MY Be Known STORY

Joanna and Jamie Zuckerman go deep with swim coach Natalie Turner
We live in a world where the desire of most of us is to be known. Certainly, with the advent of the internet and social media, the process of being known is different than at any other point in human history. Outside influences have always provided context for our lives, but increasingly individuals or groups that we do not really know affect how we see ourselves and form our identities. Indeed, the number of followers a person has on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram serve as “social clout” in an effort to gain a stake in the world and be known.

For most of my more than 20 years at George Fox University we have made a promise to students that they will Be Known – personally, academically and spiritually. I think some people believe we are just playing into the societal impulse to provide another space for the unique individual expression of a person. In reality, we are not interested in creating an opportunity for students to gain notoriety, but to gain a sense of who they are deep within, to understand their gifts, and to help them chart a path that is God-informed and designed.

Bryant Quinn, a former student-athlete and English major at George Fox, described his experience with professor Bill Jolliff this way: “Bill has always treated me as a person. Not just as an athlete who is taking a class, or a student who plays a sport, but holistically as a human created in the image of God who possesses unique gifts and talents. Whether those gifts applied directly in the classroom or not, I have always felt welcomed and like my perspective and thoughts mattered in my interactions with Bill.”

For faculty and staff at George Fox, relationships matter because they matter to God. We are called to educate students here, but we are also called to make disciples. Discipleship is only possible when students are genuinely known.

In reflecting on our relationship with God, C.S. Lewis noted: “We are always completely, and therefore equally, known to God. That is our destiny whether we like it or not. But though this knowledge never varies, the quality of our being known can. … When we assent with all our will to be known, then we treat ourselves, in relation to God, not as things but as persons. Instead of merely being known, we show, we tell, we offer ourselves to view.”

When we are known in this way, the encounter with God transforms us. At George Fox, being known means that we offer ourselves to each other and ultimately to God. In so doing, we grow, transform and in small ways begin to reflect the kingdom of God. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the George Fox people who make the Be Known promise a key aspect of our community.

Robin Baker
President
Nursing Students Aid in Local Vaccination Efforts

George Fox nursing students put their skills to good use during the spring semester, volunteering their time and expertise to help vaccinate hundreds of Oregonians at Providence Newberg Medical Center and the Marion County mass vaccination clinic in Salem.

“Helping at any of the mass vaccination clinics is an amazing opportunity that goes far beyond technical skills,” says College of Nursing Dean Pam Fifer. “Students were able to experience being a part of an interprofessional healthcare team, working with a diverse group of patients, developing their communication and charting skills, providing patient education, demonstrating care and compassion, and developing some level of understanding of the infrastructure needed to provide such a mass vaccination clinic during a pandemic.”

Beyond clinical experience, the activity allowed students to act on their heart for service, notes Clinical Coordinator Caroline Wildhaber. “Every one of the students that I have spoken with following their shift only had wonderful things to say of the experience. Not many of us have the opportunity to give back during a time such as this, and students knew that the time spent volunteering would bring so much peace and relief to our patients.”

University Announces Plans for Occupational Therapy Program

Following the successful launch of the physician assistant program in January 2021, another masters-level healthcare offering is set to begin in the fall of 2022 at George Fox: occupational therapy.

The decision to add the program was a response to the growing need for healthcare professionals both regionally and nationally, with demand for occupational therapists expected to grow 16 percent through 2029, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“This new program will address a critical need for the region, and we believe it will integrate well with existing undergraduate offerings to provide a new pathway toward health professions,” says university president Robin Baker. “Occupational therapy is a natural extension of our physical therapy and physician assistant graduate programs.”

In addition, at the undergraduate level, George Fox offers majors in kinesiology, biology and psychology, providing the foundation for those who seek to pursue a graduate degree in occupational therapy.

In the past two decades, George Fox has added nursing (2002), physical therapy (2002) and a physician assistant program as the demand for healthcare professionals has steadily increased in the region, particularly in rural areas. Each offering falls in line with the university’s mission, which strives to produce graduates who “serve with passion.”

Toole Claims School’s First Individual National Golf Title

George Fox has been a contender at the NCAA Division III Women’s Golf Championships for years, but until this spring the program had yet to claim a team or individual national title.

That all changed in mid-May, when Makensie Toole, a freshman from Australia, earned individual national champion honors at this year’s tournament, contested at the Forest Alters West Golf Course in East Lansing, Michigan. Toole led the field of 131 players from wire-to-wire, shooting a four-day total of 291 to finish three over par and a whopping 12 strokes ahead of the runner-up. Her accomplishment helped the Bruins finish third overall as a team.

“I am just so proud of this team,” coach Mary Jo McCluskey said. “After all the challenges and restrictions that came with COVID, to come here and compete like we did is incredible. And I’m so thrilled for Makensie as well – our first national champion.”

Toole’s individual title is the first for an NCAA George Fox athlete outside of track and field. Her play landed her on both the Women’s Golf Coaches Association’s All-West Region and All-American teams. Joining her on the All-American First Team was teammate Alison Takimaya, marking the first time two Bruins achieved that honor in the same season.

Previously, the pair helped George Fox win a Northwest Conference title by 83 strokes – their 18th straight league championship.

Bruins Win Six Conference Titles, Land 14 All-American Honors

COVID-19 impacted college sports across the country this year, canceling games, and in some cases, entire seasons. But once the Bruins got back on the field for play this spring they couldn’t be stopped, winning six of the nine Northwest Conference races they competed in and earning 14 individual All-American honors.

Leading the way on the All-American front was the track and field program, which boasted eight such athletes and two national runner-up finishes. The Bruins also swept the NCAA Championships in both the men’s and women’s competitions.

Track All-Americans included the 4x100-meter squad of Ashley Korb-Doty, Kennedy Taube, Emily Rohrer and Sydney Radigan, who set a school record with a 46.9-second time at the NCAA Division III Track and Field Championships to place second overall. Also running second at nationals was Bethany Gingrich, whose 100-time in the 400 hurdles also established a school record.

Joining them as All-Americans were teammates Berkley Hill (decathlon), Taylor Phillips (decathlon) and Christine Strickland (javelin), all of whom posted top-eight national finishes to earn the honor.

Meanwhile, in men’s tennis, the doubles team of Will Leach and Luke Lemaitre advanced to the semifinals of the NCAA Individual Championships – a program first – and earned All-American honors. As a team, the Bruins reached the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history after winning their first-ever NCAA title.

In lacrosse, George Fox continued its dominance of conference play by going 10-0 in league to win a fifth straight NWC title and advance to the NCAA Division III tournament, where the Bruins dropped a first-round game to Illinois Wesleyan by a tight 13-12 score. With their perfect NWC showing, the Bruins extended their conference win streak to 35, dating back to the 2016 season.

Finally, in softball, the Bruins’ Claire Fountain and Savannah Vargas were both named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association’s All-American First-Team roster, marking the first time two Bruins landed that honor in the same season. The duo helped George Fox go 23-5 in conference play and win the program’s first-ever outright NWC title.
A $300,000 grant from the Teagle Foundation is funding the university’s sponsorship of a seminar program that will allow intellectually curious, low-income high school students from Woodburn, Oregon, to live on campus and take a pre-college course this summer.

The Liberation Scholars program, funded through the Teagle Foundation’s Knowledge for Freedom initiative, will bring about 15 students to George Fox’s Newberg campus for two weeks in July for a fully funded two-week seminar covering great works of philosophy, literature and history. Classes will employ a text-, writing- and discussion-based format focused on essential aspects of freedom and citizenship, and will highlight a number of Spanish-language authors – from Sor Juana to Sandra Cisneros – in a great books curriculum.

Specifically designed for Latinx seniors-to-be at Woodburn High School, the summer sessions will be followed by academic-year meetings in which a team of George Fox faculty, staff and students will mentor participants through the college application process, seeking to increase the scholars’ college readiness and appreciation for the humanities. Classes will employ a text-, writing- and discussion-based format focused on essential aspects of freedom and citizenship, and will highlight a number of Spanish-language authors – from Sor Juana to Sandra Cisneros – in a great books curriculum.

Program director and grant administrator Heather Ohaneson, an associate professor of philosophy and religious studies, was inspired to launch the program after witnessing the success of a similar initiative as a student advisor at Columbia University.

“I had the privilege of working as a graduate student with the Teagle Foundation’s Freedom and Citizenship program at Columbia University, so I know firsthand how personally and civically transformative it is to pursue big questions – like ‘What does it mean to be free?’ – around a shared seminar table,” she says.

All of the students’ expenses – including tuition, room and board, books, and programing (guest speakers and extracurricular events) – are covered by Teagle Foundation funding. The grant, to be distributed over three years, will fund the program annually through 2023.

One of the fastest-growing sports in the world isn’t played on a field or court. It is played on a computer, and will be added to the university’s undergraduate program offerings this fall.

Esports are team-based video game competitions watched in person or online by spectators on streaming services like Twitch. More than 200 varsity esports programs competed in the U.S. last year, up from 130 the year prior, making it the fastest-growing college sport in the nation.

“The growth of esports over the past two to three years has been staggering, and the question is no longer if esports should be added at George Fox University, but rather when would we add it,” says Athletic Director Adam Puckett. “We are excited to be on the forefront of bringing esports to the Northwest Conference.”

Plans include both intramural and intercollegiate programs, complete with a 1,200-square-foot arena in Wheeler Sports Center dedicated to the sport. And, just like traditional athletic teams, participants will don uniforms and interact with teammates and a head coach as the games unfold.

George Fox is the first institution in the Northwest Conference to offer esports. The team will compete against both regional and national schools in the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE), an organization that includes more than 170 member institutions.
Recent Recognition

In February, the university’s theatre department brought home seven regional awards from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, including two national runner-ups. The following students were honored:

- Kile Schuetz: Costume Design Regional Winner for Passage (national runner-up)
- Hope Bellinger: Sound Design Regional Winner for Passage (national runner-up); Jane Childs Stagetecta Institute of Las Vegas Award
- Jonathan Billinghorn: Light Design Honorable Mention for Silent Sky; Jane Childs Stagetecta Institute of Las Vegas Award; Design Technology Management: VectorWorks Award
- Elye Bratford: Cal Arts Summer Acting Scholarship

Advised by Caron Harwood (mathematics), 2020 Richter scholar Ethan Jensen (mathematics & computer science double major) won first prize for his presentation of their paper, “Existence and Shape of Numerical Oscillations in Solving Parabolic PDEs,” at the Northwest Undergraduate Mathematics Symposium in April.

Randy McCloud (theology) and wife Edith in April were named the 2021 Ecumenists of the Year by the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, a statewide association of faith partners that work together to improve the lives of Oregonians. They are the first married couple to receive the award.

Bryan Boyd (theatre) won Broadway World’s 2020 Portland Regional Award for “Set Design of the Decade” in January. The recognition was for his work on Mamma Mia with the Broadway Rose Theatre Company in 2010.

Teresa Arnold (biology and chemistry) was named the 2020 Manager of the Year by the National Association of Scientific Materials Managers, recognizing those with a lengthy record of achievement in distinguished operational, educational or administrative activities.

Rebecca Hernandez (academic affairs) was selected by Oregon State University as a 2020 Alumni Fellow in partnership with the university’s College of Public Health and Human Sciences. The Alumni Fellows program recognizes eminent alumni who have achieved success in their careers or have shown great accomplishment in their work within the community.
A unique scene played out at George Fox in early May: A line of vehicles, packed with celebrating graduates and their families, stretched from one side of campus to the other. Along the way, what felt like a parade route lined with cheering faculty, staff and alumni, a place to pause for family photos, and, of course, the big moment when grads received their diploma from President Robin Baker. For students who had endured more than a year of pandemic restrictions, this was a time to celebrate – to look back on obstacles overcome and forward to future dreams – all in a safe and socially distanced setting, surrounded by family. Joining the celebration were a number of 2020 graduates who finally got their chance to experience an in-person ceremony.

Someday COVID-19 will become nothing more than a distant memory. But it’s fair to say these graduates will never forget a commencement ceremony unlike any other.
CELEBRATING THE Class of 2021
Joseph Espero wants to be the Black Panther of pediatric physical therapy, superhero costume and all.

Espero is currently enrolled in the university’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program after completing his undergraduate degree in exercise science in 2020. His goal is to help children dealing with cancer or neurodevelopmental issues – those not living the life every kid should.

