

LIFE

*George Fox
University*

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The Man Behind the Name

George Fox University bears the name of a charismatic Englishman who 350 years ago earnestly sought the voice of Christ, challenged a corrupt religious establishment, and inspired a quiet but influential religious movement.

His name is everywhere at our university. It's written in flowing cursive script on the eight-foot sign at the entrance to the Portland Center. It's on the two-inch parking permits affixed to hundreds of car windshields in the Newberg campus parking lots. It's on business cards, baseball caps, dormitories, and diplomas.

It's enough to cause an inquisitive person to ask the obvious question ...

Who was George Fox?

Ask some incoming freshmen and you'll get a few blank stares. Returning students do better. But judging from the responses to an informal poll of students, there are some misconceptions about the university's name-sake mixed in with the truth.

"He's a famous Quaker leader." True.

George Fox is often called the founder of the Quaker awakening that occurred 350 years ago in England. The Quakers officially are known as the Friends. One explanation for the Quaker nickname is that early critics mocked them for the way they shook when they felt the Holy Spirit moving them to speak in worship services.

Fox didn't set out to create a new church denomination. He was a lonely young man deeply depressed by the emptiness of established religion in the mid-1600s. It was an unsettling time. The country had been torn apart by a civil war. Economic injustice was rampant. Many of the state church leaders were actually political or family appointees who likely had no sense of spiritual calling.

During his four-year spiritual search, Fox often walked alone at night and holed up in hollow trees to study the Bible and pray. He memorized nearly the entire Scriptures. He unsuccessfully sought counsel from priests, including one who counseled him to "take tobacco and sing psalms." He declined.

At age 23, Fox had what he called an "opening." "For I saw there was none among them all that could speak to my condition ... I had nothing outwardly to help me, nor could I tell what to do; then, oh! then I heard a voice which said, 'There is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition': and when I heard it, my heart did leap for joy."

Fox came to understand Christ was more than a historical figure, but also a continuous divine presence any

believer could sense and follow without assistance from pastors, priests, or popes.

"Essentially, Fox pursued the personal reality of religious experience as opposed to either ritual religion or adherence to a particular set of beliefs," says Dick Sartwell, director of the Friends Center at George Fox Evangelical Seminary. "Quakers are not the only ones to believe you can commune with the divine. Many taught it before and since, but it had great significance for the church at that time."

This revelation inspired him to call others to find the same "inward light" of Christ. He became a traveling preacher and social reformer, challenging others to follow the voice of Christ in their religious and social lives. Many responded, and within a generation 50,000 called themselves Friends. They were characterized by their passionate pursuit of God's voice and their commitment to simplicity, social justice, and nonviolence.

"Fox was a charismatic leader who had a great vision and a capacity to gather other people around him ... people from across the social strata," says Arthur Roberts, a

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New Facility Opening in Salem

Seeking to meet the needs of its graduate and professional studies students in the mid-Willamette Valley, George Fox this November will open a center in south Salem.

The newly leased building — to be called the Salem Center — has been remodeled to include three classrooms with a total capacity of 100, as well as computer facilities, four counseling rooms with observation areas, a student lounge, and four offices. Three professors and a site director are expected to have offices at the center.

George Fox currently offers classes in Salem for about 75 students using classrooms at two Salem churches.

"This is good news for students who want a George Fox education and who live in Salem, Albany, Corvallis, and elsewhere in the region," says George Fox Provost Robin Baker. "We'll be able to provide better service to the students we currently have, and we hope to offer other programs in the future."

George Fox currently offers four degrees in Salem: a master of arts in teaching, a master of arts in counseling, a bachelor's in management and organizational leadership, and a bachelor's in social and behavioral studies.

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George Fox Again in Top Tier of Rankings

George Fox University continues to be ranked as a first-tier university by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2003 edition of "America's Best Colleges."

In the rankings, released to the public Sept. 13, George Fox ranks 19th in the west region in the "Universities-Master's" category. Thirty-three universities are listed in the top tier. There are 572 universities (126 in the West) classified as Universities-Master's. These institutions provide a full range of undergraduate and master's level programs, but few, if any, doctoral programs.

This is the second year George Fox



has been in the Universities-Master's category. Last year, George Fox ranked 17th. Before making the switch to the new category, George Fox in 2000 ranked first in academic reputation among Western regional liberal arts colleges (now called "Comprehensive Colleges-Bachelor's").

"These rankings don't reflect all the intangibles involved in a college experience, but they are an influential resource for many prospective students," says George Fox President David Brandt. "We

work hard to make George Fox a place where academic scholarship and Christ-centered spirituality are nurtured. It's gratifying to have *U.S. News* recognize the academic quality of our university."

The rankings consider six factors: peer assessment (25 percent), graduation and retention rates (25 percent), faculty resources (20 percent), student selectivity (15 percent), financial resources (10 percent), and alumni giving (5 percent).

The rankings, including the component information on each school's score, is available online at www.usnews.com.

This is the 14th year George Fox University has been ranked as one of "America's Best Colleges" by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Tapia and Hoover Named Employees of the Year

Shelley Tapia serves as an administrative secretary in the student life office, working with housing and residence life and supervising the office's student workers. Ginger Hoover oversees a staff of 12 and more than 100 student employees responsible for keeping campus facilities clean. Despite their dissimilar roles, they share much in common, including recognition as George Fox University's employees of the year for 2002.

Hoover, a 20-year employee — 18 years as superintendent of custodial services — was named administrative staff employee of the year. Tapia, who has worked for her alma mater since graduating from George Fox in 1991, received support staff employee of the year honors.

Co-workers praise both for their servant hearts. "Never manifesting a superior attitude" is the way Hoover was described by one of her nominators. "Never treats anyone as inferior" are the similar words used of Tapia.



Ginger Hoover



Shelley Tapia

Hoover and Tapia were singled out for their love of students and for sharing their lives with them. Both have led student serve trips a number of times. Hoover helps mentor international students and Tapia is "always ... cheerful and ready to help students no matter what the question or problem."

Hoover was cited for "long, loyal service," for working "beyond the call of duty," for her involvement with and care for her co-workers and for helping initiate the Staff Development Committee.

Tapia, who also holds a master's degree in counseling psychology from George Fox Evangelical Seminary, was commended for her attention to detail and the thoroughness of her work; for being faithful, humble, genuine, and "a great example of Christian love, patience, kindness and a peaceful spirit"; and for her "many selfless years."

The employee recognition program was started nine years ago. Recipients receive a plaque and a \$250 cash award.

PRESIDENT'S PEN

What's in a Name?

Names have been important throughout history. In the beginning chapters of Genesis, we read that the names *Adam* and *Eve* had meanings. *Adam* means "seed," or "man," and *Eve* means "living," because she would become the mother of all the living.

