Bekah Miles’ bold statement about depression reached millions online, raising awareness around the world.
Morning Mist

Early morning fog blankets campus before giving way to sun and patches of blue sky in the afternoon. A common occurrence this time of year, the tranquil haze, crisp morning air and vibrant foliage are all reliable reminders that fall is transitioning to winter, and soon the holidays – and for students, three weeks of winter break – will be here.
University Sets Enrollment Record for 26th Time in 29 Years

Records were meant to be broken, and for the third consecutive year the George Fox admissions team did just that, enrolling a record 3,931 students.

All told, it’s the 26th time in 29 years the university has established an enrollment record, dating back to 1986 when the total attendance was just 549 – less than the size of the 2015 freshman class. The 2015 total includes 2,276 traditional undergraduates, 1,340 in graduate programs and 315 in adult degree programs, and received a boost from 740 new or readmitting traditional undergraduate students, including 680 freshmen.

To accommodate the growing student population, construction was completed on the 146-bed Brandt Residence Hall in August, and a new 900-seat dining hall will be unveiled in the summer of 2016 (see page 5). Plans also call for the expansion of academic space for high-demand majors like cinema and media communication and engineering.

New $180,000 Microscope Used in Cancer, Brain Research

This summer the university’s Department of Biology and Chemistry acquired a state-of-the-art confocal microscope, and already George Fox faculty and students are using it to perform cutting-edge research.

The microscope, manufactured by Leica Microsystems in Germany, typically costs approximately $180,000, but thanks in part to a start-up grant from Leica the purchase was made possible. Confocal microscopy represents a type of microscopy that leverages laser physics to provide high-resolution data to uncover the relationships of molecules within a sample. The new microscope is highly versatile in that it allows users to make comparisons of specific genes, proteins and other molecules in living and developing biological systems in four dimensions, including time.

Already it is being put to good use. Recently, Ladel Papenfuse, a biology major and pre-med student, generated a high-resolution image of an aggressive form of breast cancer cells that she and other students study in biology professor John Schmitt’s research laboratory. One of the proteins identified is called “Café Kinase” and is implicated in cancer growth. “We have never been able to see these proteins together in cancer cells before,” says Schmitt. “It’s truly amazing!”

Biology professor Jim Smart and his research students are also using the microscope, in this case to identify key cellular events needed for normal brain development during the periods before and following birth. “Understanding how the brain develops will provide insight into the molecular etiology of brain diseases and disorders like autism, schizophrenia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and dyslexia,” says Smart. “The confocal is allowing us to see developmental pathologies in brain tissues that were otherwise undetectable.”

Canyon Bridge

Students living on the southeast side of campus can no longer complain about “walking uphill both ways” to class thanks to the construction of a new bridge spanning Hess Creek Canyon.

Rather than travel down and then back up the canyon to the west side of campus, students can now cross the bridge behind the Roberts Center (formerly Villa Academic Complex) and end up between Edwards Residence Hall and the tennis courts. The bridge will also provide easy access to the new dining hall being constructed on the east side of campus (see below).

The 220-foot long span timber bridge was installed Aug. 12. It took about two hours for two massive hydraulic cranes to lift the 29.5- and 36.5-ton preassembled bridge halves into place so they could be joined together.

Brandt Residence Hall

Former university president David Brandt and wife Melva traveled from their home in Pennsylvania to be present Aug. 26 for the dedication of a new residence hall named in their honor.

Known affectionately by students as “H. Dave” during his time at George Fox from 1998 to 2007, Brandt returned the following day to help move in students to his namesake dorm in a very hands-on way, carrying boxes and laundry baskets up three flights of stairs.

Construction began on the residence hall in December 2014 and was completed in August. Located on the east side of campus near the Collin and Le Shana residence halls, the $7 million building has the capacity for 146 beds and features study rooms on each wing of all three floors.

Dining Hall

Construction is well underway on a new dining hall overlooking the east side of Hess Creek Canyon. Groundbreaking took place this summer on the 30,000 square foot facility, and already the exterior walls and the beginning of the roof structure are in place.

The new facility will feature large windows to showcase the beauty of its surroundings and expansive skylights to take advantage of natural light. The space will seat up to 900 and include a dining area, smaller meeting spaces and a cafe. Plans call for construction to be completed in summer 2016.

Construction Roundup

View a 360-degree photo of the completed bridge at georgefox.edu/bridge2

Watch aerial footage and a construction time lapse at georgefox.edu/bridge

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Women’s Golf Team Honors Fallen Soldier

The women’s golf team is paying tribute to a fallen serviceman throughout the 2015-16 season by carrying a golf bag at each tournament displaying the name of Mark Jennings Daly. A Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, Daly was killed in Iraq on Jan. 15, 2007, by an improvised explosive device. At each tournament a different member of the team will carry the bag bearing Daly’s name, rank and branch of service. Daly, who had only been in Iraq for three months before losing his life, was posthumously awarded a Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart for service to his country. The Bruin women are honoring Daly as part of the Field of Honor Military Tribute Program, but for coach MaryClaire McCluskey the act is very personal. Daly’s mother, Linda, was a roommate and Alpha Phi sister of McCluskey’s at the University of Oregon.

“It is such a privilege to participate in this program and to honor Lieutenant Mark Daly,” McCluskey said. “While honoring Mark is personal, I hope Bruin golf and this golf bag will help make people aware of Mark’s great story and legacy as well as bring attention to all the servicemen and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice.”

George Fox Again Recognized Among ‘America’s Best Colleges’ for 27th Straight Year

George Fox again received third party affirmation in annu- al rankings released by U.S. News & World Report and Washington Monthly.

For the 27th straight year, the university was ranked as one of ‘America’s Best Colleges’ by U.S. News, this year earning a spot in the publication’s ‘Best Regional Universities – West’ category. George Fox ranked 28th in its classification, consisting of universities that provide a full range of undergraduate and master’s level programs, but relatively few doctoral programs.

Washington Monthly, meanwhile, recognized George Fox as a ‘West Rising Star’ for its community service, marking this ranking criteria based on three factors: “not for profit stakehold- ing how well schools graduate the students they admit, and whether those students go on to earn at least enough to pay off their loans.”

George Fox was ranked No. 103 in the West category and No. 192 nationwide.

Professor Brings Computer Coding to Elementary School Classrooms

Last fall education professor Yane Tran launched an innovative program in which George Fox students teach local third grad- ers computer coding. A little more than a year later, the groundbreaking concept has continued to grow, resulting in attention from both local and national media like KATU News and The Huffington Post.

Tran was inspired to initiate the pro- gram by observing her own daughters, ages 6 and 7, who were often bored with routine schoolwork. So, she and her husband introduced them to a challenging computer coding curriculum at home.

After seeing her daughters develop a passion for coding, she decided to take it a step further by introducing the idea to local elementary schools. Ewing Young and Mabel Ruth in Newberg both agreed to take on the project, allowing George Fox student teachers and computer science majors into third grade classrooms in the fall of 2014 to teach young-sters the basics of coding.