Often these young patients are intimidated by the professional adults around them and tired of the pain. With his own perfectly healthy baby at home, Espero isn’t sure he’ll be able to handle the emotional side of the job, but he sure wants to try.

Through his future vocation, Espero plans to fulfill his calling: to give young children – particularly kids of color – a voice.

“I have a desire to be a PT, especially for the under/spoken population,” he says. In the same way that actor Chadwick Boseman, as the Black Panther, changed how people of color see themselves, Espero wants to change how kids in therapy view themselves.

“I want to show kids of color this is what we look like. Not all providers do the same thing, and you don’t have to be like everyone out there.”

Espero is concerned about kids without financial resources, too. “I know what it’s like to not have much,” he says. “Kids with the Oregon Health Plan don’t have a choice in providers, who see whatever person is on their schedule.” Just as some kids can’t learn from certain teachers, they can struggle with medical providers, too. “It’s not because the child is incompetent; it’s because the provider is not willing to adapt their way of teaching.”

Espero wants to be a provider who is willing to adapt for a child and encourage them to say what they’re feeling.

“You see these doctors and you’re intimidated because they know so much more than you do,” he says. “But doctors don’t know what it’s like to be in your position. They don’t have that perspective.”

An elderly woman at a nursing home in Beaverton, Oregon, first piqued Espero’s interest in physical therapy during high school. A stroke had weakened one side of her body. Espero met her as he shadowed a physical therapist working with her.

“I remember seeing her almost daily, developing a rapport with her, seeing her progress and what the PT did with her,” he says. “She was able to regain left hand mobility – something so small but so essential. I saw this look of disbelief cross her face. That was amazing to me. You can have an impact on people’s lives. You don’t see them just once; you see it through. That’s what’s really special to me.”

Espero had his own experience with a physical therapist several years ago, after herniating a couple of disks in his back and losing sensory and motor function in his left foot. “She saw me once and gave me outdated exercises and information,” he recalls of his experience.

He wants to be a different kind of PT – someone who continues to read the latest research in order to provide the best care. “If you don’t do that, you get left behind and have medical care that doesn’t do anything.”

The best doctors, Espero believes, combine their knowledge with humility and a determination to continually learn. “It’s honestly not by my hands; it’s by the patient’s hands. They have all the tools to get better; I’m just the mediator.”

And while he’s helping their bodies, Espero hopes he’s opening their minds to life’s possibilities.

“The most important thing for me is that my child wants to be something of her own. I hope I give her the strength and the knowledge that she can do anything – doctor, politics – if she works hard enough. And my impact goes even further for the children I see, so they can do the same thing. It’s my vocation. That’s why God put me here – so I can spread hope to other people.”
Faith. Grit. Joy. Do any three words better describe the George Fox student experience over the past year? As COVID raged across the country, students learned to trust God like never before. To dig deep, overcome fears and keep moving forward. To find moments of thankfulness and joy – in academic accomplishments, in community despite physical distance, in discovering who they were meant to be.

The concept became a billboard series that can be seen on major thoroughfares throughout the Portland metro area. One such billboard features junior engineering major Tiana Ringer – the determined smile on her face expressing joy as she works through a difficult assignment in pursuit of her dream career. We asked Tiana how she has experienced faith, grit and joy during her time at George Fox.

Q: Merriam-Webster defines “grit” as “yielding courage in the face of hardship.” Can you think of a time when you’ve had to demonstrate grit?
A: I am not naturally gifted in math, physics and other engineering concepts. When I chose engineering as my future career, I knew I wasn’t taking an easy path. But I love engineering, so if it means working harder than everyone else, that is what I will do.

During my first two years of college, I wanted to give up and quit numerous times. Despite feeling this way, I chose daily to keep moving forward, one small step at a time. I have had to adapt my course schedule frequently and take summer classes in order to stay on the engineering track, but I am doing my best and that is something to be proud of.

Q: Tell us about a time when you experienced joy.
A: The first core project that you create as an engineer at Fox is an oscillating air engine. The project is designed and manufactured individually with minimal instruction, but, I was mentored and encouraged to make mistakes and learn from them. I spent the entire semester working on my engine and will never forget the night when I got it to run for the first time. I spent several long hours in the Maker Hub machine shop struggling with it, and the second it started running I was overwhelmed with joy and immediately started crying happy and relieved tears. My hard work led to an engine design unlike any other and I won first place in the competition.

Q: How have you grown in your faith at George Fox?
A: Fox has been a safe place for me to ask questions and seek answers about who God is and how to be a Christ-follower on a deeper level. I have had numerous deep discussions with friends late at night in dorm lobbies, been challenged to reflect on difficult questions at EYS (Engineering Your Soul) meetings, and had conversations with God in the canyon.

My professors are great examples of operating in faithfulness, obedience and grace. I have learned how to read the Bible with different lenses to gain a deeper understanding of God’s Word. I am blessed to be at a college that helps cultivate my faith. I feel like I have found a home at Fox through the people that build me up, support me and love me.

The Cutting Edge

Everyone remembers dissecting a frog in their high school biology class. Times certainly have changed!

Today, students in the university’s new physician assistant (PA) program use an Anatomage Table to simulate cadaver dissection.

Known as the most technologically advanced 3D anatomy visualization and virtual dissection tool available, the Anatomage Table is being adopted by many of the world’s leading medical schools and institutions. And while it costs about as much as a luxury sports car, the results are priceless.

“This technology and approach allow us to teach human anatomy that is real, reusable and accurate without the mess, expense and difficulties of cadaveric dissection,” explains program director Curt Stilp.

For PA students, it’s a great time to pursue this master of medical science degree – and not just for the cutting-edge tech they have access to at the university’s new Medical Sciences Building. Physician assistant ranked No. 1 among all career paths in the 2021 U.S. News Best Jobs Rankings.
Q: What inspired you to teach?
A: Whenever I teach, I feel my God-given purpose for life is being fulfilled, which makes me really happy and satisfied. Especially, I feel so fulfilled when I see my students grow in their faith and take compassionate action for the world.

Q: Tell us about current research, a paper, book or other project you are especially passionate about.
A: I’m currently writing a book on the topic of arts and Christian speaking (preaching). When the book is published next year, I plan to use it for one of my courses at George Fox, Arts and Speaking, as the main textbook. The shared goal of the book and the course is to help students develop their unique artistic-communicative skills in sharing the good news of Christ.

Q: What is your biggest hope for George Fox students?
A: I pray for students’ growth in their faith and compassionate action for the world they will serve after graduation. The world, as we know, is broken and hungry in many ways—spiritually, emotionally, economically, politically. I hope that George Fox students, with their own vocations and skills, will be faithful civil servants who will care for and heal that brokenness and hunger of the world. Of course, I believe studying hard and researching diligently at Fox is one of the best preparations for that sacred healing work!
Uncivil Discourse: How to Make the Most of Conflict

By Ron Mack, Professor of Politics Emeritus
Director, George Fox Civility Project

God did not design us to agree. It would have been simple: make us all clones or automatons. Or, as Satan tempted Jesus, provide everyone with bread made from stones, unite the world under one divine king, and remove all spiritual doubt.

Instead, God loves us, so he designed us to disagree. We are born with different genes, in different cultures, into different families. None of this is accidental. It’s part of the providential love God poured into creation and into each specially created person. Disagreement makes us human. A loving God chose this path, so it must be good for each of us, and especially for all of us.

Humans, as usual, tend to spoil this gift. Modern technology mixes with our fallen natures to create the current pandemic of toxic disagreement. American political views are as polarized as they have been since the Civil War. Relations across party lines have been fraying for two generations. Members of Congress not only vote less often with members of the opposite party, they are less likely to have social contacts across party lines. And we the people are copying these trends in our personal lives.

Harsh division spreads even to our churches and families. Martin Luther King, Jr., once observed that America was most segregated on Sunday mornings. Today, some studies show politics is an invitation to improve our navigation toward his truth. You, from where you stand, see truth over here. From where I stand I see truth over there. Each of us should be aware by now we are not perfect. We are prone to errors in our grasp of truth. We should be eager to navigate better together.

I am not saying every pair of disagreeing people is equally in tune with God’s truth. Some errors are clearly greater than others, and a few are extremely damaging. I must speak truth as clearly as I can so it can be heard by those who disagree. But few minds are changed with arrogance, or name calling, or dehumanization and dismissal. And even the worst hater has something to teach me – about hatred, at least, and possibly about something true I never considered.

In God’s intent, disagreement is an invitation to improve our navigation toward his truth.

With that in mind, here are seven suggestions for making the most of conflict:

1. Recognize the disagreement as a gift. “That woman over there thinks I am wrong. She is serious. Woo-hoo! God is giving me another present! God intended for me to encounter her and for us to learn from the encounter. I wonder what’s in the present? I wonder what we are going to learn?”

2. Listen until the other knows you’ve heard them. Listen until you can summarize the other’s position back to them and they can say, “Yes, that’s what I mean.”

3. Listen empathetically. Listen until you can understand why the other’s position is so precious. Do they see it as the key to a hopeful future? Are they responding to some key experience? Are they defending their family, values or identity?

4. Find where you connect. Is there some common overarching value important to both of you? Or maybe some shared opinion, or a project you both wish could be completed — even if it’s just getting the dishes done? Or maybe you share an interest: baseball, botany or barbeque? Finding these commonalities gives you a fixed point from which to understand more clearly where (and why) you differ.

5. Create a list of areas where you agree. Then create a list of disagreements. Be as specific as possible.

6. See if you can get to the same side of the table on something. Perhaps you can agree on whether America was founded in 1620 with the first slaves, or in 1776 with the Declaration of Independence. Can you still agree to work together on how schools can be more welcoming to all kids in the community? I bet you can agree on 90 percent of what should be done.

7. See if you can agree to be a team. Together, you can help your family, church or park board build its capacity to disagree without breaking trust or destroying relationships. By comparing our understandings — listening to God’s voice in each other — we can adjust for the limits on our own perspective and navigate a truer course toward the truth God has for us.

What is the Civility Project? The George Fox Civility Project was launched in the 2020-21 academic year. It grew out of concern about polarization and alienation in our political culture at every level (national, state and local) and even beyond the political realm. The project sponsors events, publishes a weekly e-newsletter, and maintains a website with information about civility. Next year, the group will help citizens hold political leaders accountable for their civility during the 2022 elections. Visit georgefox.edu/civility to learn more.
Focus on Giving: 
Bruin Community Pantry

Sustained by donations from the community, this on-campus food pantry ensures no George Fox student ever goes hungry

By Andrew Shaughnessy

S aturn Macias comes from a big family: There’s his dad, his mom, two sisters, two brothers and himself — seven in all. With so many mouths to feed, he was only able to attend George Fox with the help of scholarships. But when his dad’s income dropped significantly in 2019, money started to get tight. Then, in the midst of the pande

mic, Macias’ family relocated from California to Dayton, Oregon, and paying the bills got even harder.

That’s when he found out about Bruin Community Pantry, an Office of Student Life initiative that includes a food pantry where students can get groceries at no cost. Soon, Macias was able to bring home food for his whole family, taking some of the load and stress off of his parents during a difficult season.

“It felt really good to be able to help my family,” Macias says. “It was really a blessing to have the pantry there during that time.”

One week into the spring 2021 semester, Macias’ grandmother passed away. Quite suddenly, his family had to temporarily relocate to California while Macias stayed behind in Oregon to continue his classes. Thanks to Bruin Community Pantry, he was able to feed himself while they were gone.

“My parents didn’t have to stress about me going hungry,” Macias says. “I told them, ‘I have access to the pantry. Don’t worry about me.’”

University students across the U.S. are increasingly going hungry while in school, with many finding it difficult to pay for both healthy food and their education. According to a 2019 study conducted by Temple University’s Hope Center, 45 percent of the 86,000 college students surveyed from across the country reported experiencing food insecurity over the previous 30 days. The researchers defined food insecurity as “the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner.”

In a recent study at George Fox, 19 percent of participating students indicated that they were experiencing a temporary hardship that impacted their ability to have enough to eat. Meanwhile, 13 percent of George Fox students said they were regularly unable to afford sufficient food.

In short, Macias’ situation is far from uncommon. Food insecurity is not an issue happening in distant countries or at dysfunctional universities. It’s happening everywhere, including at George Fox right here and now.

