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A unique senior design project helped engineering grads Ruben Lacescu and Alex Blush land careers with Daimler

The Path to Friendship
In 1978, I stepped out of the door of my parents’ home in Flagstaff, Ariz., and took the road that first led to college and then to “where many paths and errands meet,” to use the words of Bilbo Baggins. Each of us has been on a journey, and it is on the roads of our travels that we meet fellow travelers—friends—that in a real sense make this life worthwhile.

George Fox University is one of those places along the road where many of us have met people who turned into lifelong friends. We have gained mentors. Others have spoken into our lives for perhaps just a moment of time—but a meaningful moment.

The George Fox Journal tries to connect you to people whose journeys have intersected with the university. In this particular issue you will meet board member Ken Austin, who, after eight years of knowing him, has become both a friend and a mentor. I met Ken when I was provost; but our interactions didn’t get far beyond “hello.” It was after I became president that he volunteered to introduce me to a broader network of business and community leaders in Newberg and Portland. He was my sponsor in Rotary. He and his wife Joan were generous beyond measure to many causes in Oregon—Oregon State University, George Fox University, Head Start, Newberg Public Schools and many others. Never pretentious, the Austins were just plain “country folks,” as Ken likes to say. Together, they extended hands of friendship to me and my wife Ruth.

Over time, my relationship with Ken moved from one of casual conversations and occasional dinners to genuine friendship. We meet at least monthly for breakfast—almost always at J’s restaurant in Newberg. We certainly talk about business and the college, but our deeper conversations are about life and the work of Christ in this world.

Two passages in the Bible come to mind when I think of friendship. First, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: “Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls all alone is in real trouble.” Second, Proverbs 27:17: “As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.” During the past eight years Ken has listened carefully, provided critical and wise advice, and been a constant source of support and guidance. He is a true friend.

After the death of his beloved wife, Ken and I often talked together of legacy: What would you like to leave on this earth that would help remind people of what is at the core of your being? This summer Ken made a decision about one of the things that is really important to him. He wanted to create a unique space where people can come together and meet Christ, deepen their friendships and develop new relationships that will lead to a more significant life. It is with great pleasure that I announce to you that the former home of Ken and Joan Austin and its adjacent property on Parrett Mountain will become Hy Vista Retreat Center—a ministry of George Fox University!

C.S. Lewis once wrote, “Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art. It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival.” May this Journal remind you of those people whom you met on the road at George Fox University.

Robyn Baker
President
 Plans Announced for New Residence Hall

Following back-to-back years of record-breaking enrollment, resulting in 99 percent occupancy of on-campus housing, the university announced plans for a new residence hall to be completed in time for the 2015-16 school year. The three-story building is expected to cost between $6.5 to $7 million, and will house around 150 students in mostly double occupancy rooms with lobby areas on each floor.

Plans call for groundbreaking on Dec. 15, 2014, and completion of the new facilities by August 2015 – just in time to welcome the Class of 2019 to campus.

University, Bob's Red Mill Team Up to Promote Nutrition Awareness

The university and Bob's Red Mill launched a "Nutrition Matters" initiative this fall that will educate George Fox students on the importance of making healthy choices.

A generous grant from Bob and Charlee Moore, founders of Bob's Red Mill, will be given over four years and will fund improvements to the university's Lifelong Fitness course, taken by all freshmen, promotion of nutrition awareness in the school's cafeteria; and the creation of a science-based nutrition curriculum for students in the university's health profession majors.

"It is our goal to be – and to be known as – the premier university for health in the U.S., both in terms of the academic preparation of healthcare professionals and in outcomes of good health for our students," George Fox President Robin Baker said. "This grant allows us to develop a multi-faceted approach to inform the entire campus community on the benefits of good nutrition."

Enrollment Record Set in Back-to-Back Years

For a second straight year the university established a fall record enrollment, as 3,793 students – more than 2,500 of whom are undergraduates – committed to attending the school.

All told, George Fox enrolled 2,515 undergraduates – committed to attending the school.

The total eclipsed the previous record enrollment figure of 3,712 set during the fall 2013 semester, marking just the second time in the school’s 123-year history that more than 3,700 enrolled. It marked the second straight year a George Fox student earned the scholarship.

Love of Space Lands NASA Scholarships for Two Students

Caitlin King’s lifelong love of space was rewarded this fall in the form of a prestigious $8,000 NASA scholarship from the Oregon Space Grant Consortium. The George Fox junior mechanical engineering major was one of only 15 students in the state to receive the award for the 2014-15 academic year.

It marked the second straight year a George Fox student earned the scholarship. In 2013-14, Keiko Fuji (pictured left), a junior computer science major, won a $5,000 award from the consortium. To earn the scholarships, King and Fuji wrote essays explaining how the money would help with their educational goals and, in turn, how those educational goals would prepare them for careers that ultimately benefit the NASA community.

King is considering a career in aerospace engineering. "I enjoy the challenge of building things as a solution to a given problem – the creative side of engineering," she says. Fuji hopes to couple her computer science degree with her favorite hobby, photography, by helping develop a solution to the challenge of getting high-quality pictures from space. "There tends to be a lot of noise in the photos, particularly when taking long-exposure shots," she says. "I’d love to help come up with a solution to that problem."
University Receives Accolades for Value, Study Abroad Participation

The university received high marks this summer from several national publications, touting the value of a George Fox education and the availability of study abroad opportunities.

