Bruins share their stories of struggle, triumph and community
Not long after we introduced the phrase Stand Tall last fall, there was a question that began popping up around campus: "Is Stand Tall replacing Be Known as the university’s promise?" The answer is no.

Be Known has been at the core of who we are since we opened our doors in 1891, and it will continue to be foundational to the George Fox University experience. We only recently put a name to it, but professors and staff have been connecting with students in authentic ways – personally, academically and spiritually – long before Be Known started showing up on billboards.

So, what do we mean by Stand Tall? The short answer is, it’s what we aspire for our students. Certainly we want them to thrive in whatever career path they choose, be that in the arts, business, medical practice, ministry or any other field. But it’s so much more than that. By delivering on our Be Known promise to students, we hope to inspire and equip them to serve, to lead and to boldly share the love of Christ.

When I think of these character traits, I think of people like Fabian Jimenez, a 2017 alumnus who is standing tall as an engineer, a mentor and a giver. The first member of his family to graduate from college, he is now an engineer on the team that oversees the maintenance, everyday operations and capital improvement projects of six major bridges over the Willamette River. But he’s not content to simply work. He also volunteers with multiple nonprofit organizations, mentors students interested in pursuing a career in STEM fields, and regularly returns to campus to work with our aspiring engineers.

This special edition of the George Fox Journal is dedicated to telling the stories of students and alumni who personify what it means to Stand Tall. You’ll read about one of our students, Emery Miller, who started his own charity and has helped raise more than $300,000 for the American Heart Association. Another, Tracy Boyd, a mother of four who is blind and currently in our graduate counseling program, created a community for parents who are blind to share tips and encouragement with one another. And there’s alumnus Greg Lutze’s story – that of a former business student who went on to cofound VSCO, one of the world’s most popular photo editing and sharing apps, all without compromising his faith or commitment to family.

I hope and trust these stories inspire you as they do me. They are a good reminder of why we love George Fox and why the mission of this institution is so critical to the world at large.

Robin Baker
President
University Explores Partnership in Allied and Mental Health College in Southern Oregon

In line with its recent addition of healthcare related programs, George Fox is exploring the possibility of partnering in an allied and mental health college in Roseburg, Oregon.

This spring, the university signed a memorandum of understanding with Oregonians for Rural Health, a coalition dedicated to promoting the health and vitality of the state’s rural communities, to determine the scope, degree programs and location for a facility that would offer advanced degrees in healthcare professions. The exclusive partnership between the parties also includes a provision to explore fund development and in-kind contributions to build and equip the college facility.

The need for healthcare education in Southern Oregon is great, as the region faces "growing allied and mental health workforce shortages that pose serious healthcare access issues," according to Kelly Morgan, CEO of Mercy Medical Center in Roseburg, and a longtime member of the Oregonians for Rural Health coalition.

George Fox has expanded its healthcare education offerings in recent years, adding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree (2006), a doctorate in physical therapy (2012) and an RN to BSN degree-completion program (2019). The university will also begin a physician assistant program in January of 2021.

The scope of what programs will be offered in Roseburg has yet to be determined, but plans call to offer degree programs at the bachelors, masters and doctoral levels. Ultimately, the goal of the proposed project is to provide a reliable pipeline of skilled allied healthcare and mental health professionals in multiple high-demand medical fields, to connect individuals to living-wage jobs through locally delivered degree programs, and to create economic growth and stability across the region.

To date, a workable floor plan has been designed and the outside of the building is in the design stage. The building itself will be located at 448 Werth Blvd., close to Providence Newberg Medical Center. The physical therapy program has been housed in the Roberts Center since its inception in 2012, and the physician assistant program will begin in January of 2021.

Alumni Plaza Celebrates Legacy of Bruins Past and Present

A new Alumni Plaza featuring a 10-foot-tall, 1,200-pound bronze bear is serving as a rallying point for George Fox alumni and fans and as a visual reminder of what it means to be a Bruin – ready, fearless and strong.

The finishing touch: a coloring with patina and wax. The final statue was delivered in time to be unveiled on homecoming weekend in October. The plaza, made possible by an $1,800 in-kind donation by alumnus Phil Thornburg of the Winterbloom landscaping company, is located between the two venues alumni visit most often: Bauman Auditorium for performing arts productions and Stoffer Family Stadium for athletic events. The location of the plaza was strategically chosen for its proximity to Welcome Weekend and commencement events, serving as a bookend for the beginning and end of the undergraduate student experience.

To the center of the 3,400-square-foot plaza, completed in the fall, is "Mama Bear," created by sculptor Ryan Wilhite over a three-year period. The bear looks to her right – the traditional place of honor – to symbolize that the plaza is a place of honor to be shared by all Bruins. It is mounted in the middle of the space to represent a bridging of the gap between Bruins past and present.

Wilhite, son of alumni Steve and Nancy Wilhite, drew inspiration for the design from time he spent observing bears while hunting and fishing in Alaska. He insisted the bear be realistic, and before creating the piece he did extensive research on bears’ anatomy and behavior. Once a sketch was selected, the bear was created first as a 30-inch clay sculpture before being enlarged and recreated as a full-sized clay statue.

Ultimately, about 30 molds, divided into two-foot sections, were created by Firebird Bronze foundry, which poured wax into them to create a full-sized clay statue. The finishing touch: a coloring with patina and wax. The final statue was delivered in time to be unveiled on homecoming weekend in October. The plaza, made possible by an $1,800 in-kind donation by alumnus Phil Thornburg of the Winterbloom landscaping company, is located between the two venues alumni visit most often: Bauman Auditorium for performing arts productions and Stoffer Family Stadium for athletic events. The location of the plaza was strategically chosen for its proximity to Welcome Weekend and commencement events, serving as a bookend for the beginning and end of the undergraduate student experience.

The bear looks to her right – the traditional place of honor – to symbolize that the plaza is a place of honor to be shared by all Bruins. It is mounted in the middle of the space to represent a bridging of the gap between Bruins past and present.

Wilhite, son of alumni Steve and Nancy Wilhite, drew inspiration for the design from time he spent observing bears while hunting and fishing in Alaska. He insisted the bear be realistic, and before creating the piece he did extensive research on bears’ anatomy and behavior. Once a sketch was selected, the bear was created first as a 30-inch clay sculpture before being enlarged and recreated as a full-sized clay statue.

Ultimately, about 30 molds, divided into two-foot sections, were created by Firebird Bronze foundry, which poured wax into them to create a full-sized clay statue. The finishing touch: a coloring with patina and wax. The final statue was delivered in time to be unveiled on homecoming weekend in October. The plaza, made possible by an $1,800 in-kind donation by alumnus Phil Thornburg of the Winterbloom landscaping company, is located between the two venues alumni visit most often: Bauman Auditorium for performing arts productions and Stoffer Family Stadium for athletic events. The location of the plaza was strategically chosen for its proximity to Welcome Weekend and commencement events, serving as a bookend for the beginning and end of the undergraduate student experience.

The finishing touch: a coloring with patina and wax. The final statue was delivered in time to be unveiled on homecoming weekend in October. The plaza, made possible by an $1,800 in-kind donation by alumnus Phil Thornburg of the Winterbloom landscaping company, is located between the two venues alumni visit most often: Bauman Auditorium for performing arts productions and Stoffer Family Stadium for athletic events. The location of the plaza was strategically chosen for its proximity to Welcome Weekend and commencement events, serving as a bookend for the beginning and end of the undergraduate student experience.

Alumni Plaza Celebrates Legacy of Bruins Past and Present
Teaching Theology in the Age of Netflix
A new method of delivering Bible and religion curriculum aims to spark discussion and connect with students.

The goal of creating an enduring, impactful first-year theology course is the impetus for an overhaul of general education Bible classes this fall.

The new THEO 101-102 course for freshmen will incorporate a large plenary lecture on Mondays, a small-group mediated discussion on Wednesdays, and a large-group panel discussion on Fridays. The single, year-long integrated course will replace the current BIBL 100 texts. The program will use both the Bible and the Apostles’ Creed as a principal theme.

“We’re not just thinking about a neat, new way to deliver some courses,” says Brian Doak, chair of the College of Christian Studies. “We’re looking to make a big statement with this course – to revolutionize the way our students experience Bible and theology at George Fox, and to be a center stage for conversation about theology at the university.”

In addition to biblical and classic texts, the curriculum will incorporate nontraditional teaching tools into the mix, with media outlets such as The Bible Project and Netflix serving as inspiration for ways to better connect with today’s student.

University Recognized for Value, Innovation in Latest U.S. News Rankings

For the 31st year, George Fox was named one of “America’s Best Colleges” by U.S. News & World Report, while also earning high marks in the publication’s annual college rankings for overall value, innovation, engineering and undergraduate teaching programs, and its offerings for veterans.

George Fox ranked 24th out of 127 schools in the “Best Regional Universities” West category and made the magazine’s “Best Value Schools” list, landing at No. 38 out of 58 in the “Regional Universities West” category. The university was also listed in the “Best Undergraduate Engineering Program” rankings and was recognized for the quality of its undergraduate teaching programs, ranking No. 8 in the “Best Undergraduate Teaching” category among regional universities in the West.

In addition, George Fox was listed as one of the magazine’s “Best Colleges for Veterans” and rated high (No. 7) in its regional category of the “Most Innovative Schools” deemed as those colleges and universities that “are making the most innovative improvements in terms of curriculum, faculty, students, campus life, technology or facilities” in a survey of peer institutions.

U.S. News wasn’t alone in its praise of the university: Niche.com, a website dedicated to evaluating schools, neighborhoods and workplaces based on public data sets and more than 100 million reviews and survey responses, ranked George Fox as the “Best Christian College” in Oregon in 2019.

Community Mourns Loss of Longtime Supporter Ken Austin

The university community lost one of its biggest benefactors and dearest friends with the death of Ken Austin on May 1, 2019. Austin and his wife, Joan, who preceded him in death in 2013, were consistent givers to George Fox through scholarships, gifts, the donation of land and, since 1987, the funding of an annual performance by the Oregon Symphony on campus.

In 2002, the family pledged 23 acres of land on the corner of Crestview and Villa roads that was developed into the Austin Sports Complex, home to the university’s soccer and women’s lacrosse programs. More recently, in 2014, the Austins’ 15-acre plot of land and 7,000-square-foot home atop Fawratt Mountain was donated for the purpose of creating a place for contemplation, reflection and prayer – the Hy Vista Retreat Center. Their legacy is also reflected on campus in the form of a flower garden in front of the Stevens Center, dedicated to the memory of Joan’s mother, Esther Zemke.

Ken, 87, also served the university as a member of its board of trustees since the mid-1980s (most recently as an honorary member), and his counsel and friendship was treasured by President Robin Baker, who met with him regularly.

Cofounders of A-dec – one of the largest dental equipment manufacturers in the world – the Austins were known throughout the region for their philanthropy gifts to educational, civic and community causes. In addition to George Fox, they supported his alma mater, Oregon State University, as well as Newberg schools, the Oregon Symphony, the Special Olympics, the Oregon Health and Science University School of Dentistry, and countless other charitable organizations throughout the state of Oregon.

New Residence Hall on Track for Fall 2019 Completion

Construction of Nelnov Residence Hall – a 48,300-square-foot dormitory on the east side of campus – is on track to be completed by the time undergraduate students return to campus this fall.

For more students to live on campus, a key to enhancing the undergraduate experience, according to Brad Lau, vice president for student life, “We believe that living on campus creates incredible opportunities for spiritual and social growth and transformation, which is core to our Be Known promise,” he says.

The facility is taking shape this spring and summer as teams of plumbers, electricians, framers, tapers, painters, tile setters, glazers, and exterior crews complete the final touches.

Nelnov Hall, named in honor of the institution’s first president, Thomas Nelnov (1866-1900), is being built in the wake of steady enrollment growth in recent years. George Fox enrolled a record number of traditional undergraduate students in 2017 (4,416) and nearly matched that mark in 2018 (12,898). The university has broken the 4,000-total-student enrollment mark for three straight years.
What’s Next
The Class of 2019 moves on to new careers and grad school

Name: Bethany Woods
Major: Interior Design
What’s Next: Masters of Architecture program, University of Oregon
“International mission work has always been part of my life, so I’d like to do architectural projects in developing countries to build stronger and healthier communities.”

Name: Maddie Pirkl
Major: Engineering
What’s Next: Mechanical engineer, Siemens
“In the future I hope to meld my passion for travel and innovation with my work in the field of mechanical engineering.”

Name: Michael Chaney
Major: Accounting
What’s Next: Accountant, Moss Adams
“My George Fox experience has been categorized by the stretching, challenging and expansion of my knowledge and character.”

Name: Quintin Morrow
Major: Biology
What’s Next: Research assistant, Drone Lab, OHSU
“My ultimate goal is to become a physician. While I apply to med school, I will be doing research. I am so excited to be back in a cancer research lab!”

Name: Kaselea Reid
Major: Biology
What’s Next: OHSU-PSU School of Public Health
“I’m going to grad school to get my master’s degree in public health. My dream is to improve the health of communities throughout the world.”

Name: Logan Benfield
Major: Elementary Education
What’s Next: English Teacher, Josiah Venture, Czech Republic
“I plan to teach English camps, sharing the love of God to the students there. I will also get to teach English in Czech schools, mentor Czech students, and lead a youth group. I hope to develop my skills as an educator and as a man of God.”

Name: Kyler Schokegel
Majors: English and Philosophy
What’s Next: Yale Divinity School
“My God’s grace, I have been offered a full-tuition scholarship to pursue a master’s degree in religion and the arts. In the long term, my goal is to do research in theology that helps the Armenian church to understand the role of beauty in the life of faith.”

Name: Maricruz Arias
Major: Exercise Science
What’s Next: Doctor of Chiropractic program, University of Western States
“This is a dream coming true! I want to be a chiropractor not only to be able to help those with physical pain, but to help those who can’t afford the treatment.”

Name: Pablo Gaspar-Lopez
Major: Social Work
What’s Next: Master of Social Work program, George Fox University
“Thanks to my time here I have learned the importance of incorporating my faith into my practice in a healthy manner that will benefit me and the people I work with.”

Name: Megan Mass
Major: Communication Disorders
What’s Next: Master of Science in Communication Disorders, Penn State University
“Mixing my passions for both speech-language pathology and social work, I will soon be able to provide a wide range of services to children and adults with disabilities.”

Recent Recognition

Cinematic Arts Awards
The Broadcast Education Association’s (BEA) National Festival of Media Arts announced its 2019 Festival winners, which included George Fox students and faculty. Cinematic arts major Nicola Pioper took second place in student screenwriting (writing for televisions), while in the student narrative film competition senior Gina Reddies Ferguson claimed an “Award of Excellence” for her poignant short film, They All Fall. In addition, professor Matt Meyer’s feature-length film, Changing Time, took home an “Award of Excellence” in the Faculty Film and Video-Competition.

Canyon Commons, Hadlock Student Center Recognized
WoodWorks, a national wood products design council, selected the university’s dining hall, Canyon Commons, as recipient of its “Institutional Wood Design Award.” The facility was one of nine national winners in the council’s 2019 Wood Design Awards, which celebrate innovation and excellence in wood building design across the U.S. The honor recognized the work of the project’s architect (Hacker), structural engineer (KCSS Consulting Engineers) and contractor (Andersen Construction).