Already burdened with tuition payments, many students struggle to pay the basic costs of living. With little to no margin for error, unexpected medical bills or lost jobs can have disastrous effects with far-reaching consequences. When students are forced to choose between having enough to eat and continuing to follow their dreams, some choose to drop out of school. Others skip meals, go hungry or choose cheaper, less healthy options, all of which can have negative impacts on both health and academic performance.

“College students don’t have a lot of money,” Macias says. “Money is something that can bring huge amounts of stress on top of all the work you have to do in college. It definitely impacts students’ work in the classroom. Having access to the community pantry takes away from that stress. It reduces the anxiety of having to worry about if you’re going to have enough money for groceries for the next month.”

Though primarily intended to address issues of student food insecurity, Bruin Community Pantry is open and available to all members of the George Fox community. Any student, regardless of need, is invited to take advantage of the pantry’s stock of healthy food and grocery essentials. The hope is that, since the pantry is available to everyone, there will be no stigma attached, and those students who are truly experiencing food insecurity will feel completely comfortable taking advantage of the program.

The pantry survives through donations of both food and money given by community members. The Office of Student Life hosts food drives periodically throughout the year, collecting non-perishable goods like canned food, rice and coffee, as well as frozen meat and vegetables, and household basics like shampoo, toilet paper and toothbrushes. Volunteers man the food bank, helping stock and distribute items to students as needed.

With the community pitching in to help, George Fox hopes to ensure that no student ever needs to choose between having enough to eat and continuing their education. For students like Saturn Macias, Bruin Community Pantry makes a world of difference.

“Having the pantry available has given me and my family relief and joy,” Macias says. “Because of the pantry, I had enough food to eat. I’m super grateful.”

Visit giving.georgefox.edu to support Bruin Community Pantry.

2021 Spring Semester

More than…

2,100 people served
2,400 pounds of food donated
$22,000 in monetary donations from 95 individual donors

2,400 pounds of food donated
$22,000 in monetary donations from 95 individual donors

Saturn Macias

Visit giving.georgefox.edu to support Bruin Community Pantry.
What does it mean to Be Known?

I’ll tell you my story. It was 2011 and I had barely set foot on campus since graduating 13 years prior. Hired to be the university’s alumni magazine editor, I wrote about the process of reorienting myself to campus. Much of it looked the same; I did not. No longer a youthful college student, I was a grown man with thinning hair and an expanding waistline. All that is to say, it would have been entirely forgivable if a past acquaintance didn’t recognize me.

But then I heard a familiar voice. “Hello Jeremy!” It was Ed Higgins, a dozen homegrown eggs in his hand, greeting me at my office door – almost certainly wearing the same jean jacket he had donned when teaching my creative writing class back in the late ’90s.

“Surely Ed is the only one,” I told myself. After all, he was my academic advisor. But then I ran into Bill Jolliff, Howard Macy, Craig Johnson. I had not seen these people in years, but each one recognized me, without hesitation – they knew my name.

I was blown away, but truth be told, it’s a common story. You see, back when I was a student at George Fox we didn’t call it “Be Known.” We didn’t call it anything at all. It just was. All these years later, this unique campus culture has been given a name, but it’s still the same.

So, what does it mean to Be Known? Is it academic mentoring? Is it praying with a student when they are hurting? Is it inviting them to your home? Is it remembering their name more than a decade after your last class together? The truth is it’s all of that and none of that, depending on who you are. The Be Known promise is about people, and each person is unique. It’s about recognizing that uniqueness and allowing each individual to feel seen, heard and valued – not just for who they are, but for who God intends them to be.

Recently a student shared a Be Known story about biology professor Kathy Weiss, and so we set up a photo shoot with the two of them. The concept was simple: They would sit and talk, and we would take a few pictures. About halfway through, as I shouted out instructions to lean this way, look here, put your arm there, Kathy looked up and asked if we were finished yet. “You’re interrupting our conversation!” she exclaimed, only half-joking. It was then that it hit me: Be Known is a great marketing slogan, but the truth behind it is even better.

Jeremy Lloyd
Class of 1998
Editor, George Fox Journal
Health setbacks, then a pandemic, derailed Joanna and Jamie Zuckerman’s swim dreams – but rough waters only deepened their special bond with coach Natalie Turner

By Kimberly Felton
Coach Natalie Turner tracks all her swimmers’ times at competitions. But at this particular moment, one swimmer was foremost in her mind. Joanna Zuckerman, then a junior, was racing for the first time since brain surgery.

Turner knew Joanna would not win this race or beat her previous time. She couldn’t care less. What mattered was Joanna was back in the water. She was swimming again. Slower than before, but strong.

As Joanna glanced at the clock and climbed from the pool, dripping, Turner stood at her spot by the assistant coach, her grin stretching across the concrete deck to her very competitive and somewhat disappointed swimmer, tugging out a smile in deference. As soon as Joanna reached her, Turner wrapped her in a hug.

“It was not the time I wanted,” Joanna recalls, “but as I walked away to talk to Natalie, I couldn’t help but smile, seeing the excited look on her face. She told me she was just so happy to see me racing again. That meet was special; it reminded me how much Natalie supports me and cares about my health and swimming career.”

This was just the beginning. Turner knew. Joanna could get stronger; she would be fast again. Because that’s just who she is. She and her twin sister, Jamie, had been competitive swimmers since age 7. Both had to overcome a debilitating condition that presented a clear but still-difficult road ahead.

This was not a process. It was a marathon. Whatever lies ahead, I’ll run the race,” Turner remembers some of those freshman-year talks with J and Jo. “They’re ...” she pauses and smiles, searching for the right word, “achievers.”

Her grin broadens. “They didn’t know they didn’t need to spend 86 hours studying for a chemistry exam,” she reminds. “They had goals, and they talked about it from their first year. They were the fastest girls on the team, the ones everyone would watch to get an idea of what good technique looked like,” Turner says. “They were the role models.”

As a coach, Turner saw her athletes in the pool nearly every day. But she wanted to know them beyond that. The team gathered in large and small groups, sometimes at Turner House, hanging out and playing with her dog. And team members were expected to schedule office visits with her every two weeks.

“How people are doing mentally has a huge impact on how they do in the water, and she wanted to understand us,” Joanna says. “I always looked forward to those meetings. I remember talking with her freshman year, being so excited for the team she was creating. She cared about each of us. She helped us see how far we’d already grown, and she was invested in how much more we could grow.”

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J and Jo

Turner and the “Zucker twins,” as everyone calls them, began their first year at George Fox University in 2017. Turner was the newly hired swim coach, charged with the task of creating a team and building it into a competitive force. Joanna and Jamie were freshmen, the promise of competitive swimmers, a deal for them when they toured the university the year before. Literally the first two student-athletes to commit to the new Bruin swim team, the duo first spoke with Turner in the golf coach’s office because she had yet to receive her own space.

The twins had goals. From age 10, Jamie planned to break a minute in the 100-yard butterfly. Joanna aimed to be a top-eight finalist in the conference in both the 100 and 200 breaststroke events.

Freshman year, “J and Jo,” as Turner dubbed them, helped build the team. Swim practices were open to all comers that “zero year,” when the team formed and practiced but did not compete. The twins were the only ones with competitive club experience. “They were the fastest girls on the team, the ones everyone would want to watch to get an idea of what good technique looked like,” Turner says. “They were the role models.”

But office talks took a troubling turn when electric sensations began to tingle in Joanna’s back. “I had to say, ‘Sorry! You’re missing out,’” Turner says. “But the doctors said everything was normal.”

The next semester, Turner sent Jamie to the university’s athletic trainers. During the physical exam, they alternately tapped her skin with a pen or soft brush. Eyes closed, Jamie could not tell the difference. The trainers recommended that she see a neurologist. But referrals and insurance approval were slow. By the end of freshman year, Jamie’s appointment was still months away.

Before leaving for the summer, the twins and Turner met at the park to walk her dog and talk. “We reminisced about the year and plans for the upcoming year,”

Jamie remembers. “She was happy to tell us what trips we would take, the cool gear.” They refused to let Jamie’s worsening pain overshadow their anticipation.

News that changed everything

Barely into their sophomore year, as the swim season approached, the twins’ goals came sharply into focus. But so did the pain.

Every time Jamie flip-turned at the end of her swim lane, electricity shot down the full length of her back. She couldn’t even dive off the blocks. The butterfly — her signature stroke — was excruciating, causing numbness that settled into her left arm and the right side of her back. Six months after the referral process, Jamie saw a neurologist, who immediately ordered an MRI. Jamie and Joanna were in their apartment after a team bike ride when Jamie’s phone rang.

“I remember it perfectly,” Jamie says. “I was laying on the floor, telling Joanna how excited I was for the team this season. And then I got this call and they were saying, ‘You have Chiari malformation with syringomyelia. You have to get this surgery done.’

The lower part of Jamie’s brain had pushed down into the spinal canal, and expanding cysts (the “syringomyelia”) had formed within the spinal column. Postponing the surgery meant paralysis. “I’m not going to lie ... I cried,” she says.

But Jamie pushed on with swimming. This was her first year of competition, and the ambitious college student wasn’t about to sit it out. “I don’t have to do the surgery right away. I can get it done in the summer,” she told herself and everyone else.

Turner’s job is to push swimmers to do their best. Push past the tired, past the pain. But not this time.

She remembers Jamie coming to her office and telling her, “The doctor says I have surgery now, I can save some feeling in my back — but I don’t want to miss out on swim season.”

“I had to say, ‘Sorry! You’re missing out,’” Turner recalls. “It was hard to say, ‘You’ve got to trust me.’”

But the doctors said everything was normal.

“Many tears were shed in my office – from all of us,” Turner says. “She always had tissues ready,” Joanna says. “I used lots of tissues. But she would cry with me.”

“They had goals, and they talked about it from their first year on the team,” Turner says. “It was hard to see that slowly slip away as each new diagnosis came in, every new doctor’s report. Just coming to terms with the limitations put on them was really, really sad.”
A couple days later, Jamie returned to school. Together again, the twins sat in a dark dorm room; light made their heads hurt. Bending over caused Jamie considerable pain, so Joanna picked up anything Jamie dropped. Looking at her smartphone increased Joanna’s headache, so Jamie answered emails and texts for her. They couldn’t do much, but they did a lot of laughing, which hurt them both.

“We were together,” Joanna says. “Finally, I was able to share at least some of that pain.”

But while Jamie began a slow recovery, Joanna’s pain increased. A couple months after Jamie’s surgery, Joanna told Turner she had symptoms similar to her sister’s.

“It was this moment of, you know what’s going to happen,” Turner says. “And we just move forward. That was the thing we talked about the most: We trust the doctors, we trust the procedures, and we keep moving forward.”

This time, the referral and tests were quickly given, and diagnosis received: Chiari malformation.

“It wasn’t even a shock,” Turner says. “They do everything together. It was almost like, ‘Well of course you have it, too.’ But it was also a moment of, ‘Oh gosh, how are we going to do this? We’ve barely got Jamie through. How are we going to get Jo through it?’”

Dread and relief intermixed in Joanna. “I finally had an explanation for the worsening headaches I’d had since I was a child, and there was a way to fix it,” she says. But Jamie had gone into depth explaining how she felt during recovery, and no one looks forward to pain like that.

“Trust in God and letting go of dreams”

With surgery slated for summer, Joanna kept swimming. Jamie, still recovering, came to every practice, every meet, and cheered from the stands.

“It took me a while to become at peace with that,” Jamie says. “At first it was really hard, but then I learned to be like, ‘Hey, this is my situation; might as well make the most of it, you know?’”

Turner understood the struggle and purposely kept involved, handing her camera to Jamie at a four-day conference meet. “It was really fun,” Jamie says, “running across the pool deck, trying to take awesome photos just in the perfect moments. You can see their emotion, all that hard work, in those photos.”

Turner took awful circumstances and tried to make them fun. “Rock that shaved head!” she told each twin after surgery. “Show off your scars every chance you get.” She tried to make them fun. “Rock that shaved head!” she told each twin after surgery. “Show off your scars every chance you get.”

She used the surgeries to take the team deeper, too.

“I always encouraged J & Jo to talk about their experience,” Turner says. “Part of the culture on our team is hard work, showing up, accountability between teammates. They never wanted to stop a set when they were in so much pain. We had to push them to share what’s going on. That opened up a lot of vulnerability on the team.”

Another school year ended, and the twins went home for the summer – 25 miles away in Salem – only to return weeks later to meet Natalie’s newborn first child. They spent time looking at pictures from the past year, but all Jamie really remembers is holding the baby. “And Natalie not wanting me to take a picture of her!” Joanna adds, laughing.