Money magazine ranked George Fox as the top Christian college in Oregon in its “Best Colleges for your Money” issue, based on “educational quality, affordability, and career outcomes.” Likewise, Washington Monthly placed the school ahead of all other Christian universities in the Northwest in its “Best Bang for the Buck” rankings, which, in part, took into account student loan default and graduation rates.

More recognition came from U.S. News & World Report, which named George Fox one of “America’s Best Colleges” for the 25th consecutive year. Most notably, the university was ranked No. 53 out of 1,800 schools for study abroad participation, thanks to a variety of overseas service opportunities, a Semester Abroad program, and the always-popular Juniors Abroad, in which students participate in three-week, faculty-led excursions to locations around the globe.

On the lighter side of the rankings spectrum, College Power.com named George Fox the “Fastest Party Scene” among schools in Oregon, a distinction sure to please with Bruin parents.

Master of Social Work Program Set to Launch

The university is now accepting applications to its new Master of Social Work (MSW) program, set to begin classes in the fall of 2015. George Fox will be the state’s only faith-based college or university with an MSW program and one of only three institutions in the state to offer the degree.

The MSW is a 60 credit hour, two-year program. Students who already have a bachelor’s degree in social work from George Fox or another program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education can apply for admission to an advanced standing program that enables full-time students to complete the MSW in 10 months.

“An important piece of our mission is that our students serve with passion, and this degree aligns with that mission,” says program director Cliff Rosenboom. “We stress the integration of Christian faith and the highest standards of social work scholarship and professional practice, with the goal of training leaders to be professionally prepared and globally engaged.”

IN PRINT

Brian Doak (Christian studies) published the book Consider Levithanah: Narrative of Nature and the Self in Job (Fortress Press), released in November. The book explores the biblical text at the intersection of anthropology, theology and ecology, opening up new possibilities for charting the view of nature in the Hebrew Bible.

Dan Brenner (computer science), along with prominent authors Jester L. Butler and A.J. Swedlow, published the book “Introducing Evagelical Ecological Foundations in Scripture, Theology, History, and Praxis” (Wacker Academic), released in October. The book seeks to make creation care more accessible to a broad evangelical audience and calls on the Christian community to take on the mantle of stewardship, solidarity and advocacy.

Paul Anderson (Christian studies) wrote and edited the remaster of Rudolf Bultmann’s book The Gospel of John. A Commentary (Wipf and Stock), released in August, which he describes as “a provocative commentary that is arguably the most important New Testament monograph in the 20th century.” He also credited and contributed to the book Communities in Ephesians: Current Scholarship on the Johannine Epistles (IBL Press), released in November, a collection of essays that draws together the best work of an international constellation of Johannine experts.

Kevin T. Jones (communication arts) in October published an article, “At-Risk Students and Communication Skill Deficiencies: A Preliminary Study,” in the International Journal of Education and Human Development. The article presents his findings of a teaching study of at-risk high school students tested for communication skill deficiencies.

R. Anderson Campbell’s (Christian studies) book, Father Factor: American Christian Men on Fatherhood and Faith, was published in October. The collection of essays, edited by Campbell, explores the intersection between fatherhood and faith. Included are contributions from George Fox faculty and staff.


Sarita Gallagher (Christian studies) in October published her dissertation work, Abrahamic Blessing: A Missiological Narrative of Renewal in Papua New Guinea (Wipf and Stock). In the book, she compares the missional nature of the Abrahamic blessing motif in Scripture to a national renewal that took place in Papua New Guinea.

Melanie Mock (English) served as lead editor, wrote the introduction and contributed to the essay to the anthology The Spirit of Adoption: Writers on Religion, Adoption, Faith, and Hope (Wipf and Stock), published in October.


Roger Hewitt (Christian studies) contributed the essay “Instead of Sentimental Exegesis: The Significance of Suffering for Christ and his Church” to the book Reconsidering the Relationship between Biblical and Systematic Theology in the New Testament (Mohr Siebeck), published in November. The collection of essays is a Festschrift honoring his former teacher, Dr. Robert Gundry of Westmont College.


John Natke (engineering) and 2014 engineering graduate Artemio Jarayan coauthored “Magnetic Bubble Feasibility Study Using Flu Switching Topology,” which appeared in the July issue of ASE Transactions on Magnetics.

Ed Hippe (English) penned “Too many leaves” appeared in the fall 2014 issue of The Greensboro Journal.

Dana Bates’ (athletic training) article, “Perceptions from Coaches of Professional Athlete Training Programs Involved in Peer-assisted Learning,” appeared in a recent issue of the Athletic Training Education Journal.


Kevin T. Jones (communication arts) was recently invited to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Christianity and Communication Studies Network (CCSN). As a board member, Kevin will be responsible for peer review IJCCS publications, including book reviews, short- and long-form essays, and short case studies and think pieces.

/// News Bits ///
Rebecca Hernandez loves to learn new things.

“My hobby is starting hobbies,” she says. Hernandez, who joined the university in June as associate vice president of intercultural engagement and faculty development, has tried her hand at all manner of activities — but the result is usually the same. “I buy all the stuff to do it like I’m going to be real gung ho, and then I do it once. Do you know how expensive card-making is?” she says, laughing. “It turns out it’s really boring.”

Hernandez may not have much patience for arts and crafts, but she’s fiercely dedicated to her lifelong work of bringing people of different colors, cultures and backgrounds together.

“My passion is to create safe and just spaces so that others can reach their full potential,” she says. And with an undergraduate student population at George Fox that is nearly 30 percent non-White or ethnic minorities — more diverse, by comparison, than the city of Portland — Hernandez has found the perfect place to ply her passion.

Recently Hernandez sat down with the Journal to discuss her unique perspective on cultural diversity, her new position and the importance of embracing our differences.