Another university facility, the Hadlock Student Center, was named the first-place winner in the Education – New Construction category at the DC TopProjects Awards in May at the Oregon Convention Center. Soderstrom Architects and Todd Construction teamed up on the entry and were on hand to accept the award, which honors the best building and construction projects in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

English Professor Praised for New Book
English professor Guadalupe Garcia McCall’s book All the Stars Denied received accolades on multiple fronts. It was named one of the “2019 Best Children’s Books of the Year” in the Fourteenth and Up Category by Bank Street College of Education, was a finalist for the Texas Institute of Letters’ “Best Young Adult Book” award, and landed on the “2019 Best Multicultural Children’s Books” list created by the Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature. In the book, the author tackles the hidden history of the U.S. and its first mass deportation event that swept up hundreds of thousands of Mexican American citizens during the Great Depression.

Another of Garcia McCall’s books, Share the Stars, was chosen by the Texas Center for the Book at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission as Texas Great Read for 2018.

Hernandez Selected for Hispanic Impact Award
The Faith and Education Coalition of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference awarded Rebecca Hernandez, associate provost and chief diversity officer, the 2018 Hispanic Impact Award at its annual Hispanic Education Summit last fall.

Hernandez was selected based on her work nationally through the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, Commission on Diversity and Inclusion, as well as work on the George Fox campus. With the assistance of Provost Linda Sarkey, Hernandez has led efforts to increase the hiring of more diverse faculty and staff, administrators to reflect the increasing diversity of the university’s student body.

Morse Presented with National Dallas Willard Award
The seminary’s MaryKate Mertz was honored with the Dallas Willard Award, presented by the Missio Alliance at the organization’s national conference, Awakenings, this spring.

The award, created by the Willard family shortly after his death in 2013, is given every other year to a leader who embodies Willard’s passion for spiritual formation and the church. The recipient of the first award was NT Wright in 2017.

The inscriptions on the award reads, in part, “As a champion and pioneer in the field of spiritual formation, especially as it relates to Christian leadership, we recognize the unique and lasting impact Dr. Morse has made as a church planter, pastor, author, teacher, mentor, wife, and mother.”

Cuddeford Honored by Oregon Physical Therapy Association
Tyler Cuddeford, director of the university’s physical therapy program, was honored as recipient of the 2019 Mercedes Weiss Award, given annually by the Oregon Physical Therapy Association “to recognize those in our profession that have provided outstanding services to the profession of physical therapy,” according to the organization’s website. The Mercedes Weiss Service Award was established in 1976 to publicly acknowledge the outstanding contribution of members of the profession in one or more of the following areas: clinical practice, education, administration, research and practice management.
Faculty Members Honored as Top Teachers, Researchers for 2018-19

Once again, George Fox honored four of its own with the presentation of teaching and research awards for the 2018-19 academic year. At the undergraduate level, Sarita Gallagher and Rhett Luedtke were recognized as the top teacher and researcher, respectively, while at the graduate level Daniel Kang and Leah Payne won the corresponding awards.

Sarita Gallagher
Undergraduate Teacher of the Year

Gallagher, an associate professor of religious studies, has taught at George Fox for nine years and specializes in courses in cross-cultural ministry, world religions, church history, and biblical theology. “I love George Fox’s emphasis on serving the world with compassion and excellence in whatever profession you are in,” she says. “The greatest joy that I have as a professor is seeing my students grow and learn both in their professions and as followers of Christ. I am very honored to win this award. It has been a joy to teach here all these years and I look forward to many years to come.”

Rhett Luedtke
Undergraduate Researcher of the Year

Luedtke, a professor of theatre, said he was “completely surprised” by the honor, but he shouldn’t have been. While the award came partly in recognition of his 18 years of directing plays at George Fox (52 shows and counting), the primary reason for his selection resulted from his artistic direction of the Big Bridge Theatre Consortium, a group of 12 college theatre programs he formed three years ago for the purpose of developing new plays dedicated to peace and interfaith conflict. “Given the rise in Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and general xenophobia in our country over the past year, we felt called to commission new plays to foster dialogue on our campuses about religious diversity,” he says. “This work is the pinnacle of the integration of my Christian faith as a Quaker and my work as a theatre artist. I am excited to see how God blesses our communities through it.”

Daniel Kang
Graduate Teacher of the Year

Kang, an associate professor of physical therapy, has nothing more satisfying than hearing stories of how his former students are making a difference in their communities. “My philosophy lies in the impact I am making in future therapists and, in turn, the ripple effect it has on the community,” he says. “It is not just my technical knowledge that I wish to share with our students; rather, I strive to be a positive agent in shaping the character and motivation of future physical therapists. I believe Payne’s scholarship has been prolific since she joined the seminar in 2014. Since then, she has authored or coauthored 30 articles and book chapters and presented 11 papers at academic conferences. She has also served on multiple grant teams that have won over $2 million. In addition, she has published multiple articles in Christianity Today and The Washington Post, and she cohosts, with professor Daniel Kang, the Halal household’s segment of the PBS series ‘Cooking Off the Hook’.

Leah Payne
Graduate Researcher of the Year

Payne’s scholarship has been prolific since she joined the seminar in 2014. Since then, she has authored or coauthored 30 articles and book chapters and presented 11 papers at academic conferences. She has also served on multiple grant teams that have won over $2 million. In addition, she has published multiple articles in Christianity Today and The Washington Post, and she cohosts, with professor Daniel Kang, the Halal household’s segment of the PBS series ‘Cooking Off the Hook’.

Nicole M. Egerstrom (education) contributed a chapter, “Integers as Directed Quantities,” to Constructed Number (Springer International Publishing), published this spring. Egerstrom’s chapter on children’s thinking about integers is part of a book that synthesizes research across two disciplines: mathematics education and psychology.


Mark David Hall (politics) co-authored a book, America and the Just War Tradition: A History of U.S. Conflicts, published this spring (University of Notre Dame Press). The book examines every major conflict each of America’s major wars from a just-war perspective, using moral analysis that is anchored in the just-war tradition. The contributors provide careful historical analysis evaluating individual conflicts.


Brian Doak (Christian studies) co-edited two books this summer: a monograph and a major co-edited volume, both with Oxford University Press. Hexic Bodies in Ancient Israel examines the hermeneutic world of ancient Israel within the Hebrew Bible, and American Christians during the Great Depression, told through the perspective of a 15-year-old girl.

Heleost Black (English) released a book, Worth: Finding Yourself in a World Expecting Someone Else (Herald Press), in 2018. According to the publisher, the book “sifts through the shape and weight of expectations that press Christians into cultural molds rather than God’s image. By plumbing Scripture and critiquing the 10-billion-dollar a-year self-improvement industry, Black offers life-giving reminders that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.”


Sangoo Yang (Christian studies) contributed chapters to two books in 2018: A Three-Fold Homiletic Lesson from Dr. King’s Pastoral and Prophetic Preaching on Violence,” was published in Preaching Prophetic Care (Wipf & Stock), and “The Promised Land: A Pentecostal-Hermeneutic of Promise in the Asian American Context” was published in Homiletic Theology Project Vol. 3.

Lacrosse Team Earns First NCAA Postseason Appearance

The lacrosse team went undefeated in conference play, won its fourth consecutive Northwest Conference championship, and in May earned its first-ever trip to the NCAA Division III Women’s Lacrosse Championship. Lois Ray earned NWC Player of the Year honors, leading the conference in goals and assists.

Green-Richards Hits Scoring Milestone

In November, Mason Green-Richards reached 1,000 career points in just the fifth game of his senior season. He would go on to finish his career as the university's 10th all-time scorer with 1,402 points.

Football Team Breaks Scoring Record

In November, the George Fox football team scored 41 points in the first half and went on to beat Puget Sound 62-48, setting a school record for total points scored in one game.

Women’s Track and Field Team Finishes Third in Nation

The women’s track and field team maintained consistent excellence throughout the season, finishing third in the nation in both the NCAA indoor and outdoor championships. As a result, Adam Haldorson was named Women’s Assistant Coach of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. John Smith, meanwhile, was named Men’s Head Coach of the Year in the West region by the USTFCCCA.

Monkhouse Makes Swim Team History

In the swim team’s inaugural season, Aspen Monkhouse became the first Bruin to compete at the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships in March, finishing 24th out of 64 swimmers in the women’s 50-yard freestyle with a time of 23.68 seconds.

Lackey Claims Top Spot at NWC Tournament

In April, Joshua Lackey of the men’s golf team shot a 5-under 67 at the Northwest Conference Championships, earning tournament medalist honors and setting a school record in the process.

Wright, King Become National Champions

An individual national championship represents the pinnacle of any track and field athlete’s career. For Annie Wright and Sarah King, it happened twice in three months.

In May, Wright won the women’s heptathlon on day two of the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Geneva, Ohio, with 5,101 points. A day later, King joined her atop the podium, winning the women’s 400 meters with a time of 54.68 seconds – a school record.

Previously, in March, King won the women’s 400 and took second place in the women’s 200 at the NCAA indoor championships. Wright, meanwhile, won the women’s pentathlon with 3,729 points – the third-best score in Division III history. At the conclusion of the season, she was named Women’s Field Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

An individual national championship represents the pinnacle of any track and field athlete’s career. For Annie Wright and Sarah King, it happened twice in three months.

In May, Wright won the women’s heptathlon on day two of the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Geneva, Ohio, with 5,101 points. A day later, King joined her atop the podium, winning the women’s 400 meters with a time of 54.68 seconds – a school record.

Previously, in March, King won the women’s 400 and took second place in the women’s 200 at the NCAA indoor championships. Wright, meanwhile, won the women’s pentathlon with 3,729 points – the third-best score in Division III history. At the conclusion of the season, she was named Women’s Field Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

Women’s Golf Team Finishes Seventh in Nation

Ranked as high as second in the nation during the season, this May the women’s golf team finished tied for seventh out of 25 teams at the NCAA Division III Women’s Golf Championship in Houston. The finish was tied for fifth-best in school history and came during the program’s 10th straight NCAA postseason appearance. MaryJo McCloskey, meanwhile, was named West Region Coach of the Year for the fourth time.

Coppolino Takes Helm of Women’s Basketball Team

In April, Michael Coppolino was named new head women’s basketball coach, replacing Michael Meek, who a month prior accepted an offer to coach the women’s basketball team at the University of Portland. Coppolino led Mount Saint Mary College of New York to a 25-5 record in 2018-19, leading the team to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament. He’ll look to continue a winning tradition at George Fox that includes three Final Four appearances and a national championship in 2009.
Building Blocks to the Future
Engineering major Grant Davis parlays his love of LEGO bricks into a design for production – and possibly a career

By Sean Patterson

isn’t a toy store anywhere around the globe, and there’s a chance you may come across Grant Davis’ latest creation.

Davis, a sophomore engineering major from Beavercreek, Oregon, teamed with a fellow LEGO lover in Canada to create the company’s first-ever pop-up book. The kit – featuring two walls hinged at the base that open to reveal a LEGO scene – hit the market last fall, making Davis the first person in Oregon to have a design accepted and produced by the company.

The design is the brainchild of Davis, a lifelong builder who, like many children, was fascinated with the many ways the bricks could be configured to create vehicles, towns, ships and landscapes. Rather than be content with prefabricated kits, however, Davis opted to take his hobby a step further – design his own scenes, inspired by his imagination and the desire to create.

Like a painter uses canvas, Davis uses LEGO bricks as his artistic outlet. He particularly enjoys building castles and pirate scenes, and his work has been displayed in museums and recognized with best-of-show designations at some of the world’s largest LEGO conventions. But he’s not content to simply build for the fun of it.

“I like trying to come up with new things that nobody has thought of before, with the same pieces that everybody else in the world has,” he says. “That’s the fun challenge of it. And it’s what led me to try my hand at entering a LEGO design contest.”

Equipped with his pop-up book idea, Davis befriended a fellow builder online, Jason Allemann in Canada, and together they developed a prototype they submitted as part of LEGO’s ongoing design contest, via the company’s LEGO Ideas website. Getting the attention of company executives is simple: Drum up enough fan support for your design, and it will be considered for production.

Specifically, Davis and Allemann needed 10,000 fan votes for their product to be eligible for development. The duo submitted their idea in early 2017 and saw instant interest – about 5,000 votes in the first couple months – before watching it gradually gain momentum and hit the 10,000 mark in early 2018. With that, a master builder at LEGO headquarters in Denmark reviewed the design and approved it for production.

“A painter’s limitation is 2D, and they use paints,” Davis says. “I use 3D, and my limitation is whatever pieces LEGO happens to make. Being creative with limitations is where really fun things happen. So, if I have 30 of these pieces sitting in my house and I see somebody online come up with some amazing way to use them, I’m like, ‘Oh my gosh, now I can do that, too. It’s really fun to try to innovate like that.’”

Davis and Allemann’s kit comes packaged with two scenes and allows users to create their own pop-up scenarios. “That was one of the key features we emphasized in our pitch – that it’s not just one scene you can build. It’s a book with an infinite number of stories in it. We want people to make their own inserts, their own stories.”

Davis isn’t privy to how many kits have been produced – the company is guarded with that information – but he and Allemann do receive 1 percent of profit royalties, which they split. “That doesn’t sound like a lot, but if they sell 100,000 kits, that adds up pretty quickly,” Davis says. “So, I’m hoping to pay some of my college expenses with it.”

Ultimately, he hopes to pursue a career with the company he first fell in love with as a child. “Ideally, I’ll just move to Denmark and become a master builder with LEGO,” he says. “And if that doesn’t work out, I’ll always have my electrical engineering degree to fall back on, which isn’t too bad of a fallback plan.”

Building Blocks to the Future
Engineering major Grant Davis parlays his love of LEGO bricks into a design for production – and possibly a career

By Sean Patterson
New Facility Focus: Hadlock Student Center

The university has added quite a few new buildings in recent years, but perhaps none are as visually stunning or universally celebrated by students as the Hadlock Student Center. Opened last fall, the 48,000-square-foot space offers students all the tools necessary to stay fit, have fun, compete, and even explore their natural surroundings.

The facility features three basketball/volleyball courts, an elevated indoor track, a rock-climbing wall, two yoga/dance/aerobics studios, and a fitness center with floor-to-ceiling views overlooking Hess Creek Canyon. Beyond that, there is a rental center where students can check out equipment for a wide range of outdoor activities, in addition to student leadership offices and a student lounge.

With plenty of space for intramural sports and all manner of campus-wide activities, Hadlock has quickly become a favorite spot for students to work up a sweat, host events, or simply connect with friends and hang out.

Willie Stoffer Gymnasium features three full courts and is named in honor of the former student and passionate supporter of Bruin athletics who was a source of inspiration for many George Fox athletes. He died of cancer in 2017.

Named in honor of Bob and Camille Hadlock, alumni who dedicated their lives to spreading the gospel as missionaries, the facility was the 2019 winner of the Oregon Daily Journal of Commerce’s “Top Projects” award in the “Education–New Construction” category.

Need a backpack or tent for a weekend camping trip? Want to go paddleboarding, snowshoeing or simply play some Spikeball on the quad with friends? The Hadlock Rental Center has it all at student-friendly prices.

The facility’s 4,200-square-foot Fitness Center provides a diverse selection of cardio equipment, including treadmills, recumbent and upright bikes, rowing machines, ellipticals, spin bikes and stair steppers.