After Joanna’s surgery that summer, both twins were back in the water their junior year, rebuilding their strength and looking forward to achieving those goals.

But halfway through junior year, the COVID-19 pandemic ground the world to a stop. Eventually practices and meets returned, but the end-of-season championship meet their senior year, where finalist standings and record times are determined, did not. Not like so many student-athletes at George Fox and across the globe, Joanna and Jamie had no opportunity to meet the goals they’d worked toward for a decade.

Letting go of those goals wasn’t easy. “I can tell you for a fact that if I had not relied on God for strength, I wouldn’t have made it,” Jamie says. “There would have been so much more anger and resentment, because, why is this happening to me? You know – why? I could have chosen to be angry at God, but I didn’t. I don’t think I could have recovered as fast if I didn’t feel that way, because I would have pushed people out of my life. I chose to trust God and his plan, and know I can get through anything with him.”

Turner was a constant reminder that God’s plan is trustworthy. The twins joked with each other about failing their senior year so they could remain students. And, more to the point, to keep Turner as their coach – a coach who was tough with them, cried with them and laughed with them.

“I remember one time my junior year, I walked into her office, almost already in tears,” Joanna says. “I didn’t know what my future would look like. I wasn’t confident I had the skills I needed for what I wanted to do. She would just listen and then give advice. How to deal with it mentally, how to fix it. She would tell me to trust in God, trust in his plan, and in the gifts he’s given me. ‘Nothing is going to be easy,’ she said. ‘Everyone has doubts and everyone is just figuring it out. Enjoy the ride. Enjoy the community. We’re never going to have a time like we have now.’

“She helped me see my gifts. She made me feel that I mattered, and the path I was on was for a reason. She said that though my path is uncertain right now, I was experiencing and learning a lot, and God would help me find my way. Then she went over the strengths I had. She gave me strength.”

This fall, Joanna will begin the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at George Fox. Jamie is applying for biochemical research jobs, with an eye toward a PhD for teaching or ongoing research. Maybe they’ll join masters swim competitions in the future, maybe not. But their ongoing friendship with Turner is certain.

“I know their swim coach,” Turner says. “I know them and they know me so much more than the realm of swimming. We’ve become a huge part of each other’s lives.”
A long way from home, Jonah found a mentor and friend in his engineering professor – support that continued even after he changed majors.

It was a long and winding path that brought Jonah Wafula to George Fox. He had to leave his family in Uganda in the hopes that he could one day provide them with a better life. Along that journey, Jonah met engineering professor Neal Ninteman.

“It became good friends with his son, I met his wife, it was like family,” Wafula says. “He was like a father figure for me, he understood me. He said, ‘Come to my office whenever you have a question, or you’re struggling with anything, just talk to me and I’ll help.’ I felt comfortable going to other professors too, but Neal was my go-to.”

It wasn’t easy, but thanks to the support of his professors and lots of hard work and studying, Wafula was able to navigate his way through the university’s rigorous engineering program for nearly two years, despite coming to the U.S. at 15 with the equivalent of just a fifth-grade education.

But even as he was on his way to a career as an engineer that could one day help support his family back home, something didn’t feel right. Engineering wasn’t for him, and it seemed like every project was a struggle. What he really loved was telling stories, and he loved movies. Near the end of his sophomore year, Wafula began looking at the university’s cinematic arts major. “What if I could support my family doing something I really enjoy?” he thought.

But he wondered if his engineering professor and mentor would be disappointed in him for changing majors. Just the opposite turned out to be true. “Neal was really happy that I got to find what I enjoy,” Wafula recalls. “He wasn’t disappointed at all.”

In May, Wafula graduated with a degree in cinematic arts. “It’s just wonderful,” he says. “I really enjoyed all my classes. It’s not easy, but it’s what I love.”

As for Ninteman, he’s just happy to see Wafula discover God’s plan for his life. “What I’m most excited about is George Fox being the vehicle for helping Jonah find what he’s made for, to help him find what God has for him to do,” he says. “He discovered his gifts here, and now he has the skills to follow that path.”
Maddie was feeling anxious about her first big presentation, until an unexpected visit from a campus security guard helped calm her nerves.

On a late Sunday night, I went to an empty classroom in the Stevens Center to practice a presentation I had to give the next morning. I was feeling pretty unprepared and anxious about the presentation, so I was just rehearsing all my material when the classroom door opened. A security guard walked in to check who was in the room. He didn't see me at first. I said hello and startled him!

I was around the corner so he didn’t see me, but after I apologized for scaring him, he, without hesitation, sat down at a desk and asked me to give my presentation. With open ears and a kind heart, he listened to my presentation and gave me extremely helpful feedback. To my surprise, he revealed that he used to be a language arts teacher for 20 years! He joked about coming to watch my presentation and helped calm my nerves about my public speaking assignment. It was at that moment I felt known not only as a student but as a person in this community. It was a really sweet experience, and he didn’t even hesitate to listen to me.
"I remember a time in my undergraduate education when I was really struggling with some bad bouts of depression. I was a junior and was having a hard time balancing my motivation to continue pursuing my degree with my symptoms of depressive episodes. I cannot remember why, but I ended up emailing my advisor, Kris Kays, for a meeting.

I came in and remember her seeing right through me before I even sat down. A few statements into the conversation, I was already weeping. She gracefully put up sticky notes on the window of her door, so as to give me privacy in this moment. She sat with me as I explored some of the feelings and pain I was enduring. There was something about the space she made in that moment that was intrinsically healing for me. She probably noticed my messy hair or sweats, but what really struck me was her ability to help me explore these feelings and thoughts without taking away from the strength and courage I had in me. I never once felt less than when I was around her. Even in the darkest moments, she can help people feel and experience what they need to, while also elegantly weaving in humor and empowerment of the person in front of her.

I cannot remember how long that conversation was, nor all of what we talked about, but I do remember being seen for all I was. I left that encounter feeling drained, tired and ultimately blessed to have had someone like Kris to share such sacred spaces with."

– Graduate School of Counseling student
Benjamin Stanphill
When I first arrived at George Fox, I had little to no idea what I was doing. It was the first time I had ever stepped foot in Oregon. I remember feeling excited and confused when the taxi dropped me off outside of Edwards Hall. I stood in the parking lot with my suitcases watching parents, football players, PAs and RAs run back and forth from the dorms to the cars helping students move in.

My parents were 2,000 miles away from me. Because flights were so expensive, both of them remained back home on Kauai. I remember having no idea where Hobson Hall was located and felt unsure how to ask for help. Thankfully, a group of student leaders saw my distress and came to my assistance. They not only directed me where to go, but actually ended up taking my suitcases and rolling them all the way to Hobson. When they did this, I suddenly felt less alone because these people who didn’t even know me went out of their way to help me.

I highly doubt they knew their kind act would be one that would stick with me throughout my college experience. It was the kindness shown to me that day that motivated me to want to become a student leader myself. I spent my last three years on campus in residence life, and I have loved being able to encourage and walk alongside fellow students on their college journeys.

Faith Burns
2021 Graduate
Major: Biology
Hometown: Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii

Faith found herself lost and alone her first day on campus – until a group of new friends made her feel right at home.

Fun Fact
about Faith: I’m one of eight children, with three brothers and four sisters! All five of my sisters were adopted from different areas of China. Two of my sisters attend George Fox: Joy, a marketing major who just graduated, and Grace, a sophomore psychology major.

“...
"I walked through EHS looking for a piece of normal. A hive of people buzzed here and there trying to remember where they were supposed to be and at what time. The usual second-week confusion was in the air. At that moment, I wasn’t in any hurry, I wasn’t almost late to class, and I wasn’t feeling normal. I was on edge.

What had happened to the place I had grown to love during my freshman year? I don’t remember there being so many hand sanitizer stations, I don’t remember being six feet under a pandemic while an election loomed in the distance, and I don’t remember feeling a bottomless distance from others. I was in EHS searching for something familiar. I walked over to an empty classroom where a single person was inside. It was EHS 125 where I, and many other students, had engaged in mental warfare last term against the subject of human anatomy. Kathy Weiss, who teaches that class, was inside sitting pensively at the head of the empty classroom.

My momentum slowed for a moment as I doubted if I would find what I was looking for inside, but I continued on. ‘Hello Professor Weiss,’ my voice almost faltering because I hadn’t talked at all that day.

‘Garin! How are you? It has been too long,’ was the immediate reply. The conversation proceeded onward. We talked of struggles, fears and concerns. We also talked about hope, excitement and the Christian purpose. Inevitably, I had to cut the conversation off before I became one of the people hurriedly trying to avoid being almost late to class, but I did not leave empty-handed.

She remembered my name, asked me how I was doing and wanted to talk with me. Someone new to Fox might think that a professor taking time to talk to a bright-eyed sophomore would be quite an unusual occurrence. Yet, at George Fox, this is normal. For Dr. Weiss, this is normal. She may not have realized it, but I left that room with a small piece of normal. I left that room feeling known.

– Junior Garin Griffith
Connecting over a shared language created a special bond between Estefan and his professor.

Estefan Cervantes Rivera is a civil engineering major at George Fox, and he’s loving every minute of it: his friends, his professors, the community — not to mention seeing his future plans to become a structural engineer start to become a reality. Just one thing was missing: None of his engineering professors spoke fluent Spanish.

“At my high school I was so used to talking with my teachers in Spanish,” recalls Rivera, who was raised in Woodburn, Oregon, where more than 50 percent of the population identifies as Hispanic. “It’s just a different way of communicating about your experiences, and it was pretty tough coming here and not having that outlet.”

Then, one day, he took his first class with professor Jeff Walters. It was Mechanics of Materials, and in the midst of talking about the complexities of the subject, Jeff told a story where he made a reference in Spanish. “I remember thinking, ‘I have to go talk to him,’” Rivera says.

He doesn’t recall what that first conversation was about. Instead, he remembers a feeling: “Just a sense of relief, you know? Like, finally!” That first conversation would be one of many more to come, with topics ranging from a date that didn’t go well, to Rivera’s desire to give back to his community, to his faith journey and so much more.

“I would stay back and talk with him after class, just goofing off,” he says. “It was just nice because it felt more like a friendship than a professor. It felt really good to truly be understood.”

The feeling is mutual. “Getting to know and work with Estefan has been a complete joy,” Walters says. “Students like him are the reason why I get excited about this job. He inspires me forward as a teacher.”

And recently, Walters was able to inspire Rivera to pursue his dream of giving back to his high school in Woodburn by showing students that they could go to college and become an engineer, too. Rivera began to work on a presentation, but doubt crept in. “Who am I to do this?” he thought. For the longest time he didn’t share his presentation with anyone, then finally he showed Walters.

“He gave me words of affirmation and words of encouragement,” Rivera recalls. “It just made me smile and gave me confidence that if someone I respect so much thinks that, I know I can do it. He’s had such a great impact on me.”
"I am a student, an athlete and a Young Life leader, but I am also someone who lives with a visual impairment. This impacts my day-to-day life in numerous ways and also creates significant difficulty for me in a laboratory setting. When using a pipette or measuring into a beaker, I can’t read the measurements or even gauge properly what level the material has filled to. I am also unable to see through a microscope. Throughout high school my incredible biology teacher did her best to accommodate me by printing off images of what the other students were looking at through the microscope, but I was never able to experience what it was like to look through a microscope and watch the slide come to life as the lens got adjusted to the perfect setting. That is until John Schmitt came in to check on my biology lab at Fox. 

When he realized that I couldn’t see what the rest of the class was working on (in this case it was observing the effects of different drugs on a goldfish’s circulatory system), he immediately hooked up a microscope to a monitor, grabbed a slide and focused it for me. Then, for the first time, I was able see a live specimen! This may seem like a small gesture, but the fact that Dr. Schmitt came into the lab, noticed that I was unable to participate, and then actively worked to resolve the situation meant so much to me. Not only did it allow me to be included in the experiment, it showed me how much my professors here at Fox truly care about knowing me and making sure that I succeed!" 

– Junior Emma Forbes
Last summer my family was impacted by the LNU Lightning Complex fires in California. We lost the only home I have ever known two days before I had to drive up to Fox to start the fall semester. It was incredibly challenging for me to leave my family so soon after this terrible event. I had to drive away knowing that my parents and younger brother didn’t have a place to call home and were sleeping on friends’ couches.