The biblical record, especially in the Old Testament, regularly gives the meaning of people's names. Our contemporary national culture doesn't put the same value on meanings of names, but we continue to name children carefully — grandmother's name is used as the middle name of a newborn girl, or a new son becomes "junior."

University commencements largely are about names. It is most important that each graduate's name is pronounced correctly. Names matter.

Names often are triggers, conjuring up images that are less-than-accurate representations of the real thing. In today's world, words such as *United States* and *Islam* commonly carry emotional baggage in addition to the identification content they bring. Words like *Ivy League* (an athletic conference) carry prestige in the academic world.

Some churches are changing their names because denominational references are thought to carry negative connotations. My wife, Melva, and I grew up in different Mennonite churches. Both now carry names that do not include the word *Mennonite*.

Almost 40 years ago, we worshipped in a Mennonite church on the south side of Chicago in a neighborhood that had no idea what *Mennonite* meant, except for what it saw in this particular, small church. The church defined the Mennonite name for that neighborhood, rather than the name defining the church.

So, what do people think when they hear *George Fox University*? What does it mean, and what are the images it brings to people's minds?

George Fox University is identified with the founder of

the Friends (Quaker) movement, which began 350 years ago in England. Does George Fox, the man, define our contemporary, 21st-century George Fox University, or does the university define him?



President David Brandt

My hope and prayer is that the answer to that question is "both." But there are difficulties associated with this answer. We know the George Fox of the 17th century only indirectly — as interpreted by many different historians and storytellers.

Whose interpretation is right? George Fox called his generation to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. He had intimate

experiences with God and taught that each person could know God and could hear God's voice — that Jesus is present and "knowable."

George Fox University must honor George Fox while it deliberately and gladly honors Jesus Christ. We will focus on the message of salvation and life through Christ, fulfilling our mission "to demonstrate the meaning of Jesus Christ by offering a caring educational community in which each individual may achieve the highest intellectual and personal growth, and by participating responsibly in our world's concerns."

So, what's in a name? The name *George Fox* is ours to define to our generation. Our roots are strong and healthy. Our task is to interpret those roots clearly, without jargon, to a world that needs a Christ-centered George Fox University.

Dave

Serve Day 2002

On the day the nation paused to remember last year's terrorist attacks, George Fox students and employees went into the community to serve



Helping out in Newberg (top to bottom): cleaning wheelchairs at Chehalem Health and Rehab are (left to right) freshmen Diane Medema and Valerie Schull, sophomore Kelly Gill, freshman Rachel Yim, and sophomore Cristina Reyes; freshman Thomas Howe trims a laurel hedge behind the Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends offices; Adam Baron, a residence hall area coordinator, rototills the garden at the Cashman Adult Foster Home; sophomore Becky Boyd prepares to paint a shelter at the Chehalem Skate Park.

The juxtaposition of Serve Day with Sept. 11 wasn't intentional; the date for the annual event was scheduled before the attacks occurred. But it was appropriate — especially in light of President Bush's call for Americans to respond with service.

Gathered in front of Minthorn Hall on a sunny Wednesday morning, Serve Day participants heard a charge from President David Brandt, who quoted a survivor of the World Trade Center collapse: "The backward look at Sept. 11 doesn't give us what the forward look should be."

"We must do more than remember," Brandt said. "On a day when words are hard to find ... it's good to do something — to work on behalf of others."

Also challenging the George Fox community to service was Dean Harry, who graduated from George Fox Evangelical Seminary in 1997 with a master's degree in counseling psychology. After reading from Romans 12:1, Harry made a confession.

"When I graduated, I had no non-Christian friends," he said. "I realized how selfish I was, and I offered my body to God to use however he wanted."

Joining a fire department as a volunteer, he served as a chaplain and then became a firefighter and emergency medical technician.

Harry developed a passion for trauma counseling that led him around the world and — one week after the Sept. 11 attacks — to New York City, where he provided counseling to those working among the ruins of the World Trade Center.

"When I offered my body to God in 1997," he told Serve Day workers, "I never knew it would lead me to Ground Zero."

The one-year anniversary was on the minds of many of the approximately 1,400 students, faculty, and staff who spent the day at 57 service project sites.

"It's the perfect thing in light of Sept. 11," said Jaimi Bogen, a senior from Sheridan, Ore. Bogen spent the day painting the historic building housing Newberg's Chamber of Commerce. "I had wondered, 'What can I do to help?' and this way I feel like I'm doing something."

Mark Pothoff, the university's dean of students, said Sept. 11 was the topic of conversation among his Serve Day team.

Thirty students and nine faculty and staff members worked with Pothoff at the Newberg Public Library, where they moved books, cleaned toys, repaired computers, and did landscaping.

"We talked about it at lunch," he said. "Our Serve Day theme this year is Remember, Reflect, Respond. This is a good way to respond: to give back, to help people."

At Chehalem Care Center, a Serve Day team did yard work, cleaned wheel-



chairs, and visited residents. The events of Sept. 11 influenced a hymn sing with the care center residents, who requested patriotic songs, including the national anthem. In the afternoon, residents and students gathered to plant a tree dedicated to the memory of that day.

Churches, schools, social-service agencies, community and nonprofit organizations — all benefited from the service donated by George Fox volunteers.

But as the university's vice president for student life, Brad Lau, said when sending those volunteers out into the community, those being served weren't the only ones affected by the day.

"As we respond to Sept. 11 through service," he told Serve Day participants, "may we do so with a pure heart. May it be not just a day, but a way of life."

So often, the one most impacted through service is the one who serves."

— Anita Cirulis



"Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know about Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second law of thermodynamics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul regenerated by love."

— Martin Luther King Jr.



Serve Day Ends With Service Commemorating Sept. 11

After spending Sept. 11 serving others, George Fox students, faculty, and staff came together for an evening prayer and worship service. Gathered in Bauman Auditorium and joined by members of the Newberg community, they brought Serve Day to a close and commemorated the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States.

"Take a moment to reflect and picture those you served," said faculty member Tom Head as he addressed the crowd of 400. "Did you catch a glimpse of someone else today? Did you catch a glimpse of someone who came to earth 2,000 years ago?"

Referring to the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus says those who serve the overlooked and ignored serve him, Head reminded the audience "the one we encountered today is the Prince of Peace."

Campus Pastor Gregg Lamm prefaced a multimedia presentation with his own reminder. "Ultimately, it won't be therapy that brings healing," he said. "Some say time is the best healer. Not on your life. The Holy Spirit is the best healer."

Images from Sept. 11, 2001, then filled the screen, coupled with Bible verses about God's character, sovereignty, and promises.

On the stage, artwork by George Fox senior Christine Riker — painted as a response to 9-11 — rested on an easel. A group of students read selections from the Bible, *Time* magazine, and a prayer by St. Francis of Assisi. Members of the audience joined the Worship Band in singing praise choruses and hymns and participated in a responsive reading.

