, the right someone, had at last died.”

All rights reserved © 2000 Gina Ochsner

After nearly dying six years ago during the birth of her first child, author Gina Ochsner has become a rising literary star. “Since I’ve had children, everything has come together,” she says, here with 1-year-old daughter Natasha.
Family Weekend ’02

S
ave the date for George Fox University’s biennial Family Weekend—Nov. 1–3, 2002, an exciting event for parents and families of George Fox students.

• Attend some classes and meet the professors you’ve heard so much about.
• Enjoy the Wind Ensemble concert or see a musical.
• Join your student for some great meals on campus.
• Attend some classes and meet the professors you’ve heard so much about.
• Enjoy the Wind Ensemble concert or see a musical.
• Join your student for some great meals on campus.

For a list of local hotels offering discounts to George Fox families, visit www.georgefox.edu/parents/helpful/into/newberg/hotel.html.

At the conclusion of this form, write:

Grandmother Effect

He contacted the Chicago-based Christian Peacemaker Teams, a project of the Mennonite Church, Church of the Brethren and Friends United Meeting, also known as Quakers. These churches, in the 500-year-old Anabaptist tradition, oppose military service and violence.

“Grandmother Effect”

He joined a team that traveled to the West Bank between April 15 and 29. In theory, the teams have “the grandmother effect,” he said. “If your grandmother is in the room, you don’t misbehave.”

However, his team and other international aid workers weren’t always treated like sweet, little, old ladies. Ambulances in the region often were riddled with bullet holes, Dhynees said, and some aid workers were warned by Israeli soldiers that their cameras would be smashed if they took photographs.

When members of his team joined a van driver to travel from one section of Nablus to another one night with food for 30 families, they were stopped to await a signal to proceed. The signal came, but they were stopped at a second checkpoint by Israeli soldiers who thought Dhynees, whose mother is a Christian Palestinian displaced from Jerusalem in 1948, might be a Palestinian bent on destruction.

Dhynees and the driver were ordered out of the van and told to raise their shirts to reveal any weapons or explosives. When they realized he was an American, Dhynees said, the soldiers seemed embarrassed and told him to put his shirt down while they inspected the vehicle.

The soldiers didn’t permit the van and its food supply to proceed. Dhynees said, citing “security reasons” without being more specific.

He saw physical destruction in Hebron and Ramallah, where the infrastructure is virtually gone in the city of 200,000 where he had lived two years ago.

Yet, Dhynees said, he saw simple humanity in the tears welling in the eyes of an Israeli soldier standing guard near buildings reduced to rubble.

The destruction is feeding resentments that already were high because of Israeli occupation of territories that Palestinians regard as their land, Dhynees said.

“It’s a cycle of violence that leads to suicide bombing, which then gives Israel the motivation to respond with military action,” he said.

He has a feeling of pessimism about the future of the West Bank, Dhynees said, but he also carries feelings of hope.

“Hope is keeping faith in the future and trusting that justice will prevail,” he said.

— Janet Goetz

Alumni Board Elects Melum

Brenda Blaysh Melum attributes her involvement in George Fox’s alumni board to a relative — albeit a distant one.

Melum is the alumni association’s past president, and now, two years after joining the board, Melum is following in his footsteps. She will guide the board in its major objectives for the next two years: engaging nontraditional alumni and developing regional alumni chapters.

Melum’s role involves ensuring the board’s initiatives are accomplished as she leads quarterly meetings of the 21 members and of the board’s executive committee. She’ll also make committee appointments and participate in alumni events such as homecoming.

Melum is a program manager for Mentor Graphics in Wilsonville, Ore. As a student at George Fox, she participated in basketball and tennis while earning a bachelor’s degree in business and economics.

Peacemakers See Conflict Spiral

A George Fox alumnus raised in the Middle East returns to open warfare in the West Bank

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S
hells exploded outside the compound near Nablus in the West Bank, where Allyn Dhynees and other Christian Peacemaker Team members stayed for several nights in April.

Dhynees, 28, of Tigard had taught at a Quaker school near in Ramallah with his wife, Holly, from 1997 to 2000. He had seen tensions escalate between Palestinians and Israelis in the West Bank during those three years, but he saw open warfare in April.

The Dhyneeses returned to Tigard in 2000 so that Holly Dhynees could complete a college degree. Allyn Dhynees is working for Aithey Bros.