Today, the program has blossomed to include 15 classrooms in five schools, currently rising in November from a KATU camera crew and a Q&A feature in The Huffington Post. For Tran, the impetus is two-fold: to provide her student- teachers experience while also exposing young children to a discipline that is often overlooked and, for most, not even presented as a viable career path until high school or college. She is seeking a major grant to help fund the project, and would ultimately like to see the program expand into the greater Portland area.

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Patrick Allen's (education) new spiritual formation and discipleship book, A Morning Respite: To Live a Simple, Sane, and Serene Life (Cascade Press), will be published in early 2015.

Arthur Roberts (professor-at-large) in June published his 15th book, The Bircher Room: A Passport to Drawn by the Light (Barclay Press), which “presents the door to an enlightening view of protective retirement.” It includes a forward by well-known author and George Fox alumnus Richard Foster (S44).


Nell Beeker Swedeen’s (seminary) new book, Church on the Way: Hospitality and Migration (Pickwick Publications), was released in July. In addition, she contributed a chapter to the book Entwining the Past-Forging the Future: A New Generation of Wesleyan Theology, published in September.

Craig Johnson (business) in May published the 3rd edition of his textbook Organizational Ethics: A Practical Approach (Sage Publications).

The university’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program was granted full accreditation this summer by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, giving George Fox the distinction of being one of only two schools in Oregon to offer a fully accredited DPT program.

The club’s Academic Counselor was named the Roberts Center at a dedication ceremony Sept. 28 in honor of longtime professor Arthur Roberts and wife Fera. Roberts’ tenure at George Fox began in 1963 as professor of philosophy and religion and included four years as faculty dean. His current position with the university is professor-at-large.

Keith Dempsey (counseling) received the Western Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Outstanding Leadership Award at the American Association of Counselor Education and Supervision Conference in October.

In October, the George Fox women’s golf team received the 2015 Community Impact Award, given by the Oregon Golf Association. The OGA noted the team’s volunteer work with special needs children and the Newberg food bank, among other contributions.

IN PRINT

Melanie Springer Mock (English) coauthored a book, “A fresh perspective in gender and the Bible” titled Eve Only Knows: Freeing Yourself from Biblical Misunderstanding and Becoming all God Means You To Be (Chalice Press), published in August.

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Ronald Medley (seminary) contributed chapters to the book the Trinity Among the Nations: The Doctrine of God in the Majority World (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing), published in November; and Strangers in this World: Multireligious Reflections on Immigration (Fortress Press), released in August.


RECENT RECOGNITION

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Bringing History to Life

Professor Caitlin Corning’s new book provides context for key historical events in vivid detail
By Sara Kelm

When history professor Caitlin Corning was approached by Fortress Press to write World History: A Short, Visual Introduction as part of its Christianity in the Liberal Arts series, she did what some scholars find difficult: she asked for help. Corning is certainly qualified. A medievalist who specializes in church history, she has taught at George Fox since 1996 and is currently a faculty fellow in the William Penn Honors Program. In 2006, Corning penned The Celtic and Roman Foundations of Western Civilization and Conflict and Consensus in the Early Medieval Church. This new book, though, wouldn’t be about church history—it would be about everything else.

Proposed as a companion to a church history textbook, Corning’s latest endeavor covers the history that seminary instructors find they must explain in order for church history to make sense.

“With the Reformation, for example, I focused more on politics rather than religion, because religion is the type of material you would find in church history books,” Corning says. “Instead, I addressed how the wider political and economic situation influenced religious events.”

As a starting point, Corning considered two courses she has taught for many years: Western Civilization and Christian Foundations—familiar classes for many George Fox graduates. These classes helped her conceptualize the story of a world affected by Christianity. Another main goal was brevity, as World History is meant to be a supplemental textbook. Corning wanted to “honor students’ time” by making it as short and clear as possible. “I needed to give people a historical context and do it in not many pages,” she says.

To narrow the events included in this brief and specialized history book, Corning started asking around. She went to instructors at George Fox Evangelical Seminary and other seminaries and asked them what events they would prioritize—those that were not church history but students needed to understand. The list compiled by Corning’s colleagues had some surprises. For instance, some instructors mentioned the French Revolution as a significant gap in student knowledge.

Corning also collaborated with illustrator Joseph Novak to represent key elements of the text in graphic form, from maps and timelines to the visual representation of ideas. The first chapter includes a multi-page visual that shows the spread of the Roman Empire in pink and gray, illustrating and emphasizing Corning’s prose. The finished product is a readable and visually compelling textbook that comes in at only 136 pages in length.

She says the book can provide important context both for key moments in church history and current church issues. Ultimately, Corning’s goal is that it helps students and readers develop empathy. “We need to have the empathy to understand the decisions people made and how those decisions made sense in their context,” she explains. “People always want a better world for their kids. We don’t always agree on how we get there, but that’s what we want.”

Ultimately, Corning’s values of context and empathy are embedded in World History: A Short, Visual Introduction. It demonstrates that history—of the church and the larger political, economic and social world—is a complex story about making life better through community, collaboration and remembering what came before.

Two years ago, as communication arts professor Kevin Jones began planning for his sabbatical, he came to a crossroads. He could travel the usual route—do research, publish a paper or write some articles—or he could try putting some of his communication expertise to work in a real-world setting.

Jones opted for the latter, and he launched his plan by contacting Newberg High School and asking the question, “If you could have my services for one semester, what would you have me do for your students?” The answer: Volunteer to work with ninth graders who are considered “at risk” in property of dropping out. Upon accepting the invitation during the 2014-15 academic year, Jones discovered proof of a long held theory: There is a direct correlation between at-risk kids and communication deficiencies.

“Given that, I thought, ‘Let’s explore this. If we can correct these deficiencies, maybe we can bring down that at-risk category a bit,’” Jones surmised. “Perhaps, if we give these kids some communication tools for their toolbox, they will be less inclined to act out and will be able to better read others and interact with them, whether in a classroom setting or on a personal level.”

Jones took his plan a step further in the spring, when he volunteered to teach 16 at-risk middle schoolers at the Springbrook Education Center, an alternative school in the Newberg School District. He was encouraged when, at semester’s end, the class showed a 10 percent increase in communication skills based on an assessment test he administered.

But Jones wasn’t quite satisfied. Fall was approaching, which meant a return to the classrooms at George Fox. What could he do to continue helping these kids? That’s when the idea hit him: Develop a senior capstone course that would take his communication majors into Springbrook’s middle school classrooms for one-on-one mentoring.

He gave his senior capstone students the option to write a research paper or volunteer to mentor seventh- and eighth-graders twice a week for spring. The vast majority chose to work with the youth.

“Not only are we coming in here to get to know kids and be a mentor for them, we’re applying the communication lessons we’re learning in class to a real situation,” says senior communication arts major Morgan McGuire (pictured above) “This is ideal for me, because I hope to work with youth either as a youth pastor or perhaps a school counselor. Beyond that, you’re there for these kids as they go through some pretty tough stuff in life.”