Meredith Dougherty of the student life office gave perhaps the best summary of George Fox University's response to Sept. 11 when she quoted Psalm 34:14: "Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."

"Today we did good," she said simply. "Today we connected with people."

The Man Behind the Name

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Quaker scholar and the university's professor at large.

Today there are an estimated 400,000 Friends in the world, including 100,000 in the United States. Within the movement, beliefs range from Christ-centered evangelical (like George Fox University) to agnostic liberal.

"He founded the university." *False.*

This is the most common misperception among students, who don't realize Fox died 200 years before the university was established by Newberg Quaker settlers. Friends Pacific Academy was established in 1885. Pacific College was added to the academy in 1891 and was renamed George Fox College in 1949. A former college president advocated renaming the school Herbert Hoover College, after the United States president who attended the academy. Instead, a letter to the Pacific leaders from Arthur Roberts — then a recent graduate of the school — convinced them George Fox's historic and religious significance made him a worthy namesake for the college. George Fox College became a university in 1996.

"He looks like the guy on the Quaker Oats oatmeal carton." *Half true.*

It isn't Fox in the picture, but the Quaker Oats Company does use a portrait of a rosy-cheeked fellow wearing the same simple style of hat and clothing that all common men of George Fox's era wore. While many Americans confuse the Amish — who continue to wear quaint homespun styles — and Quakers, Friends today do not wear clothing from that era.

While the Quaker Oats Company has no ties to the Friends movement, it is one example of several unaffiliated businesses that adopted the Quaker name and image because of the Quaker reputation for integrity. Fox and early Friends challenged tradesmen to be honest, to treat their workers fairly, and to eliminate bartering.

"Merchants in northwest England used to take advantage of their customers," says Paul Anderson, professor of biblical and Quaker studies. "Quaker merchants sought to fix fair prices on goods. Even a child could be sent to the store without worry of being overcharged."

Because of their trustworthiness, Friends' businesses — such as the Cadbury family's chocolate company and Barclay Bank — often thrived.

"He came to America and spread his beliefs around the nation." *True.*

Fox came to the colonies twice to preach to the colonists, slaves, and Native Americans. He viewed all as equal before God. The Friends were among the first Americans to free their slaves and were influential in ending the slave trade. The Friends movement flourished when William Penn, a Friend, established a Quaker colony called Pennsylvania.



"He was a philanthropist who gave money to the university." *False.*

Although there are several fine universities in the United States, and the Northwest, named after donors, George Fox University is not one of them.

"He was a football player." *False.*

Side note: Some students incorrectly believe the university does not have a football team because of its pacifistic Quaker ties. The university had football from 1894 to 1969, when the sport was phased out primarily for financial reasons.

"He was an author." *True.*

Fox was a prolific writer. Much of his work has been gathered in eight volumes of collected writings available in the Quaker collection in the Newberg campus library. His *Journal* is the best known. His *Book of Miracles* has recently been republished with a foreword by Professor Anderson.

"He wouldn't take off his hat in front of the king." *Probably false.*

This likely would have been true, but it's uncertain whether Fox ever met Charles I or Charles II. Fox's convictions caused him to reject many social customs he saw as vain or hollow. Taking off his hat for men of higher social standing was one of them. He and other Friends refused to give the mandatory social courtesy because he took seriously the Scripture that said men should seek honor from God, not man.

It didn't stop with his hat.

"As I traveled up and down I was not to bid people Good morrow, or Good evening; neither might I bow or scrape with my leg to any one; and this made the sects and professions to rage ... Oh the blows, punchings, beatings and imprisonments that we underwent for not putting off our hats to men."

Professor-at-large Arthur Roberts compares the culture of George Fox's day to today's rigid Indian caste culture. "It was very class conscious," he says. "These acts constituted civil disobedience to make a point: that God was the authority."

"He was called a heretic." *True.*

Fox and his Friends often were in trouble in England and America. Their beliefs and practices seemed radical, and Fox's uncompromising personality made loyal followers and bitter enemies. He was known to stand up in the midst of a priest's sermon and preach against him.

"Frankly, he disrupted the peace," says Sartwell, Friends Center director. "He considered the whole system corrupt. He felt he was minding God and speaking truth. You could even say he was arrogant. By our modern standards, most people of that century would look arrogant. It was a characteristic of religious debate in that century. Fox was a strong, charismatic leader. Add that to the way they spoke, and he comes across as arrogant to us."

It wasn't just Fox's hat and his preaching that irritated the authorities. Fox refused to pay tithes to the state church because he felt it was false religion. He refused to fight in the army

because he found all war incompatible with the teaching of Christ. His Friends also held unauthorized religious meetings.

When brought before judges, he refused to address them as "your honor." Fox rejected giving or receiving any titles of respect. He also refused to give an oath in court, claiming that Jesus' Sermon on the Mount instruction — to not swear and to let your *yes* be *yes* and your *no* be *no* — was sufficient.

He was thrown in jail eight times, spending at total of seven years in prison.

Anderson is uneasy calling George Fox a heretic. "Troublemaker might be better," he says. "The point is that he refused to go against Scripture in supporting state-sponsored religion and in placing human priests — instead of Christ — between humans and God. Look at his journal. He really comes out as quite orthodox."

George Fox and Today's George Fox University

"George Fox University is an evangelical Christian university with Quaker roots and an ongoing Quaker influence," says President David Brandt. With more than 120 Friends students on campus, the university likely has more undergraduate Friends than any other university in the United States. The university also welcomes students from more than 35 denominations, seeking to prepare them for Christian leadership within their own denomination or however they believe they are called into Christian service.

"The Friends have been among the most inclusive of all Christian movements, affirming the importance of the kingdom of God over and above the particular parts of it, including our own," says Anderson.

"Being known as George Fox University overtly ties us to a tradition that believes God will speak to us," says Brandt. "It also has other distinctives, including our commitment to issues of social justice and reconciliation. These are important to us."

The university's Center for Peace Learning, the new Friends Center, and the presence of Friends in many of the university's departments are concrete examples of the continuing influence of Fox's Friends on campus. Even more powerful is the spiritual legacy.

"There are institutions that just carry a name," says Brandt. "That's not true here. We agree with George Fox's principle that it is possible to know God and hear him. The name is alive."

— Rob Felton

Friends Center Established at Seminary

George Fox Evangelical Seminary is expanding in January to include a new Friends Center for Quaker studies in the Northwest.

It will be a cooperative effort with the Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church. The center's vision statement calls for it to create a center for leadership formation,



Richard Sartwell, director, Friends Center

training, education, clarification of call, and preparation for ministry of evangelical Friends in the Northwest and beyond.