A spacious student lounge and furnished student government offices offer an ideal location for students to gather.
When challenges come, you have two choices: stand down or stand tall. We are Bruins, and we stand tall. Ready. Fearless. Strong. ¶ In a world that needs compassion, we show love. In a world that needs leadership, we step forward. In a world that needs vision, we look to new possibilities. In a world that needs hope, we point to Christ. And we do it together. ¶ Rooted in tradition, but always moving forward. Facing our fears, but never shaken. Leading with strength, but always serving. United in our diversity, never divided. Because together, we stand tall. ¶ In the classroom and on the field of play, with our family and in our church, in the boardroom and on the mission field, for those who can’t stand up for themselves, we stand tall. ¶ We are Bruins. Ready. Fearless. Strong. We’ve been challenged, equipped, known – and now we’re ready. Bruins stand together. And together we stand tall.

At George Fox, our promise is that every student will Be Known – personally, academically and spiritually. When students are known in this way they become inspired to Stand Tall in everything they do. To serve, to lead, and to boldly share the love of Christ.
Hey Todd, guess what day it is.

That’s the challenge student Evan Bonazzola playfully presents to physics professor Todd Curtis as the pair stand together in the weight room of the Hadlock Student Center on a Friday afternoon.

It’s mid-April, and there is a cacophony of activity in Hadlock at the moment: students are working out, clanging weight machines and plodding on treadmills; a group is playing basketball downstairs, the piercing squeaks of their high tops and thumping dribbles punctuating the atmosphere in familiar juxtaposition; the card-swipe gates at the front entrance offer the occasional electronic de-ding!, inevitably followed by an audible welcome from the front desk attendant; and then there’s the student-curated Spotify playlist sounding throughout the facility.

Despite the surrounding din, three engineering students – looking out of place in their street shoes and blue jeans – are huddled together, focused on making a few final adjustments to a prototype prosthetic device they’ve designed specifically for Bonazzola.

Also an engineering student, Bonazzola was born with symbrachydactyly, a condition characterized by limb abnormalities. His left hand is underdeveloped and prevents him from accomplishing tasks in the same way someone with two fully developed hands might – say, working out at the gym. Bonazzola boasts a refreshingly positive perspective, though, often leveraging his limb difference to make all the stereotypical hand jokes one would expect. If a friend asks him to help move something, for instance, he mischievously replies, “Yeah, I can give you a hand.”

For the most part, Bonazzola can creatively address any issues his smaller left hand presents – which include daily tasks like tying his shoes. Although there are a few activities – like playing the piano and rock climbing – he hasn’t quite figured out yet, there is one pursuit in particular that has loomed large in the back of his mind for several years: pull-ups.

In high school, Bonazzola had to attempt pull-ups for a required physical test. When he struggled to complete one and fell, the P.E. teacher didn’t hesitate asking for the next person in line. Not only that, at the request of his gym instructors, Evan found himself jogging around the track instead of participating in the day’s scheduled activity on more than one occasion. Ever since, he dreamed of one day conquering the weight room.

“Hey Todd, guess what day it is?” The professor isn’t sure. He looks at his watch; he can’t recall the date.
typical hand jokes one would expect. If a friend asks him to help move something, for instance, he mischievously replies, “Yeah, I can give you a hand.”

For the most part, Bonazzola can creatively address any issues his smaller left hand presents—which include daily tasks like tying his shoes. Although there are a few activities—like playing the piano and rock climbing—he hasn’t quite figured out yet, there is one pursuit in particular that has loomed large in the back of his mind for several years: pull-ups.

In high school, Bonazzola had to attempt pull-ups for a required physical test. When he struggled to complete one and fell, the P.E. teacher didn’t hesitate asking for the next person in line. Not only that, at the request of his gym instructors, Bonazzola found himself jagging around the track instead of participating in the day’s scheduled activity on more than one occasion. Ever since, he dreamed of one day conquering the weight room.

“Hey Todd, guess what day it is?” The professor isn’t sure. He looks at his watch, he can’t recall the date.

Curtis is one of the faculty advisors for the Servant Engineering program, a two-semester course in which all junior engineering majors enroll. The purpose of the course is to demonstrate how engineering skills can be used to help others, so students are placed in small groups with a faculty advisor and tasked with working on a service-based engineering project during the year. Recent projects have ranged from the immensely practical (designing mirrors for mobility devices) to the extremely involved (developing methods for teaching microfluidics in the public school system). Though diverse, all projects share a common theme: human-centered design, that is, focusing on client problems that actually exist rather than considering problems personally exciting to the engineer.

Two years ago, Curtis decided he wanted his groups to begin working in the area of prosthetics. According to the professor, an abundance of high-developed prosthetics perform 50 percent of daily tasks effectively, but there is a narrow gap of activities that even typical prostheses do not accomplish well. What’s more, nearly 60 percent of people with missing upper limbs do not use prostheses simply because they are expensive or uncomfortable.

“We wanted to look at that need and look at how we can come up with task-specific, low-cost prosthetics,” he says.

As a result, Curtis’ three-student Servant Engineering team worked with Bonazzola to develop a prosthetic “hand” that would allow him to exercise in Hadlock, specifically using free weights and doing pull-ups.

“Hey Todd, guess what day it is?” The three engineering students—Gabi Lorenzo, Madi Jones and AJ Atherton— overhear Bonazzola’s question and momentarily stop their conversation.

For this engineering team, at least, the day marks a significant milestone in the work they have done to help him achieve his goal of weightlifting and doing pull-ups. After hours of research, interviews, brainstorming (a process they affectionately refer to as “PAINstorming”), and countless iterations and adjustments, they are finally ready for Bonazzola to test out their prototype prosthesis.

One of them invites him over: “Here, try to put this on.”

He slips the brace over his left arm using his right hand. Atherton asks how it feels. Bonazzola struggles locking the carabiner that connects the elbow brace to the wrist brace—he’ll get easier with practice, Lorenzo assures him. He wonders how the elbow brace is supposed to fit; Jones says whatever feels comfortable.

After a couple of minutes, the prosthesis is secure on Bonazzola’s left arm, and everyone turns their attention to the pull-up bar. There is a thick foam pad already set up beneath the bar, no doubt serving as both support and safety precaution. Bonazzola hops up, decidedly grips the bar with his right hand and guides the C-hook around the bar with his left. The team watches him from behind. Two pull-ups later, they are all smiling in awe. Bonazzola is smiling, too. He does a couple more pull-ups. Someone utters, “Oh, wow.” And another, “That’s so cool!”

Later, Bonazzola describes the feeling of those first pull-ups: “It’s like being able to run after only being limited to walking, or like running with weights and then having them suddenly fall off.”

Lorenzo captures what the engineers felt: “We never thought he’d be able to do it. We never thought that our design or our

The prosthetic device is relatively simple in construction—a hand brace attached to a wrist brace via a clamp attachment. One of two different attachments can be attached to the wrist portion: an aluminum C-hook (for pull-ups) or a 5 mm yoyo-type cable (for weightlifting).
One soggy, winter day in early 2019, Tracy Boyd’s phone rang. Facebook was on the line. “We’re thinking about doing something to celebrate International Women’s Day,” the voice on the phone said. “Your name came up.”

Boyd, a mother of four who is blind, serves as president of Mommies with Guides, a Facebook group for blind parents with guide dogs to share the struggles and joys of parenting, offer tips and tricks, and celebrate their trusty canine partners.

In March, the social media platform recognized and honored Boyd as one of nine women who had positively impacted their communities through Facebook. They flew her and her guide dog Chiffon down to the company’s California headquarters, all expenses paid. There, Boyd and the other women participated in a live Facebook video where they talked about the community and support that they had found and built through their Facebook pages.

It was a rare and well-deserved moment of acknowledgement for Boyd. But then, she doesn’t do it for the recognition. Boyd’s story is one of grit, perseverance and active compassion. She has faced countless challenges over the course of her life. Yet, she not only continues to fight, hope and dream for herself; she has built a community that supports and inspires others to do so as well.

“Blindness does not define us,” Boyd says. “We are all kinds of women and men, parents and grandparents, and we participate in parenting just as fully as sighted people.”

Building Community

Boyd was born with congenital glaucoma – a condition in which pressure builds up in the eyes, damaging the optic nerve and gradually causing blindness. The doctors didn’t catch it at first. Then one day, when she was about six months old, her mother opened the blinds in her room to let in the light, and Boyd began to scream.

“I had my first surgery that night,” she says.

Since then, Boyd has had over 100 surgeries and seven cornea transplants to keep the pressure in her eyes under control. In the years to come, her sight gradually deteriorated. By the end
they decided to form a Guide Dogs for the Blind alumni group specifically for support group for me," says Boyd. "I only knew one or two other blind moms, fading until light and dark were all that remained. of high school, she needed a magnifying glass to read a book. After each of her "I'm a blind mom, too!" she responded. "Do you have a baby?" asked a woman sitting at Boyd's table. Then, in 2013, Boyd attended an event hosted by Guide Dogs for the Blind, and everything changed. "I was there with my 17-year-old daughter, my six-month-old baby and my "Offering Support" Today, Mommies with Guides boasts 1,400 followers from across the globe. Blind parents share their ups and downs, their triumphs and trials. They celebrate when puppies become fully certified guides, and mourn the heartbeat when an old and faithful companion passes away. The page is full of photos and stories. In one post, Mommies with Guides secretary Braden Dashney tells the story of walking through a parking lot when his guide dog, Fonzie, suddenly pulled him into the street. He was about to scold the dog when he realized a car had been rapidly backing out of its parking space. It was a close call, and Fonzie had saved his life. “That’s got to be about five times that he has either refused a command that would have put us in danger, or taken some crazy evasive action to avoid getting hit,” Dashney wrote in the post. “Thanks buddy, extra treats today.” Many people use the page to ask parenting questions like, “What’s the best way that you have found to feed your baby with a spoon?” Feeding a squirmy baby is a relatively straightforward task for a sighted person. Wh...
The Lord is a Refuge

By Kimberly Felton

Forced to move from Iraq due to his family’s Christian faith, Marvin Hozi has thrived, overcoming numerous obstacles to earn back-to-back full-ride scholarships from George Fox and Stanford.

Like Father, Like Son

Hozi believes anything is possible. His family escaped Iraq. They were able, with patience and perseverance, to immigrate to the U.S. He did not ask if he could learn English. He determined to learn it. He didn’t ask if he could attend Stanford University; he applied and got a full-ride scholarship.

Hozi’s tenacity and optimism find their roots in his father, a man who, like the biblical Joseph, had to lead his family to safety. Though four years of uprooting and resettling, Atheer held Psalm 9:9-10 like a banner before them: “The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.”

With the agility of childhood and the strength of his family supporting him, Hozi settled into each culture and community, discovering that his new country held vast diversity. “Very different communities, New York, Oregon and California,” Hozi says. “I had pretty significant experiences taken from all of them. In order to adapt, I had to interact with the community and just become involved in what they were doing.”

A minority in their home country, the refugee family remained a minority at each new stop. But Hozi never saw that as a handicap.

“It’s a pretty fun experience … taking all the experience from all the communities and having it used throughout your life,” he says. “It provides a broader knowledge of what’s going on around you. It’s really useful.”

When his family arrived in Hermiston, they spoke only Arabic. Hozi, then in the fifth grade, decided to change this, teaching himself English by watching hours upon hours of movies and television shows.

Perseverance, his parents say, is the strongest characteristic they have seen their son develop through their multiple moves. “He strives for knowledge and continuously works hard despite the hard challenges he faces every day,” says his father, Atheer.

In high school, Hozi discovered the language of computer science and quickly learned that this skill could help others. As a junior, he and his team won the Congressional App Challenge and a trip to Washington, D.C., for developing a “Touch and Talk” Chrome app, helping students with speech or dexterity issues. “I brought together a team in computer science, and we worked on this project that really contributed to my community,” he says. “That was a change that I loved to bring in my community.”

In 2018, Hozi graduated as a valedictorian with two full scholarship offers – from George Fox and Stanford. He saw no reason to choose between the two. Instead, he asked Stanford if they would apply his scholarship to a master’s program. Stanford agreed. Hozi’s goal is a doctorate in computer science, focusing on reverse engineering cyber security.

I have used this verse from the Bible since my departure from Iraq to encourage my family,” says the elder Hozi. “It perfectly describes our journey and is a verse that gives hope and encouragement to us every day.”

That connection with faith has helped me historically push through my challenges by relying on God and that he has a plan for me,” Hozi says. “So I rely on my faith pretty extensively every day to help me get past challenges.”

Choosing Community

While Hozi’s friends and dormmates occasionally ask questions about his past – usually while playing ping-pong in the dorm lobby – his story, common in other parts of the world but not on the university campus, does not figure strangely in his day-to-day life. Yet Hozi credits his journey for developing his deep respect for community and his ability to face challenges.

“I like to think that since I’ve overcome such challenges, I’m now better equipped to face challenges, which I’m grateful for,” he says. “I’ve definitely experienced challenges at George Fox, and because of my background I haven’t thought about giving up and just pushing through the challenges.”

Having to face obstacles himself, Hozi has grown comfortable in the role of helping others overcome them, whether by standing up to a bully in middle school or by helping friends in high school who struggled with academics.

“I believe by helping the community, it’s a cycle,” he says. “You help the community and the community returns to you … they provide support. The community’s kind of your foundation, so it’s really an essential part of your life.”

Hozi’s favorite example of community is not about him. Several years ago, a teacher from a town near Hermiston was fighting cancer. When Hermiston’s basketball team played the team from that teacher’s school, both sides of the court hosted banners and signs of encouragement. Hermiston then created fundraisers to support the teacher.

“My community ran donations for another city’s teacher,” he says. “I found that to be pretty astonishing, how they stood up and they were selfless, caring not for themselves but for another teacher from another city. That was pretty amazing to me. I learned the value of how communities interact, and I learned to admire that value and just not take it for granted.”

This conviction led Hozi to George Fox University, where he found the academic program he wanted and the community he admired that value and just not take it for granted.

“Let’s believe in the power of community,” says Hozi. “That connection with faith has helped me historically push through my challenges by relying on God and that he has a plan for me,” Hozi says. “So I rely on my faith pretty extensively every day to help me get past challenges.”
A word of advice for those who happen to meet Emery Miller: Don’t tell him he can’t accomplish something. You’re only fueling his fire and setting yourself up to be proven wrong.

Miller should have died before the age of 1. Born with a hole in his heart and a failing aortic valve, he required four open-heart surgeries before the age of 7. As a child, the hospital became a second home — so much so that the facility offered his parents a reserved parking spot. He literally became the face of Phoenix Children’s Hospital, his smiling mug shot beaming on promotional posters encouraging people to support children like him.

All the while, Miller kept baffling his doctors. “Based on their tests, I should have been on the floor turning blue,” he says. “Instead, I was playing with toys. They said I was the happiest sick kid they’d ever seen.”

Doctors told him he would never play sports. He played T-ball. He was then told he would never play at the coach-pitch level. He did. Middle school ball? “Out of the question,” they said. He did that as well. Varsity baseball was the next test. Mission accomplished.

Today, Miller can’t help but chuckle when he ponders this reality: The kid who was told he would never be active — never live a “normal life” — is now playing collegiate baseball at George Fox University, overseeing a charity that’s operating in 13 states, and serving as a spokesperson for national organizations that include the American Heart Association and United Way.

“In my life I’ve been told a lot of things,” says Miller, a sophomore finance and management double major from Phoenix. “But anybody who knows me knows I have a ‘Whatever you tell me I’m going to prove you wrong’ attitude. In fact, I enjoy hearing people tell me I can’t do something. I would love some of my early-childhood doctors who doubted me to come watch me play ball. They wouldn’t recognize me.”