Talk a little bit about the scope of your position.

My work is in intercultural development, both for faculty and for the institution as a whole. Intercultural development is really about helping faculty to create inclusive classrooms, to help them develop their own skill sets around engaging difference, and to understand how that fits into God’s call for all of us.

My passion is to help people do their very best, to teach, train, support and collaborate with all of our students, faculty, staff and our president to create something more. To create what we really envision as God’s best. God’s best diversity. God’s best people.

My work is part of that, to come alongside and to bring my expertise, which is something that I’ve studied and that I’ve worked hard at — to really share that with people. And then to also help by holding up a mirror to us. And that’s not always a popular thing but that’s what I do.

What in your life has influenced your perspective on cultural diversity?

I grew up in a predominantly Mexican-American community, and we worked in the fields in the summer — we were called “set-tled out” migrant workers, and that meant we would stay in one place and work at certain times of the year. As a kid, everybody looked forward to summer break — but I hated summer break because it meant we were going to work all summer in the field. I learned a lot about issues of justice and issues of healthcare access working in the fields.

I remember as a kid, it was toward the end of the summer and I was really excited because we were going back to school, but a little girl next to me was sad. She said, “I don’t get to go back to school.” Her family was going on to the next picking, which was in California. I was shocked. And that’s when I felt that difference of what it means to have a home base. Later, my parents decided to become factory workers because they knew we needed an education. And I think now, what an amazing foresight and sacrifice that my parents made to do that.

What’s the biggest challenge we face as a university in embracing our differences?

I think the biggest challenge we face is moving out of our own comfort zone and examining our own self and our own beliefs. One of the biggest strategies that the enemy uses to separate us is to not talk about hard things. So we don’t talk about race, we don’t talk about ethnicity, we don’t talk about discrimination. We do this thing where we say, “I don’t see color.”

The problem with that is, then you don’t see me, then you don’t see the fullness of who I am. I think the enemy uses that — our fear of talking about hard things — to separate us. It’s when we can really talk about the hard things that we then grow.

What’s the most life-giving aspect of what you do?

I think my biggest reward out of all of this is seeing students become who God intends them to be — or at least to start down that path. When they work out their own ethnic identity and explore, they see that the thing they’ve always seen as a negative, that the world has told them is wrong with them, is actually God’s gift. It’s how God created them, and that creation is a good thing. God looked at that creation and said, it is good. He looked at me, as a person of color, as a woman, at this moment, in this time, in this place, and said, it is good. Now that’s a cool thing.

So helping people to see that and to experience that, and then to move forward as they pass that gift on to other people is a big deal. That’s my life’s work, and that is what rewards me every day.

Big picture, what are your hopes for George Fox?

This is a good place. I think there’s a good heart here, a good desire to embrace diversity. If you don’t do the work in your own heart, the rest doesn’t matter — it’s just window dressing. I believe we’re past that at George Fox. What’s next is figuring out how do we systematize change, how do we hold each other accountable to that change? That’s going to be the struggle, because we’re growing fast. We want to do this, we want to do that. How do you prioritize this in a way that isn’t a check off on a list somewhere that we just want to get done and move on. It doesn’t work that way. This is lifelong work.

By Jeremy Lloyd

Celebrating our Differences

Rebecca Hernandez has made it her life’s work to bring people together

By Joel Bock
**Stained Glass Reflections**

A-dec founder Ken Austin opens up about success, addiction and the lifelong journey that led him to God

By Jeremy Lloyd

Ken Austin does not want this to be another one of those boring donor appreciation articles. The founder of dental equipment manufacturing giant A-dec and a man whose philanthropy has touched lives in his hometown of Newberg and across the globe, Austin undoubtedly has had many such pieces penned in his honor. But on this day he has more pressing matters to discuss.

He wants to talk about the morning after a company Christmas party when he woke up, still in a wrinkled tuxedo, not remembering a thing about the night before – but knowing he had made a fool of himself. Or the time when, after his doctor told him he was drinking too much, he stopped at the nearest convenience store on the way home and got a six-pack of beer, then headed straight to the liquor store for a fifth of gin. Or how he couldn’t drive by the grocery store on the way home from work without stopping to pick up something to drink. “What really killed my self-worth was when I realized I was drinking every day and couldn’t stop,” he says, reflecting on a time when addiction to alcohol threatened to tear his family and business apart.

A brilliant engineer whose inventions changed dentistry as we know it today, Austin also wants to talk about his struggles comprehending Scripture; and how a children’s Bible helped him better understand the nature of his creator, because “I was just a child in my faith.”

“I was just a child in my faith.”

“The greatest thing I’ve ever accomplished, bigger than A-dec by far, is sobriety,” he says. “And sobriety led me to God.”

Not long after the interview, news will be released about a donation to George Fox University’s beautiful $1.5 million home atop Parrett Mountain for use as a spiritual retreat, one of many generous gifts he’s bestowed upon the university. But on this day no checks will be cut, no speeches given, no posing with a shiny new shovel at a groundbreaking ceremony. Instead, on this day Austin wants to give a little speech. Instead, on this day no checks will be cut, no speeches given, no posing with a shiny new shovel at a groundbreaking ceremony. Instead, on this day Austin wants to give a little speech. Actually, on this day Austin wants to give a little speech. As it happens, he’s giving one right now.

“Long before Austin became a well-known entrepreneur, engineer and philanthropist, the only people who knew his name lived in the city of Newberg. Business-minded from an early age, young Kenny Austin could often be found selling green beans and tomatoes at a roadside stand near his family’s farm.