The Friends Center will be housed in the university's Portland Center. The

new center may set the pattern for future denominational centers, says President David Brandt. "The seminary desires to serve the church, and this is an example of the church and seminary partnering together in preparing church leaders."

George Fox will provide the center with office space and classroom facilities, faculty, and administrative support. The church organization will fund salaries and operating expenses, provide Friends instructors, and name a board of directors.

Brandt said planning for the center began nearly two years ago. A study task force was established by the Northwest Yearly Meeting; its recommendations were adopted by the church organization this summer.

The new center will offer courses both through the seminary and through the church organization. Faculty will consist of current seminary and undergraduate faculty affiliated with the Friends Church, and Friends Church pastors and leaders in the area.

The center is expected to eventually have about 25 full-time-equivalent students participating. Currently, the seminary has about eight Friends students enrolled. The Friends Center likely will offer courses for continuing education for current church leaders, and perhaps certificate programs in specific areas.

A function of the new center will be to provide scholarship support for Friends students by raising funds and developing a scholarship program.

Named the center's first director is Richard Sartwell, longtime pastor of the Newberg Friends Church and a member of the George Fox board of trustees. Sartwell served as pastor of the Newberg church for 14 years until resigning in January.

Surprising Find

Lia LaBrant discovers a new source for a cancer drug as a high school student — and new challenges as a George Fox freshman

It may be hard for Lia LaBrant, a freshman at George Fox University this fall, to top her high school academic career. As a senior at Columbia River High School in Vancouver, Wash., she conducted research that uncovered a possible new source for the rare cancer-fighting agent Taxol.

LaBrant's work took first place in the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, held in San Diego in April and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense. Along with a \$16,000 college scholarship, she won an all-expense-paid summer trip to London to attend a two-week international science forum. She also placed first in the state competition, winning a \$4,000 scholarship.

Persistence pays off

Taxol is used to treat ovarian cancer, breast cancer, and Kaposi's sarcoma. It is produced using bark from the Pacific yew tree. LaBrant found that a fungus in a tree in the hazelnut family also produces Taxol — a discovery that may make an alternative source more available and affordable, since fungi can be grown and harvested more quickly.

"She was persistent," says Angela Hoffman, an associate professor of chemistry at the University of Portland who served as LaBrant's mentor during her project. "That's one of the important things a researcher needs to be. She put a lot of time into trying to figure out why things were working."

LaBrant's discovery began with an independent-research project required as part of her high school's International Baccalaureate program.

"I do like putting myself in challenging classes," LaBrant says. "I like to be challenged academically, but I wouldn't say I'm brilliant. I just don't mind working hard, and I'm pretty determined to do what I know I need to do."

Wanting to get an early start on the research requirement, she called her high school biology teacher, Kelly Cameron, the summer before her junior year. Cameron put her in touch with Hoffman.

An unexpected discovery

Although Hoffman provided guidance regarding experimental techniques, LaBrant was the one who did the actual research.

"My list of things that need to be done is not the prescription for what to do," Hoffman says, "so Lia had to figure that out. It's troubleshooting, problem solving — figuring out what the next step needs to be."

Hoffman's team already had found a small amount of Taxol in hazelnut branches and leaves. LaBrant started by trying to identify other trees that also produced the substance. Taking trees from her backyard, she ran tests and was surprised to find evidence of Taxol in four of the five samples.

"When I started, Dr. Hoffman said not to expect anything," LaBrant says. "She said it's possible, but don't be disappointed, because it's not necessarily likely that you'll find it."

When LaBrant's tree samples tested positive, Hoffman suggested she focus on fungi that grow in the trees, since other researchers had found evidence a fungus in the yew tree could also be a source of Taxol. Her research involved a



After discovering a new source for a cancer-fighting drug while still in high school, Lia LaBrant is now a student at George Fox University. The freshman from Vancouver, Wash., plans to prepare for medical school in pursuit of her dream of becoming a pediatric cardiologist.

laborious process of isolating each fungus, growing them first in a petri dish with agar and then in a liquid medium in a flask. After that, she followed a prescribed series of steps to extract a specific chemical.

The research was so complicated that LaBrant initially didn't understand the science behind it. She kept asking questions until she did, however, and in the meantime made another surprising discovery.

"I didn't expect to enjoy it as much as I did," she admits. "It was almost cathartic. I loved the fact I could go in and do the research and at the same time, because some research was more methodical than others, have time to think about everything. I just found it really relaxing, actually, and really interesting."

The road to George Fox

While LaBrant's research results still need to be substantiated, her achievements have garnered plenty of media attention — attention that played a role in her enrollment at George Fox University. An *Oregonian* story last spring about LaBrant caught the eye of GFU biology professor Dwight Kimberly, who noticed she was quoted as saying she would probably attend George Fox in the fall unless she was accepted into Brown University.

He called her and initiated what became a series of conversations. LaBrant, who plans to become a pediatric cardiologist, wanted assurances she could get into a tier-one medical school if she came to George Fox.

"Like a lot of students, she wanted to know what promises I could make. Could she go to Stanford for medical school?" Kimberly recalls. "I said she could go wherever she wanted to go. I told her we have graduate students going to Stanford; we have kids at some of the best schools in the country."

Kimberly also talked about the contrast between a place like Brown and a place like George Fox, "what it means to be in community, that her life could make mine different, and I could make hers different."

"She seemed like a real spunky young lady," he says. "She asked lots of pointed

questions, but I wouldn't give her any promises. 'Your success, if you go to Stanford, will be yours,' I told her. 'My job is to be your advocate. Success or failure depends on you, but we certainly can help you.' I think both of us found each other intriguing."

LaBrant admits her presence at George Fox is "a God thing." Somewhat to her surprise, she is finding herself stretched academically and spiritually, and "little things" are affirming George Fox is where she is supposed to be.

Having enrolled with the intention of eventually transferring, she finds herself reevaluating that plan. "The more I'm here, the less I think of it," she says, "be-

cause I really think this is where I'm supposed to be. There have been a lot of doors that are open that I didn't anticipate."

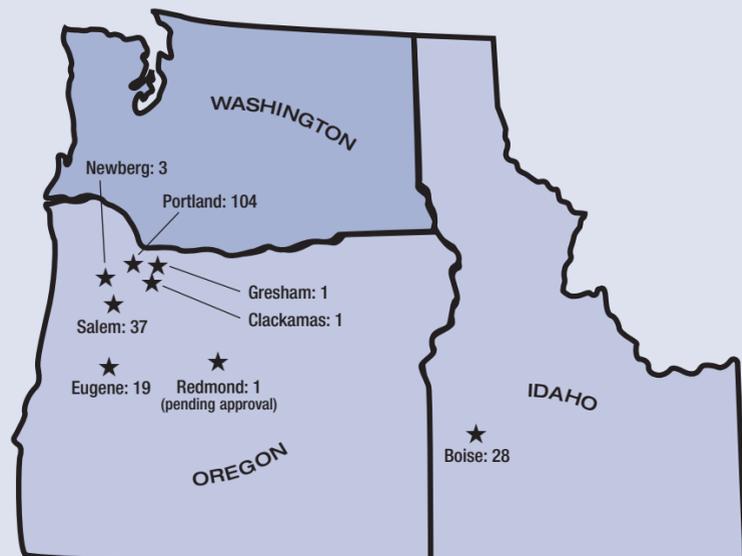
One of those doors likely will be an opportunity to do research at Oregon Health and Science University; Kimberly and his colleagues have connections at the medical school.