During the fall 2015 semester, nine George Fox students are paired with nine middle schoolers. The mentors get to know the kids on a personal level while also testing them for communication deficiencies. The results will then be used to help Jones’ students develop curriculum that outlines exercises and strategies to address students’ communication struggles.

“At first some of our students were apprehensive, asking things like ‘Why us? What’s wrong with us?’ But as they got to know Kevin and the students, they realized they were there to help, to engage, to care,” says teacher Connie Rice, who gives up two 45-minute blocks of her class time each week for the George Fox visitors. “One thing the kids have really resonated with is the idea of ice words and fire words” — recognizing the importance of using affirming words that cool down a situation versus words that ignite a situation.”

Ultimately, Jones hopes to continue the program and expand it. He is in the process of writing a grant proposal that would help fund a service learning center in the communication arts department, opening up new avenues for mentoring.

“I’d love to see our students plug into the community and develop curriculum that will help these kids,” he says. “It’s a win-win situation, and it’s really what George Fox is all about—educating our students while giving back.”

Communication Breakthrough

Professor Kevin Jones and his students are giving at-risk middle schoolers communication tools to better cope in their world—one relationship at a time
By Sean Patterson
Bekah Miles sat in her chair, staring. Could she do it? Would she do it? No. Yes. She was so tired of hiding, tired of pretend ing, tired of her illness. But since that wasn’t going to change anytime soon, maybe it was time to change her approach. To take her life back, if she could.

Ten minutes of debate. Then she did what millions do every minute – she clicked the “post” button.

Then she walked away from Facebook, torn between chewing her fingernails down to stubs or straggling her shoulders and insisting it was no big deal. It’s just Facebook. Just a status update to friends and family.

Just a new tattoo she was announcing.

Just a mental illness she was revealing.

Just an irrevocable step for an intelligent, introverted psychology major at George Fox University who wanted to help others, but discovered she has her own monster to battle – a battle that would gain international attention within days of her online post.

Excerpt from Facebook: Aug. 23, 2015

Today, I am coming out with something that only a few of you know. I am ready to have a conversation about my mental illness.

Last year, I was diagnosed with depression. To me, depression is the days I feel sad for no reason.

Depression is the nights I cry because I feel so overwhelmed, so out of control.

Depression is the eating too much, or eating too little.

Depression is the homework that I never completed, simply because I didn’t feel I was capable.

Depression is the sleeping too much, or sleeping too little.

To me, depression is the days I feel sad for no reason.

Last year, I was diagnosed with depression. To me, depression is the days I feel sad for no reason.

Depression is the need to constantly be distracted because I can’t trust myself with my thoughts for longer than 3 minutes.

Eight days later, nearly 300,000 people had shared her post on Facebook, reaching millions. Media outlets from the United States and the United Kingdom to Germany and Australia had told her story. Celebrities like Ashton Kutcher and Zooey Deschanel even mentioned it on their own Facebook pages.

Six weeks later the media buzz had quieted, but the number of people sharing her post had climbed to 357,844, with 42,360 comments. More than 42,000 comments – and that did not include the 1,000-plus messages in her Facebook inbox.

Though most comments are positive, lauding Miles for her transparency and courage, she has not read them. “I refuse to,” she says. “There’s a bunch of good ones, but there’s always the one or two negative ones I don’t want to read, so I’m just going to steer clear of all of them.”

Professor’s story builds courage

It’s no easy thing for a psychology major to admit she needs mental help. Though Miles suspects that depression has affected her for several years, she was diagnosed only a year ago. “My best friend got me to go to the counseling center and take my first steps in the right direction,” Miles says. “Even then it was really difficult. Being a psychology major, I knew the tactics. It was really hard for me to get past that.”

Winter break came, and the stress let up for several weeks. “I’ll be OK,” Miles thought. “Then spring semester started, and I just went back down. I didn’t want to go back [to the counselor]. I needed to start on my own.”

That semester – the beginning of her junior year – Miles took a seat in Kristina Kays’ psychology class. The two had limited interaction up to that point, so Miles was just as surprised as her classmates were when Kays, a PhD and licensed clinical psychologist, shared her own journey of depression with the class.

“I never would have guessed that about her… she’s always so happy, it seems,” Miles says. “I just never would have thought she would have a mental illness like I do. When I saw Kris being so vulnerable in class – such an inspirational person that so many people look up to – I realized it’s OK to talk about this.”

If a psychology professor wasn’t ashamed of seeking help, perhaps a psychology student could, too. Miles met with Kays outside of class, gaining information and a dose of courage.

She had been through this, so I was asking about getting medication, which is a pretty
scary thing to do - you don't know the effect it will have," Miles says. This past April, in the midst of friendships and classes and homework, Miles began the trial and error of finding the right medication. "Really had side effects for some of them, like constantly shaking or you can't sleep," she says. "It's terrible in the middle of class. I just can't keep my body still. It was really rough trying to concentrate." At the end of April, right before finals, one medication started to work for her rather than against her.

"I was going to go see a counselor starting this summer, but I chickened out again," Miles says. Instead, she researched graphics about depression that would translate well into a tattoo. "Kays spoke out and it hit me: I want to do that. That's why I get something permanent on my body, so people can ask about it, and so I will talk about it. I'm forced to talk about it. I'm forced to be vulnerable."

Chaos ensues

School had not started when Miles posted her status update, so she had no need for her computer. She nervously tracked her post on her phone. "I see people on Facebook she saw from friends reassured her. She was still loved, still accepted."

Her phone, however, does not show shares outside of friends and friends of friends. A few days later her brother called - did she realize what was happening with her post? "I don't think I've ever grabbed and turned on my laptop so fast," she said. The numbers of shares, likes and comments continued to soar each hour and each day. Her tattoos and status update had struck a chord - a chord few had ever played, because sudden and so fast," she says. The numbers of views, it was terrifying in the best way. If by having my personal life exposed it helped so many others, it was worth every minute."

The price and prize of vulnerability

While Miles hopes the unproctected feeling of vulnerability eventually will pass, Kays cautions that this is part of the price they pay to help others.

I have always felt vulnerable telling my story, and it's worth it," Kays says. "If it inspires and frees someone else, then whatever happens is worth the price of being laid open a bit. Where you can't guarantee the impact of your story, or the outcome of that, I have seen God do amazing things with the little pieces I offer up - of my journeys, my story, my struggles. If it brings freedom and hope and the ability to keep that story going, we should be doing this a lot." Miles' vulnerability brought freedom not just to others, but to herself as well. "I'm a lot braver and more courageous than I ever thought I would be able to be," she says. "I just want to hide, but I'm not going to. I would have considered that I could be a brave and courageous person, but 'could be' was the thing I definitely can say I can and I have been."

As Miles took those brave steps, she discovered God in the midst of her experience. "For a long time, it was very rocky. I couldn't handle myself, so I didn't know how to handle my faith relationship with God I had put back," Miles says. "As a result, I learned that God is with me in my struggles. I've learned that He's with me in every situation. I've learned that He will never leave me or forsake me."