Miller’s defiance of the odds is fueled by a choice he made early on: Don’t let negative experiences define you. It’s a belief that so resonates with him that he chose those very words as the tagline for his charity, Team Emery. Rather than let misfortune take you down, use it as motivation to fight back and, in doing so, inspire others. It’s that resolve that led him to start Team Emery — a nonprofit launched by a simple idea he had as a fifth-grader.

“I had this thought that, if I could give a token of gratitude to help out another family, that would be sweet,” he says. “So I gave a teddy bear to another kid, and my mom posted something on
Facebook. Within 20 minutes, we had 45 likes, 20 comments and five people saying they wanted to donate bears.”

Miller didn’t know it at the time, but his gesture of kindness was about to catch fire. Teddy bear donations began trickling in, and as word spread, the bear parade intensified. In its first year, Team Emery donated 400 bears to Phoenix Children’s Hospital – one for each child who had been admitted. Another 1,200 were given out in the charity’s second year, 1,600 in its third, and 2,200 in its fourth. All told, Team Emery has donated more than 44,000 bears in eight years after raising a record annual total (9,000 bears) in 2018. Looking ahead, the charity plans to add a scholarship in 2019, named in memory of one of Miller’s childhood friends, Dustin Tack, who died five years ago.

“When you say, ‘You want to make a difference? Come, follow me,’ you’d be surprised how many people get in line behind you,” Miller says. “People want to help. They want to make a difference. They just need to be inspired on how to do so.”

Team Emery was officially established as a nonprofit in 2016, and ultimately Miller hopes to see the organization operate in all 50 states. It’s just one branch of his charitable endeavors. Through speaking engagements at high-profile events – including those where he’s spoken alongside former NFL and television celebrities – Miller has helped raise more than $500,000 for the American Heart Association. At one particular event where he was being honored for his community service, Miller had the opportunity to meet the event’s keynote speaker – 23-time Olympic swimming gold medalist Michael Phelps.

“Michael Phelps mentioned me in his speech. How cool is that?” Miller laughs. “Seriously, none of this would have been possible if I hadn’t been born with this heart issue. I never would have had the opportunity to meet Michael Phelps, or speak at an event in Washington, D.C., where President Obama’s top aides were in attendance. Nobody would have ever chosen the start I had in life, but I’m doing my best to make something good come of it.”

Wherever he goes – the classroom, the ballfield, the hospitals – Miller is compelled to seek those who are down and encourage them. It’s a desire born out of his experience and nurtured by the love, support and encouragement he’s received from his parents, teachers and coaches. “Medically speaking, I shouldn’t be here, so why am I here?” he asks, pausing to reflect on the philosophical nature of the question. “I don’t ask, ‘Why me?’ I ask, ‘Why was I given this opportunity?’”

Miller’s message of hope and encouragement serves him well on campus and on the field of play. George Fox head baseball coach Marty Hunter calls him the “ultimate team guy.” Fellow teammates admire his determination and good-natured attitude, and he considers the baseball team his “other family.” The guy who, as a freshman, was the out-of-stater who knew no one on campus has transformed into a mentor to younger players. To them all, his message is the same.

“Bad things are going to happen to you in life,” he says. “The storms are going to come, so get ready. The key is to not let them define you. Don’t let negative experiences ruin your life. It’s easy to do, and sometimes it is easier to lay down and say, ‘This stinks.’ But God never said life was going to be perfect. What he does say is, during those rough times, he’s going to be there with you.”

Miller is also a firm believer in the exponential power of generosity. “I don’t think people realize how much they can accomplish by doing the simple things,” he says. “It doesn’t have to be big. Just give to the American Heart Association. Donate a bear. Play bingo with someone at Friendsview. Just get involved and change the life of one person. They, in turn, will hopefully do the same for someone else.

“I guess that’s what I think of when I hear ‘stand tall.’ When you stand tall it will inspire those around you to stand tall with you. When you have an entire community doing so, it turns into a state and, hopefully one day, a nation. When that happens, what’s going to stop us?”

George Fox basketball fans participated in a teddy bear toss during Bruin FanFest in January. A total of 371 bears were collected by Miller’s charity and delivered to Newberg police and fire stations, then distributed to children at local hospitals. Team Emery has donated more than 44,000 teddy bears to sick children over the course of eight years.
AND THEN IT ALL CHANGED
By Kimberly Felton

Cancer opened a new world of questions for Delana Lincoln and Rylan Schubkegel. They don’t have answers – but they have hope.

By Kimberly Felton

SUMMER 2019
Delana Lincoln and Rylan Schubkegel. They
Life Will Never Be the Same
Cancer opened a new world of questions for
was a pulled muscle led to a week of tests and scans at
Seattle Children’s Hospital. Blood work, a urine sample
recalls. What he really wanted to know was, “Can I go
climbing tomorrow?”

After the morning appointment, Lincoln asked
Linear found out she had cancer the day she
was cured. In her upside-down story, infections led to
marrow aspiration pointed to Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. A
week later, the biopsy confirmed the doctor’s guess.

Later, he would understand the hellish journey of bat-
ting cancer. But in this moment, the roller hockey athlete
recalls. Suspended between celebration and grief, grap-
plunging weeks of no news, the doctor told her she had a malig-

“OK, so what’s next?” the teen asked. What he thought
was a pulled muscle led to a week of tests and scans at
Seattle Children’s Hospital. Blood work, a urine sample
and scans, then – three months into her journey – surgery
to remove a mass in her bladder. After two agoniz-
ing weeks of no news, the doctor told her she had a malig-

“Recurrence,” as it turns out, is a dirty word.

They’re like, ‘This is awesome. You were able to do so
much still, but also be going through this. This is so inspira-
tional.’

I was the one who was gritting my teeth and saying,
‘I was the one who was gritting my teeth and saying,
‘I was the one who was gritting my teeth and saying,
‘I was the one who was gritting my teeth and saying,
‘I was the one who was gritting my teeth and saying,
‘I was the one who was gritting my teeth and saying,

The second treatment – hitting back hard at the
aggressive disease – was difficult.

The way I look at it,” Schubkegel says, “… for a
Christian, there’s something very powerful and sig-
ificant about suffering. It doesn’t matter if … that suffering will
bring about some tangible good in this world – that really isn’t
the point of suffering.

I prayed about it, and a year after the day of my surgery I
made an Instagram post with an ugly selfie I took in the hospital ...
and I literally shared the whole story. The responses got
more than my estimate. ‘This is so awesome. You were able to do so
much still, but also be going through this. This is so inspira-
tional.’

Even Lincoln, who is told a recurrence is unlikely, has
released her hold on certainty. “If it was random the first
time, and not supposed to happen to me, why isn’t it hap-
pen again?” she asks. “Sometimes I get into this questioning mode
and I tell myself, ‘Stop. Give it to God. He knows the whole story.’ He literally knows the whole story.”

FINDING THE GOOD IN THE BAD
Safely within her identity of a normal freshman at
George Fox University last fall, Lincoln decided that story – at least what she knows so far. “George Fox is all about
being known,” she says. “That’s the thing. How freeing it is
to know that people know you and they know you well, and they
know your story?”

“I prayed about it, and a year after the day of my surgery I
made an Instagram post with an ugly selfie I took in the hospital ...
... Cancer isn’t the reason I have faith, but it has strengthened the faith I already had.”

As the student who arrived mid-program at college due to
cancer treatment, Schubkegel couldn’t hide his story. “I might be known as that kid who had cancer,” he says; “but ... it allows
people to know; the family had support. Yet a number of friends
were within God’s plan,” Schubkegel says. “I became wholly
Christian, there’s something very powerful and sig-
ificant about suffering. It doesn’t matter if … that suffering will
bring about some tangible good in this world – that really isn’t
the point of suffering.

But I do think in suffering … you are actually suffering with
Christ in whatever you’re going through. ... That understanding has
shed a whole new light on what I’ve gone through and what may
come in the future. ... Cancer isn’t the reason I have faith, but it has
strengthened the faith I already had.

The victory against hopelessness, Schubkegel says, is more important than his victory against cancer. “It has prepared me to
directly endure whatever suffering God allows in my life, and always to rejoice in the hope while enduring the suffering.”

“I came to a place of ‘not everything happens for a reason, but
God works ... good out of all the things that happen,” Lincoln
says. “I can’t see that good right now, and I don’t know how
long it’ll be until I can see the good, but there is going to be good
because we are promised that. That’s when I finally felt comfort-
ableness sharing my story, because … if God is promising that
this story is going to have good, let’s tell the whole world.”

I prayed about it, and a year after the day of my surgery I
made an Instagram post with an ugly selfie I took in the hospital ...
... Cancer isn’t the reason I have faith, but it has strengthened the faith I already had.”

As the student who arrived mid-program at college due to
cancer treatment, Schubkegel couldn’t hide his story. “I might be known as that kid who had cancer,” he says; “but ... it allows
people to know; the family had support. Yet a number of friends
were within God’s plan,” Schubkegel says. “I became wholly
Christian, there’s something very powerful and sig-
ificant about suffering. It doesn’t matter if … that suffering will
bring about some tangible good in this world – that really isn’t
the point of suffering.

But I do think in suffering … you are actually suffering with
Christ in whatever you’re going through. ... That understanding has
shed a whole new light on what I’ve gone through and what may
come in the future. ... Cancer isn’t the reason I have faith, but it has
strengthened the faith I already had.

The victory against hopelessness, Schubkegel says, is more important than his victory against cancer. “It has prepared me to
directly endure whatever suffering God allows in my life, and always to rejoice in the hope while enduring the suffering.”

“I came to a place of ‘not everything happens for a reason, but
God works ... good out of all the things that happen,” Lincoln
says. “I can’t see that good right now, and I don’t know how
long it’ll be until I can see the good, but there is going to be good
because we are promised that. That’s when I finally felt comfort-
ableness sharing my story, because … if God is promising that
this story is going to have good, let’s tell the whole world.”
Stepping into the Gap
Lutze graduated from George Fox with a degree in business administration. He spent the next decade working as a designer and creative director for agencies in Seattle and New York, including serving as an art director for Microsoft's Xbox team. Much of his work was in the music industry, creating websites and branding for rock stars and hip-hop artists. It was one of Lutze's designs, a website for the indie band Jimmy Eat World, that caught the attention of VSCO CEO and cofounder Joel Flory.

“On any given day, in every country in the world, millions of people are using what Greg has helped create to express themselves and glow as creators,” says Flory. “One of the things that has impressed me most about Greg is that he is never about the numbers, the fame, or even what the potential personal gain could be. It has always been and will always be about the individual creators whose lives are being impacted by VSCO.”

Cultivating Creativity
In 2017 Creative Mornings talk, Lutze told the story of a friend who was passionate about portrait photography, but because portrait photography is often left out of social media metrics, they are often left out popular metrics – no public follower counts, likes or comments.

“You don’t have numbers. Those just aren’t important to us,” Lutze says. “As a result, you get people who show who they are, not who they hope someone else sees them as. It’s a different dynamic, and we want that creativity. We want that place where people can be honest, where they can be themselves and know that they are valuable just as they are.”

In 2017 Creative Mornings talk, Lutze told the story of a friend who was passionate about portrait photography, but because portrait photography is often left out of social media metrics, they are often left out popular metrics – no public follower counts, likes or comments.

“Yes, I’m an entrepreneur,” Lutze says. “I’ve got a startup. I’ve got to keep pushing forward with that.”

“But ultimately I’m a dad. I’m a husband.”

Stepping into the Gap
Lutze graduated from George Fox with a degree in business administration. He spent the next decade working as a designer and creative director for agencies in Seattle and New York, including serving as an art director for Microsoft’s Xbox team. Much of his work was in the music industry, creating websites and branding for rock stars and hip-hop artists. It was one of Lutze’s designs, a website for the indie band Jimmy Eat World, that caught the attention of VSCO CEO and cofounder Joel Flory.

“On any given day, in every country in the world, millions of people are using what Greg has helped create to express themselves and glow as creators,” says Flory. “One of the things that has impressed me most about Greg is that he is never about the numbers, the fame, or even what the potential personal gain could be. It has always been and will always be about the individual creators whose lives are being impacted by VSCO.”

Cultivating Creativity
In 2017 Creative Mornings talk, Lutze told the story of a friend who was passionate about portrait photography, but because portrait photography is often left out of social media metrics, they are often left out popular metrics – no public follower counts, likes or comments.

“Yes, I’m an entrepreneur,” Lutze says. “I’ve got a startup. I’ve got to keep pushing forward with that.”

“But ultimately I’m a dad. I’m a husband.”

Passion + Skills + Values
After a recent visit to campus, Lutze walked away excited and hopeful for the future entrepreneurs and creative graduates coming out of George Fox.

“You can sense this passion in them, this drive,” he says. “They’re really trying together what they’re learning about business to their values and faith. That combination is such an important one.”

That combination of passion, knowledge and character is rare, but it’s one that Lutze exemplifies. He leads amidst a business culture that glorifies long hours and workaholics. There’s always one more meeting, one more project, one more thing to do. Yet, in the midst of the madness, he has managed to build a company culture that values kindness and balance, and a product that cultivates fearlessness and encourages artists around the world to be themselves.

“Sometimes standing tall is about being humble,” Lutze says. “It’s about listening. It’s about doing the quiet things that go unnoticed. It’s about thinking, ‘Am I doing wrong?’”

“At VSCO, our core values are ‘Always Moving Forward,’ ‘Be Kind, Build Together,’ ‘Create First’ and ‘Stay Humble,’” Flory adds. “These values were born out of Greg’s leadership style, and whenever I talk to new employees I tell them to watch Greg as he lives these five values every day. Greg has the superpower of bringing people together and making everyone feel heard.

Sometimes, courage looks like quiet tenacity: choosing to model character and balance rather than bravado and dominance.

Where most bow and escape in the almighty dollar and the tyranny of more, Lutze is standing tall.
Leaving a Legacy

Five professors and Bon Appetit’s general manager retire this summer after logging 163 years of combined service to George Fox students

By Sean Patterson

For 28 years, George Byrtek freely admitted to his students they were part of what he calls his “conspiracy to make the world a better place through their own influence.” He did so by helping students gain insight into how individuals and teams function in the context of organizations and equipping them with practical tools they could use in the business and nonprofit worlds.

Byrtek, a professor of organizational leadership in the university’s Department of Professional Studies, says two things kept him at George Fox for more than a quarter of a century: the opportunity to make a significant difference in the lives of students, and the joy of working with colleagues who shared his passion to educate tomorrow’s influencers.

“Having previously worked in the financial services industry for more than 20 years, the contrast between working in business and working at a Christian university has been stark, and a clear fulfillment of a sense of calling,” he says. “Serving Christ and helping students actualize the potential he has invested in them has made my work a joy.”

Originally from Wisconsin, Byrtek wasn’t familiar with Oregon’s culture when he began teaching at George Fox in the early 1990s. Commuting from Newport to Eugene, where his initial cohorts met, he was bewildered by the Grateful Dead bumper stickers and the “1960s hippie culture” of the community. “When I shared this observation with my colleagues, they just laughed and said, ‘As former students, we were part of that culture!’”

Navigating jungles – of both the literal and figurative variety – kept Viki Defferding’s teaching career interesting, fulfilling and unpredictable in her 30 years at George Fox.