I sent an email to two of my nursing professors, Andrea and Catherine, letting them know what had happened. I think I did it more out of shock than seeking comfort. They both reached out to me and even contacted the spiritual life office so they too could connect with me. Rusty, one of our campus pastors, called me and prayed with me as I drove the eight hours back to Oregon. It was something I didn’t know I needed, but it put me at such ease knowing that someone was out there who cared.

My professors could have stopped there, but both of them met with me in person despite COVID restrictions and gave me a hug. Throughout the semester they continually checked in with me and offered to connect me to other resources should I want them.

When all of the fires erupted here in Oregon, I was faced with feelings of anxiousness and restlessness that I have never experienced before. I didn’t realize that the smell of smoke would make me feel so uneasy. I had such a hard time focusing on school and wished with all my might that I could just go home. I felt like the fires and smoke were everywhere – truly a suffocating experience. During this time both my professors and Mitzi from housing reached out to me to check in. They knew that I would probably be uneasy with the smoke and took the time out of their day to see how I was doing.

I’ve always liked my professors at Fox, but simply thought the Be Known promise had to do with them knowing my name. The support I have received during this tragic period of my life has shown me that the Be Known promise at Fox is real and that God is walking with my family and me every step of the way. I can’t imagine going to any other school. Even though my home in California is gone, I feel so incredibly blessed to call Fox my home too.
Memorable Mentors

Six professors with a combined 185 years of service retire this summer, ending careers of incalculable impact on students

By Sean Patterson

He arrived as a 30-year-old professor in the early 1980s, when he was often mistaken for a student. He retires this year “as a senior citizen on Medicare,” he jokes, after crossing paths with thousands of students and colleagues across nearly four decades.

Still, while his youthful appearance, styles and “the times” have changed, Mark Weinert says one thing hasn’t.

“We often remark on how so many things have changed in our students and in our culture, but in the things that matter, students haven’t changed at all,” he reflects. “My students have never aged. They’ve been 20 years old the whole time. They’re trying to find their way as they launch into the first years of their adult lives. They wrestle with faith as they find themselves deciding these eternal matters on their own, usually for the first time in their lives.”

It’s the invigorating thrill of helping shape those lives that kept Weinert, a member of the history department faculty for 39 years, at George Fox for so long. “It’s a delight to watch them move from tentative freshmen, feeling their way into this new world of independence, to confident and well-spoken young adults, ready to move into their next years. I have been privileged to share in that process year after year.”

In addition to teaching history, Weinert spent years as an administrator, taking on everything from directing the overseas study and Juniors Abroad programs to serving as dean of humanities, dean of records and faculty evaluation, director of the Portland Center, and associate dean of the seminary.

It was in the classroom, though, that he thrived. He most enjoyed teaching an introductory history class, The History of Western Civilization – in which, he estimates, he taught 3,000 students – as well as Presidential Elections (taught every four years since 1984), and Baseball and American Culture.

Outside the classroom, he’s visited nearly 30 countries on 20 trips with 400 students as a Juniors Abroad leader, and developed several close friendships among his peers, including a group he’s done weekly lunches with for 20 years. “One of God’s great gifts to me has been the friendships I’ve found at George Fox,” he says. “This isn’t something you think about when taking a new job, but I’ve found the best friends of my life here.”

Weinert says he’s retiring “just in time.”

“I’ve taught many children of former students and think I am retiring just in time before I have the grandchild of a former student in class,” he laughs.

His future plans include continuing as pastor of a small church he’s led the past 12 years, doing archival work for his church’s publication, and “probably Probability because the math is sophisticated and can help students understand concepts, and do well on their assignments and pieces. It was a joy to see them become better musicians over the four years they were here.”

Aside from impacting students’ lives, Weinert’s most lasting legacy to the university was his role in George Fox’s purchase of three Bösendorfer grand pianos – acquisitions that led to the Bösendorfer Series, an annual concert event that drew some of the world’s most accomplished pianists to Bauman Auditorium.

The series also included “Monster Piano Concerts” in which six to eight pianos were played simultaneously by 20 pianists, all of whom were students, alumni or pupils from Willson’s private studio. It was also a forum for his own scholarship project, the “Encounters with …” series, which showcased classical composers. His dedication to the instrument culminated in 2018, when he received a Distinctive Artist Award from the Bösendorfer piano manufacturer of Vienna, Austria.

Willson plans to continue teaching piano and performing his “Encounters with …” series, and he hopes to present master classes, adjudicate festivals and judge competitions. Spending more time with family – including his two grandchildren – are also on his to-do list.

John Johnson

Whoever said calculus was just about math?

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John Johnson

He doesn’t consider himself a matchmaker by any stretch of the imagination, but when you’ve been in one place for more than three decades – or, in John Johnson’s case, 37 years – you’re bound to discover that, in some small way, your class had a profound impact on lives.

Whoever said calculus was just about math?

“I had one of my students tell me his parents met in my calculus class,” Johnson recalls. “When I shared that in class, another student said, ‘Mine too.’”

Stories like those make Johnson, who retires after teaching in the math department since the Reagan administration, appreciate the personal connections he made in the George Fox community.

“I guess I loved almost everything about the job – explaining difficult math details to students, encouraging them to become good students and better people, and having outstanding colleagues, many of whom have been my good friends,” he says. “I felt I was doing something I was good at and enjoyed.”

Johnson served as department chair the past 12 years and specialized in teaching advanced mathematics courses. His favorite, he quips, was “probably Probability because the math is sophisticated yet has interesting applications.”

In addition to teaching, he enjoyed the challenge of scholarship. In one case, he discovered one of his accomplishments in a most unusual way. “I had written an article about a problem I had solved that was published in Mathematics Teacher, a National Council of Mathematicians journal. Fast forward a few years. I was teaching our course in linear algebra and prepping my students for the first exam.

“At the end of the chapter were some review problems. As we went through them, a student interrupted me and asked, ‘Problem 29… is that yours?’ Sure enough, next to problem 29 was a citation ‘John M. Johnson, George Fox College.’ It was a question I often asked when taking a new job, but I was able to talk with each student every week to find out how they were doing. They would share things that stressed them and things they were excited about. They’d also talk about their families. These conversations gave students the knowledge that they were cared for.

“I enjoyed working with them, teaching them, watching them understand concepts, and do well on their assignments and pieces. It was a joy to see them become better musicians over the four years they were here.”

Aside from impacting students’ lives, Willson’s most lasting legacy to the university was his role in George Fox’s purchase of three Bösendorfer grand pianos – acquisitions that led to the Bösendorfer Series, an annual concert event that drew some of the world’s most accomplished pianists to Bauman Auditorium.

The series also included “Monster Piano Concerts” in which six to eight pianos were played simultaneously by 20 pianists, all of whom were students, alumni or pupils from Willson’s private studio. It was also a forum for his own scholarship project, the “Encounters with …” series, which showcased classical composers. His dedication to the instrument culminated in 2018, when he received a Distinctive Artist Award from the Bösendorfer piano manufacturer of Vienna, Austria.

Willson plans to continue teaching piano and performing his “Encounters with …” series, and he hopes to present master classes, adjudicate festivals and judge competitions. Spending more time with family – including his two grandchildren – are also on his to-do list.

Kenn Willson

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As Carl Lloyd to recall his most indelible George Fox memories and a tidal wave of stories begin to flow. He shares the account of one of his students, a single mom, who would bring her infant son to the house so Carl’s wife Connie could babysit while she went to class. Or the countless times he hosted an open house during graduation weekend so students had a place to change into regalia and grandparents had a couch to rest on before attending the big event.

Another story brings a tear to his eye: The time an LGBTQ student, facing a $13,000 medical bill she couldn’t afford, was gifted $15,000 when someone in her Adult Degree Program cohort passed a collection hat around class.

“She was in tears, I was in tears, the entire cohort was weeping,” he reminisces. “She said she had been so rejected by other Christians over her sexual orientation that she was humbled because so many in the room were evangelical, conservative believers.”

Moments like that make it hard for Lloyd to imagine life after George Fox. He retires this summer after 27 years at the university – five as chair of the social work and sociology department (1994-99) and 22 as a professor in the ADP program, including stints at the university’s Eugene, Tigard and Boise sites.

His reasons for staying so long? He provides four: “students, students, students and colleagues,” he laughs.

“I have enjoyed the transparency of my students, their clear desires to serve others, and their growing commitments to Christ as Lord,” he says. “My students have always known they could share anything with me via their writings and class conversations, and these materials remain forever confidential. They came to trust me, which was a huge blessing for all of us. I also tried to remain transparent in class, so they could also get to know me.”

Lloyd admits he would like to continue working despite being 64 (“good genes,” he laughs) and is seeking teaching and therapy/clinical positions in the region.

It was when Mark Terry went on sabbatical one year that he realized just how much he missed interacting with students on a day-to-day basis. Then, a chance meeting with one of his students whetted his appetite for campus news — and ultimately birthed a weekly gathering, Tuesday at Terrys, that drew groups of up to 30 into his living room to share food, conversation and tea.

“It all began because of this conversation I had with a student, which resulted in an invitation for her to come to our house for a meal,” says Terry, who retired from the university’s art department after 27 years. “She ended up having such a good time she asked if she could return with her roommate and cook for us. A new tradition was born.”

Tuesday at Terrys convened each week for more than 10 years, making an impact far beyond anything Terry could have ever imagined. “At least one marriage had its first seeds planted there, careers were launched, and countless life lessons were shared,” he reminisces.

It was a tangible reflection of his passion for students. Beyond teaching them his beloved craft — ceramics and art history were his favorite subjects — he invested in their lives.

“I suppose one of my own best personal measures of success, as well as an anecdote about the effect of our Be Known promise, is that I – or my wife Missy and I – have been asked to be active participants in six of our students’ weddings over the years, including once as a groomsman, another where I got to escort the bride down the aisle, and another where Missy and I were asked to serve the wedding communion.”

Terry’s career at George Fox, which included 10 years as chair of the art and design department, didn’t end as he expected. COVID-19 made the particular work he did in the ceramics lab dangerous for him and his family, prompting an early retirement. But, while he won’t be on campus regularly, he will still pursue art, putting the finishing touches on his wood kiln, working on art commissions, and “looking forward to what God has in store for the next season,” he says.
and her husband started in 1982 for evan- gelism, education, development and lead- ership in rural communities. They live in Fond-des-Blancs, Haiti. Their work is told in his book, At Home with the Poor.

Nancy (Seeds/Doc) Moes (G62) in October began as site coordinator at Community in Schools-Mid America, working with Logan Avenue Elementary School in Emporia, Kansas. She moved in 2019 to Cottonwood Falls, Kansas, after 30 years of public school teaching and administration in Oregon and Alaska.

Esther Harper (G63) in 2017 was teaching in the Ontario-Montclair School District in Southern California, retired at the end of the 2017-20 school year and now is living in Dayton, Oregon.

Steve Moss (G63) retired in 2019 after 40 years in public education, including 20 years with the Bellingham (Washington) School District, where he was principal of Roosevelt Elementary School. He has published a book about his career: Sixty Years in the Schoolhouse: Life After the Bell. He now lives in Blaine, Washington.

Fox Fun Fact
Sally Freeman (G68) retired in 2019 from Spokane Falls Community College, where she worked in the student achieve- ment office. In October, she is now involved with projects at Spokane First Free Methodist Church. She also cur- ates and leads Breathe GetAway retreats throughout the Northwest under her min- istry of Scholastic, which com- bines travel, history, geology and faith. Wade Whitespan (G69, EdD) is back on campus as the new president of employer relations manager, starting in April. He is responsible for coordinating city, corporate and community organizations about the benefits of hiring George Fox students and graduates. The former George Fox baseball coach (1983-85) in November was reelected as mayor of Lafayette, Oregon, where he has served four years as a member of the city council, two years as president.

Mark Ocker (G70) retired after 17 years as city councilman in Dundee (Oregon) City Council. He served as mayor since 2006 and his current location

Gary Marks (ADP90), with 29 years of city administration experience, is now public works director in Dallas, Oregon. Through 2019 he was city manager for five cities in Oregon, Idaho and Montana, most recently in LeBaron, Oregon, where he served more than six years.