"I'll start those conversations after she has a semester under her belt," he says. "I keep calling her a thoroughbred. She wants to run at full blast. I tell her, 'I want you to ease into things and take your time, to enjoy college. We're not here to race to medical school. We're here to enjoy college and experience community.'"

—Anita Cirulis

Department of Professional Studies — Education for the Northwest

No one knew quite what to expect when George Fox created its Department of Professional Studies (then called continuing education) in 1986. It was the first university in the Northwest to offer a bachelor's degree program to students who progressed through classes together in 16- to 20-person cohorts. Within two years, working adults could earn their college degree by attending weekly evening classes and occasional Saturday sessions. Sixteen years later, more than 2,000 adults are alumni of the program, which provides a rigorous academic curriculum designed for adult learners. The graduation rate is 94 percent. The program has been so successful it has been expanded to multiple teaching sites in Oregon and Idaho. More sites are being considered.



This fall, George Fox's Department of Professional Studies celebrated the start of its 100th Portland cohort. Above are the teaching sites and the most recent cohort numbers.

On the Air

George Fox broadcast journalism/communications alumni Scott Jensen and Paul Horton are earning accolades for their work in television news

Of the more than 100 Christian colleges in the United States, only two dozen offer majors in broadcast journalism/communications. Of those, George Fox University is one of just two schools on the West Coast providing students with career preparation in video and television.

Photographer excels at filming key moments

As a television news photographer, Scott Jensen looks for the crucial moments in people's lives — those points in time that tell a story through the natural interactions between people.

His ability to capture those moments on film has garnered him more than 60 awards since he graduated from George Fox, including a regional Emmy and two regional Edward R. Murrow awards. In 2001 he was named Region 5 Photographer of the Year by the National Press Photographers Association, finishing third in a contest for national photographer of the year honors.

Jensen's interest in television news started in high school, spurred by a station in Alaska well known for its photography and the stories it tells. After working as one of its studio camera operators his senior year of high school, he began his search for a college.

"I wanted to stay on the West Coast, I wanted a small Christian college, and I wanted one with television production," he says. Only George Fox University met his criteria.

At George Fox, Jensen was able to tailor his experience to meet his interests. A broadcast news class gave him the opportunity to shoot stories for a weekly cable television show. People working in the field taught his classes. An internship at a local TV station gave him exposure to talented photographers who mentored him and gave him feedback on his work.

"I think George Fox expedited my career," he says. "I got better faster. I probably would have been able to do the work I'm doing now without a college degree, but I wouldn't have been as good as quickly."

After graduating from GFU in 1996, Jensen took just one month to move from an editing position to that of a photographer for KTUU, the Anchorage, Alaska, station where he worked as a high school student.

In 1999, he moved his family to Minneapolis, Minn., where he serves at KARE television station as a staff photojournalist, and his wife, Myrna (Bonar), works as a producer.

At this point in his career, the technical requirements of a photo shoot are second nature to Jensen, leaving him free to focus on telling the story. Often those stories mean he's part of people's lives at crucial moments: the last day of class for a teacher retiring after 30 years, the eight-month journey of parents coping with their child's cancer treatment, and the small but satisfying role a boy with autism played on his high school's basketball team.

Telling those stories has made an impact on him personally.

He recalls, during a family visit, watching his great-uncle talk to a young, physically disabled relative, Bill. Speaking to Bill "just like any other person," the old man told Bill what a good boy he was, that Jesus loves him, that his parents



ADAM BETTCHER



COURTESY: KXLY BROADCAST GROUP

Above: Scott Jensen began his career as a news photographer shooting stories for a weekly cable TV show produced by George Fox students.

Left: Working at the campus radio station, participating in student government, and serving as the announcer for basketball games prepared Paul Horton for working in front of an audience.

Professional Studies Grads Earn Recent Headlines

DPS alum named top young Portland executive

1999 graduate Perry Gruber was named one of Portland's 40 most influential executives under 40 years old by *The Business Journal* of Portland. Gruber, 37, is community affairs manager for Intel Oregon. *The Business Journal* listed Gruber in its Forty Under 40 Awards, which it published Aug. 7. Selection was based upon three criteria: professional accomplishments, community involvement, and professional recognition. Nearly 200 nominations were submitted. Gruber has been a U.S. Marine, a business news reporter for *The Oregonian*, and a press officer for the Bonneville Power Administration. He earned a degree in management and organizational leadership from GFU's Department of Professional Studies (DPS).



MHR graduate named Washington County sheriff

Rob Gordon, a 1988 graduate of George Fox's management of human resources (MHR) degree-completion program, was named Washington County sheriff on Sept. 3. Gordon has 23 years of law enforcement experience and was most recently chief deputy in the Washington County Sheriff's Office. He was named Oregon Jail Manager of the Year in 1998 and 2001.



love him, and that he's always praying for him.

Jensen found himself stepping back from the situation and just observing. He saw his father-in-law listening, too, with tears in his eyes.

"It hit me that this was a crucial moment in this man's life," he says. "I don't know if I would have noticed that if I wasn't in this profession. That kind of moment is what I look for every day when I'm working."

Weatherman finds ways to connect with viewers

Paul Horton admits he was excited to win an Emmy last fall as the best weathercaster in the five-state Pacific Northwest region.

"Spokane is a smaller market, so to beat the guys out of Seattle and Portland — I was pretty pumped up about that," he says.

Equally satisfying to him, however, was being nominated for an Emmy for community service. For five days in May, he camped out in the middle of downtown Spokane, gave live weathercasts morning, noon, and night, and washed cars 24 hours a day. By the end of five days, he had washed a world-record 458 cars — and raised more than \$6,000 to fight child abuse.

A stunt like that is typical of Horton, who enjoys finding ways to connect with viewers.

"I like to challenge myself," he says. "Instead of just reading numbers on the air, I try to create a story about the weather. I'm always thinking of different ways I can keep people interested in the three-minute weathercast."