As a chaperone for Juniors Abroad trips to Central America, she got a taste of the tropics firsthand. As an associate professor of Spanish, she had the opportunity to, as she puts it, “guide students through the jungle of language.”

“I loved watching the lights go on as a student realized that something in another language actually makes sense,” she says. “I also loved teaching the Literature of Spain and Literature of Latin America classes, working together with students to discover many of the hidden meanings of the texts.”

Defferding came to George Fox in the late 1980s after teaching previously in public schools. The university’s emphasis on faith – and its encouragement to express that faith freely in the classroom – invigorated her. “I came from secular schools, so it has always been such a joy and privilege to be able to share the gospel, pray and worship together with students in the classroom,” she says.

“To have been able to work, pray, share and cry with my colleagues has also been very precious.”

The job also came with plenty of laughter. One memory that stands out came on a Juniors Abroad trip to Central America. “We went zip lining, and one of my colleagues braked too early and didn’t have the momentum to zip through to the next station. She was dangling helplessly until a nice worker zipped out to rescue her. We’ve had a lot of laughs over that one.”

Fittingly, Defferding concluded her George Fox career with a Juniors Abroad trip to Spain, Portugal and Morocco this spring. Looking ahead, she plans to travel, especially to Central America, where she’s involved in ongoing school and church projects in the town of Copan Ruinas, Honduras. And, of course, there will be more time to spend with grandchildren – “a lot more time,” she says.

n the 39 years Jim Foster worked at George Fox, he served in almost every administrative role in academics, from department chair to interim provost. He was dean, at one time or another, over every faculty area at the university.

What kept him at George Fox for nearly four decades, however, had little to do with administrative power and everything to do with students. At his core, Foster is a teacher, and it’s the classroom experience he’ll miss most as he calls it a career this summer.

“I love teaching, and on the few occasions when I did not teach in a semester I felt like I was disconnected from what the university is all about,” he says. “I think I am a teacher at heart and could never quite leave it behind.”

As much as he enjoyed his tenure, however, he knew this was the time to step aside. “When you find yourself teaching the children of the first students you taught it is affirming, since their children are part of the group.”

Known for his quick wit and humor, Foster often used both to make a significant difference in the lives of students, and the joy of working with colleagues who shared his passion to educate tomorrow’s influencers.

“Having previously worked in the financial services industry for more than 20 years, the contrast between working in business and working at a Christian university has been stark, and a clear fulfillment of a sense of calling,” he says. “Serving Christ and helping students actualize the potential he has invested in them has made my work a joy.”

Originally from Wisconsin, Byrtek wasn’t familiar with Oregon’s culture when he began teaching at George Fox in the early 1990s. Commuting from Newport to Eugene, where his initial cohorts met, he was bewildered by the Grateful Dead bumper stickers and the “1960s hippie culture” of the community. “When I shared this observation with my colleagues, they just laughed and
said, “Welcome to Oregon,” he recalls. Byrtek certainly felt at home at the Portland Center, where his favorite classes to teach were Organizational Behavior, Operations Management and Strategic Management. He enjoyed challenging students because he knew that their struggle to grasp the material – and overcoming that struggle – would serve them well beyond graduation.

In retirement, Byrtek still plans to invest in lives, though this time on a more personal level. “God has blessed my wife Meg and me with 13 grandchildren, and a good portion of my time will shift from investing in students to investing in those young lives,” he says. “So, one could say my conspiracy to make the world a better place through others continues.”

Steve Delamarter was in his 30s when he distinctly discovered his life’s calling: to minister to the health and vitality of the church by helping its leaders love Scripture and read it responsibly. Twenty-six years of teaching at Portland Seminary gave him the venue to fulfill that call.

The professor of Old Testament’s passion for ancient texts took him on numerous trips to the ancient world, among them a 2004 sabbatical that included stops in Israel to research the Dead Sea Scrolls of Qumran and to Ethiopia, one of the first countries to adopt Christianity and home to priceless manuscripts of the Ethiopian Orthodox tradition.

Ultimately, though, Delamarter says it was the people – the students he guided in the classroom and his coworkers at the seminary – that made it a joy to go to work in the morning. “I’ve been blessed to work with committed and capable colleagues in our department,” he says. “But what I’ve loved most is the joy of engaging with students. Seminary students span all ages, genders, races and theological persuasions. To invite them into a learning community and watch them become the primary medium for one another’s learning is very gratifying.”

Delamarter’s favorite classes to teach reflect his love of Scripture: “Introduction to the Old Testament, Spirituality and Creation, History and Literature of the Second Temple, and Hebrew. He also relished the opportunity to usher students through what he calls a “rite of passage”: making their presentations at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature.

“We digitized manuscripts, transcribed texts from the manuscripts, aligned texts for computer analysis, generated statistical data, debated about the proper interpretation of the data, and devised the best ways in which to visualize and explain our findings,” he says. “Then, we’d all head out to the meeting, where about 12,000 people from North America and beyond meet each year to share their work. Those were great experiences.”

Though he’s retiring from the seminary this summer, his scholarship will continue. He is currently involved in four major projects that relate to manuscripts of the Ethiopian Orthodox tradition. His motivation can be summed up in a question: “What can we learn from people by studying the marks they left?”

T he classroom has proven to be a place of lighthearted discussions, laughter and some pain for Mark McLeod-Harrison, who leaves the university this summer after 20 years as a professor of philosophy.

Classes such as Philosophy of Art were among his favorites. “Art is just weird – and terrific – and no one agrees about what it is, so it makes for fun discussions,” he says. “My students have often inspired me with their questions, their answers, and their humor. That keeps one alive in the classroom.”

Conversely, McLeod-Harrison has experienced heartbreak. “I have truly loved working with and for our students,” he says. “They are an amazing group who have challenged us, supported us, gotten frustrated with us at times, but who have always done so with grace.”

The job wasn’t without its challenges. With university enrollment up dramatically earlier this decade, he and his staff were hard-pressed to keep pace in a kitchen that was built for a much smaller clientele in the 1960s. On one occasion, he thought perhaps the Bon Appetit staff would be liberated.

“A fire broke out in the ceiling of Klages,” he says. “We couldn’t figure out the source of it until the fire department came using a heat sensor and put it out. Afterwards [former plant services director] Clyde Thomas and I both agreed we missed our chance for a new dining facility, as we should have let it burn.”

Lawrence and his crew did get that new dining facility with the opening of Canyon Commons in 2016. But as welcome as that was, he was the man overseeing Bon Appetit’s operation on campus as thousands of meals were being served over the past 20 years. It comes as no surprise, then, that Denny Lawrence’s most indelible memories had to do with the joy – and frustration – associated with service.

“I have truly loved working with and for our students,” he says. “They are an amazing group who have challenged us, supported us, gotten frustrated with us at times, but who have always done so with grace.”

“The job wasn’t without its challenges. With university enrollment up dramatically earlier this decade, he and his staff were hard-pressed to keep pace in a kitchen that was built for a much smaller clientele in the 1960s. On one occasion, he thought perhaps the Bon Appetit staff would be liberated.

“A fire broke out in the ceiling of Klages,” he says. “We couldn’t figure out the source of it until the fire department came using a heat sensor and put it out. Afterwards [former plant services director] Clyde Thomas and I both agreed we missed our chance for a new dining facility, as we should have let it burn.”

Lawrence and his crew did get that new dining facility with the opening of Canyon Commons in 2016. But as welcome as that was, it was the relationships made that he most treasures.”

“One of my fondest memories was mentoring a young single mom who worked for us,” he says. “She had grown up in a dysfunctional family and had decided to change the legacy of her family: She took classes, picked up extra shifts, got her GED and attended college. I was so proud of her that we both went: Today, she is a manager of a health clinic.”

“So, what’s next for Lawrence? “Spending more time with our eight grandkids, working on my golf game and tending to our home. It’s been somewhat neglected, so it’s time for me to get my fingers dirty again and help with the landscaping and gardens.”
Of his classes, Birding for Seniors, first offered in Oregon, last fall leading two bird-watching tours of Asia. He remains with the Newberg Friends Church. Barclay serves Friends through the publication of books, pamphlets, curriculum and periodicals.

Kari (Bumoh) Yono (G75) is in two positions at Oregon State field instructor, working for Global Outreach Group for five years ministering with Christian Camping International, and leading Creation Celebration training in the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Croatia.

Bev (Ankeny) Chapman (G79) started in Au-gust as the director of advancement at Green leaf Friends Academy in Idaho. Beginning in 2001, she had served as director of development at Dan Dunn Day in two positions. The retirement of each position was filled by a new position. Dunn is a 1950-59 graduate of 125 most noteworthy and significant people during its 125th anniversary observance, is sharing his life’s story in a new book, 

George Fox Journal 414 N. Meridian St. #6256, Newberg, OR 97132 (503) 538-2118 PUBLISHED? GOT MARRIED? JOB? HAD A BABY? GOT A NEW PHONE? SHARE WHAT’S GOING ON WITH YOU. Send updates to George Fox Journal 414 N. Meridian St. #6256, Newberg, OR 97132 (503) 538-2118 email GeorgeFoxJournal@GeorgeFox.edu

Key

G Traditional graduate
n Traditional nongraduate
MA Master of arts
MS Master of science
MAT Master of arts in teaching
PsyD Doctor of psychological sciences
PhD Doctor of philosophy
EdD Doctor of education
Edu Education specialist in school psychology
PhB Southern Seminary (formerly George Fox Seminary)
PhD Doctor of psychology
DPhil Doctor of physical therapy
ADP Adult Degree Program

SUMMER 2019

SUMMER 2019
As a senior account manager working with two of its top retail accounts, Best Buy and Targus, Kathy (King) Watson (G85A) has moved from board member to employee at Friendview Retirement Community in Newberg, where she is director of health services, overseeing the Beals Health Center and residential care floors. She started in April of 2018, leaving her own independent work from home and telecommutes, with her healthcare leadership training. She is a former George Fox baseball coach (1983-85).

His job is with a nonprofit organization that works from home and telecommutes, with a background of being born in Austria, left in his 20s to early-60s and 13 children.

"My time at Fox introduced me to some really powerful, brave, passionate women. I draw from their courage and determination to create opportunity for those who have fewer opportunities."
up in the U.S., and understanding firsthand about bridge- making culture and educational bridges and building relationships. Nicole (Hyatt) Margin is now a special education instructional facilitator for the Newberg School District. She is in her third year in the position but has been with the district since 1994 as a special education teacher, most recently a learning disability specialist. From 2005 to 2016 she works with six elementary schools, providing professional development and leadership for special educators as one-on-one coaching to help them better assist students receiving special education services.

Gregg Keskela (G90) is now communications and community relations coordinator with the Newberg School District. He's now in his second year. He started with the district in 2017 as the executive assistant to the superintendent. He became coordinator of board and community relations in months later, and last August he gained his current position when the district office was reorganized. The new position allows him to be in schools and the community on a daily basis.

Shanna (Shanka) Witcher (G91), already director of youth ministries with Oregon City Church of the Nazarene, is now executive director and minister for that church's new Youth Services agency. The previous four years she worked with the Idaho Child Welfare Services organization. The previous four years she was also a postulant for ordination in the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho.

Chad Madron (G94) has another new book in cir- culation: Souvenir debuted in March 2018, part of an object Lessons series by Bloomsbury about the hidden lives of ordinary things. His book blends reportage, memoir, anthro- pology and cultural criticism to reveal the lives of objects in the 4,000-year history of travel souvenirs. He also has started a new podcast. Devote with Rolf Notta, that began in November 2017 and has surpassed a quarter of a million downloads. It features off-topic conversations with a wide range of experts, public figures and interest- ing people. Notta has reported from more than 60 countries for the likes of National Geographic, The New Yorker, Slate.com, The New York Times Magazine, wired, National Public Radio and the Travel Channel.

Jennifer (Swarrowbank) Hirsch (G91) is leadership gift- supported with Northwest Michigan College, a 5,000-student community college in Traverse City. She started in 2016 after just over 10 years as project manager for marketing solutions and director of cli- ent services with Credo, a higher education consulting firm in Whitaker, North Carolina. From 1994 to 2003, she was associate director of undergraduate admissions for George L. Lyn (Sanstrum) Lindberg (G94) is the founder and president of her new startup business, Couch to Activist, established in 2016. Her book, Couch to Activist: The 10-Step Career Take You From Sedentary to Active, was released in August, and in November she was a finalist in the 13th annual Best Book Awards competition, sponsored by American Book Fest. The book is intended as a guide that works readers through behavior change and self-advocacy to become more active life. With 20 years of corporate man- agement experience, she is now a certified personal trainer, group fitness instructor and certified Pilates instructor living in Bain- bridge Island, Washington.

Chad Krober (G97, MBA04) and Brian Heinze (G95) are a third-grade teacher at Newby Elementary School in McMinnville, Oregon, for three years and, from 2009 to 2014, she was a stu- dent teacher with Companion-Deschutes.

Jim Domen (G90) has founded and is presi- dent of Church United, a pastoral network devoted to creating new models to change the culture of churches in Califor- nia and to “equip pastors as culture changers” through educational programming. He also is the executive director of Sacramento and for annual “Awakening Tours.” A May 2018 event in Sacramento drew 150 pastors. He says his mission is to “transform California for Christ!” An ordained pastor, he is a member of the Presbyterian Church, an affiliate of Focus on the Family, and from 2011 to 2014 he was a leader with Multiplication Ministries, a church growth ministry.

Jon Dennis (G93) is a member of the Oregon House of Representatives, taking office in January after being elected in the fall general election. Dennis, a registered nurse and minister for the Confederate States of America, represented Oregon’s 3rd District.

Tawney (Skarllen) Blythe (G74), was an administrative assistant 20 years ago. After serving in the 10 p.m. “After Hours” productions. She is also a professional actor, times a month. He also occasionally performs in long-form improv or other themed shows. In 2018 he gained his current position when the district office was reorganized. The new position allows him to be in schools and the community on a daily basis.

Shanna (Shanka) Witcher (G91), already director of youth ministries with Oregon City Church of the Nazarene, is now executive director and minister for that church’s new Youth Services agency. The previous four years she worked with the Idaho Child Welfare Services organization. The previous four years she was also a postulant for ordination in the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho.

Chad Madron (G94) has another new book in cir- culation: Souvenir debuted in March 2018, part of an object Lessons series by Bloomsbury about the hidden lives of ordinary things. His book blends reportage, memoir, anthro- pology and cultural criticism to reveal the lives of objects in the 4,000-year history of travel souvenirs. He also has started a new podcast. Devote with Rolf Notta, that began in November 2017 and has surpassed a quarter of a million downloads. It features off-topic conversations with a wide range of experts, public figures and interest- ing people. Notta has reported from more than 60 countries for the likes of National Geographic, The New Yorker, Slate.com, The New York Times Magazine, wired, National Public Radio and the Travel Channel.

Jennifer (Swarrowbank) Hirsch (G91) is leadership gift- supported with Northwest Michigan College, a 5,000-student community college in Traverse City. She started in 2016 after just over 10 years as project manager for marketing solutions and director of cli- ent services with Credo, a higher education consulting firm in Whitaker, North Carolina. From 1994 to 2003, she was associate director of undergraduate admissions for George L. Lyn (Sanstrum) Lindberg (G94) is the founder and president of her new startup business, Couch to Activist, established in 2016. Her book, Couch to Activist: The 10-Step Career Take You From Sedentary to Active, was released in August, and in November she was a finalist in the 13th annual Best Book Awards competition, sponsored by American Book Fest. The book is intended as a guide that works readers through behavior change and self-advocacy to become more active life. With 20 years of corporate man- agement experience, she is now a certified personal trainer, group fitness instructor and certified Pilates instructor living in Bain- bridge Island, Washington.