The couple continued to follow events in the region they had come to know well.

Allyn Dhynees, who was born in Beirut and baptized in his mother’s Greek Orthodox church when his Indiana-born father taught at American University, moved to Tigard with his parents in 1985.

He later became a Quaker, majoring in international studies at George Fox.

War has been abhorrent to him since his early childhood in Beirut, where he experienced Lebanon’s civil war, he said. As shooting escalated on the West Bank earlier this year, Dhynees said, he felt a calling of faith to return there.

The calling is based on the premise that Christ wasn’t passive in speaking out against the injustices he saw. To bring change, Dhynees said, “we must be actively engaged in nonviolence.”

He contacted the Chicago-based Christian Peacemaker Teams, a project of the Mennonite Church, Church of the Brethren and Friends United Meeting, also known as Quakers. These churches, in the 500-year-old Anabaptist tradition, oppose military service and violence.

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— Janet Goetz

Alumni Association Seeks Award Nominations

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

Nominations must be graduates of any GFU program, including those from the former Western Evangelical Seminary, George Fox College, and Pacific College, and reflecting the ideals of GFU in their commitment to profession, church, and community; and demonstrate support for and sympathy with the mission, goals, and purpose of George Fox University.

To be considered for the 2003 alumni awards, the form must be completed and returned to the Office of Alumni, Parent, and Church Relations by Aug. 15, 2002.

Please call, write, or email the alumni relations office at George Fox University, 1414 N. Meridian St. #6049, Newberg, OR 97132, 503-554-2114, sphp@georgefox.edu.

Final selections will be made by the Alumni Board of Directors.
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MARRIAGES

Theodore Baldwin (G91) and Kathleen Grote, March 16, 2002, in Bremerton, Wash.

Sally Johnson (G95) and Kent Moore, March 16, 2002, in Hillsboro, Ore.

Jennifer Hawkins (MAT97) and Bertrand Maurice, Dec. 16, 2001, in Portland.

Amy Dayton (MAT08) and Shane Robinson, Nov. 30, 2001, in Pendleton.

Chris Regnolus (G96) and Joshua Brooks, July 14, 2001, in Kennewick, Wash.

Lisa Bertolotto (G99) and Quinn Mulvany, Aug. 1, 2001, in Vale.

Anna McBurt (G99) and James Chertick, Nov. 10, 2001, in Blaau, N.Y.

Jonathan Williams (G99) and Carol Walter (G90), June 8, 2002, in Battle Creek, Mich.

Eric Beasley (G00) and Karenena Comb, July 21, 2001, in Newberg.

Carrie Russo (MAT01) and Karl Thienes, Jan. 15, 2002, in Portland.

BIRTHS

Spencer (W87) and Jill Jones, a boy, Ryan Leaman, March 20, 2002, in Salem, Ore.

Jeffrey (G00) and Barbara (McCuen) (G00) Lincoln, a girl, Jessica Jady, Jan. 1, 2002, in Hillsboro, Ore.

Scott (G91, MAT94) and Leslie (Herrick) (G95) Curtis, a boy, Mitchell Scott, Sept. 26, 2002, in Newberg.

Kirk (G91) and Debbie (Sitz) (G93) Mylander, a girl, Ashley Kay, May 26, 2002, in Portland.

Tina (Palaiske) (G02) and Matthew Lee, a girl, Hannah Joy, April 8, 2002, in Portland.

Lisa (Rena) (G93) and Jeff Knipe, a girl, Noelle Nicole, April 1, 2002, in Portland.

Brian (G93) and Kathleen Thomas, a boy, Isaac MacKay, Jan. 29, 2002, in Portland.

Lisa (Summers) (G95) and Robert Beuter, a boy, Keldon Julius, Jan. 4, 2002, in Kirkland, Wash.

Christina (Monckton) (G96) and Bryan Woodward, a boy, Peter Andrew, Nov. 24, 2001, in Portland.

Heidi (Hughes) (G96) and Justin Monuteaux, a boy, Elijah Truth, Jan. 22, 2002, in Beaverton.


DEATHS

Margaret (Coulson) Duces (G46), March 31, 2002, in Newberg.

Corey Sanders (G46), April 27, 2002, in Danville, Texas.


Jeve Cook Fox (GES93), May 21, 2002, in Dallas, Ore.