He learned honesty from his parents – like the time his mom found out he held his finger down on the scale and shorted a customer the full weight of her beans. “She told my mom,” Austin recalls, laughing and slapping his hands together to simulate the sound of a firm spanking. “I never did that again.”

**Success and struggles**

Later Austin inventions would establish the sit-down dentistry we know today and introduce the Rota-Dent, a portable dental unit and beans,” he recalls. “That was on a Sunday afternoon, and Sunday night I started sketching out an oral evacuator.”

Little did Austin know that his invention would become the world’s first successful air-powered saliva ejector – the dental vacuum so commonplace today – and revolutionize modern dentistry. The next day he began machining a prototype, and within months he had moved back to Newberg to start the Austin Dental Equipment Company – later shortened to A-dec.

“I started dreaming,” he says of that first conversation with Joan. “You dream, you design, you draw, and then you do it. And as I’ve grown older I realize that wasn’t my idea. That was the chief engineer in the sky who was guiding me, saying this is a better way, try this.”

Austin, pictured here at his home church, Joyful Seventh Lutheran in Newberg, has been a member of the George Fox Board of Trustees since 1982.
“The next day when we went out in the field, people were asking questions and I was answering all of them,” he recalls, chuckling. “Others in his tour group asked where he had learned all this information, and Austin sheepishly told them, “When we got back from the pyramids, I went to the gift shop, and it was full of the people from our group buying up children’s books about Egypt.”

Austin wanted to learn more, and he needed help. “I was a grown man, but I was just a child in my faith,” he says. A member of the George Fox Board of Trustees since he became sober in 1982, Austin had developed a friendship with Robin Baker that continued to grow when the latter was promoted from provost to university president in 2007. Despite a significant difference in age, the two found they had much in common. When Austin told Baker about his quest for knowledge, it prompted an interesting conversation: “He asked me if I knew how they taught the Bible before the printing press. I said, ‘I don’t know.’ And Robin answered, ‘They taught Bible stories by pointing to the pictures that were on the stained glass in the church.’”

The concept struck a chord with both men, and they agreed to meet and read together on a regular basis. Austin brought his book for young adults, and Baker, appropriately, brought a copy of The Bible in Stained Glass, a book that incorporated windows from churches around the world, to illustrate the words of Scripture. “That pretty much cemented that Robin could share with me and keep my interest going keep me reading and searching,” he says. “And I’m still searching.”

After Austin went through rehab, it inspired him to build Springbrook, a drug and alcohol addiction treatment center in Newberg. “I thought there was a better way to be treated as a human being than the treatment center I went to,” he says. Now, as he continues his faith journey, he has again decided to put his money towards the church. “This is an opportunity to make big things,” he says. “A hundred years from now, people are going to remember the church.”

Austin was able to read the Bible – you can read children’s books. He wants you to know that if you dream, it design it and draw it can do it. He wants you to know that generosity is a quality everyone should have, regardless of financial means.

“My advice to the people growing up in the world today is learn to be a giver and not a taker,” he says. “If you’re a taker you’re not going to have a lot of people who want to help you in the down times and there are always going to be down times.”

He wants you to know these things because they’re lessons that took a lifetime to learn, and they have served him well. Whether or not you’re aware of the building projects he funded or the many charities he supports, quite honestly he couldn’t care less.

“I believe I’m a Christian, but God isn’t going to fix me.”
Hands-on Ministry
Faculty and students from the university’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program help Ugandans with physical disabilities live a better life

By Sean Patterson

Within a day of arriving in Uganda last June, two professors and a group of 12 George Fox doctor of physical therapy students were hit with a harsh reality: Things were done differently here.

Among their first impressions: A young man tied to a tree, restrained there for four years because of his disabilities. “He hadn’t walked in years, and nobody knew how to deal with him,” says Tyler Cuddeford, director of George Fox’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program. “They were afraid he’d make bad decisions, so they tied him up. It just shows the lack of care for children with disabilities in the country. It’s hard to see and hard to prepare for.”

At another stop, an elderly man struggling for seven years with ataxia – a wobbling, uncoordinated gait – finally encountered someone who took the time to care. “He must have been 70 or older – with no access to health care, no shoes, no transportation,” recalls Jeff Houck, director of research for the physical therapy program. “He was still working as a gardener and hadn’t been seen by anybody. He was making around a dollar a day. I helped him the best I could. It reminds you how important it is to simply take care of people.”

Into that backdrop Cuddeford, Houck and a dozen third-year students tended to the needs of Ugandan children and adults stricken with disease and immobility. It was the first service trip for the program but won’t be the last, as plans call for an annual visit.

And while making the two-week trip isn’t a requirement to graduate from the three-year program, it more than meets the program’s “professional duty and social responsibility” component. It also embodies the department and university’s mission to “serve with passion.”

“Ultimately, being experts in mobility, our mission was to empower people to take care of themselves – to get them to function better, whether that means teaching someone to walk or just helping them move in a more efficient way,” Cuddeford says.

The George Fox team visited two rehabilitation clinics for disabled children, an adult clinic and the remote village of Kisowera. They also partnered with Uganda Christian University to conduct research on foot health, comparing Ugandans who grew up wearing shoes to those who’ve never worn them.

“I was excited to use the knowledge I had to educate people and see them respond. It was a practical application of all we had been learning in the classroom,” says fourth-year DPT student Kevin Martinez.

For student Alex Grimisley, the Uganda experience won’t soon be forgotten. “I’d never been to a different country to do anything like this,” he says. “I was excited to use the knowledge I had to educate people and see them respond. It was a practical application of all we had been learning in the classroom.”