Then homework for Kay's class, close on the heels of the media blitz, gave her a new perspective. "It was in A Grace Disguised, by Jerry Sittser, a book about grief and loss that I was reading for class," Miles recalls. "He talks about his own experience: His family got into a car wreck, and he lost his mom, his wife and one of his daughters. He talks about what Paul writes in Romans 8:26-28. . . . He says, basically, in situations some times we pull back from God, but he doesn't take that to heart. It's OK. He'll intercede, like a mother embraces her child in her arms. That's how I feel in this situation. He used this experience... he interceded in my life and took this, and took off with it, saying, 'We're using your struggle to reach so many other people.' Like, 'I'm still here, and this is what I'm going to do to show you.' That was one of the coolest things; it just happened at the perfect time."

The legacy of a two-week media blitz

No textbook had told Miles that publicly admitting her depression would directly affect - and help - millions. Now she struggles to remember that there are millions just like herself.

"I want people to take away that they're clearly not alone," she says. "I want people to keep talking about it, keep fighting it and find a way to end it if we keep talking about it, keep fighting it and finding the help we need, and keep sharing our stories."

For herself, Miles got back into counseling. If she could be brave enough to face the world, she figured, she could be brave enough to face her counselor again.

"I hope I keep doing what I did," she says. "It's OK to have something like this and not be afraid of it - not let it define who you are, or let it control who you are. It's not like I'm fixed, even with counseling and medication. It's still a daily struggle. So it's OK when I have bad days, and it's great when I have good days. Everyone has something wrong. But it's OK to have these faults. I want to continue to have this conversation."

Kays now meets with Miles on a regular basis after class to offer advice and support. They also discuss the research projects they are working on together focused on the use of social media in driving conversations about difficult topics, using responses to Miles' Facebook post as qualitative data.

"We talk about our physical health all the time, but we don't talk about our mental health. We do yearly (physical) checkups, why don't we do yearly psychological checkups? A lot of times, fixing our mental health will fix our physical health. I want people to know it's OK to talk about, despite the stigma - because the only way it's going to end is if we keep talking about it, keep fighting it and finding the help we need, and keep sharing our stories."

For herself, Miles got back into counseling. If she could be brave enough to face the world, she figured, she could be brave enough to face her counselor again.

"I hope I keep doing what I did," she says. "It's OK to have something like this and not be afraid of it - not let it define who you are, or let it control who you are. It's not like I'm fixed, even with counseling and medication. It's still a daily struggle. So it's OK when I have bad days, and it's great when I have good days. Everyone has something wrong. But it's OK to have these faults. I want to continue to have this conversation."

"I want people to take away that they're clearly not alone," she says. "It's OK to have something like this and not be afraid of it - not let it define who you are, or let it control who you are. It's not like I'm fixed, even with counseling and medication. It's still a daily struggle. So it's OK when I have bad days, and it's great when I have good days. Everyone has something wrong. But it's OK to have these faults. I want to continue to have this conversation."

Watch a video with more details about Miles' story at georgefox.edu/behab
Lewis & Clark, 49-35.

Now, as he entered his senior year at West Linn High School, he was in need of a big break – a turning point – to give him a reason to be excited about the future.

The previous year had worn him down. With his mom Shawn incapacitated and his father Corey working long hours as a stock broker, Rudy was left to be "Mom 2.0," as his mother put it. That meant making sure his two younger brothers had lunches and were getting to school. It meant doing the grocery shopping, preparing dinners and taking his mom to medical appointments. And it required that he juggle the long hours of study and practice of a student athlete with the demands of taking care of the family.

"Let's just say, junior year was a rough time, not only for me personally but because I had to watch my mom go through what she went through," he says. "She had a seizure and crashed the car, so she couldn't drive, and many days she wasn't able to get out of bed. My dad had East Coast work hours, leaving the house at 4 a.m., so he was gone, which left me to do the driving, shopping – pretty much everything. It was a struggle. I wasn't doing too well in school. I needed something to happen to give me a lift."

Hope came in the most unlikely of forms. For, as Hughes recalls, he wasn't even on recruiters' radars when a group of coaches from George Fox paid a visit to a football camp the summer before his senior year. They were there to scout another player when fate stepped in: A coach on the West Linn staff suggested another player when Hughes emerged, thinking nothing was going to go right for me. That was a big turning point. It motivated me. Up to that point I lacked motivation for "the little things in life" and has turned Hughes into a team leader with maturity beyond his years.

"The thing I appreciate most about the Hughes family is their positive outlook on this whole situation," George Fox coach Chris Casey says. "They keep mom's cancer documents in a flowery, colorful pink box. Rather than seeing cancer as this enemy they have instead chosen to put a positive spin on what they're going through.

"It's a testament to the attitude Rudy and his whole family have taken to handle all this. They're not bitter or negative. There's no self-pity."

Hughes confesses a deep appreciation for "the little things in life" and has a caring nature that belies his youth. Even his roommate at George Fox, also a freshman, sees him as an older brother.

It's a nurturing character trait rooted in Hughes' childhood, when, as a 6-year-old, he was told his mom may never live more than four or five months. A brain tumor the size of an orange threatened to take her from his life, and he wanted to spend every spare moment with her, even if it meant standing by her side as she vomited from the chemotherapy – or assisting her in scrubbing the chemo smell from her skin.

Life saving surgery and chemotherapy treatments rid Shawn's body of the tumor. For 10 years, she had a clean bill of health. Then came the news in December of 2014 that the cancer had returned, and her whole family have taken to handle all this. They're not bitter or negative. There's no self-pity."

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Pushing Through Pain
By Sarah Reid

S

thing was wrong. Lauren Rodrigues was a few months old at the time and had hardly stopped crying since she was born. Her parents were concerned and took her to the doctor for tests. Following an MRI, Rodrigues was diagnosed with hydrocephalus, a condition caused by excess fluid in the brain that causes great pressure and pain. There is no cure—it can only be managed.

At 9 months old, she had her first brain surgery. During that first surgery as an infant, the doctors installed a shunt in her brain that drains the excess fluid into her abdomen. The shunt allowed Rodrigues to live her elementary school years as a normal kid, but in sixth grade things unraveled quickly. Her shunt failed three times that year, resulting in three brain surgeries. The second time, Rodrigues was slurring her words and nearly in a coma by the time her family had driven from their home in Eugene, Ore., to Oregon Health & Science University for immediate surgery. The third time, she was transported by Life Flight.

The MRIs from that year also revealed a brain tumor, which was likely the original cause of her hydrocephalus. It was non-cancerous, but in a location where it was also inoperable. Because it didn’t present any immediate threat to her, doctors decided to observe rather than treat it.

During her freshman year of high school, Rodrigues began experiencing vision and balance problems and chronic headaches. “My tumor had started to grow,” she recalls. “The doctors put me on an aggressive chemotherapy regimen that took a toll on me physically, mentally and emotionally.” She was on chemotherapy for two and a half years to shrink its size, wrapping up treatment right before her senior year.