Chad Krober (G97, MBA04) and Brian Heinze (G95) are a third-grade teacher at Newby Elementary School in McMinnville, Oregon, for three years and, from 2009 to 2014, she was a stu- dent teacher with Companion-Deschutes.

Jim Domen (G90) has founded and is presi- dent of Church United, a pastoral network devoted to creating new models to change the culture of churches in Califor- nia and to “equip pastors as culture changers” through educational programming. He also is the executive director of Sacramento and for annual “Awakening Tours.” A May 2018 event in Sacramento drew 150 pastors. He says his mission is to “transform California for Christ!” An ordained pastor, he is a member of the Presbyterian Church, an affiliate of Focus on the Family, and from 2011 to 2014 he was a leader with Multiplication Ministries, a church growth ministry.

Jon Dennis (G93) is a member of the Oregon House of Representatives, taking office in January after being elected in the fall general election. Dennis, a registered nurse and minister for the Confederate States of America, represented Oregon’s 3rd District.

Tawney (Skarllen) Blythe (G74), was an administrative assistant 20 years ago. After serving in the 10 p.m. “After Hours” productions. She is also a professional actor, times a month. He also occasionally performs in long-form improv or other themed shows. In 2018 he gained his current position when the district office was reorganized. The new position allows him to be in schools and the community on a daily basis.

Shanna (Shanka) Witcher (G91), already director of youth ministries with Oregon City Church of the Nazarene, is now executive director and minister for that church’s new Youth Services agency. The previous four years she worked with the Idaho Child Welfare Services organization. The previous four years she was also a postulant for ordination in the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho.

Chad Madron (G94) has another new book in cir- culation: Souvenir debuted in March 2018, part of an object Lessons series by Bloomsbury about the hidden lives of ordinary things. His book blends reportage, memoir, anthro- pology and cultural criticism to reveal the lives of objects in the 4,000-year history of travel souvenirs. He also has started a new podcast. Devote with Rolf Notta, that began in November 2017 and has surpassed a quarter of a million downloads. It features off-topic conversations with a wide range of experts, public figures and interest- ing people. Notta has reported from more than 60 countries for the likes of National Geographic, The New Yorker, Slate.com, The New York Times Magazine, wired, National Public Radio and the Travel Channel.
Minthorne Leaves Legacy of Leadership, Generosity

By Barry Hubbell

After nearly three-quarters of a century, Roger Minthorne (G47) is no longer helping guide and shape George Fox University. He passed away March 9 in Newberg at the age of 92. President Robin Baker spoke for the university at his memorial service.

Roger Minthorne attended University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, but left after his first year to work. His family moved to Oregon, and Minthorne enrolled at Oregon State Teachers College in Corvallis where he earned his bachelor’s degree in 1947. While an undergraduate, his parents, Henry and Laura Minthorn, moved to Newberg to raise their son and daughter, Henry and Laura Minthorn. They served as foster parents to former president Herbert Hoover, as Henry was the grandson of George Fox’s first superintendent of Friends Pacific Academy, which grew into the University of Oregon. Hoover later became George Fox University. That family tie, perhaps, first superintendence of Friends Pacific Academy, which grew into the university’s oldest building, constructed in 1887 and moved to campus in 1892. It is named for Minthorne’s great uncle, who was a significant financial supporter. For many years he and his wife, Mildred, supported the Minthorne Family Scholarship, an annual award for incoming Friends students. They made another significant investment with a gift of $100,000 to create the 900-square-foot Minthorne Hall Art Gallery, opened in 2006 in the Hoover Academic Building.

As alumni know, it’s not the first Minthorne name on a college name. Minthorn Hall (without the “e” on the end) was named for the university’s first president, John W. Minthorn, a significant leader whose name was shared with the first superintendent of Friends Pacific Academy, which grew into George Fox University. That family tie, perhaps, sparked some of Minthorne’s fondness for the university.

Minthorne was honored by his alma mater with his naming as the Minthorne Family Leadership Center in 2012, in part of the university’s 125th anniversary celebration, he was named to its list of 125 noteworthiness and significant people who have created and shaped the institutions.

Union’s commercial and business banking division. He is in the company’s Portland (Fintress) branch, one of 15 branches in Oregon. He focuses on financing owner-occupied and investor commercial real estate in Oregon and Washington. With Wells Fargo, he held four positions during his tenure, the most recent as vice president relationship manager III for a year after nearly seven years in commercial lending and business banking.

Eloise Hockett (MEd98, EdD08) is heading a nonprofit, which helps providing access to helping equip and promote sustainability through missions projects in Africa. The focus recently has been in the college of Mulrini, in western Kenya, near the Uganda border. As president and CEO of Marafiki (the Swahili word for ‘friends’), Hockett also travels to the site to help directly with education and health projects in the community and based in Newberg, Marafiki currently emphasizes help with professional development of teachers, health assessments and health education in schools, educational support for girls, sanitary supplies for girls, and support for women’s economic development. It raises funds through direct donations and through fundraising events. Hockett has been an education professor at George Fox since 1998 and in 2018 is currently chair of the School of Education and chair of undergraduates teacher education.

Julie (Walter) Huckstein (ADP98), president of Cheyemka College Community, has announced her retirement, effective June 30. She was named head of the 12,000-student Salem, Oregon, college in 2014. She has worked in community colleges for more than 32 years, including 18 at Chemeketa, where she was vice president and CFO before being selected. She assisted as the chief financial officer and director of business services, in that role for four years before being promoted to CFO in 2012. As president, she is credited with establishing programs in robotics, anesthesiology technology, bilingual education and diesel technology, along with reviving the music program and securing funding for an agricultural complex and construction of a new women’s softball field. Previously, she was named head of the college’s nursing program at the University of New Mexico, where she had been for six years as associate dean and later associate professor of pharmacy practice. She also volunteers at the Loudoun Free Clinic, which serves the low-income people and the uninsured in Loudoun.

Heather Unestad-Hines (G19) is a regulatory exam coordinator for the State of Oregon. She moved into the auditor coordinator position in July. The large national mortgage service company in business created the Liberty in 2001, purchased from IBM. She started with IBM in 2001 as a customer service role, then moved to support desk/senior specialist, to project coordinator in 2012 and to business control analyst in 2014.

Cherie Buckner-Webb (ADP99) in November was general election was elected to a third three-year term in the Idaho State Senate. First elected in 2012 after two years as a state representative, she represents Idaho District 19 in north Boise. She won by a 75 percent margin over her Republican opponent, Veterans for Social and Transportation Committees.

A fifth-generation Idahoan and first African American to be elected to the Idaho Senate, Buckner-Webb is a Democrat, currently serves on the senate’s education, state affairs, and transportation committees. The founder (2007) and past chair of the Idaho Peacemaker Coaching, she also sang singing one at the Idaho State Capitol, Little on the steps of the state capitol in Boise.

Don Foster (G99, MBA24) in April was promoted to COO and named chief operating officer at Building Champions, Inc. He had been executive coach since joining the Lake Oswego, Oregon, business in 2015. The firm works with leaders, managers and business professionals to intentionally build their business and lives through helping them increase their influence, make better decisions and achieve the results they desire. Previously, he was a manager and principal broker with Prudential Northwest Properties in Newberg and Sherwood for eight years. He also has planted a new home-based church, Saturate, in Newberg, meeting without a designated church structure and focused on missional community groups and outreach.

Janie (Robinson) Nimeth (G98) has joined the Christian Education Department of the Salvation Army. She writes and edits team leadership and disciplesship material used by the Salvation Army across the nation.

Eloise Hockett (MEd98, EdD08) is heading a nonprofit, which helps providing access to helping equip and promote sustainability through missions projects in Africa. The focus recently has been in the college of Mulrini, in western Kenya, near the Uganda border. As president and CEO of Marafiki (the Swahili word for ‘friends’), Hockett also travels to the site to help directly with education and health projects in the community and based in Newberg, Marafiki currently emphasizes help with professional development of teachers, health assessments and health education in schools, educational support for girls, sanitary supplies for girls, and support for women’s economic development. It raises funds through direct donations and through fundraising events. Hockett has been an education professor at George Fox since 1998 and in 2018 is currently chair of the School of Education and chair of undergraduates teacher education.

Julie (Walter) Huckstein (ADP98), president of Cheyemka College Community, has announced her retirement, effective June 30. She was named head of the 12,000-student Salem, Oregon, college in 2014. She has worked in community colleges for more than 32 years, including 18 at Chemeketa, where she was vice president and CFO before being selected. She assisted as the chief financial officer and director of business services, in that role for four years before being promoted to CFO in 2012. As president, she is credited with establishing programs in robotics, anesthesiology technology, bilingual education and diesel technology, along with reviving the music program and securing funding for an agricultural complex and construction of a new women’s softball field. Previously, she was named head of the college’s nursing program at the University of New Mexico, where she had been for six years as associate dean and later associate professor of pharmacy practice. She also volunteers at the Loudoun Free Clinic, which serves the low-income people and the uninsured in Loudoun.

Heather Unestad-Hines (G19) is a regulatory exam coordinator for the State of Oregon. She moved into the auditor coordinator position in July. The large national mortgage service company in business created the Liberty in 2001, purchased from IBM. She started with IBM in 2001 as a customer service role, then moved to support desk/senior specialist, to project coordinator in 2012 and to business control analyst in 2014.

Cherie Buckner-Webb (ADP99) in November was general election was elected to a third three-year term in the Idaho State Senate. First elected in 2012 after two years as a state representative, she represents Idaho District 19 in north Boise. She won by a 75 percent margin over her Republican opponent, Veterans for Social and Transportation Committees.

A fifth-generation Idahoan and first African American to be elected to the Idaho Senate, Buckner-Webb is a Democrat, currently serves on the senate’s education, state affairs, and transportation committees. The founder (2007) and past chair of the Idaho Peacemaker Coaching, she also sang singing one at the Idaho State Capitol, Little on the steps of the state capitol in Boise.

Don Foster (G99, MBA24) in April was promoted to COO and named chief operating officer at Building Champions, Inc. He had been executive coach since joining the Lake Oswego, Oregon, business in 2015. The firm works with leaders, managers and business professionals to intentionally build their business and lives through helping them increase their influence, make better decisions and achieve the results they desire. Previously, he was a manager and principal broker with Prudential Northwest Properties in Newberg and Sherwood for eight years. He also has planted a new home-based church, Saturate, in Newberg, meeting without a designated church structure and focused on missional community groups and outreach.

Janie (Robinson) Nimeth (G98) has joined the Christian Education Department of the Salvation Army. She writes and edits team leadership and disciplesship material used by the Salvation Army across the nation.
School athletic Hall of Fame, honoring his cross country achievements. He now is a first-grade teacher at May Elementary in Hood River, Oregon. He also is head coach of a combined Hood River Valley Middle School and Wy’east Middle School coed cross country team.

Lida Herberger (ADP96), with Lane Community College for nearly 20 years, is now dean of student success. She previously was director of student success for nearly three years, ending in 2014, when she became director for an outreach center in Cottage Grove, Oregon, providing credit and non-credit programs. Previously, she was manager coordinator for engaging students and student success.

2000–09

Sarri (Tate) Gibson (G01) this last year was visiting assistant professor of education at George Fox. It was a return to campus after she taught on an adjunct basis from 2015 to 2010. She also was a visiting professor (2017–18) at nearby Linfield College, where she was an adjunct professor starting in 2012.

Jonathan Rickey (G02) in July started as direc- tor of athletics for the Arizona network of charter schools. It has 22 academies that teach a core classical liberal arts curriculum, with 98 percent of students exceeding state standards on previous years of testing. He has served in various roles as director of athletics with Glencliff (Arizona) Preparatory Academy. Previously he was a teacher and assistant principal at Imagine Schools in Surprise, Ar-i-zona, and a 教 at Utah’s ACCLAIM Academy teacher for four years.

Susan Rieke-Smith (MA01) is the new executive director of the Portland (Oregon) School District. She started in July, moving from heading Springfield (Oregon) Public Schools, where she had served for nearly five years, the last three as superintendent following positional assistant principal terms. Previously, she was with the Salem-Keizer (Oregon) School District for five years, including her 13th year with the Bruins, currently serving as chief operating officer. She retired from coaching softball in 2017. She participated in the Iron Dog snowmobile race, his 13th year with the Bruins, currently serving as chief operating officer. She retired from coaching softball in 2017. She participated in the Iron Dog snowmobile race.

2000–09

Sarri (Tate) Gibson (G01) this last year was visiting assistant professor of education at George Fox. It was a return to campus after she taught on an adjunct basis from 2015 to 2010. She also was a visiting professor (2017–18) at nearby Linfield College, where she was an adjunct professor starting in 2012.

Jonathan Rickey (G02) in July started as direc- tor of athletics for the Arizona network of charter schools. It has 22 academies that teach a core classical liberal arts curriculum, with 98 percent of students exceeding state standards on previous years of testing. He has served in various roles as director of athletics with Glencliff (Arizona) Preparatory Academy. Previously he was a teacher and assistant principal at Imagine Schools in Surprise, Ar-i-zona, and a 教 at Utah’s ACCLAIM Academy teacher for four years.

Susan Rieke-Smith (MA01) is the new executive director of the Portland (Oregon) School District. She started in July, moving from heading Springfield (Oregon) Public Schools, where she had served for nearly five years, the last three as superintendent following positional assistant principal terms. Previously, she was with the Salem-Keizer (Oregon) School District for five years, including her 13th year with the Bruins, currently serving as chief operating officer. She retired from coaching softball in 2017. She participated in the Iron Dog snowmobile race, his 13th year with the Bruins, currently serving as chief operating officer. She retired from coaching softball in 2017. She participated in the Iron Dog snowmobile race.
Terra Mattson (MA06) has authored InCourage: Raising Daughters Rooted in Grace, a 222-page book released in September by her own business, Living Wholesomed. Established in 2011 with her husband and located in Tualatin, Oregon, it is dedicated to helping leaders live with integrity. It offers professional counseling and supervision, consult- ing, workshops and ongoing retreats. She is a clinical director, a licensed marriage and family therapist, a counselor and a retreat speaker nationwide. In 2014, she helped found Courageous Girls, an organization with a curriculum to support gatherings of young girls and their mothers who have intentional and biblical conversations.

Kim Newman (MAT06) is the new program director at the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, chosen last July. She connected with the foundation, headquartered in Vancouver, Washington, through eight years of partic- ipating in programs offered by and working with its science programs. She was a Partners in Science grantee—a program she will now direct—and then program coach while teach- ing life science the last six years at Camas (Washington) High School, where she also served as its Magnet Interim coordinator. Previously, for nine years, until 2012, she was a teacher with Portland Christian Schools. The Murdock Charitable Trust provides grants to organizations in five states in the Pacific Northwest. Since its inception it has awarded more than 5,600 grants totaling in excess of $951 million.

Patrick Stockerow (G07, MA10) in July became the new principal of Forest Hills Elementary School in Lake Oswego, Oregon, where he has taught since 2012. He is gaining a 450-student, kindergar- ten-through-sixth grade school with 38 staff. He previously had been with Stevenson (Oregon) School District as instruction and data analyst and a substitute teacher. He also served as director for the Sherwood Equity Team, a 30-member strategic planning group charged with increasing accessibility for underserved students. He began his teaching career as a third-grade teacher.