Key
G: Graduated
M: Masters
Ed.D: Doctor of education
Ph.D: Doctor of philosophy

ANITA CIRULIS

The 2002 Class of Bruin inductees attended their 50-year reunion May 4, 2002. Members of the class of 1952 participated in a celebration dinner, a breakfast sponsored by the Office of Estate and Planned Giving, a campus tour, a Celebration of Memories receives, and a banquet sponsored by Friends of Marrow. The highlight of the weekend occurred when 16 alumni donned regalia to lead the procession of graduates in the 5 p.m. commencement ceremony, where they were honored by President David Brandt.
Ryan Dearinger earned an odd national record by not having the good sense to dodge pitches that whiz at him at up to 90 miles an hour

Black-and-Blue Baseball

It takes something between courage and recklessness to stand in one place while a man batters a very hard projectile at you. Baseballs leave marks.

Baseball season is a tough time to be Ryan Dearinger this spring became known as the hitter who kept getting hit by pitches. Most college baseball players get hit fewer than five times in a season. Dearinger got smacked five times in one doubleheader.

By the time the 2002 season ended, the senior second baseman had been hit 33 times, collecting dozens of bruises and a curious national record. The previous NCAA Division III single-season record of 29 was held by an unfortunate fellow named U. Headley of Ferrum College (Va.).

“IT’s not the kind of record you go after intentionally,” says Dearinger. “Hey, sometimes it hurts.”

Taking One for the Team

Opposing pitchers didn’t try to hit Dearinger. When a pitcher hits a batter, he is penalized by having the batter advance to first base.

That’s why Dearinger’s unique ball magnetism was useful to the Northwest Conference champion Bruins. His on-base percentage was a highly successful .500 — more than six times his 1991 ninth, one spot short of All-American recognition. He was an NCAA Division III all-region selection at his position.

The Art of Getting Hit

A batter cannot try to get hit. Umpires who sense a batter leaned into a pitch — or didn’t try to get out of the way — will not send the batter to first base.

“There’s an art to getting hit,” says Dearinger, “but it’s not something most players actually work on.”

Bruin coach Pat Bailey doesn’t teach his players how to get hit. “We talk about how to get out of the way,” he says. “When I get hit [as a player], it wasn’t fun. You have to be pretty tough to stand in there and get hit. He got hammered a couple times.”

In 2001, even as a part-time starter, Dearinger led the conference by getting hit 10 times. In 2002, for every five times he went to bat, he got hit once. Obviously, Dearinger has the technique down.

He starts by positioning himself almost on top of home plate. “I do crowd the plate,” he says. “But that’s always been my hitting style. Pitchers just have to know that if they come inside on me they’re taking a chance.”

Pitchers who see Dearinger so close to the plate often try to back him up by throwing to his side of the strike zone. “You can’t back out,” he says. “You’ve got to be willing to hang in there if a pitch is coming at you. That’s not easy when some of the guys in our league can bring it up there at 90 miles an hour, but I’ve always had a little of that bulldog mentality.”

And finally, you’ve got to make some sort of effort to get out of the way — or at least make it look that way to the umpire. I don’t dive into the ball, as some people have accused me of doing. You’ve got to twist your body away from the pitch or turn your back on it, but you don’t jump back from the plate. You take it in the back or on the upper arm.”

The Scholar-Athlete

Dearinger transferred to George Fox from Tacoma Community College. “George Fox has the whole package,” he says. “Athletically, spiritually, academically. I came here because of good coaching and a strong baseball team, a Christ-centered approach to everyday that happens here, and a challenging academic program that stimulates your thinking and learning. I have grown so much personally that I can’t imagine having gone anywhere else.”

A history major and political science minor, Dearinger completed his 15th season as the Bruins’ track and field mentor.

On the men’s side, freshman Matt Gassaway of Washougal, Wash., tossed the javelin 193-07 in the nationals to finish ninth, one spot short of All-American recognition. He was an NCAA Division III all-region selection at his position.

The Men’s Tennis

The men’s tennis team finished with a 2-13 record and eighth place in the Northwest Conference tournament.

No. 5 single player Joe Sanchez, a junior from Roseburg, Ore., was named First Team All-Conference. No. 2 player Dan Hough, a freshman from Canby, Ore., posted the best singles record on the team with a 7-6 mark.

Rick Cruz completed his fourth year as the team’s coach with a 16-44 overall record.

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