“Those years of chemo were so difficult, but I grew dramatically in my faith during that time. I had to lean on God because there was nothing else I could do,” Rodrigues says. “I was blessed to also have a support system of people who reminded me that my health battles didn’t define who I was then or who I am now.”

Now a sophomore at George Fox, Rodrigues loves soccer and excels on the field, fueled by her competitive drive and natural athletic instincts. She’s played since she was 5 years old. Soccer has powered her through medical challenges, and those challenges have in turn become a big part of the reason she plays. “Soccer allows me to share a piece of who I am,” she says. “The reason I’m out there is to show people that you can pursue and strive for what you want to do, no matter what your circumstances are.”

Rodrigues’ doctors allow her to play the sport she loves, though her medical issues make recovery between games more difficult. She’s as capable as anyone else on the field—it’s just a matter of how much pain she is willing to endure. She has continuous muscle and nerve pain due to the surgeries and treatments she’s undergone, much of which has settled into her back. She combats the discomfort with injections, tension releasing therapy, postural restoration and many other treatments. There is no magic formula.

For that reason, Rodrigues is taking a year away from the George Fox women’s soccer team to continue rehabilitating. Last season—her freshman year—took a toll on her body, and she recovers more slowly than most as a result of the years of chemotherapy. Her presence on the field is missed, but her leadership is still felt. The midfielder is instead the team manager this year, and her uniform sits untouched in head coach Cory Hand’s office, waiting for her return next season.

Hand remembers the first time he watched Rodrigues play. It was during her junior year of high school while she was in the Olympic Development Program and still on chemotherapy treatments, unbeknownst to him and the Division II and NAIA coaches who were recruiting her.

“She had extra emotion and extra drive, and you could tell that there was something carrying her,” Hand recalls. “There was no hesitation in the way she played. She had composure, she had direction and she had purpose.”

When Rodrigues first visited George Fox, she was fielding scholarship offers from larger universities. But she was looking for something specific: a program that wouldn’t see her medical history as a burden, but rather an integral piece of who she is and why she loves the game.

Hand vividly recalls that Rodrigues’ questions were purposeful. “She was extremely sincere from the first moment I met her. There was significance to what she had to say.” With tears in her eyes, she confided in him and shared her story—the first college coach she’d felt comfortable being vulnerable with. Shortly after, she turned down those athletic scholarships from other schools and became a Bruin.

Hand says that having Rodrigues as part of the team doesn’t just make her stronger, it makes the team stronger because of who she is. “She is strong, bold and courageous in all aspects of her life, and soccer is just an expression of that,” he says. And he’s right. These days you’ll find Rodrigues smiling as she walks through the George Fox campus with her friends and soccer teammates. She’s pursuing a nursing degree with the end goal of helping and inspiring patients the way her medical team has done for her the past two decades.

“I am still living with hydrocephalus and a tumor, and I still battle with my health every day,” she says. “My hope is that with medical advancements I won’t have to deal with these things anymore. But I don’t know what’s going to happen in the future, because all of our futures are uncertain. I put this in God’s hands because he knows what he’s doing.”

Lauren Rodrigues has overcome serious physical obstacles to play the sport she loves—inspiring others in the process.
Call Me Grandpa Roy

Roy Hiebert has delivered flowers and friendship to four decades of George Fox students

By Jeremy Lloyd

Roy Hiebert paces the exterior of his home, located just a couple blocks from campus, stopping every few steps to explain the origin, history and purpose of various items. Lumber from the University of Oregon’s Ross Center, which is being used to build the University of Oregon’s Stevens Center, is arranged by length and ready for use as firewood. Aluminum strips from what used to be a student lounge near the Bruin Den now line a raised flowerbed. And, of course, steel grates removed during a remodel of the Ross Center serve as be a student lounge near the Bruin Den now line a raised flowerbed. And, of course, steel grates removed during a remodel of the Ross Center serve as.

“Everything is useful to someone like me,” he says with a smile. Around back is a garden with cucumbers, tomatoes, bell peppers and onions. Nearby are apple and pear trees. And, of course, flowers. Lots of flowers. Roses, dahlias, sunflowers, hydrangeas, and in the spring, daffodils and tulips. His favorites are the roses and dahlias.

“If we have long blooming seasons and they have many blooms for one plant,” he says. “That's an important characteristic for a generous green thumb like Hiebert, who estimates he gives away thousands of flowers every year.

Now 91 years old, Hiebert doesn’t remember when exactly George Fox students began affectionately calling him “Grandpa Roy,” or why he started dining on a regular basis in the university's cafeteria with young people a fraction of his age. But one thing is certain: He’s been an important fixture in the university community for 40 years and counting. A man whose kind smile and simple gestures transcend generational divides. A listening ear. A word of wisdom. A friend to sit and eat with. The gift of a flower.

“I don’t have what I call friends my own age,” he says. “I tell students that they’re my friends, not older people.”

In many ways Hiebert’s routine hasn’t changed much since he lost his wife to cancer in 1992 — just five years after he retired from his position as associate director of the university’s plant services department.

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays he heads over to the university cafeteria for lunch with his nearly 2,300 “grandkids.”

“I usually sit at an empty table by myself if I can find one,” he says. “I like to be up somewhere near the checker so that when students come in, they see me and they can decide if they want to come visit or they can go somewhere else. It’s totally up to them.”

There are many reasons a student might decide to join Hiebert for a meal. To some, he’s a surrogate grandparent. To others, a friend when they feel alone or out of place. To many, a trusted sage, always ready with a joke, old saying or Bible verse that can apply to any situation.

“Everyone is ignorant, just about different things,” he often quips, paraphrasing an old Will Rogers quote. “Often our disappointments are just an invitation to something better,” he might say to a student who lost a job or did poorly on a test.

To another, he might quote one of his favorite Bible verses, like Psalm 84:11: “For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

“One of the girls who took a long time to find the right guy, I gave her that verse, and she hung onto that for several years before I went to her wedding,” Hiebert recalls.

Whatever the motivation for sharing a meal and conversation with their Grandpa Roy, students are always greeted with a smile and often a rosebud from a greening card box he carries with him — always a big hit with the young women who tend to make up the majority of his dining companions.

In the evenings, Hiebert turns his attention to delivering flowers on a larger scale. A couple times a week he’ll load up an old cardboard box with all the flowers he can carry and leave them in the area outside the cafeteria where students drop off their trays, also distributing the fragrant gifts to food service workers and others he might encounter along the way. During the summer months when most students aren’t around it’s George Fox employees who are the beneficiaries of his routine deliveries.

But Hiebert has given a lot more than flowers to the university community over the past 40 years, starting back in 1975 when he left his position as a teacher and electrician at a school for missionary children in Ethiopia to accept a job at George Fox. A founding member in 1985 of “Greenroom,” a volunteer student prayer and worship time that is still going strong, he also was recognized in 1996 as the university’s Volunteer of the Year for the more than 240 hours he worked to construct a prayer chapel on campus. And in 1999 he accepted a Christian Service Award from the Northwest Christian Communication Foundation for his work on campus as “encourager and friend.”