John Van Cleef (ADP06) in September was named executive director of the Community Health in Escondido, California. He is a licensed, director of Palomar Health in Escondido, Cali- fornia. He previously served as an executive director in California, Oregon and Nevada.

Melissa Vigil (MA06), who started with Northwest Community Credit Union in Eugene, Oregon, seven years ago, is now its CEO. She was named to the position in 2017 after serving nearly four years as chief strategy officer/chief administrative officer. Previously, she started as human resources director in 2012. She worked before then in human resources positions in Cervalis and Allstate Insurance.

Aaron Bear (MA17) in October became direc- tor of major gift funding and planned giving for Mission Aviation Fellowship in Nampa, Idaho. It’s a change from his previous posi- tion as director of the MAF Foundation. The Christian nonprofit group provides aviation communications and learning technology services to more than 1,000 Christian and hu- manitarian agencies and isolated missionar- ies and indigenous villages in remote areas. He has been with the organization since 2006 after serving four years as children’s pastor with the Mountain Home (Idaho) Assembly of God Church. He also has an adjunct profes- sor with George Fox, teaching the course Christian Faith and Thought online since 2005.

Jeffrey Billo (G07) is associate professor of English at Spring Arbor University in Michi- gan, where he has taught since 2006 and received a PhD in English from Baylor Uni- versity in Texas. He is a frequent author and, in the fall, released Virtues of Resilience: Wendell Berry’s Sustainable Futures. It follows his book Wendell Berry and Higher Educating: Cultivating Virtue of Place, cowritten with Jack Baker. Berry is an American novelist, poet, environ- mental activist and cultural critic. Billo also is editor of the Front Porch Republic, a conservative, communitarian, localist blog.

Brian Donahue (G07) was named 2018 All- West Coast League Coach of the Year for his managing (for his third year) of the Kenowa, Michigan, Falcon baseball team. The collegiate summer league has 11 teams in Oregon, Washington and British Colum- bia. It’s one of two coaching positions for Donahue. During the season year, he is head coach of the M.J. Hood Community College Saints in Portland, a position he has occupied since 2008. Playing for the Saints, he was an All-Northwest Conference first baseman and a second-team all-West Region selec- tion during his two seasons. As a senior, he was named a second-team All-American by D3baseball.com. He still holds all-time career batting average record at .415.

Spencer McKeel (MA17) was featured in a Feb. 20, 2019, article in the Peninsula Clarion in Soldotna, Alaska as he played the ex- centric title character in a production of Willy Wonka by the Renai Performers community theatrical group. McKeel has been perform- ing for nearly 20 years with nearly two dozen shows almost exclusively. By day, since 2017 he works with Soldotna Professional Pharmacy in Soldotna.

James Fishback (ADP07) is an attorney with a law firm in Portland that provides legal representation to small and mid-sized companies through litigation, transaction and regulatory compliance matters. He is in his sixth year with the company while also teaching as an adjunct faculty member for tech- nology and management at George Fox. He received his law degree in 2018 from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland.

Kathi (Newton) Gatlin (G07, MA12, MEd16) is in her third year as spiritual director and spiritual formation group facilitator with Bolivia Lost Ministries, which she founded in 2018. She says it is a “means to create a space to explore the questions our students ask themselves on their own spiri- tual journey and share ways of understand- ing God through contemplative prayer and teaching.” It offers courses, direction meetings and retreats, usually at North Valley Presbyterian Church in Newberg. Previously, she was with George Fox University for nine years, as a senior enrollment counselor for five years, ending in 2014, after nearly four years as a first-year seminar instructor.

Debbie Seyer (ADP07) is the 2018 recipient of the James E. Weatherby Award, given for her service to the Idaho City Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers Association. The organi- zation presented the award in September. She has worked for the City of Caldwell, Idaho, for nearly 18 years, the last as city clerk. She started work with the city, where she grew up, in the planning and zoning department. Geyer is former president of the association. She has been involved in several other orga- nizations and currently is Caldwell Community Youth Master Plan Committee.

Michelle Livingston-Dixon (G07, MAT08) is in Sydney, Australia, where she provides relief teaching for two schools—a casual teacher in a variety of subjects at St. Andrew’s Cathedral School and a teacher with Portland Christian Schools. She served as its Magnet Internship coordinator.

Youth Master Plan Committee.

John Van Cleef (ADP06) is the 2018 recipient of the James E. Weatherby Award, given for her service to the Idaho City Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers Association. The organi- zation presented the award in September. She has worked for the City of Caldwell, Idaho, for nearly 18 years, the last as city clerk. She started work with the city, where she grew up, in the planning and zoning department. Geyer is former president of the association. She has been involved in several other orga- nizations and currently is Caldwell Community Youth Master Plan Committee.

Michelle Livingston-Dixon (G07, MAT08) is in Sydney, Australia, where she provides relief teaching for two schools—a casual teacher in a variety of subjects at St. Andrew’s Cathedral School and a teacher with Portland Christian Schools. She served as its Magnet Internship coordinator.

Youth Master Plan Committee.

John Van Cleef (ADP06) is the 2018 recipient of the James E. Weatherby Award, given for her service to the Idaho City Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers Association. The organi- zation presented the award in September. She has worked for the City of Caldwell, Idaho, for nearly 18 years, the last as city clerk. She started work with the city, where she grew up, in the planning and zoning department. Geyer is former president of the association. She has been involved in several other orga- nizations and currently is Caldwell Community Youth Master Plan Committee.

Michelle Livingston-Dixon (G07, MAT08) is in Sydney, Australia, where she provides relief teaching for two schools—a casual teacher in a variety of subjects at St. Andrew’s Cathedral School and a teacher with Portland Christian Schools. She served as its Magnet Internship coordinator.

Youth Master Plan Committee.

John Van Cleef (ADP06) is the 2018 recipient of the James E. Weatherby Award, given for her service to the Idaho City Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers Association. The organi- zation presented the award in September. She has worked for the City of Caldwell, Idaho, for nearly 18 years, the last as city clerk. She started work with the city, where she grew up, in the planning and zoning department. Geyer is former president of the association. She has been involved in several other orga- nizations and currently is Caldwell Community Youth Master Plan Committee.

Michelle Livingston-Dixon (G07, MAT08) is in Sydney, Australia, where she provides relief teaching for two schools—a casual teacher in a variety of subjects at St. Andrew’s Cathedral School and a teacher with Portland Christian Schools. She served as its Magnet Internship coordinator.

Youth Master Plan Committee.

John Van Cleef (ADP06) is the 2018 recipient of the James E. Weatherby Award, given for her service to the Idaho City Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers Association. The organi- zation presented the award in September. She has worked for the City of Caldwell, Idaho, for nearly 18 years, the last as city clerk. She started work with the city, where she grew up, in the planning and zoning department. Geyer is former president of the association. She has been involved in several other orga- nizations and currently is Caldwell Community Youth Master Plan Committee.

Michelle Livingston-Dixon (G07, MAT08) is in Sydney, Australia, where she provides relief teaching for two schools—a casual teacher in a variety of subjects at St. Andrew’s Cathedral School and a teacher with Portland Christian Schools. She served as its Magnet Internship coordinator.

Youth Master Plan Committee.

John Van Cleef (ADP06) is the 2018 recipient of the James E. Weatherby Award, given for her service to the Idaho City Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers Association. The organi- zation presented the award in September. She has worked for the City of Caldwell, Idaho, for nearly 18 years, the last as city clerk. She started work with the city, where she grew up, in the planning and zoning department. Geyer is former president of the association. She has been involved in several other orga- nizations and currently is Caldwell Community Youth Master Plan Committee.

Michelle Livingston-Dixon (G07, MAT08) is in Sydney, Australia, where she provides relief teaching for two schools—a casual teacher in a variety of subjects at St. Andrew’s Cathedral School and a teacher with Portland Christian Schools. She served as its Magnet Internship coordinator.

Youth Master Plan Committee.

John Van Cleef (ADP06) is the 2018 recipient of the James E. Weatherby Award, given for her service to the Idaho City Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers Association. The organi- zation presented the award in September. She has worked for the City of Caldwell, Idaho, for nearly 18 years, the last as city clerk. She started work with the city, where she grew up, in the planning and zoning department. Geyer is former president of the association. She has been involved in several other orga-
John Regier (MBA) in February became director of recruiting, adult degree and international admissions for George Fox. He moved into his new role after a year as associate director of graduate and adult degree admissions, also serving as admissions counselor for the university’s Portland Seminary. He joined the seminary full time in 2014 as associate director of master’s programs after five years as a part-time online facilitator and educational technologist. He is currently pursuing a doctor of education degree at George Fox.

Aimee (Timmons) Renan (G10) is a counselor/care manager with St. Mary’s Home for Boys in Beaverton, Oregon. Renan’s assignment is to be an advocate for at-risk boys ages 10 to 17 who are emotionally disturbed and behaviorally deficient.

Tina Roberts (MBA09) is now a backup assistant principal for Naperville Junior High in Naperville, Illinois. In 2018, she was a Title I leading teacher at Lima Ohiwe City Schools for four years.

Michelle Rosato (APD09) is an accounting analyst with OEG Inc. in Portland. This fall she annualized to her eighth year with the electrical contracting firm after being with FlowersEnterprises in Hillsboro, Oregon, as a plant manager. She serves as a liaison with OEG’s accounting and operations to understand the performances and desires of the company’s management.

Natalie (Gonzales) Tomko (G09), have four chil-
dren and live in Covington, Oregon.

Jennifer Boll (G09) has accepted a position in London with her company, Jannain, based in Portland. She is a technical consultant, with extensive experience in the global technology company software product company since 2016. Earlier, she was a software consultant and trainer for the company’s success. As a success coach for nearly four years.

Kevin Brown (G09) and Laura (Mittendorf) Brown (G09), are full-time mom and earn a living in Kyle, Texas, actively involved in serving the needs of the community for two years. This spring she taught Family Medicine and Community Healthcare, an introduction to citizenship and community service, at Baylor University Family Medicine Center. She has a master’s degree from the Baylor School of Social Work.

Janelle Holmboe (MB10) is now vice presi
dent for enrollment and dean of admissions at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. She started in July and is responsible for developing and implementing the college’s financial aid, marketing and enrollment management strategy. She moved from a position as director of enrollment and student recruitment at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina, where she earned her master’s degree a few years earlier. She was a dean of admissions at American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts, from 2010 to 2014, and was a successful admissions coach there.

Tina Roberts (MBA09) is now an associate director of graduate admissions. Christine (Voigt) LeBlanc (G09) is a member of the Portland Institute for the New York policy agenda, Tyler Walker (APD10) is now a physician with the U.S. Army. In June 2018 he began residenc
ey at Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Prior to that he graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in May 2018. Walker was a full-time resident in his third-year residency, followed by a four-year service commitment. His specialty is family medicine. He and his wife, Amanda Swanson (T09), have four chil-
dren and live in Covington, Oregon.
It was the beginning of Randall René’s (ADP¶14, MBA³17) junior year in high school, and things were rough. His mom had gone into rehab for the fourth time. His stepdad, a violent, abusive man, took his daughters - René’s sisters – out of the house. Sixteen years old, he was all alone.

“I didn’t want my grandparents to worry... so I carried on with my business,” René recalls. He’d go to school, mostly, occupying by himself in the back of his mind the thought of quitting school to play sports. But he went to work every day, bagging groceries at Fred Meyer to buy food and help pay for his mom’s needs.

René started to consider dropping out of high school, and that’s when he met Carl Lavier.

“Lav was the gym teacher and coach for football and track. He’d give René a hard time about skipping class, but he was always there - present, with a listening ear and an encouraging word. When René shared that he planned to drop out, Lav told him, “Randy, I know it’s tough, but I think you’re good enough. So I expect to see you here. Don’t let me down.”

René decided to stay.

René’s other youth champion was his grandfather. He did volunteer work all around town, serving in soup kitchens, working with the church, and coaching Little League. One day he brought René along.

“I had these two great men in my life,” René said. “I went through some rough spots, but I have a greater care and love now because people have the time to love and care for me. They took a little extra hardship on themselves to give me a better foundation to build my life upon. So now I want to be able to give back.”

After high school, René served a stint in the Army, then moved back home to Oregon, ending up in the telecommunication field. Looking to further his education, he discovered George Fox’s management and organizational leadership program. For two years, he worked all day and went to school on nights and weekends. As a boy, René had nearly dropped out of high school. As a man, he earned his bachelor’s degree with a 3.8 GPA. Two years later, he returned to George Fox for his MBA.

René Makes Big Impact as a Big Brother

By Andrea Shauhnessey

René’s other big brother was his grandfather. His grandfather volunteers all around town, serving in soup kitchens, working with the church, and coaching Little League. One day he brought René along.

“My current little ‘name’ is Henry,” René says. “He’s 11 years old – a great kid – and we could be a better match.”

Like Henry, René has had his share of hardship. His father passed away years ago, and René finds himself acting as a male role model. He’s there for Henry – present, with a listening ear and an encouraging word, just like Lav was for him. René’s efforts have not gone unnoticed.

In 2018, he was named “Big of the Year” by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oregon.

Lav and his grandfather were in the back of his mind the whole time – his templates for life. René served as a reserve police officer for the city of Hillsboro for 14 years, and in 2012 started volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

“René is kind, caring and concerned about others,” said Henry. “He’s her role model.”

Peter Martin (MBA³11) was anisothe financial adviser with Northwestern Mutual in Salem, Oregon, moving from a position as a benefits consultant for Affinity.

Luke Neff (MBA³14, EdD³15), who has been serving as director of instructional technology with the Newberg School District since 2014, has added a new role this year as director of strategic partnerships. He already had moved his office to Newberg High School so he could assist curriculum leaders. In addition, he oversees grant development and acquisitions and public/private partnerships for the district.

Kimberly (Newton) Hergert (G13) returned to campus. In September she again became costume shop manager for George Fox theatrical productions, resuming a position she previously held from 2012 to 2013 and during the 2009-10 academic year. She was also the shop’s seamstress from 2007 to 2010. In all, she has done costume design for more than a dozen productions. Her experience also includes time with Valley Repertory Theatre in Newberg and with Theatre Vespera, Pacer Drama and After School Productions.

Cristina Jaurez (MATT) and Mario Jaurez (ADP¶14, MBA³17) live in Newberg while teaching in nearby cities. She teaches third grade at River Valley Elementary in the Tigard-Tualatin School District, starting in 2012 after a corporate career with Cigna and HealthNet. He started teaching in 2015 and is a fourth-grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary in Woodburn, Oregon, after assisting the principal in a mentoring program for students. That followed employment with the U.S. Army Reserve and with FedEx. They are both credited in English Language Development with Espeanza Iglesia en Cristo, a Spanish-speaking church in Tualatin, a branch of Horizen Christian Church.

Thomas King (EDD) has returned and resumed the role of director of internships and in 2018, he was once again hired as a math and science teacher in Chehalem Valley Middle School.