Students treated patients with clubfoot, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and polio. Ailments ranged from dislocated shoulders and an inability to move arms to a complete breakdown of the legs. “The very first person we treated crawled in legs rotated sideways, and his feet didn’t even resemble feet,” Cuddeford said. “He also had a shoulder that routinely subluxed [partially dislocated].”

Even though he had significant post-polio challenges, we were able to help him by improving his mobility and strength. “Not only was he then able to walk without pain, he sold the shoes.”

Fourth-year DPT students Ryan MacKenzie and Lauren Bennett evaluate a patient’s foot at an adult clinic just outside Kampala. “It’s hard to walk into a place and past a kid on the ground who isn’t moving – and you don’t know if he’s alive or dead,” Houck says. “It takes an emotional toll on you. I had to step away at one point and collect myself. What was rewarding was seeing how grateful the people were. They were beautiful and kind.”

For Houck, the significance of the visit was profound – and more clearly defined for him the importance of his profession. “When you see a group of people with absolutely no physical therapy and the negative impact of that situation versus the overall positive impact physical therapy has on society it’s clear,” he says. Cuddeford will assess the trip and make modifications, primarily to improve efficiency. He also says there is a possibility of adding other service-related trips, perhaps to China.

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“The average wage [in Uganda] is less than $2 a day, yet the people there love life and are wonderful to work with,” he says. “We’ll definitely be back.”
A NEW ERA: BRUIN FOOTBALL RETURNS

After months of construction, years of planning and more than four decades of anticipation, on Sept. 6, 2014, football finally returned to George Fox University. A raucous crowd of 3,659 was on hand for the university’s first football game since 1968, packing the newly built Stoffer Family Stadium for the first of many Saturday showdowns to come.

But as the Bruins would learn over the course of the season, nothing comes easy on the gridiron. The result of the day was a heartbreaking 30-27 loss to NAIA school Arizona Christian that came down to the final minutes. George Fox would earn its first win later in the season, a 30-12 triumphing of conference foe Lewis & Clark that featured a dominant defensive performance with two interceptions returned for touchdowns and three recovered fumbles.

Still, it’s hard to compare to the anticipation, energy and atmosphere of game one. Here’s a look back at the afternoon that kicked off a new era of Bruin football.

World-class baritone and George Fox alumnus (‘13) Richard Zeller returned to his alma mater to perform the National Anthem.
Coach Chris Casey waves off photographers and reporters and gathers the team on the far end of the field for a private moment after a tough defeat. It’s a practice the team would continue throughout the season, win or lose.

A total of more than 15,000 Bruin fans packed Stoffer Family Stadium over the course of five home games this season – easily ranking among the top Division III schools on the West Coast.

Students rung the Victory Bell five times on the day – once for every touchdown and field goal scored.

The cheerleading squad keeps the student section entertained with some aerial acrobatics during a stoppage in play.

Linebacker Spencer Price dives to wrap up an Arizona Christian receiver.

Justin Leatherman gets mentally prepared for his first game as a Bruin. Later, the junior safety would become the first George Fox player to earn a spot on the D3football.com National Team of the Week.

Wide receiver Lawrence Potts growls for the camera as he celebrates a successful Bruin drive.

Running back John Shaffer led the Bruin offensive attack with 110 all-purpose yards. Later in the season, he’d get a rare treat for an athlete at any level: his picture in the Sept. 29 issue of Sports Illustrated.

Coach Chris Casey waves off photographers and reporters and gathers the team on the far end of the field for a private moment after a tough defeat. It’s a practice the team would continue throughout the season, win or lose.

Running back John Shaffer led the Bruin offensive attack with 110 all-purpose yards. Later in the season, he’d get a rare treat for an athlete at any level: his picture in the Sept. 29 issue of Sports Illustrated.

A total of more than 15,000 Bruin fans packed Stoffer Family Stadium over the course of five home games this season – easily ranking among the top Division III schools on the West Coast.

Students rung the Victory Bell five times on the day – once for every touchdown and field goal scored.

The cheerleading squad keeps the student section entertained with some aerial acrobatics during a stoppage in play.
Four years ago, a truck manufacturer in Portland approached the George Fox University engineering department with a substantial challenge: Design a turn-table that could withstand 16,000 pounds of semi truck, manipulate the angle of rotation of the vehicle, and fit within the confines of a relatively small wind tunnel.

Four engineering students – under the tutelage of professors Bob Harder and Gary Sperry – were assigned the task as they embarked on the 2010-11 academic year. Plans were drawn up and submitted. Tests were conducted. Revisions were made. Finally, by spring, the completed project was presented to the company for approval. About $40,000 was spent to get it manufactured and installed – and by February of 2012, the new table was fully operational.

For 2011 George Fox graduates Ruben Lucescu and Alex Bush, that undertaking – their senior design project, conducted with fellow students Dustin Ward and Kindra Herrera – ultimately opened the door to their first jobs as engineers. Today, Lucescu and Bush are employed by the very same trucking company, Daimler Trucks North America, that they assisted as students.

And in the case of Lucescu, a product validation engineer in Daimler’s aerodynamics division, his daily job requires he use the technology the students designed – a sleek two-plate yaw table that supports the front and rear axles independently and effortlessly rotates the entire vehicle. It saves Daimler thousands of dollars annually – an amount Lucescu won’t venture to guess.

“When you love what you do, it’s not drudgery or work. That’s the road I’m on.”