“Often our disappointments are just an invitation to something better,” he might say to a student who lost a job or did poorly on a test.

As much as he has had a positive impact on the people around him, Hiebert is quick to say that he has equally benefited from his unselfish role as campus grandpa.

“One of the things I tell students is you tend to become like the people you spend your time with,” he says. “I feel like that’s one of the things that has kept me from aging as much as I might have. Spending a lot of time with students, it has changed me. And hopefully it has changed some of the students a little bit, too.”

Hiebert shares a meal and conversa-tion with George Fox students in 1993 — a tradition he continues to this day.
Dear Alumni and Friends,  
I trust that you have enjoyed reading this edition of our magazine. In every issue we try to show how the Ke Reunion promise is being fulfilled at George Fox University. I am very grateful for the support and encouragement of our alumni, friends and parents who, through your commitment and sacrifice, make it possible for us to provide a Foundation of education that is genuinely transforming the lives of our students and the communities in which they live.

In this 2014-15 Honor Roll, you will see names of alumni, friends, and foundations that support our mission. Thank you for your continued support of George Fox. We are grateful for your loyalty and for being so significant in the lives of our students.

As alumni and friends, we are thrilled to announce the dedication of a new dining hall that is now open to students. This hall provides seating for 600 students and is a testament to the continued investment in our campus facilities. We are also pleased to announce the establishment of a scholarship fund in memory of our beloved friend, Don Hohensee. The Don Hohensee Scholarship Fund will support students in need of financial assistance.

We are also proud to announce the sale of the annual fundraising event, the George Fox Gala. This year’s event was a huge success, raising over $250,000 for student scholarships and financial aid.

We are grateful for the support of our alumni, friends, and foundations, and we look forward to continued partnership as we strive to provide a truly transformative education for our students.

Sincerely,
Bob Tannenbaum
President

2014-15 Honor Roll

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2018-19

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2020-21

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A groundbreaking women’s basketball team, two all-time distance runners and generous philanthropists were among those inducted into the fall 20th class of the university’s Sports Hall of Fame Oct. 10 during homecoming weekend.

In all, five individuals, a team and a family were recognized for their contributions to athletics: Jonathan Morse (G87), an All-American in both track and cross country; Kim Wright (G81), a district star and All-Americans in cross country; Calvin Ferguson (G84), a Five-year school-record-breaker in track; and Marilyn (Hawkins) Donovan (ADP90) who authored a new book, Two Faces of Me, released in July. In his book he explores the different aspects that make up an individual’s life and self esteem as she aims to inspire readers to focus on positive self image and to understand self worth in the eyes of God. Now in the final year as a DPR, the last six years as an author, motivational speaker and management consultant following 21 years as a CEO at a major company, he focuses on positive self-image and to understand aspects that make up an individual’s life and self esteem as she aims to inspire readers to focus on positive self image and to understand self worth in the eyes of God.

Duane Larson (G93) is Oregon’s 2014-15 Vice Principal of the Year. He was recognized by the Oregon Association of Secondary School Administrators and honored in Washington, D.C., where he received the award and met with Oregon congressman Larson. In his last year as a DPR, he was also a keynote speaker at the University of Oregon’s annual digital leadership forum at which she now teaches a principles of marketing class.

Jennifer (Barrett) Alvarezo (G88) is in her first year as superintendent/principal at Prineville City School District in Eastern Oregon. She moved to the 250-student district after serving as principal at North Powder (Or.) School for the last year. That followed two years in Gambell, Alaska. Larson has been a math teacher for 16 years until 2011. He was cited for initiatives changing the way well as perform Title IX harassment and discrimination investigations.

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in planning long term programs for freshman success.

Annette (Blais) Cadore (G97) in September was promoted to senior mu- sor at the English Language Program at Portland State University. She also received a stipend grant for development of an open access ESL read- ing textbook to be developed this fall and pub- lished through the university’s open access website.

Anita (Quakert) Nelson (G97) is a certified physi- cian assistant with Carson Bauman Medical and Cosmetic Dermatology, a five member medical clinic in Bellevue, Wash. She began that focus in 2007 after seven years in emer- gency medical practice relocating from the Phoenix to the Seattle area.

Lernet Sonner (G97) has a new assignment in the Philippines as a transportation officer with the General Services Office at the U.S. Embassy in Manila following a one year detail assignment as a duty officer on the White. House Situation Room. Previously she was a business intelligence analyst with Technology Law Group in Washington DC.

Tina Hoffman (G98) is in May received the Out- standing Employee Award for 2014 for its Fort Collins, Colorado, as an academic advisor. She was promoted to the position in May.

S. S. U. Sturman (G98) has been named acting superintendent of the Springfield (OR) School District, promoted from the assistant role she had held for just the past four months. That followed positions with the Salem-Keizer (OR) School District for five years as a principal and the last three years as director of instructional services. She now is guiding a district of 13,000 students in 20 schools. In 2011 she was named Oregon Middle School Principal of the Year by the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators and the Oregon Association of Secondary School Administrators.

Drew Coleman (G98) has been named by the Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors to its 2015 Multnomah County Broker of the Year. He is principal broker at Hasson Company Realtors in Portland. Coleman also serves on the Portland trade association’s board of directors, which oversees more than 6,500 members.

Maya (Ichihara) Fisher (G99) has returned to the George Fox campus to be associate director of parent programs after being a stay at home mom in recent years and working previously as a costume shop manager and designer at Rock Valley College in Illinois.

Froh Kailan (G10) in April published a new book through WPI and Stock Becoming Simple and Wise Moral Development in Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Vision of Christian Ethics. He is director of college guidance and a humani- ties faculty member at Trinity School at Greenlawn in South Bend, Ind., in those roles for four years, while also serving for three years as a marketing assistant for Panex Technologies in Lenexa, Kan. and as a research assistant in the Department of Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He earned a PhD in theological ethics from the University of Chicago in 2012.

McGinness (G10) is a home- room teacher for Oregon Connections Academy, joining the faculty in 2007.

McGeehon (G10) is in Portland, OR in the state’s largest tuition-free virtual public school for K-12 students. It has more than 50,000 students in pre-kindergarten through Grade 12. She has been a teacher at the school since 2005, in which 1,569 students statewide participate in online instruction.

Melissa (Neck) Raven (G10) is in Dakar, Senegal, where she has been a theatre teacher with the International School of Dakar and has been involved in the issue and performing arts department. The private school has more than 500 students in pre-kindergarten through Grade 12. She has been a teacher at the school since 2005, in which 1,569 students statewide participate in online instruction.

Ryan Deignor (G10) has released a new book just published in October by University of California Press. The Fifth of Progress Immigrants, Americans, and the Building of Canada and Railroads in the West explores the cultural and political role of the workers who were treated as outsiders and whose labor force created a new transcontinental empire into reality. He is associate professor of history and history department chair at Portland State University, where he has been since 2009.