Gary Marks

Back in Oregon, living in Salem, following (n86), after 30 years out of state, are now six members of the six-member council guiding the city of 3,200. Tim Weaver retired in 2013 after 33 years as worship pas- tor at First Free Methodist Church. She also cur- ates and leads Breathe GetAway retreats throughout the Northwest under her min- istry of Scholastic, which com- bines travel, history, geology and faith. Wade Whitespan (G69, EdD) is back on campus as the new president of employer relations manager, starting in April. He is responsible for coordinating city, corporate and community organizations about the benefits of hiring George Fox students and graduates. The former George Fox baseball coach (1983-85) in November was reelected as mayor of Lafayette, Oregon, where he has served four years as a member of the city council, two years as president.

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Joe Ahn (BA09, MBA10) had it all: A high-profile job in San Francisco at a company with a $700 million marketing budget. He was launching Super Bowl campaigns and rubbing shoulders with the global powers of the advertising world – Facebook, Twitter, Google and LinkedIn among them – at a time when social media was just emerging as a marketing phenomenon.

Soon after, it was on to the MRY creative agency to help launch another Super Bowl campaign, this time with Drake as part of the T-Mobile account.

But something didn’t sit right. It was then Ahn asked himself a question: “How can I use what I’ve learned and my experiences to impact positive change?”

His life hasn’t been the same since.

“I just did a complete 180,” Ahn says of his career shift. “I felt a pull to do something else with my life.”

Initially, that meant a shift to the healthcare field, first as director of social and content marketing for Sutter Health and later as vice president of marketing for Trivey Health. Then, last winter, his desire to promote sustainability and cultivate community in business led to yet another opportunity – this time halfway around the world.

Today, Ahn is global director of marketing for the ECCO footwear company, based at the company’s headquarters in Tønder, Denmark, an outpost about a three-hour drive from Copenhagen and 20 minutes north of the German border. It is here Ahn has rediscovered why he fell in love with marketing in the first place.

The privately owned ECCO is globally known, with more than 2,500 retail stores in over 100 countries, but unlike the publicly traded behemoths he worked for in the U.S., it’s an enterprise that takes pride in being environmentally friendly while truly getting to know its customers – and one another.

“That was a big appeal for me, having worked in public companies driven by the urgency of meeting the next quarterly earnings goal, rather than focus on long-term sustainability,” says Ahn, a 2010 graduate of George Fox’s full-time MBA program. “My responsibility here is to cultivate community and drive new ways of engaging consumers. Thinking back to George Fox’s Be Known promise, there are interesting parallels, as one of our key corporate strategies is to increase our knowns.”

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As a corporate level, that means deepening an understanding of customers’ behaviors, interests and passions, allowing for a more personalized experience when marketing to them. “I was brought here to help answer the questions, ‘What does it mean to be part of a shoe brand community?’ and ‘What is the consumer benefit we want to create?’ Whether you go into a retail store or navigate online or on social media, we can speak to you as if we know you,” Ahn says.

Beyond its emphasis on consumers, ECCO values relationships both in house and with the up-and-coming generation. “This is a third-generation, family-owned business, and some employees have been here 20 or 30 years,” Ahn says. “The company invests in its people and has created programs to bring in Next Gens from all over the world as part of an intense three-year internship program.”

Ahn was also sold on the company’s commitment to sustainability, as, unlike many other big-name footwear companies, it owns its entire value chain, allowing ECCO to closely monitor its environmental impact at the manufacturing level.

The biggest selling point, however, is the fact Ahn truly has the opportunity to develop relationships that both propel the business and create a supportive community – values he first encountered as an MRA student more than a decade ago.

“The MBA program’s emphasis on transformational and servant leadership has always stuck with me as I’ve progressed in my career, and as a people leader it’s something I deeply value,” he says. “The MBA also did a good job of involving us in local community businesses as consultants working through real-life challenges. It took theory and applied it in practical ways that, if a business liked our work, they would implement it and ask for continued support.”

Ahn values his relationships formed at George Fox – he still keeps in touch with classmates, basketball teammates, and a former professor who attended Ahn’s wedding to wife Jillian – and credits his undergraduate and MBA experiences with helping him develop into the businessman he is today.

“I’m grateful for my experience at George Fox,” he says. “It grounded me in my faith and values as a person, and that guides me in how I approach my work. It definitely breathed life into my career and personal development that I may not have received at another university. Fox really is all about reinforcing this idea that you can be known and be yourself.”

His advice to young professionals? “Channel your curiosity. For me, the people who stand out are those who express their curiosity and take those proactive steps to understand more about where they hope to work. Take the time to research, have a point of view, and ask questions.”

“And also, stay humble, hungry, and your authentic self. Because the last thing you want to is to be like everyone else.”

Business Beyond the Bottom Line

MBA and marketing alumnus Joe Ahn’s encounter with the Be Known promise more than a decade ago still informs his work today, halfway around the world. By Sean Patterson
Christine Dobey Dracox (G94) continues as the top Republican in the Oregon House of Representatives. A successful small business leader was returned to her Oregon House District 39 seat in November’s general election, re-elected to the seat she won first in 2018. A resident of Oregon City, she represents much of the area in Clackamas County.

Jeff Kosimicki (G93) is interim police chief of the Newberg-Dundee Police Department, starting in April 2020, following the resignation of Brian Casey (ADP90). She has 29 years with the department. Kosimicki is completing his 24th year with the department, including 23 years as captain.

Jenny (Davis) Dougherty (G96) is on campus again as coordinator for the undergraduate teaching, administrative licensure, doctor of education and master of education and endorsement programs. She started last year after 23 years with Mt. Hood Community College in a variety of positions in technology, degree auditing and encoding, and testing services.

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. Kay Cosmetics, working full time as an engineer. She started with the company in 2015. She is now a sales and marketing officer with Magnite in Seattle, starting in August 2020 after her former firm, The Rubicon Project, merged with Telaria to become Magnite, create the world’s largest self-serve advertising platform. She started with the company in 2019.

Kelly (Irish) Lemarr (G99) is now chief accounting officer of the Sowela Technical Community College. Last year they survived two hurricanes – Laura in August and Delta in October – evacuate to friends in Texas for several weeks during the first, returning when power was restored. They had to evacuate again for five days during Delta. Their house survived, but its office building was severely damaged, and most of his American history books were ruined. He volunteered with Samaritan’s Purse disaster relief and worked on 76 houses, cutting trees and branches, clearing debris and tarping roofs.

Tyson Johnson (G96) and Karen (Witty) Johnson (n00) are now in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where he has his artist’s representative firm, Beyond the Pear Blossoms, a deacon at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Ueno.

Charles Dillingham (MBA00) is the first to fill a new position of chief operating officer with the Toledos (Oh.) Area Community Authority (TARTA). He started in November after 10 years as CEO with the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority in Providence.

Shawna Hughes (G94) is now chief accounting officer with Magnite in Seattle, starting in June 2020 after her former firm, The Rubicon Project, merged with Telaria to become Magnite, create the world’s largest self-serve advertising platform. She started with the company in 2019.

Irene (Strong) Draza (G93) continues as active director of operations at Village Church in Beaverton, Oregon, after one year as senior pastor. The Baptist-related multi-cultural church offers services in English, Spanish, Korean and Mandarin.

Ted Goll (ADP91) received local attention for his efforts in October when he was cited for volunteering to help fight three of Oregon’s seven largest fires in September. A volunteer firefighter with the city of Beaverton, he received permission from his employer, Comcast, to help for two weeks. He is completing 24 years with the cable company, the last 6 years as a network engineer.

Beth (McPherson) DuPriest (G91) is in her second year as human resources director at Three, in Newberg. She is now in Guayaquil, Ecuador, where in September she became management officer at the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of International Labor Affairs.

Joseph Strong (G95) is in his 19th year in that role, responsible for supporting business lines of specialty pharmacy, home medical equipment, health and wellness.

Elizabeth (Dracox) Lee (G94) has been with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation since graduation and is a registered nurse living in Bethel, Alaska. She is now director of human resources for the medical organization, which provides comprehensive medical care for rural northern Alaska.

Jenni Sommer (G96) is new in Guayaquil, Ecuador, where in September she became management officer at the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of International Labor Affairs.

She started with the firm in 1990 and most recently was assistant vice president of volunteer benefits in that position since 2009.

Jonathan Roberts (G97) is now chief accounting officer of the Sowela Technical Community College. Last year they survived two hurricanes – Laura in August and Delta in October – evacuate to friends in Texas for several weeks during the first, returning when power was restored. They had to evacuate again for five days during Delta. Their house survived, but its office building was severely damaged, and most of his American history books were ruined. He volunteered with Samaritan’s Purse disaster relief and worked on 76 houses, cutting trees and branches, clearing debris and tarping roofs.

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2000-09

Jonathan Roberts (G96) is now campus pastor at New Life Church in Gladstone, Oregon, starting in June 2020 after 16 years as a social studies teacher at Portland Christian High School.

Ryan Douglass (G00, MBA18), after 20 years in admissions and enrollment positions at George Fox, most recently as vice president for enrollment and marketing, in August stepped down to help start a strategy and enrollment management company, TG Three, in Newberg.