Lucescu spends most of his days putting trucks through the trials of the tunnel, testing them for drag with and without mirrors, with certain modifications to the body and without. All along, he alters the angles at which the wind hits the vehicles and records the data on how the truck responds to those adjustments. Each mirror he tests, for instance, has a numerical value that quantifies how efficient it is aerodynamically.

“We came up with something that was going to be used by a real company in the industry as opposed to building something for a grade,” says Bush, now a design engineer at Daimler. “That’s one thing I appreciate about the engineering program at Fox – not only are you on a first-name basis with your professors, you’re doing hands-on projects that can have industry impact.”

As a company, Daimler is the biggest globally active manufacturer of trucks above six metric tons gross vehicle weight, developing and producing vehicles in a global network under the brands Mercedes-Benz, Freightliner, Western Star, Fuso and BharatBenz. Seeing those trucks on the road gives Lucescu a sense of accomplishment.

“It’s great to be driving along and seeing the trucks you’ve worked on,” he says. “You see them on the highway and it inspires a lot of confidence and pride. You feel good knowing you did something good for people and for your company.”

As for students about to embark on the world of work, he offers this advice: “Whatever you do, do it because that’s what you love and want to do. When you love what you do, it’s not drudgery or work. That’s the road I’m on.”
Local Farmers Featured in Billboard Campaign

Dave and Nancy Brown (G96) have long been known for the giant pumpkins they grow as owners of Mustard Seed Farms in St. Paul, Ore. But recently they were surprised to find themselves associated with something much bigger. This fall the couple showcased throughout the Northwest on Fred Meyer billboards, with 15 locations in the Portland metro area and others as far away as Spokane, Wash.

Pictured behind a pile of giant pumpkins, they are accompanied by the words “Locally (S) grown” and a “Support Northwest (G)rown” logo. It’s a huge step up from the smaller display boards on which they were featured in produce departments in the chain’s 130-plus stores.

The billboards bring immediate reactions from families, retailers and farm connections. “It’s gratifying to get so many positive comments,” says Dave. “It’s usually about how good the picture is or ‘How does it feel to be famous?’” Photos were taken on their 80-acre farm a year ago. Fred Myers says the billboards are part of a campaign that “highlights the relationship Fred Meyer has with our local farmers.” The supermarket cooperatives took both stills and videos to be used on its website.

The Browns have been supplying giant 100- to 150-pound pumpkins to the company for 22 years, starting with 77 in 1993. This year they’ll provide Fred Meyer stores with more than 700, which will be distributed as far away as Alaska.

“Our billboards are as: ‘The Giant Pumpkin Capital of the Northwest’, and no one has disputed us on that,” Dave says. This year the Browns raised seven acres of pumpkins, half of which were giants, including one that weighed in at 599 pounds. The rest included 30 to 40 bins of specialty pumpkins and 125 or so ‘antique’ pumpkins.

The Browns started farming nearly 50 years ago, and Mustard Seed Farms has been certified organic since 1991. The business supplies three major Portland co-ops as well as Fred Meyer, Wal-Mart, Albertsons and Whole Foods.

Margaret (Nottiger) Morse (A33) was honored with a party when she celebrated her birthday Aug. 25 – just a few days after her 90th birthday. A Newberg resident since 1973 and a resident of Friendsview Retirement Community since 1999, she is a retired elementary school teacher. In a newspaper article, she credits her long life to a healthy diet and a steadfast dedication to God. She and her late husband, Curtis Morse (G13), were recognized by the university with the naming of its baseball and softball field complexes in their honor after a gift in 1988.

Kathy (George) Scott (G76) on Sept. 1 retired after 28 years with the financial aid office at Portland State University, where she began as a front counter staff person before becoming a counselor and later an assistant director. She began her financial aid career in 1983 at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, where she completed her bachelor’s degree.

1930 – 89

John Fankhauser (G64) is on the front lines in the deadly Ebola crisis in West Africa, working as a medical doctor with Serving in Mission (SIM), an international Christian mission organization. He is at its Eternal Love Winning Africa campus in Monrovia, Liberia, where this summer he began treating the first patients in a small isolation unit. Treatment now has expanded to a 100-bed Ebola unit and he, as deputy medical director of the hospital, has shifted from direct care to providing administrative support and restoring the hospital’s other services, which have been hampered by the ongoing crisis. He attended George Fox for two years before traveling to South Sudan on a mission trip to help at a hospital. The experience solidified a passion for a medical mission any work. He completed his undergraduate degree and medical school at the University of Washington.

Heather Peterson Lewis (G98) and her husband, Dennis, in August were named recipients of the 2004 Hearts of Gold award by Providence Newberg Health Foundation for their participation in the community. They have been residents for 30 years. She has been a registered nurse at Doernbecher Children’s Hospital in Portland for 26 years. She started the family business, Lewis-Audio Video in Newberg. She also volunteers for March of Dimes and AA Literacy, is in Newberg Knights and is on the George Fox University Board of Trustees. Together they are involved in the Chehalis Cultural Center, Second Street Community Church. Young Life, Habitat for Humanity and Special Olympics of Oregon.

Braden (Black) O’Dea is the co-founder of From Wine To Go!, which focuses on the vocational counseling conducted within an evangelical Christian workplace. Published in August, it is a training text that helps Christian counselors find distortions that therapy creates from others in their profession. It is a clinical psychology in Sydney, Australia. The last three years she was supervision trainer focusing on clinical supervision. He also is chief psychologist with Chulalongkorn University and is a training consultant for Youth for Christ International.