Deirdre (Sofer) Grigor (G10) is a U.S. Navy pilot’s wife of five years in Northwest, Wash., where she has started a blog to encourage and support military wives. Her blog, titled “Our Journey of Joy,” is named after a saying, “You can be the change,” started by the blog Happy Fit Navy Wife in 2012 to encourage military spouses, girlfriends and fiancée’s, and now has expanded to share parenting stories and tips. Prior to her marriage in 2010 she was mom in recent years and working previously as a costume shop manager and designer at Rock Valley College in Illinois.

Scott Orth (G10) is principal broker at Hasson Company Realtors in Portland. Coleman also serves on the Portland trade association’s board of directors, which oversees more than 6,500 members.

Sarah (Jertberg) Owen (G10) have established Owen Eye Care in Portland, OR in 2008. She is the marketing and design coordinator. He obtained a doctor of optometry degree from Pacific University in 2009 and then worked in a corporate setting in Tigard, Ore., before opening their practice in 2013. She has been a registered nurse since 2005. Also establishing the new business as a financial executive is Betty Jeanne Orth (G10) Sarah’s sister.

Sabrina Bailey (GB10) MBA, MBA has joined Northern Trust Asset Management in Chicago as global head of defined contribution, a new position created to help the firm grow its retirement solutions business. She previously served two years with Merger Insight Consulting following five years with Towers Watson, both located in Seattle.

Debra Hecht-Sapien (A10) MM, MBA, says the drive is to pursue M&A opportunities and Entrepreneurs and Studies at the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota. As an entre-

He also is president and managing partner of a sister agency, the Portland office of Luna Auda Media, a full-service marketing agency with an emphasis on communications and media.

In addition, he is principal with Coyote Energy Drinks in Portland, started in 2004 with a focus on Hispanic flavors and all natural ingredients. He is a frequent speaker/partner/author on the topic of high tech, hospitality, e-commerce and communica- tions trends and topics.

Erie (Gleason) Presby (G10) completed a master of public health degree at Arizona State University. In June she is now an intern with Mercy Corps.

Benjamin Goromal (G10) has authored Corporate High School, a young adult dystopian novel that asks readers to consider the avenues to save public education. Released in June, it is available in print or as an e-book. He wrote the novel after he offered free talks to companies for their classrooms, he was swamped with more than 1,000 requests in the first week so he created a GoFundMe account to secure financial support. He is an English teacher at Central High School in Independence, Ore. and his first novel, Sum of Our Gods, was published in 2013.

Rebecca Laverne (G11) in June completed a three- year dental specialty residency at the West Los Angeles VA Hospital. She has been certified by the American Board of Periodontology and is now a periodontist and dental implant practi- cing general practitioner in Los Angeles. She received her DDS degree from Oregon Health & Science University in 2008.

Michael Owen (G11) and Sarah (Bergey) Owen (G11) have established Owen Eye Care in Portland, OR in 2008. She is the marketing and design coordinator. He obtained a doctor of optometry degree from Pacific University in 2009 and then worked in a corporate setting in Tigard, Ore., before opening their practice in 2013. She has been a registered nurse since 2005. Also establishing the new business as a financial executive is Betty Jeanne Orth (G10) Sarah’s sister.

Sabinah Wadud (MA) is owner with her hus- band, of Core Values Counseling in Beaverton, Ore., and also her own Sabina Wadud Counseling, located in Hillsboro, Ore. She is a marriage and family therapist in her private practice, and she and her husband and daughter lead two day conferences for couples and churches. She is also the author of Entering Love, Real Hope for Real Relationships, published in 2014.

Inspired by a dream and named after a combina- tion of her parents’ first names, Yuhanna Delia is not your typical thrift store. Laurel (Stalker) DeLong (G12) and her husband, Gabriel, wouldn’t have it any other way.

Opened nearly three years ago in Milwaukie, Wash., the store is not just a business, it’s the means to an end: helping youth. It’s so successful that by the end of February the operation is dou- ble in size and renting into a two-story building across the street.

That’s the latest step in the ultimate goal of establishing a youth center for the city of Milwaukie. The store, she said, is the driving force behind a 50,000-square-foot, two-story youth center that will occupy the second floor and give kids a safe place to have fun, make friends, get something to eat and even find shelter.

The store averages more than 100 customers per day who come in to take advantage of the free pric- es and make an impact on their community, Laurel and Gabriel also work with and for customers, introduce them “to the atmosphere of his presence for the first time through worship music playing in the background,” give encouraging words, and acknowledge that customers are valuable contribu- tors to the youth project, no matter how much they spend.

“More and more people are cheering us on as we share with transcripts our only hope to overcome the tragedies of this world,” she said.
Joey Weaver (G14, MAT07) is a math teacher at Duluth ( Ore.) High School, is in her first year as the new volleyball coach. An assistant for several years, she was promoted to the head job at the command of the school district this summer after the school's longtime head coach retired.

Dwight Frees (G10) is an associate professor of practical theology at The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology and a frequent speaker and consultant for churches, denominations and missions agencies. He speaks internationally on modern culture, social systems and missional Christianity. He was the community curator of emerging churches in England, a role he did for more than 11 years, and also served for several years on the board of the England-based Center for Missional Community.

Christopher Kliewer (DMin05) has been associated with the University of California, Berkeley, since 2002. He has been a fellow with the Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, Calif., since 2001. He received a PhD in physical chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley.

Stephanie Steinhorst (G05) has been a principal investigator at the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site in Greeneville, Tenn. Maintained by the National Park Service, it was established in 1935 as a U.S. National Monument and consists of 16 acres, including two of the 17th U.S. president's homes, his tailor shop and his family cemetery.

Kyle Pfeiffer (G10) has led the Alumni Relations Office since 2002 and to the Grizzly Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. He also has a high school teaching position as director of special services for the Grizzly Sports Hall of Fame.

Rick McNeal (G06) has joined George Fox University’s marketing communications department as digital marketing administrator. He has more than 11 years of experience in marketing and communications.

Jennifer Harrington (G04) has joined George Fox University as the new business development manager for DeLoach & Nostra, P.A. and Seminole LLP, an accounting/financial firm in Lake Oswego, Ore. Mission Foundation senior project manager with CH2M Hill in Portland, Oregon. From 2005 to 2013 he served as associate director of special services for the Grizzlies.

Kimberly (Heiter) Walters (G07) is the new director of institutional advancement at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Previously she was a vice president of enrollment management at the University of Oregon.

Alyssa Ott (G11) has joined George Fox University as an assistant coordinator of the School of Business and Global Studies.

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Tissell Helps Find Homes for Families in Need

Elisabeth Tissell (G14) wants to be a university professor, but the recent political science graduate is taking her first steps into social work.

Instead of pursuing education in graduate school, she’s now in Alamosa, Colo., gaining real-world experience as a volunteer AmeriCorps member.

“I am being taught so much about communication skills and working with people,” she says.