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ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Science University, from which she has a PhD in integrative biomedical sciences. Elaine Hall (ADP01) is now an adjunct professor teaching ethics at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, where he also is education director with Prayer Assembly Church of God in Christ, directing 50-plus teachers who provide educational training and personal development management to area residents. Jill (Eggiman) Evans (ADP03) received a master’s degree in project management from Georgetown University in May 2020 and now is back in West Linn, Oregon. She is program manager and estimator for James Frank Construction in Portland. Elizabeth (Currie) Confort (G03, MBA04) is finance director for Clackamas County, Oregon, with 10 years of experience. She resigned the position in January 2020 after first being a consultant, then interim finance director. Ramona Mangelsdorf (G02, MAT03) attended attention in February when she was named a chaplain at Oregon’s Pimpin Media Group newspapers and highlighted in a special feature section. She was showcased for her nearly two decades of experience, including her current position as language arts teacher at Newberg High School for the last six years. Susan Shreidiger (ADP02) in her 10th year as Portland state’s registrar for the last six years as executive assistant to the dean of the graduate school of education. Shannon (Vanderbilt) Backsieite (G02) is the city of Newberg, Oregon’s chief economic health manager, named in August to support the city’s economic revitalization. She left the position of CEO of the Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce after serving in that role for two years. Linsey (Bennington) McRae (G02) in March was named to the newly created position of public information and communications coordinator for the Baker County (Oregon) School District. Previously, she had been in nearby Union County working for its Center for Human Development. Matt Cunningham (G02) in December became a leadership coach with Building Champions, Inc., an executive coaching firm in Lake Oswego, Oregon, that helps managers and business professionals and builds businesses. He ended nearly 15 years with Hoon Consulting Group, most recently as director of software engineering. Brian Van Bergen (MAT07) will continue as Yamhill County (Oregon) clerk, reelected in November to the position he has held since January 2013. Earlier, he was account manager and digital storefront manager for the Lynn Group in Salem, Oregon. Tim Revett (MAT07) is a missionary with United World Mission, serving at New Horizon School near Aruinion, Paraguay, where he teaches the English program and he and his wife also work in youth ministry and lead a home group. He also coordinates a national evangelist, clerk, reelected to the position that since 2001. Stephanie (Hedrick) Tyrer (ADP02) in early 2020 joined the Oregon Department of Education as a senior business operations and policy analyst. She works in Salem and lives in Dallas, Oregon. Kristin (Garron) Banyon (G04), who lives in Medford, Oregon, is a social services director for The Salvation Army in Denver, in that position since 2015. She has guided extra efforts to respond to the impact of COVID-19 among the homeless in the area. Rachel (Miller) Ritchie (G02, MAT02) started her last fall as a special education teacher at Jefferson Elementary School in the Mt. Vernon (Washington) School District. Danielle (Becker) Aragon (G02) is university registrar at California State University in Sacramento, in her fourth year after two years at registar at Concordia University in Portland. Phillip Towe (MDiv03) is now chair and professor of intercultural studies at Hope International University in Fullerton, California, where he started in 2012. Stephen Reck (G02) in December was promoted to clinical director of the North Dakota Veterans Affairs Clinic in Cour d’Alene, Idaho. Stwayne Dazy (MA04) joined George Fox University in the fall as chief strategy and business development officer. He arrived from Concordia University in Portland, where he was executive vice president for business development and innovation for three years before overseeing closure operations in 2010. Previously, he was an education professor with Concordia since 2010. Kevin Sany (PsyD05) is owner and clinical psychologist at Gary Counseling and Consultation in Newton, Pennsylvania. He established the practice in 2009. Michael Sergeen (G02) is the 2020 winner of the American Prize in Chamber Music Performance. He is half of the Eason-Sergeen Duo that won the professional duet category. The American Prize recognizes compositions and noncommercial performances of classical music in the U.S. Kyle Adams (G03) won the 2020 Capital, where he is a health and fitness specialist at the U.S. House of Representatives, in that role since 2012. He has been in the Washington, D.C., area since 2009, when he began a nearly three-year commitment as a ceremonial guard with the U.S. Navy. Joanne (Mittalert) Bossen (G02, MAT07) and Matt Bossen (MDiv03) are in Camden, Washington, where she is a poet and he is a pastor. In June, she released Cosmic Pocket, a 306-page book of 88 poems and 192 color photographs. She also is owner/photographer of Joanne Renee Photography. He has been on the board of the Friedmans’ Church since 1991. Amy (Endicot) Wolff (G04) released a book, Signs of Hope: How Small Acts of Love Can Change Your World, an intimate collection of stories from her personal life, as well as people impacted by the movement she started. She posted young signs with messages of hope and encouragement. She began with young signs in August last month, saw the movement spread to all 50 states and 25 countries. Her story was featured on an episode of ABC’s ‘AMC’ this spring. Jeff Sargent (G04) got to oversee what turned out to be a family-involved project when, as facilities director, he helped with the creation of the new nature Center at Twin Rocks Friends School in Rockaway, Oregon. It transformed the lower part of the Friendship Center into an outdoor education space. His wife, Emily (Sims) Sargent (G05), has had her dream become a reality in her role as outdoor education director for the Twin Rocks. Scott Hyde (G04), after a standout career in baseball, is now back in his hometown of Grants Pass, Oregon. He had been in the state since 2014. He retired from completing an MSW from Portland State University back in 2013. Hyde led George Fox to a Division III baseball national title, being named World Series MVP and national co-catcher of the year. Kait (Sanchi) Chat (ADP05) in San Antonio as a financial planning and analysis analyst at Sirius Computer Solutions. She started in 2019 after several accounting and controller positions in Texas since 2007. Todd Gumura (MDiv01) is a board-certified chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains, working with veterans since 2015 at Oregon Health & Science University Hillisbrook Medical Center. He previously served at the Oregon Veterans Administration and at the Oregon State Hospital in Salem, and was a pastor. Jelena (Mastunt) McElroy (G02), who joined the company in 2019, in October was named secretary/treasurer of Munucell Inc. in Idaho, with the company’s producing precisely molded, long-length solid flooring from sustainable area hardwoods. Kenney Herrera (MBA01) started in July with RARE Construction in Portland as an environmental, health, and safety manager. A certified safety professional, he has been with the company from February 2016, working at other firms, mostly recently with Intel Global Construction as EHS manager. Jessica Neulitz (G03) is now deputy managing director in the office of Maui County (Hawaii) Mayor Michael Victorino. She was appointed in 2020, promoted from Maui County clerk, a position he held for after more than five years as deputy city clerk. He resides in Waimanalo, county seat for the 186,000 residents. Wolfram Leub (MBA04) in August became chief operating officer for Associated Medical Physics in Greenwich, Maryland. He left his position as chief of medical physics at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, where he had been for three years after nine years as director of medical physics at Oregon Health & Science University. This April, his new firm merged and became Aspergus Medical, specializing in radiotherapy and radiation oncology equipment providers, staff, guidance and technical expertise and support. Rick Steenwyk (DM)05) has released his sixth nationally published book: Geo Tech: An American Story of Technology, Change and Who We Really Are. He also was the cover story in the October issue of Boise Christian Living Magazine. He is the founder/ president at MANNJ Educational Services, based in Meridian, Idaho, with the purpises of empowering and equipping teachers, pastors, leaders and parents through creative, inspirational training. Continued on page 62
A Face for the Isolated

For weeks on end, Brent Kimberly has been many of his COVID-19 patients’ only link to the outside world—an reality that’s deepened his connection to both them and his loved ones. By Sean Patterson

Brent Kimberly (G95) had certainly connected with patients before the onslaught of COVID-19. As a hospitalist at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland the past 17 years, he’s stood bedside countless times to offer treatment, an encouraging word and a reassuring presence in the midst of crisis.

But there was something different about this disease. Something that distinguished the coronavirus from all the other ailments he’d encountered. For, until now, nothing had so drastically disconnected his patients from the outside world.

Suddenly, he was the one point of contact—the one face—many of his patients would see for weeks, even months, on end. The gravity of that reality has deepened his connections to those in his care and hammered home a reminder never to take anything—particularly relationships—for granted.

“COVID makes you reflect on what’s important in life and opens your eyes to what we take for granted,” says Kimberly, a doctor of osteopathic medicine and an alumnus of George Fox’s biology program.

“I hope, long term, that’s the thing that sticks with us—that we better learn to appreciate the people in our lives and the simple pleasures that are lost in something like this.”

Kimberly suspected the emotional and psychological ramifications of this virus were unique when, one day, the hospital received a phone call. It was from a patient he had treated three months before—a man who insisted he meet the one doctor who had seen him through those weeks of isolation.

Kimberly tried to satisfy the patient’s need by taking a phone call. But that wouldn’t do. The man insisted he meet Kimberly face-to-face. The ensuing meeting included a photo of patient and doc and a hearty “thank you.”

“First time in 17 years that a patient actually tracked me down and insisted on meeting me,” Kimberly says. “Sometimes when you’re doing your job, you don’t realize what impact you’re making on people. The guy just wanted to thank me and shake my hand. And he wasn’t going to take ‘no’ for an answer.”

Kimberly’s empathy for his patients deepened when, in early December, he contracted COVID himself. The result was a 10-day quarantine at home, isolated from even his wife Cindy (G94) and teenage kids, Chase and Elle. “Let’s just say it was a very different Christmas this year,” he sighs. “Fortunately I had recovered by the end of the month, but the whole season had a different feel.”

As a hospitalist, Kimberly treats a wide range of patients, from heart attack and stroke victims to those with pneumonia and other infectious diseases. It’s a job that combines his two passions: science and helping others.

“I come by it honestly,” says Kimberly—the son of longtime George Fox biology professor Dwight Kimberly—of his devotion to medicine. “And while some people might see science as a threat to their faith, for me it’s the opposite—it’s the validation of it. I think it’s a reflection of the creative work of God.”

Faith has always been a part of Kimberly’s practice, but in recent months it’s taken on a deeper meaning: “Ironically, I think I’ve connected more deeply with COVID patients because of the isolation factor,” he says. “And there have been more interactions where I’ve connected with someone over our shared faith.

“I try to approach my day differently than someone who isn’t focused on Christ. That can be challenging, because you’re always busy and pressed for time, but when you realize you might be the only person this patient sees today—well, you just ache for them. You just want to be the tool God uses to remind them that somebody cares.”
Sarah Ask (Gr10) and Kyle Ask (Gr10) live in Newberg, where she is gallery manager for ART Elements Gallery. She started when it opened in 2012 and is one of its 20 artists, showing her work in painting, watercolors, woven baskets and ceramics. She started in January as a senior software engineer with P&K, a design- and technology-powered digital marketing firm in Beaverton, Oregon. She also is owner of Hound Dog Creative, doing freelance work since 2016.

Simeon (Keller) Narove (Pop62) is a clinical psychologist at Austin Integrated Psychological Services in Austin, Texas. Madison Czuba (MBB12) in December came to recruiters at Boise State University, responsible for workforce outreach. He has worked for the university since 2017, when he became corporate partnership manager with BSU’s Center for Professional Development.

Alexandra (Lemoine) Blizer (G13) in March was promoted from staff nurse to clinical nurse supervisor at Providence, where she has worked the last two years. The Portland nursing agency helps medically fragile children with in-home, family-centered care.

Joy Mathison (Ed12) starts July as assistant superintendent of Jefferson County (Oregon) School District, leaving his position of one year as director of educational leadership/principal of Forest Grove. It’s a return to Central Oregon, where he was deputy superintendent of the Bend-La Pine School District from 2011 to 2015.

Anza (Winkleman) Howard (G12), director of marketing at Westminster Christian High School since 2013, added duties as director of admissions in 2019, and is now also responsible for alumni relations for the Tigard, Oregon, school.

Billy Watson (DM10) is lead minister at The Watershed United Methodist Church in League City, Texas, south of Houston. He started in 2018 after being lead pastor at the First United Methodist Free Church in Kountze, Texas.

Jex (Riedex) Tenhaak-Nielsen (G13), after five years as assistant director of spiritual formation at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, now is in Spokane, Washington, where he is a flex coach at InsideTrack, working with prospective and enrolled college students to clarify their goals and understanding of self.

Ann Campbell (Gr13) is in Bakersfield, California, where she is accounting manager with Digital Safety Solutions, Inc., in that position since graduation. She is a wholesaler of personal protective equipment and gear.

Jordan (Eastakrom) Thanks (G14) is a New York Times bestselling author of the Yearbreaker series and other stories. She’s been featured in People magazine, NPR Best Books, the NPR Pop Culture Hour and other publications. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband David.

Kathryn (Manger) Williams (G13) started last fall as a general and talent-based resource teacher in the Colorado Springs (Colorado) School District 11.

LaShawanta Spears (MA15) in November was announced as Oregon Assistant Principal of the Year, selected by the Oregon Association of Secondary School Administrators. She has held that position at Alice Ott Middle School since 2017 and has served in the David Douglas School District (Portland) since 2001.

Jer Ferraris (Ad13) in March retired after serving as police chief of the city of Woodburn for five years. That meant he also lost his position as president of the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, a post held since 2010. In April, he began as emergency management director and Consulting in Wilsonville, Oregon, serving government and private sectors. It also included also started as training coordinator with the Oregon State Sheriffs’ Association. He continues as a leadership instructor with the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. He has been in law enforcement for nearly 22 years and is one of five assistant chief of police in Portland.

Dorie Vickery (Ed10) is completing her first year as superintendent of the Sheridan (Oregon) School District. She was named last June to guide the district of just over 1,300 students in four schools. She left a one-year position as educational consultant with the Philomath (Oregon) School District.

Ryan Scholten (ADP13) is in his second year as chief information officer with Profit Recovery Partners in Costa Mesa, California. He left the Portland law firm Stoel Rives after nearly 11 years, where he was chief information officer, and innovation officer. His new firm develops and manages cost-reduction solutions for Fortune 100 companies and private companies nationwide.

James Macdonald (Gr13) received a doctoral degree in medical engineering in June 2020 from Western Michigan University and now is in a postdoctoral position working on advanced research for internal combustion engines with Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, California.

Katherine (Scherer) Khaw (G13) is director of rehabilitation and a certified occupational therapist in the Graduate Department of Psychology in the Graduate Department of Psychology in the Portland VA Health Care System.

Joe (Brownell) Pierson (G13) is now one of a handful of Google for Education Certified Trainers in Idaho. He is completing his second year as a teacher in the Twin Falls School District, serving as a fifth-grade teacher at Perine Elementary.

Justin Koster (G14), who earned an MBB degree from Western Seminary in 2020, is in his sixth year as youth pastor at Southeast Bible Church in Beacon, Oregon.

Micah Dozer (Gr14) received a PhD in chemistry at the University of Oregon in 2020 and is in postdoctoral research in instrument development and deployment at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington.

Rosie (McDonald) Doraz (G14) is an intensive care unit nurse for a medical-surgical and rehabilitation therapy at PeaceHealth Riverbend Hospital in Springfield, Oregon, in that position since 2016. She also works with emergency intervention as part of the rapid response team. Last July, she was awarded expert level designation in the Professional Nurse Advancement Program.

Angela (Haughey) Holman (G13) and Micah Holman (G13) live in Tualatin, Oregon, while she is in her fourth year as a shift supervisor with Starbucks in West Linn, Oregon, and he is in his fifth year as middle school director for Countryside Community School in Sherwood, Oregon.

Ronen Golu (Ed14) received a PhD in biological and biomedical sciences from the University of Virginia in May 2020 and now is a postdoctoral researcher in genome sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Jennifer (Newman) Higgins-Newman (G13) is in her second year as program manager at Beacon Hill Friends House in Boston. It is a co-op residence for community living, with about 20 persons of all ages participating each year.