His methods have ranged from live reports from a regional fair to an investigative report on the accuracy of electronic temperature displays to job swaps with viewers: They give the weather — with coaching by Horton — and he does their job live on the air, whether it's serving in the drive-through at McDon-

ald's, working as a dog groomer, or giving a manicure.

"People want to see someone who's welcoming, fun, and interesting to watch," he says. "This is a great job for getting involved with the community and just being yourself."

Horton is well aware, however, of the importance of getting information to people when the weather turns bad. As a freshman at the University of the Virgin Islands, he saw firsthand the impact of Hurricane Hugo. In fact, that experience sparked his interest in weather reporting.

Returning to the United States, he enrolled at George Fox and selected business as his major. It took an accounting class to convince him of the error of his ways and to redirect him into broadcasting.

In the meantime, he was involved in activities that honed his communication skills: working for the campus radio station, serving as the announcer for men's basketball games, participating in student government — even helping out with Young Life.

"The more you get in front of people," he says, "the more comfortable you are in front of large crowds just being yourself."

After graduating in 1994, Horton started out in the Tri-Cities of Washington. "It was a small market, but that's where you can get all your nerves out of your system and make all your mistakes," he says. A stint as the "nocturnal weatherman" at a station in Seattle followed, where he paid his dues by giving hourly weather updates after infomercials for the Hair Club for Men.

Now the morning and afternoon weatherman for KXLY TV in Spokane, he has no regrets that he switched majors, or that he took the time to become a certified meteorologist by earning his credentials from Mississippi State University.

"It makes a difference," he says, "when you're studying and working in a field you really love."

— Anita Cirulis

ALUMNI NOTES

Norval (G49, GFES72, MEd76) and **Mary (McClintick)** (G49) **Hadley** will be living in Stanton, Calif., where Norval will be chaplain at Quaker Gardens.

Marilyn (Oldenburg) Berggren (n67) and her husband, John, live in Auburn, Wash., where he is senior pastor of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene.

Randy (G74) and **Divonna (Littlefield)** (G75) **Thornburg** live in Willoughby Hills, Ohio, where Randy is the pastor of worship and music at the Willoughby Hills Friends Church. This fall, Divonna will be teaching choir, drama, and music appreciation at the Cornerstone Christian Academy.

William Vermillion (GFES76) was elected the fourth general superintendent of The Evangelical Church at its recent general conference in Billings, Mont.

Linda Byrd (G78) is camp director and special activities coordinator for Touchstone School in Lake Oswego, Ore. She also serves as public relations and membership chair for the Oregon Trail Section of the American Camping Association.

Rod Williamson (G79) has accepted a call in Taiwan to become the new Taiwan field director for OMS International. He is joined in Taiwan by his wife, Beth, and sons, Joshua and Matthew.

Doug Linscott (G80) is currently enrolled at Fuller Theological Seminary pursuing a master's in marriage and family therapy.

Gregg (G90) and **Elaine (Haworth)** (G90) **Koskela** live in Newberg, where he serves as senior pastor of the Newberg Friends Church.

Duane Larson (G90) is the vice principal of Alice Ott Middle School in the David Douglas School District in Portland.

Todd McKee (G91) is the secondary principal at the International Community School of Addis Ababa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Tamara (Shepherd) Conkle (G93) is a nationally certified wildlife biologist responsible for all Navy installations in the San Diego area as well as eight other installations in Nevada, Arizona, and California. She was honored at the Pentagon in April as the outstanding natural resource manager for the Navy. She also managed the predator control program for the loggerhead shrike, the most endangered bird in the continental United States.

Terri (Becker) Hurley (DPS93, MBA99) and her husband, Jack, are owners of the first-ever Pizza Schmizza franchise in Vancouver, Wash.

Tricia (Gates) Brown (G96, GFES97) recently completed training with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) as a Reserve Corps member. CPT sends teams to do violence-reduction work in conflict zones around the world.

Richard Dalton (DPS96) works for the Oregon Employment Department in Newport and Lincoln City, Ore., and is a local veteran representative for the state. He has been selected as the Veterans Small Business Advocate of the Year by the Oregon Small Business Administration.

Liz (Hunt) Hoffman (G96) is working as the career advisor at Nyack College in Nyack, N.Y. She also is pursuing a master's degree in counseling at the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling.

Chad Kinnett (G96) accepted a K-8 school counseling job in Red Lodge, Mont.

Diane (Marr) Longmire (G96) was accepted into the master of social work program at Walla Walla College in Washington. She began course work this fall 2002.

Tera (Bloodgood) (n97) and **Philip** (G98) **Ewert** are serving in Kholm, Afghanistan,

with Samaritan's Purse. They are bringing aid in the areas of public health and education.

Anne Hall (DPS97) is the curator for the Lincoln Coast History Center in Newport, Ore.

Alexander Ben-Israel (DPS98, MBA00) is regional director of Oxford Services Inc., an assisted-living and dementia care center, in Vancouver, Wash.

Stacey Parker (G98) is a clinical dietitian at St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix.

Amy Reeves (G98) is a resident director for Azusa Pacific University in Los Angeles.

Jeff (G98) and **Faith (Chapin)** (G99) **Simons** live in Pasadena, Calif., where he is pursuing a master of international studies and she is pursuing a master of divinity degree.

Galena (Bowie) Smith (G98) graduated in June 2002 from the University of Washington with a master's degree in social work.

Rich (G01) and **Dauida (Ankeny)** (G02) **Brown** live in Palo Alto, Calif., where she is working on a Ph.D. in chemistry at Stanford University and he is pursuing a juris doctorate at the University of California Hastings College of Law in San Francisco.

Robin Rogers (G01) is teaching English in Taiwan for her second year at Sheng-te Christian College, a sister school to George Fox.

Shannon Latimer (MBA02) has started her own business, Domestica Household Services, in Portland. It's an environmentally responsible commercial and residential cleaning company that manufactures its own line of nontoxic cleaning products.

MARRIAGES

Kim Erickson (G92) and Todd Giesbrecht, June 1, 2002, St. Helens, Ore.

Laura Miesbach (DPS95) and Derek Christiansen, Dec. 19, 2001, Maui, Hawaii.

David Reintsma (G96) and Kari Braach, July 14, 2002, Helena, Mont.

Sara Scanlon (G96) and Roby Brown, July 21, 2002, Leander, Texas.

Michelle Harris (G97, MAT01) and Thomas Arko Jr., March 8, 2002, Portland.

Brian Stuck (G97, MAT98) and Megan Smith, June 28, 2002, Sunriver, Ore.

Kimberly Johnson (G98, MAT00) and David Evans, June 29, 2002, Snoqualmie, Wash.

Courtney Reynolds (G98) and Hayes Peterson, July 6, 2002, Tigard, Ore.

Stacy Wade (G98) and Al Anderson, Aug. 3, 2002, Glendora, Calif.