The skills are enhanced by her knowledge of Spanish, her minor at George Fox.

“Working with the Spanish-speaking families is especially rewarding,” she says. “There are families who have had to leave their country because of violence, and they’ve been able to get assistance that they need.”

Tissell, shown here in Ronda, Spain, where she studied abroad for a semester while a student at George Fox, is now in Alamosa, Colo., gaining real-world experience as a volunteer AmeriCorps member.

Tissell has been assigned to a unit, called Unidad de Vida, which is in charge of food distribution in the San Luis Valley in Colorado, and its Adelante October 2014 program, which provides transitional housing services, held twice a month at the Hilyard Center in Eugene.

Katherine (Fuller) Schmitt (DMin14) is coordinator of the New Dads program, offered in the Salem, Ore., area.

The program helps first-time parents learn parenting skills.

Reid Hargraves (G12) is marketing specialist with CUL Inc. in Troutdale. Ore., responsible for advertising, marketing and grant creation activities, event management and tracking, evaluation, the city’s technology company focused on cultural services.

Kelly Watts (G12) is now a vice president/investment officer with Washington Trust Bank in Meridian, Idaho. He moved to the position after nearly a decade as a front office staff member in 2014 after a career that included involvement with Cetera, Legal, The Medical, the Woodburn Downtown Association, the Farmworkers Housing Development Corporation and work in the insurance industry.

As a past president of the Woodburn Area Chamber of Commerce, she was recently featured in a Hispanic Heritage Month series featured in the Woodburn Independent newspaper.

Cathy Davis (G13) is the first female executive principal at North Middle School in Tigard, Ore. In addition to her duties, she volunteers at Ronald McDonald House in Tigard in her third year with the business, she has worked more than a decade as a counselor and an athletics director at North Middle School.

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Ryan Fast (ED15) is developing her doctoral dissertation as a published book later this year at Brown University. "The Size of the Mission, Not the Mandates: Defining the Purpose of Education." The book conveys the need for a common vision for America’s public schools, arguing that educators are acting for a more inspiring purpose than simply improving standardized test scores.

Tissell, who grew up in the Seattle area, says she had an early interest in studying the Spanish language. “I always wanted to be able to do a good way to communicate,” she says.

She says her clients are typically homeless because of domestic violence, overcrowding or low credit conditions. Her organization provides housing for 13 families in addition to locating other homes.

She can provide the screened hiring for four to six months, three of the individuals whose families Tissell assisted didn’t stay that long. Those who have an income without help or assistance pay 30 percent of their income towards housing costs.

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Shawn Venner (G15) has been named head boys’ basketball coach for C.S. Lewis Academy in Newberg. The former Bruin player, who plans to pursue a teaching career after completing a master’s degree, moves up from coaching the private Christian school’s fourth through sixth grade and middle school boys’ teams last year.

JUST MARRIED

Randy Werner (G00) and Jane (Koehler) May 30, July 18, 2015, in Newberg.

Gene McKinley (G15) and Trinity Wray. Aug. 1, 2015, in Newberg.

Jennifer Stroeg (G19) and Joel Estrada, June 6, 2015, in Oregon City, Ore.

Kasea Keen (G17) and Ciidi Bakari, July 23, 2015, in Cannon Beach, Ore.

Jae Kim (G15) and Michelle Jiang, July 17, 2015, in Irvine, Calif.

Ryan Kirkpatrick (G13) and Rebecca Tegman, Aug. 8, 2015, in Seattle.

Rebecca Tegman (G14) and Andrew (Bamforth) Watne (G98), Aug. 28, 2015, in Newberg.

IN MEMORY

Helen (Ambach) Konel (642), Aug. 24, 2015, in Palm Desert, Calif

Mary (Diamond) Johnson (65, AP979), June 7, 2015, in Dayton, Ore.

Verena (Evans) Edwards (G47), Dec. 28, 2015, in Nampa, Idaho.

Robert Smith (G58), Sept. 27, 2015, in Milwaukee, Wis.

Jesse Kewen (G66), July 30, 2015, in Lexington, Ky.


Cherie Peters (MD04), June 17, 2015, in McPherson, Kan.

Stephanie (Kauflin) Landis (G58), July 31, 2014, in North Bend, Wash.

Earl Lewis (MD03), July 31, 2011, in Boise, Idaho.

Ralph Fueg (AP999), May 25, 2015, in Salem, Ore.

Kevin Hall (MA93), Aug. 2, 2015, in Newberg.

Tara (Deit) Manor (GS5, MA91), Sept. 8, 2015, in Portland.

David Markus (P) (DS00), Sept. 18, 2015, in Portland.

Rachel Macy (MA03), June 23, 2015, in Newberg.

Dana Anderson (MA98, EdD14), June 5, 2015, in Huttoxville, Texas.

James Drieden (MA00), May 20, 2015, in Estacada, Ore.

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— Orville and Marilyn Winters

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It all started with 36 cardboard boxes, a few rolls of packing tape and one big idea. For more than a year, systems administrator Mike Campadore had been stashing away iMac boxes whenever the university ordered new computers, noting that the slightly angled shape of the boxes could create a giant wheel if he collected enough of them. He thought it might make a fun toy for his daughter. The result, however, was something no one expected—a viral photo and video that would reach millions around the world.

It all started inconspicuously enough when, on a sunny Friday afternoon in July, Campadore asked IT coworker Rich Bass to help him complete the wheel and the two rolled it out on the quad for a spin. A photo shared by the university marketing department on Facebook quickly found its way to Reddit, Imgur, Tumblr and Twitter, where it went viral, viewed more than 3 million times within hours.

Soon Photoshop hobbyists began inserting what became known as the “iWheel” into a variety of scenarios, from running with the bulls to scenes from movies like *Ben-Hur* and *Interstellar*.

Online commenters asked to see the iWheel in action and the university marketing department seized the opportunity, creating a video that was viewed more than 250,000 times on YouTube and shared on high-profile websites like CBS News, USA Today and Mashable. Local news station KATU sent a reporter to interview Campadore and Bass, and ABC’s *Good Morning America* even requested footage, though the proposed segment never made it to air.

Watch the video, see news coverage and more at georgefox.edu/iWheel

While interest in the U.S. began to wane the following week, the iWheel craze was just picking up steam in countries like Japan, Russia, Germany and even Saudi Arabia. Major Japanese network Fuji Television even featured it on the evening news.

By the end of its 15 minutes of fame the iWheel had been seen nearly 4 million times that can be verified, and hundreds of thousands or perhaps even millions of times more that cannot, making it the most wide-reaching though at first unintentional – marketing effort in the history of the university.

### The ‘iWheel’ Goes Viral

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Senior running back John Shaffer celebrates in the end zone after punching in the winning touchdown against the University of Redlands in the Bruins’ first home game of the season. The thrilling 39-35 come-from-behind victory would establish a high level of comfort in the friendly confines of Stoffer Family Stadium, as the team finished 3-1 at home in just their second season back on the gridiron after a 46-year hiatus.