Ron Lewis Parkinson (G96) has joined the Woodburn主持 newspaper as copy editor, copy editor, supporting provider for the newspaper’s digital operation. He moved from a position as a ministry assistant support at Second Street Community Church in Woodburn.

Kendall (Lewis) Parkinson (G96) had her second baby girl in 2018 and named her after family. She andDigest the text and convert it to a plain text representation.
Alumni Connections / News & Life Events

His largest case was collecting more than 2,000 complaints with the Employment Standards Program in the Department of Labor and Industries in September when he became an adjunct professor. He is teaching courses in Christian history and theology. Payne completed a PhD in the history and critical theory of religion at Vandervort University in 2012. She also is outreach director for Faith Center Aloha (Or.), a four-parish church where her husband, Thomas Payne (G03), is senior pastor, in that role since 2010.

Dahlgren’s medical journey was not yet over. Last June, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a double mastectomy in August, followed by six weeks of radiation, then reconstructive and other follow-up surgery. Her treatment now done, she is in medication and will have checkups every three or four months. Throughout her repeated health ordeals, Dahlgren has continued to work. After graduation, she was a substitute teacher in Newberg and later Portland for eight years. For the last 11 years she has been a marine services officer with the Port of Portland, working as a dispatcher, office manager, and at the gates controlling access to the huge port. Dahlgren was also elected to a her union’s negotiating team with the Port of Portland. In November 2012, she was in the news as a spokesperson when a tim e, late negotiation session ended with a four-year agreement that expires on Dec. 10, 2017. As for the medical struggles she has experienced, Dahlgren says, “I always have been at peace with everything that happened,” she says. “I had no questions or fear, never a ‘why me.’” As for the medical struggles she has experienced, Dahlgren says, “I always have been at peace with everything that happened,” she says. “I had no questions or fear, never a ‘why me.’”

After Near-death Experience as a Student, Dahlgren Still Going Strong

Revived by parameters and kept alive by doctors, Angie (Jordan) Dahlgren (G95, MAT06) says her medical nightmares is one she will actually celebrate this spring. She’s planning to commemorate the occasion with her cardiologist on May 21, 2015, the 20th anniversary of the day she was just seconds away from death. Dahlgren has only praise for the episode in her life that was the subject of extensive regional television and newspaper coverage for days. “I feel kind of honored that God has had me go through all this,” she says. “It’s a responsibility he has given me – to teach and encourage others.” Dahlgren said she never wants to share the story of her life-threatening experience, and the regional press in order to bring her message of hope to others. “I can comfort others,” she says. “God is completely in control and everything is going to be OK.”

Getting to this point has not been easy. She has had eight heart surgeries, has had heart defibrillator installed, and has had open-heart surgery to install two mechanical artificial valves – one aortic, one mitral. Dahlgren was also elected to head her union’s negotiating team with the Port of Portland. In November 2012, she was in the news as a spokesperson when a tense, late negotiation session ended with a four-year agreement that expires on Dec. 10, 2017. As for the medical struggles she has experienced, Dahlgren says, “I always have been at peace with everything that happened,” she says. “I had no questions or fear, never a ‘why me.’”

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Elise Heidy (G13) remembers when she first felt compelled to help the Karamojong tribe, and specifically, the Jie subtribe, notoriously one of the ugliest areas of her heart that she wouldn’t have come face to face with if living in America. “God doesn’t need me to reach the Karamojong. He took me to Karamoja because I needed Karamoja, not because Karamoja needed me.”

In turn, the experience of living and serving among “the least of these” has transformed Heidy’s perspective. “I’ve learned about myself living there. God has changed me and shown me some of the ugly areas of my heart that I wouldn’t have come face to face with if living in America. “I couldn’t relate to not hearing about what Jesus did for others...” Heidy returned to New Sino-Western Education International planting at Lancaster (Pa.) Bible College. “It’s an outgrowth of his creation of a Constant Coaching program, assisting former George Fox and current student houses and apartments. For the last three years, he was dean of women and a program director at McNary (Ore.) High School, teaching fifth grade at Tumwater Elementary School in Tumwater, Wash., for 15 months.

David Benoue (G98) has joined the Department of Government at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Ky., as assistant professor of political science, teaching courses on law and American politics. He received a Ph.D. in political science in 2013 from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill. and last year was a lecturer with the University of Washington in Tacoma, Wash. He is continuing his research on the intersection of law, politics and religion.

Ashley Kanemoto-Lassen (G98) defended her doctoral dissertation in December, then walked in controversy in public affairs. She is in her second year at Southwestern University English as a second language to elementary students at a private academy.

Laken Duly-Powell (G98) has been named one of Montana’s Top 20 Under 40 by the Montana newspaper. The second annual listing of business professionals considered influential or inspiring individuals who have made accomplishments, spirit of entrepreneurship, business vision and impact within the community. She is Project Unity director for Special Olympics Montana, organizing projects in schools across the state. In its Inclusive Sports program she works to rectify prejudicial attitudes towards a person with disabilities with an athletic without disabilities to form a bond both on and off the field that creates attitudes of acceptance and understanding. She has been with the organization since 2005, the first three years as outreach director.

Dacia Hanson (G08) has returned to George Fox University, where she was a youth pastor and lead pastor. In addition, she is in a master’s degree program in dentistry. He is in his second year as an English teacher in Wenatchee, Wash., at Westside High School, an alternative school, as an English teacher in Wenatchee, Wash., at Westside High School, an alternative school, assisting former George Fox and current George Fox instructor, and began in July 2013 following his graduation from Indiana University Bloomington with a master’s degree in public affairs.