Natalie Walters (n98) and Zachary Spears, May 11, 2002, Hilliard, Ohio.

Kristi Barnes (G99, MA00) and Brent Weeks, July 26, 2002, Newberg.

Cory Morgan (G99) and **Tiffany Smith** (G00) Aug. 3, 2002, Tualatin, Ore.

Daniel Bingham (G00) and Mara Kimmel, Dec. 29, 2001, Redmond, Ore.

Chris Carbonell (G00) and **Chelsea Dauber** (G01) June 22, 2002, Crescent City, Calif.

Jenifer McAllister (G00) and Dan DeWolfe, June 22, 2002, Oregon City, Ore.

Ryan Austin (G01) and **Heather Hunt** (G01) June 29, 2002, Turner, Ore.

Shawn Church (GFES01) and **Kristin Campbell** (G02), May 31, 2002, Clackamas, Ore.

Sarah Mills (G01) and David Pluister, Aug. 2, 2002, Salem, Ore.

Kevin Schilperoort (G01) and **Annie Haglund** (G01) May 25, 2002, West Linn, Ore.

Janell Hampton (G02) and Eric Woods, June 22, 2002, Newberg.

Demetrius Tsohantaris (G02) and **Heidi Smith** (G02), June 22, 2002, Wilsonville, Ore.

BIRTHS

Linda (Corlett) (G81) and Ron Herdina, a girl, Kathryn Louise, Jan. 8, 2002, Portland.

Bonnie (Grotjohn) (G86) and David Workman, a girl, Shannon Heather, Dec. 28, 2001, Downers Grove, Ill.

Tim (G87) and **Laura (Pedersen)** (G88) **Dillon**, a girl, Mia Elizabeth Rae, Feb. 10, 2002, Salem, Ore.

Gregg (G90) and **Elaine (Haworth)** (G90) **Koskela**, a girl, Aubrey Joy, July 9, 2002, Boise, Idaho.

Laurel (Hannum) (G90) and Tim Vogel, a girl, Christa Nicole, March 28, 2002, Cincinnati.

Patricia Ann (Lanting) (G91) and Michael Jones, a boy, Eric Michael, May 26, 2002, Oregon City, Ore.

Joshua (G91) and **Lisa (Bouder)** (G91) **Nau-man**, a girl, Elliana Grace, Feb. 17, 2002, Newberg.

David (G91) and **Kristin (Potts)** (G91) **Van Tassel**, a boy, Luke Oak, Oct. 10, 2001, Salina, Kan.

Paul (G92) and Elizabeth **Nagle**, a girl, Rita Aileen, Jan. 17, 2002, Royal Oak, Mich.

James (G92) and **Melinda (Ketchum)** (G93) **Stephens III**, a girl, Narissa Rose, July 6, 2002, Portland.

Annie (Ogeda) (DPS94) and Thomas Duffy, a boy, Thomas James, Dec. 20, 2001, Salem, Ore.

Juli (Cyrus) (G94) and **Rob Rising** (n95), a girl, Elissa Dawn, Dec. 18, 2001, Goldendale, Wash.

Tony (G95) and **Heidi (Kunze)** (G97) **Rourke**, a girl, Emma Elizabeth, June 27, 2002, Vancouver, Ore.

Shelly (Yoder) (G95) and Andrew Wenger, a boy, Judah Jay, June 5, 2002, Albany, Ore.

Deborah (Haines) (G96) and Curt Keller, a boy, Jonathan Samuel, Jan. 2, 2002, Portland.

Wendy (DPS97) and Jason **Brown**, a boy, Josiah Dylan, April 17, 2002, Boise, Idaho.

Lori (Frazee) (G97) and Tim Hewitt, a girl, Brynne Mackenzie, May 21, 2002, Bend, Ore.

Charity (Fleming) (G99) and Shannon Pancake, a boy, Jeremiah David, Feb. 25, 2002, Olympia, Wash.

Lisa (Smith) (G99) and Brian Young, a boy, Zachary William, June 15, 2002, Roseburg, Ore.

Christine (G01) and Tim **Bischof**, a girl, Savannah Lynn, Aug. 2, 2002, Newberg.

DEATHS

Gail Clifford Green (G49), Aug. 19, 2002, Portland.

Ron Gregory (G63), July 19, 2002, Seattle.

Roger Schoenborn (GFES82), June 13, 2002, Salem, Ore.

Joann Kay Borud (DPS93), April 14, 2002, Portland.

LeAnn Sanders (G93), July 15, 2002, Oregon City, Ore.

Lori Huntley (DPS94), Aug. 24, 2002, Dallas, Ore.

Gloria Krueger (G94), Sept. 17, 2002, Newberg, Ore.

Kimberly Langston (n01), June 7, 2002, Beaverton, Ore.

Save the date for Homecoming 2003

A Season to Remember

January 31–February 2, 2003

Class Reunions: Classes of 1993, 1983, 1978, 1973, and 1963

Affinity Reunions: Football Alumni and Women in Athletics Alumnae

For all alumni who participated in football and all alumnae who participated in field hockey, basketball, soccer, volleyball, softball, tennis, track and field, and cross country

There is something for everyone, so plan to attend.
Details to follow in the mail.

President David and Melva Brandt cordially invite George Fox University alumni, parents, and friends to a traditional

George Fox Christmas Celebration

Please plan to join us for an evening of festive holiday desserts and entertainment provided by DaySpring and the George Fox Brass Ensemble. Also featured are pictures with Santa Claus, storytelling with Mrs. Claus, exclusive access to the World Forestry Center museum, and free admission to see the Oregon Zoo's "Zoo Lights."

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2002, 7–9 p.m.
The World Forestry Center
4033 S.W. Canyon Road
Portland, OR 97221

\$13 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under
George Fox University students attending with their paying parents will be admitted free of charge.

Due to limited space, your R.S.V.P. with payment is required by Nov. 25, 2002.

R.S.V.P. to 503-554-2121 or dochsner@georgefox.edu

Tickets will be sent in the mail.

Or purchase tickets online at:

<https://www.applyweb.com/public/register?gfoxevent>

Then choose: George Fox Christmas Downtown

Key

G	Traditional graduate
n	Traditional nongraduate
DPS	Department of Professional Studies graduate (MHR, MOL, and MBIS majors)
GFES	Seminary graduate
PsyD	Doctor of psychology graduate
MAT	Master of arts in teaching graduate
MBA	Master of business administration graduate
MA	Master of arts graduate
MEd	Master of education graduate

The Healing Gift of Listening

Throughout the world, George Fox community members use listening to comfort trauma victims

“A Path of Tragedy”

A George Fox professor and nine graduate students help a California community begin to heal after a run-away vehicle kills one and injures more than a dozen at a church health fair

It was intended to be a do-good, feel-good weekend service trip for George Fox Professor Clark Campbell and nine doctor of psychology students researching rural mental health.