In 2018, he was named “Big of the Year” by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oregon.
In 2015, she worked as an assistant hall director for the Bastrop Independent School District. She started in August after being a garden and yoga teacher at a local community garden. Christopher Benjamin (G15) is one of three candidates to become the next director of the Lakeside School District in Clackamas, Oregon. He moved back to Oregon, that produces organic superfood for just over two years. Since January she has been assistant manager in marketing operations in 2016. She has now left Adidas, where she was a civil deputy sheriff. Previously, she was an executive officer at the Oregon Employment Department, where she received a master of arts degree in economics and implements digital marketing strategies, designs print materials, and designs and manages marketing campaigns. Ofelia McMenamy (G16) has joined George Fox University in Tualatin, Oregon. That makes and sells desserts and candy in the fall as director of the Individual and Family Matters Counseling Clinic at George Fox University in Portland, Oregon and a therapist with a private practice since 2016, she worked the previous year as a graduate admissions counselor at Concor-

In addition, he has his own part-time business, The Hotspot Group, which provides pre-employment background investigations, executive vetting services and administrative investigations. Ofelia McNamara (ADP15) is a social worker with the Multnomah County, Aging, Disability and Veterans Services, screening for and determining eligibility for public services. Now in Portland, she was a resident therapist at the Child maltreatment home in Beaverton, Oregon, from 2015 to 2017. Tom Porter (ED20) is an attorney whose practice focuses on immigration law. He is the executive director of Newberg Lockers in downtown Newberg.

Elna (Hendson) Simon-Dorrer (G18) is an athletic trainer with Work Fit in Everett, Washington, working along with her husband. They both received master’s degrees in physical therapy and in exercise science from the University of Idaho and started and worked in Everett shortly thereafter. The company works with industrial clients for accident prevention and fitness. Ruedet Kahuakhes (DF13) is the new incumbent priest at St. Peter’s Anglican Church in Okotoks, Alberta, Canada. He started in September after serving just over 11 years as priest and rector at St. David’s Anglican Church in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Kevon Mills (MEd4) has moved from prin-
cipal of West Linn (Oregon) High School to become vice principal of Lake Oswego (Oregon) Junior High. He started in July, leaving the West Linn-Wilsonville School District after 10 years. He started as an advanced math teacher in 2008, later became athletic direc-
tor for one year, then was named assistant principal. In his new role he is being aided by assistant principal Jef Underwood (MEdT4), who started in 2016 after being with the Beav-
erton School District since 2004, including five years as an assistant principal at Barlow and two years as assistant principal at Westview High School.

Chase Stamper-Buck Page (MEd4), after three years as an adjunct professor, started in the fall as the director of the Individual and Family Matters Counseling Clinic at George Fox University in Portland, Oregon and a therapist with a private practice since 2016, she worked the previous year as an administrative officer at the Oregon Employment Department in Portland. She was a resident therapist at the Child maltreatment home in Beaverton, Oregon, from 2015 to 2017. Javier Gutierrez Baltazar (G19) is a juvenile probation officer with the Multnomah County Juvenile Department in Salem, Oregon, now in his second year. Previously, for nearly four years, he was a business and employment specialist for WorkSource Oregon, part of the Oregon Employment Department, where he assisted job seekers with employment resources and skill development.

Tim Bundin (ADP15) is in his first year as a commercial property manager with Wall Stone Corp in Vancouver, Washington. The company is a manufacturer and distribu-
tor of natural stone and quartz. Previously, he was project manager with Natural Stone Design in Portland. In his previous three years working in foreman and superintendent positions on construction projects for several Portland-area firms.

Desiree Fisher (ED18) is principal of 1,240 stu-
dents Lakeside High School in the Lake Oswego (Oregon) School District. She joined the district in 2004, most recently serving as assistant principal at Lakeside for two years before her current position started in July. Previously, she was a teacher, school councilor and dean of students.

Jacob Fisher (F15) is completing his third year with Large Estate Winery in Dundee, Oregon. He started in January after being in business for seven years. He has been in sales and marketing for 10 years, two years ago he was associated with the Oregon Wine Press. And in 2016 he was named to the team with the Oregon State 4A championship, finishing third place the next year. As a point guard for George Fox he helped the Bruins reach the NCAA Divi-
sion III Final Four in his freshman and senior seasons.

Haley (Wells) Tom (G18) is the new athletic director at Three Rivers Christian School in Longview, Washington. She started last August after two years as a domestic violence legal advocate at Emergency’s Support Shelter in Longview. She’s using her background as a three-sport athlete in high school. Three Rivers has six football teams, one middle school and three high schools. Tom continues as officer of the school’s Student Movement, a small business started in 2014 to help pay medical bills as she went through treatment for cancer. The school continues to donate a portion of apparel sales to cancer research.

Mackenzie (Green) Wroblewski (MEdT4) is teaching English language arts for third through eighth grades at Timber Ridge School in Albany, Oregon.
California, where he will enter the University of California, Berkeley PhD program in political science.

Leslie Leyton (ADP16) in August was promoted from human resources administrator to assistive teaching human resources specialist in the Channels and Harbors Project of the Operations Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Portland. She has worked in the Portland District for four years.

David Linton (MBA16) has been named a senior associate in structural engineering with Mackenzie in Portland. The firm is involved in architectural and interior design; structural, civil and traffic engineering; and land use and transportation planning. With the company since 2012, Linton is a project engineer and manager and recently led seismic upgrades of several five-story facilities. He has had articles published on how wood framed structures function under the impact of a tsunami. Previously, he was a structural designer with APT Engineering in Corvallis, Oregon, for two years.

Mizzi Martinez (G98) is a career and academic advising coach with classroomLink in Sunnyvale, California. She also worked in the department as a student from 2013 until graduation. On the side, she has her own business, Janna Holmes Photography, started in 2014.

Michael Leal (ADP06) in December received an MBA from Northwestern Christian University in Eugene, Oregon, and is seeking to become an adjunct instructor in business and criminal justice courses at a Christian university. He is a lieutenant with the Oregon State Police, in his 23rd year. He is station commander in Salem, in his third year, after nearly eight years as a sergeant, also serving for six years as drug recognition expert state coordinator. He started in law enforcement as a military police officer with the U.S. Army, serving for five years.

Ashley (Osborn) Lackey (G98) and Ryan Lackey (G05) live in Newberg, where he spent the 2018-19 academic year as an adjunct instructor at George Fox teaching writing. He also taught at Warner Pacific University in Portland and Clark College in Vancouver, Washington. She is a pharmacy assistant with Costo in Wilsonville, Oregon. He received a master of arts degree in English language and literature from Oregon State University in 2018. This fall they will move to Portland to serve as a third-grade teacher at Echo Shaw Elementary School, intentionally seeking out a bilingual school where she could put her skills to work. She arrived, but before long found herself asking big-picture questions. She wanted to make a difference beyond her classroom. Thus, she sought to have a voice in the systems and services required to lead. Rodriguez earned her master’s degree in school administration from Concordia University and a certificate from George Fox, both while continuing to teach.

“I wanted to go somewhere where I wouldn’t get lost, where people would know my name,” she says of George Fox. “I wanted to know that if I missed a class, they would miss me.”

Rodriguez took her first principal job at Cornelius Elementary School, serving there for nine years before taking her current position as principal of Echo Shaw Elementary. Over the years, she’s faced countless obstacles in her quest to make a difference. Yet, according to Rodriguez, her biggest challenge has been creating a positive and empowering space for Latinx kids in the midst of a toxic political climate. “Kids aren’t immune to those conversations,” she says. “We want to be a school where everyone feels secure in their identity.”

Creating a place where kids feel safe is a clear priority for Rodriguez. Beyond that, she also hopes her school is helping shape people poised to make a difference in their communities and in the world. “I want our students to be the next change-makers,” she says. “We just have to give them the tools.”
Nikolas Tripp (G17) in September was promoted to lead software engineer from software developer with Accruent Solutions in Portland. He started with the company in 2016. It provides foreign market exclusion for the power generation industry.

Robert Day (ADP18) made news headlines in March as he announced his retirement, effective May 1, completing one year as deputy police chief for the City of Portland. He was the second highest in command in a department that has nearly 1,500 full-time officers, 100 reserves, 50 cadets and 300 civilian positions. He was the first to fill the new position created with the hiring of a new police chief just 18 months ago. He reports he would like to continue in consulting work, lecturing or teaching in the field of public safety and criminal justice.

Katelyn Doby (G17) is a software development engineer with a water analytics firm. She previously was a software developer at Amazon. With the company the summer before she was hired full time. It provides automated inventory accounting, performance, compliance and risk reporting for financial firms, companies and governments.

Nicholas Felt (G18) has started his career as a financial aid counselor at Warner Pacific College. In June of 2018, at the Portland school with about 400 undergraduates and 1,200 students.

Britta Stewart (G17) is using her history degree in a very direct way near her alma mater. She is museum manager for the historic Hooe Minthorn House Museum, just a block from campus. She started just after graduating after serving two years as an intern while still in school. On campus she was an assistant in the archives for her last two years. Her Hooe Minthorn building was built in 1811, is the oldest house still standing in Newberg, and is the former home of 150 U.S. Presidents.

Dominique Thibault (G18) is a marketing coordinator with the Americas Regional Team of Milestone Systems in Beaverton, Oregon. It provides the open platform community with IP video management software (VMS).

Jaye Dee Romick (ADP18) made news headlines in March as he announced his retirement, effective May 1, completing one year as deputy police chief for the City of Portland. He was the second highest in command in a department that has nearly 1,500 full-time officers, 100 reserves, 50 cadets and 300 civilian positions. He was the first to fill the new position created with the hiring of a new police chief just 18 months ago. He reports he would like to continue in consulting work, lecturing or teaching in the field of public safety and criminal justice.

Robert Mitchell (G17) is now a police officer with the City of Newberg. He started a summer with the community in March of 2017 and as an officer in April of 2018. He has graduated after four years as a student before going to school in a physical therapy license program.

Lauren Gilman (Morikawa) (G17) and Michael Morikawa (G17), both in Newberg, where he is a public relations firm associated with its news & life events.

Kylie (Weatherford) Koch (G17) has been promoted to lead software engineer from systems analyst with Charter Mechanical. Using his degree in mechanical and process piping services in the power generation industry.
Kara (Rasmussen) Davis
Donald Christensen, a boy, Jett Weston, Aug. 31, 2018, in Newberg.

Bradley Heinrichs, a girl, Lilyana Sue, Jan. 24, 2019, and Alexis (Piersma) Heinrichs (G05), a girl, Aurelia (G05) and Samuel Greene M08, a boy, Fia Renee, April 25, 2019, in Portland.

Elisabeth (Mehl) Greene, a girl, Camille Lynn, Sept. 23, 2018, in Sams Valley, Oregon.

Janell (Goeres) Ralph (G04) and Benjamin Ralph, a girl, Camille Lynn, Sept. 23, 2018, in Sama Valley, Oregon.

Eliza (Morain) Knieriemen (G06) and John Knieriemen, a boy, Ethan Patrick, Oct. 15, 2018, in Baker City, Oregon.

Claire Athena, June 23, 2017, and Alex Cummings, a girl, Jasmine Holliday-Hairgrove, a boy, Raton, Florida.

Heather (Spencer) Orton (G04) and Trevor Orton (G04), a boy, William Ellis, July 26, 2018, in Portland.

Michelle Livingston-Dickson (G04, MAT09), and Timothy Dickson, a girl, Taylor Rhodes, April 24, 2018, in Clackamas, Oregon.

Sarah (Bowder) Kolodge (G06) and John Knieriemen, a boy, Oliver Jack, April 24, 2018, in Clackamas, Oregon.

Robin Minthorne (G06), March 10, 2019, in Newberg.

Leona (Harson) Lyda (G04), Dec. 2, 2018, in Boise, Idaho.

Floyd Watson (G04), May 27, 2019, in Newberg.

Derek Hockett (G05), May 3, 2019, in Newberg.

Lois (Clark) Smith (G05), Jan. 12, 2019, in Newberg.

Glen Mills (G05), Oct. 8, 2019, in Newberg.

Beth Lanni (G05), Dec. 18, 2019, in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

Andrew Lanni (G05), Jan. 12, 2019, in Newberg.

Bearden (Jud) Harmon (G05), March 21, 2019, in Newberg.

Robert (Bob) Johnson (G05), March 26, 2019, in Newberg.

Dean Demondary, (PHD), Aug. 21, 2019, in Foresthill, Idaho.

Larry Graves (G06), March 22, 2019, in Portland.

Lucille (Lewis) Brown (G04), Nov. 13, 2018, in Newberg.

Patricia (Keppinger) Delapp (G04), Jan. 17, 2019, in Salem, Oregon.

Yvonne (Hubbard) Carr (G05), March 22, 2019, in Newberg.

Roland Hartley (G08), Jan. 22, 2019, in Sherwood, Oregon.

Joyce (Rester) Snoweck (G08), Sept. 8, 2019, in Alexandria, Virginia.

Richard (Dick) Mott (G05), Feb. 19, 2019, in Paonia, Colorado.

Paul Morse (G05), Oct. 16, 2019, in Newberg.

Amie (Langerud) Tycksen (G06), Oct. 13, 2019, in Newberg.

Duane Fodge (G16), Aug. 14, 2019, in Newberg.

Robert (Bob) Johnson (G05), March 26, 2019, in Newberg.

Gerry (Gill) Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

William (Bill) Curtwright (G79), March 6, 2019, in Turner, Oregon.

Alda (Johnson) Clarkson (G73), July 6, 2018, in Newberg.

Lavero (Roy) Muir (G75), Oct. 10, 2018, in Woodburn, Oregon.

Douglas Whitley (n82), Oct. 21, 2018, in Eagle Creek, Oregon.

Lyn Ford (G72, M58), July 22, 2018, in Woodland, Washington.

Lori (Perry) Anderson (G80), Feb. 5, 2019, in Brea, California.

Susan McCraven (G92, M99), April 16, 2018, in Salt Lake City.

Lisa (Shaver) Backman (G98), Nov. 18, 2018, in Dundee, Oregon.

Michael Duckett (MO8), Feb. 16, 2019, in Boca Raton, Florida.

Dylan Gvarazhina (nX7), Nov. 16, 2018, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Gerry Clark (nX8), Feb. 19, 2019, in Denver.
How have you felt known at George Fox?

“Peers, professors and staff have all impacted me in a way that has made me grow in my faith and as a person.” – Kevin Tshilombo

“The faculty in the art department truly take the time to get to know you as a person and your passions.” – Megan Francisco

“My professors make sure I’m doing well spiritually, mentally and academically. I’ve felt known and loved by the community here at Fox.” – Alice Marchuk

“The community that has formed around me is supportive, caring and helpful. I know they have my best interests at heart.” – Malachi Tamminga

“Through intentional interactions made by professors and friends to get to know me.” – Evan Engstrom

“Professors have invited me to their offices for study help or even to just talk about life!” – Sidney Moses

“My professors want to get to know me, and they care about my future and my well-being.” – Karsyn Rockwell

“The people at George Fox have enabled me to pursue my passions and find my calling in life.” – McKenna Cerbana

“The community that has formed around me is supportive, caring and helpful. I know they have my best interests at heart.” – Malachi Tamminga

“Thank you to our generous donors!

Your gifts ensure that every student can experience the Be Known promise – regardless of financial status. Give today to support future George Fox students using the enclosed envelope or online at giving.georgefox.edu.
Weekend adventures just got a lot better for George Fox students. Whether it’s kayaking on the Willamette, snowshoeing on Mt. Hood or camping at the coast, Bruins can now rent a wide variety of outdoor gear at prices designed to accommodate a college student’s limited budget. It’s all part of the university's focus on health and fitness, led by the campus recreation team at the new Hadlock Student Center. See more on page 16.