Ananda Turner (G09) is a kindergarten teacher at Clarkesville (Ore.) Elementary School after receiving a master of arts in teaching degree from the University of Portland in May. Previously she served three years in South Korea teaching English an assistant professor for clinical psychology. For the past four years she has been a licensed psychologist working with children and adolescents at SunDance Clinical Services in West Jordan, Utah. She completed an American Psychological Association approved full-time master’s program at George Fox University.

Scott Granger (G09, MAT12) is in his second year as an English teacher in Westchase, Wash., at Westside High School, an alternative school, where he also is an assistant varsity basketball coach and a head coach. In addition, he is in a master’s degree program in educational leadership and administration at Washington University in St. Louis.

Bret Hamilton (G10, G08) in August opened his own business, Constant Forward Progress, in which he is a personal trainer both in person (in Wilsonville, Ore.) and online. The fitness company, website based in Newberg, offers both training and nutrition coaching services. It’s an outgrowth of his creation of a Constant Progress blog and website a year ago and his experiences as a retired military coach most recently at 24 Hour Fitness and Mota Fitness.

Lindsay Keene (G08) graduated in May from the Rolf Institute of Structural Integration in Boulder, Colo., and in June opened a business as a certified rater in Reno, Alaska. Rolling is a body work that he calls “a friendly and understanding massage... the network of connective tissues, called fascia, to release, realign and balance the body and potentially resolve discomfort and relieve pain. She also offers laser therapy.

John Regier (G08) in September became assistant director of master’s degree programs at George Fox Evangelical Seminary. He had served on a part-time basis as an online facilitator and educational technologist at the seminary since 2009. Previously, for a decade, he was a vandall pastor and lead pastor.

Eli Keene (G09) returned to her alma mater this fall as the full time associate director of athletics. For the last three years she was assistant director of operations for the Oregon State University women’s basketball program, assisting former George Fox and current OSU coach Scott Bueck.

Scott Barnett (G10) after two years as an admissions counselor has returned to his alma mater (where he was a residence hall assistant for three years) to be an admissions counselor in the undergraduate admissions office.
He also has been an adjunct at the seminary’s Doctor of Ministry program for the last three years. Prior to George Fox, he served in ministry for eight years, most recently as executive director of small groups at Fairlawn Community Church in Virginia.

Kristie Knows His Gun

Taylor Smith (G12) is an applications engineer with LPKF Laser and Electronics North America in Tualatin (Ore.), just beginning his career with the Oregon Department of Transportation in its graduate engineering program just after graduation and worked with state and contractor personnel on the project.

Luke Neff (MAT10) in July was named instructional technology coordinator for the Newberg School District. He has been with the district since 2011, most recently teaching humanities at the high school following a year at Chehalem Valley Middle School. He manages technology in teaching and learning in classrooms across the district and has been asked to create a districtwide policy. In 2013 he was awarded the district’s first 21st Century Educator Award.

Heather Rasch (MEd05) is a school counselor at Toledo (Ore.) Junior/Senior High School, a school with 300 students that is part of the Lincoln County School District. Most recently she served in a variety of intern school counselor positions in Portland Public Schools.

R. Anderson Campbell (DMin13) is now assisting professor of clinical psychology at George Fox University after serving as facilitator of online education for the seminary’s Doctor of Ministry program for the last three years. He also has been an adjunct at the seminary for the last two years. Prior to George Fox, he served in ministry for eight years, most recently as executive director of small groups at Fairlawn Community Church in Virginia.

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Serve Day through the eyes of students

For the 16th straight year, the university closed its doors for one day in September in order to serve those in need. More than 2,000 students, faculty and staff performed a variety of projects — including construction, painting, weeding, cleaning and visiting with seniors — at a record 102 sites in five countries. This year, we asked students to document the experience by tagging their Instagram photos with #FoxServeDay. Here are some of our favorites.

Want to see more? Visit georgefox.edu/serveday for a video recap and Facebook photos from the university’s annual day of service.

Connect with George Fox

Follow us on social media to stay up to date on all the latest university news, photos and videos.

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Christmas Concert: ‘Angels We Have Heard’

December 5-7

One of the most popular events of the year, the annual concert will feature traditional Christmas carols along with narration, congregation al singing and Scripture reading.

Tickets: boxoffice.georgefox.edu

Bruin Madness January 17

Enjoy family-friendly activities like the Indoor Tailgate Party and KidZone, then head over to Miller Gymnasium to cheer on the men’s and women’s basketball teams. Info and registration: georgefox.edu/events or call 503-554-2135

Dinner for Eight February 24-25

Share a home-cooked meal, life lessons and great conversation with four to eight George Fox students. Info and registration: alumni.georgefox.edu/events or call 503-554-2135

Classic Bruins 50-Year Reunion May 1-2

Class of 1965, it’s almost time for your 50-year reunion! Catch up with old friends, enjoy good food, laugh and reminisce. Info and registration: classicbruins.georgefox.edu or call 503-554-2135

Social Spotlight

All students benefit from the George Fox Student Fund.

Your gifts provide scholarships, program enhancements and services that enable students to thrive at George Fox. And with a record enrollment of 3,793 this fall, we need your partnership now more than ever.

Make a difference by giving today! Use the envelope in this magazine for your contribution or go online to giving.georgefox.edu.
A Sea of Blue (and Gold)

Stoffer Family Stadium was packed with 3,659 fans – including a lively student section – to help usher in a new era of Bruin football when the team played its first game in more than 45 years on Sept. 6, 2014. See page 16 for behind-the-scenes photos from the university’s long-anticipated return to the gridiron.