The group drove 315 miles from Newberg to Crescent City, Calif., to assist at a church-sponsored health fair Sept. 14–15. They planned to provide brochures and seminars on anger management, self-esteem, depression, communication skills, and parenting tips.

But just minutes after hundreds of people began receiving free food, free haircuts, and medical and dental screening, a 2001 Blazer — with engine revving — raced through the parking lot and food court. It rammed cars, children, parents, tents, and tables and slammed into the church building.

Chaos erupted. “It was like a riot,” says Campbell, director of clinical training in the doctoral program.

“There was panic. A lot of mothers and fathers were screaming, ‘Where are my kids?’” says Steve Chandler, pastor of Cornerstone Assembly of God. “Others were screaming that their son or daughter had been hit.”

“Immediately the George Fox team jumped in,” says Chandler. “They began doing what they could for the victims. Praying, encouraging them. Helping them stay calm.”

A 46-year-old woman attending the health fair died. One man had a seizure. A local newspaper reported that 21 were injured. The 85-year-old woman driving the truck suffered major injuries in the collision.



Hans Weniger (seated) was one of nine George Fox doctor of psychology students who aided rescue efforts after a vehicle drove into a crowd at a church health fair in Crescent City, Calif.

“The sheer volume of noise, the racing of the engine, the crashing of tables; it leaves an indelible memory,” says Pastor Chandler. “So many children were victims or were brothers or sisters who saw what happened. There were so many children traumatized. It left a path of tragedy, all the way through the booth area.”

“The sheriff called the county mental-health department,” says Campbell. “They said, ‘We don’t have the people and we don’t have the funding.’ The pastor came to us and said, ‘You guys are what we’ve got. We really need you.’”

Campbell gathered the students and gave them the basic outline of trauma counseling. Campbell paired up experienced students with the less experienced.

“What we did wasn’t that sophisticated,” says Lee Kearns, a second-year student from Russell, Ky. “It’s healthy to let people share and let them know there could be some effects, such as having trouble sleeping, nightmares, a decreased appetite, and recurring images of the event. We let them know this was normal, and when it happens they should feel free to share that with someone. Each time you share it, you can minimize the power it has on you.”

The students spent several hours Saturday working with witnesses. They also helped clean up the accident scene.

Sunday morning the church was packed. Several had never been to church before. The congregation was broken into groups for crisis debriefing. Camp-

Reliving Sept. 11

“When trauma anniversaries come along, some people — because of how trauma memory is stored in the brain — feel the same intense fear as they did originally,” says Karin Jordan, director of the graduate counseling program at George Fox. To help people at the Manhattan campus of Nyack College through the anniversary of the terrorist attacks, Jordan returned to New York for the week of Sept. 11. The trip was her third to New York in the last year. She provided individual counseling, workshops on trauma recovery, and led activities for students and employees to process their trauma. “It was a day of many emotions,” she says. “But there was also a sense of unity, and for many there was a renewal of faith and hope that there is light after the darkness.”

bell spoke to the congregation.

The George Fox group was thanked at the service. “There was a very loud applause and much appreciation for the team and the love and concern they had shared for us,” says Chandler. “They have our deepest heartfelt gratitude.”

“I was pleased how well our students responded,” says Campbell. “They just rose to the occasion. They functioned really well. It was a practical application of what our program is about. We train our students to address both psychological and spiritual issues. They were able to put into practice issues we address academically but don’t always have the opportunity to address practically.”

Kearns repeats what one of the students said as they returned to Newberg. “Driving down, I wasn’t sure how much help we were going to be. Leaving this place, I know we were desperately needed.”

— Rob Felton



George Fox professor Rand Michael (center) leads TELOS International, a nonprofit organization that provides training in counseling for missionaries, churches, and mental health workers. Shown here in Israel, Michael and TELOS have offered training in Jordan, Cyprus, Romania, Germany, Hungary, Kenya, Taiwan, Albania, and Mexico.

Psychologists warn a generation of children could grow up with chronic psychological problems.

In Burundi — one of the poorest countries in the world — some estimate that one out of every 30 citizens has been killed in the Hutu-Tutsi ethnic conflict that has raged since 1993. Social workers

report that nearly all Burundians suffer from some type of trauma.

Rand Michael, an associate professor in the Graduate Department of Counseling, says a big barrier to recovery for many victims is their inability to express their emotional pain. They need someone to hear them. “Listening is crucial for dealing with stress and trauma,” says Michael. “It’s through being heard that people heal.”

There are few resources for emotional healing in central Africa. “There are no mental health services in Burundi,” says Michael. “And maybe not even in Rwanda and Congo.”

In May, Michael, his wife, Phyllis, George Fox adjunct professor Glenn Anderson, and alumnus Glenn Koppang spent two and a half weeks in Burundi training more than 75 Friends (Quaker) pastors, elders, and students how to use listening skills and conflict resolution

to help victims handle their trauma. The Burundi Friends Church and the Great Lake School of Theology hosted the training. They used curriculum Michael and his wife had developed in Albania during the Balkan crisis.

They were aided by Burundian David Niyonzima, a 2002 graduate of the George Fox Graduate Department of Counseling. Niyonzima has tragic firsthand experience with the pain his country feels. A teacher, he witnessed the murder of several of his high school students several years ago. Several family members also have been killed.

Niyonzima leads the Friends Churches in Burundi. He dreams of establishing “listening centers” throughout the country of 6.5 million. The centers would be places where people could share their stories with lay counselors. The Michaels’ work is a first step to fulfilling that dream.

About three dozen Burundians received additional instruction for training other leaders. “We’re creating a movement of people who are more effective at listening and more effective interpersonally,” says Michael. “Our hope is they will continue to multiply. It’s important that these are the indigenous people who are providing these services. It’s not dependent on us.”

Soon after returning from Africa, Michael received a request from Nazarene Compassionate Ministries to provide similar training in the West Bank.

Michael, Koppang, and Sharon Casurella — another graduate of the George Fox counseling program — spent six days in July offering training for understanding stress and trauma and listening more effectively. Thirty pastors, Bible students, and professionals received training in Jerusalem and Beit Jala.

— Rob Felton

Teaching Leaders to Listen

George Fox professors and alumni encourage healing by offering training in conflict resolution and listening skills to church leaders in Africa and the Middle East

If you made a list of the world’s regions with the most conflict and suffering per square mile, the West Bank in Israel would rank near the top. Central Africa might be even higher.

Both are places where people carry huge burdens of agony and anger.

A psychological study released in July showed that 70 percent of Palestinian children in the West Bank are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder because of the waves of attacks and reprisals. They suffer from nightmares, clinging, declining academic performance, bed-wetting, loss of appetite, and rebellious behavior.