Joseph Truitt (G13) continues to live in Newberg while working in Auburn, Oregon, where he is a mechanical engineer at Columbia Helicopters, starting in 2018.

Austin Strutz (G13) and Ies (Giddings) Strutz (Gr13) are in Gardenia, California, now in intensive Chinese language study while preparing to return to China this fall. They are with ELCI, which recruits, trains and sends teachers on long- and short-term missions trips to Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

Jonathan Sutter (G13) is using his major in organizational communication very directly, now in the athletic apparel industry. In December, he moved to Baltimore, where he is changing management, and leaving Nike, where he was a consultant for transition and enrollment for more than a year.

Emily Lund-Ransom (Gr13) in August started as a communications specialist at Leadership Education at Duke University’s The Fuqua School of Business in Durham, North Carolina, from which she received a master of theological studies degree in 2020. That followed two years and a half as an assistant editor at Christianity Today magazine in Chicago.
Tracy Berg (Gr) has always had a heart for seniors, a quality her friends at George Fox fittingly described as “aggressively trying to help elderly people.”

Do you need help carrying those groceries? Can I walk with you across the street?” My friends would say, “They’ve made it this far, they’re walking fine,” she recalls, laughing. “And I’m like, ‘But their shoes are untied!’

It was only a matter of time before her passion for senior care led Berg to Marquis Hope Village, a rehabilitation and long-term care facility in Canby, Oregon.

As social services director, her job entails a variety of activities that all boil down to a single mission: advocating for the individual needs and rights of residents. Each morning, she gets in early and reviews the previous night’s report: Are there new residents? Did anyone move rooms? Were there medication changes? Did anyone have a fall? Do families need to be contacted? The latter is a big part of her job.

“I tell families, ‘I’m here. I tell families. I’m here. I will care for your loved one so you don’t have to be the caregiver anymore. And I can walk with them through that journey all the way through end of life,’” she says. “This isn’t just a job for me. Every single day I come into work, I care so passionately about these people.”

That passion shines well beyond the typical requirements of the job. One of her favorite memories involves a resident who was near the end of his life. He had served in the Navy and was a deep-sea fisherman. “He loved ships. He loved anything related to the sea,” she recalls. “So for Halloween I made his wheelchair into a boat. I got him an orange vest, I got him a sailor’s hat with his name on it.”

And so the two of them, both dressed as sailors, motored around the facility in their wheelchair boat.

“I’m not a DIY person,” Berg laughs. “I spent way too many hours on that costume. But I have this video of him in the costume, just thrilled, just loving it.”

A few weeks later, the man passed away. When a resident passes, a white ribbon is placed next to their name on the door to their room. “The morning after, I always come and stand by the door and I’ll usually put my hand on that ribbon and take a minute to go through the memories I had with them,” Berg says. “It’s just my way of saying goodbye.”

The Heart of a Hero
When COVID-19 struck her long-term care facility, Tracy Berg refused to leave her residents alone
By Jeremy Lloyd

It’s a way to grieve, process and move on. To mentally prepare for the next resident that needs her. But nothing could prepare her for June 2020 – the month a COVID-19 outbreak changed everything for Berg and the residents she cares so much for.

“When the beverage finally made its way across the street, to encourage her friend. She brought a coffee and waited patiently at the door of the locked-down facility for someone to bring it inside. When the beverage finally made its way to Berg, she looked at it and stopped, tears welling up in her eyes. On the side of the cup, where a name is normally written, was one simple word: “Hero.”

Eventually, Berg became too sick to work. She experienced flu-like symptoms, loss of taste, and pain in her legs. She was sent home. But the anxiety of not being there was too much. She had to return. She could still sit with residents: so they weren’t alone in their final moments. She could still hold a phone to their ear as family members gathered outside their bedroom window. She could still hold their hand. And so she stayed, being present, giving of herself, loving her residents until the end – aggressively.

For her selfless acts of compassion, Berg was presented with a “Legend Award” from Marquis, for which she is grateful. But not all stories have a happy ending, especially those about COVID. Residents were lost before their time, and Berg still feels the lingering physical and emotional effects of “the worst month of my life” more than a year later.

But during the experience she also felt something else: “I could feel that people were praying for me,” she recalls. “When I had a moment to take a deep breath, I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, I can tangibly feel it.’ It was an incredible experience.”

In the midst of the outbreak, a former roommate from Berg’s George Fox days drove to the facility to encourage her friend. She brought a cup and waited patiently at the door of the locked-down facility for someone to bring it inside. When the beverage finally made its way to Berg, she looked at it and stopped, tears welling up in her eyes. On the side of the cup, where a name is normally written, was one simple word: “Hero.”

“I care so passionately about these people.”

By the time we discovered it – I’m talking like as soon as someone spiked a minimal fever – it had already spread by that point. It didn’t matter,” she says.

Residents were sick. Employees were sick. Berg, too, tested positive. Everyone with COVID was quarantined together, so she kept working.

“It was all hands on deck,” she says. Berg’s responsibility during the crisis was one of the hardest. “It was my job as social services director to call the families and say: ‘Here’s your loved one tested positive. That was a tough phone call to make.’”

SUMMER 2021
Megan Hays (G15) is in her second year after being named a manager with the tax and accounting firm Opalahn Davidson, with offices in Vancouver and Longview, Washington. She joined the company in 2017.

Joshua Garcia (G15) last year received a master’s degree in religious studies from Trinity Fellowship Church, which has five locations in the Amarillo, Texas, area. He started in 2019. This last year he also became associate campus pastor of the main campus, the Hollywood Road location, overseeing all campus operations.

Kelly (Fajd) Netcht (G14) in November joined Vacasa, a vacation rental management company in Boise, Idaho, as senior software engineer. She left a position as software development manager at Clearwater Analytics.

Jude Dodge (G16, MSW20) is using her master’s degree in social work to help patients with cancer as a radiation oncology social worker at Providence Cancer Center.

Allison (Gilbert) Garvin (G18) is in her third year as a child and family mental health counselor at Invaluable People, located in Forest Grove, Oregon. She specializes in individual, couples and family therapy, where she started as a therapist in 2017.

Sarah (Rudinsky) Sherrell (G18) is the new baseball coach at Westview High School in the district. She started the position at Stoller Middle School in 2019. This last year he also became associate campus pastor at the Hollywood Road location, overseeing all campus operations.

Andrew Reichenbach (G16, MA17) is a mental health counselor at the Multnomah County Health Department in Portland, Oregon. He is also a doctoral student in Hebrew Bible and Old Testament at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in Austin, Texas, where he now lives and works in his second year as a professional therapist at Austin Sports Medicine.

Carie (Heilig) Conner (PsyD21) is a clinical psychologist at Dallas Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, in her third year.

Dave Patterson (DMIV) is executive pastor of generational ministries at Trinity Fellowship Church, which has five locations in the Amarillo, Texas, area. He started in 2019. This last year he also became associate campus pastor of the main campus, the Hollywood Road location, overseeing all campus operations.

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Eden (Wiegand) Preston (G18) lives in Roseville, California, after nearly two years of parish work as a physical therapist at Trinity Hospital, starting in 2018.

Joneeta (Beck) Nelson (G18) is a financial analyzer with the Union Wine Company in Tualatin, Oregon, but is working remotely from Orlando, Florida, starting in March. She moved there while her husband is in school studying videography.

Chrusa (Kras) Gillespie (MSW) is an acute care social worker at the Veterans Administration in Portland, in that role since 2018.

Jeryd Dosscheit (G18) is an independent videoographer, photographer and graphic designer. She has her own freelance company and also continues to lead Young Life in Newberg.

Mercedes (Marrow) Chance (G18) in August started with the Hood River Valley (Oregon) School District, where she is a second-grade teacher at Hood River Elementary Academy.

Nicholas Felt (G18) and Jordan Jones (G18) live in Roseville, California, while working in Sacramento. She is an instructional aide at Yamhill-Carlton Intermediate School and has his own music instruction business. It started with the Hood River Valley (Oregon) School District, where she is a second-grade teacher at Hood River Elementary Academy.

Lauren Labant (G18) reports she has landed her dream job as an emergency nurse at Willamette Valley Medical Center in McMinnville, Oregon.

Michele Towne (G18) lives in Newberg but working in Salem, Oregon, where she is a physical therapist at Infinity Rehab, starting in 2018.

Taylor Dawson (G19) and (DMin19) in November started as a prepared child, professional Qur’anic teaching, on the teaching mobile where he taught at the Islamic school in New York, starting in 2018. He has also been with the Islamic school in New York, starting in 2018. It is a major function of the ShariaWii program, helping raise knowledges of ve- rifiers and first responders who choose to stay in difficult marriages.

Amy Brinnon (G19) in September started in 2018 as a first-year student at McMinnville Elementary in the Beaverton (Oregon) School District.

Samantha (Samantha) Oyne (G18) is in Newberg while he is a music studio, where she teaches trumpet. She is program coordinator and music teacher at the JOY Project of the Yamhill Enrichment Society, teaching an after- school youth orchestra program.

Fox Fun Fact
The university has planted more than 1,200 trees in the Fox Creek Canyon.

Fox Fun Fact
Football was played at George Fox from 1882 to 1922, then resumed 46 years later in 2015.

Fox Fun Fact
Haley (Strowbridge) Jordan (G19) in July became a wireless network consultant for Upland, working in Portland. She started in 2018 as an architect for the firm since 2018. She has also authored a book in April through InterVarsity Press: "For Strength and Conditioning Association and is beginning to train private clients. He is a physical therapist at Student Physical Therapy in Bend, Oregon, where he started in 2018.

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The Perfect Assist

Basketball star Les “Pee Wee” Harrison takes an “I Choose Love” message to the nation in an effort to build communities and set up others for success. By Sean Patterson

Regardless of where he travels – whether it be to the Midwestern plains of his youth or the run-down, broken-glass-covered streets of America’s inner cities – Les “Pee Wee” Harrison’s message is the same: “Choose love.”

It’s a simple but profound mantra, first instilled in him by his parents during the height of the civil rights movement and one that continues to drive him with each bus ride or flight to cities across the nation. As the leader of “I Choose Love USA” – a grassroots initiative that promotes reconciliation, transformational healing and social equity – Harrison (G86, MBA03) is on the road the majority of the calendar year.

In fact, he plans to travel to all 50 state capitals by the end of 2021. With each stop, he’s meeting with governors, mayors, police and fire chiefs, and educators in an effort to build relationships between community leaders and their constituents.

“We don’t have the luxury to hate,” he says matter-of-factly. “Too many of the recent movements out to seek justice are divisive. They are separate in nature. I wanted to create something that was inclusive of everybody.”

Inspired by the gospel song “I Choose Love, sung by the group The Brown Sisters – of which his wife, Leah, is a member – Harrison launched “I Choose Love USA” in 2020 in response to the civil unrest and divisiveness taking hold in Portland and around the country.

It kicked off in his childhood hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, where he initiated a “Governor’s Challenge” that resulted in the state’s leaders – among them Governor Pete Ricketts – signing an “I Choose Love” credo.

The tour also includes a transformational workshop that aims to educate participants on how others live in hopes of bringing about understanding, and week-long basketball camps that call for police officers to serve as coaches to youth in the community. “How do you build community? Through relationships,” Harrison says. “By doing this, we help kids see officers as advocates and the officers see the kids as coachable.”

The movement also incorporates neighborhood beautification projects that clean, one block at a time, the streets that lead to local schools. The practice serves as a metaphor: “Pave the way for children to safely walk to school, and it sends a message that they can get an education and pursue their dreams. A final element of “I Choose Love USA” is perhaps its most profound: the presentation to civic leaders miniature replicas of the Statue of Responsibility, a sculpture inspired by Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl and commissioned by famed author (The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People) Stephen Covey. The 305-foot statue, featuring two hands joined together, will be erected by 2023 in a to-be-announced West Coast city to promote social, civil and vocational responsibility. The monument will serve as a West Coast counterpart to the Statue of Liberty in New York.

The underlying themes of it all: Choose to love. Take responsibility for your city. Build relationships with others to dismantle the walls that separate us.

“When all these stops, we’re not just about external beautification. This isn’t a ‘community fix-up project,’” Harrison says. “It’s about internal beautification. It’s about building relationships. It’s about giving kids the ability to dream.

“We’re going to these civic leaders because the streets are not going to change first. Congress needs to change first, and then the streets will change.”

Promoting unity and personal responsibility is nothing new to Harrison. For more than three decades he’s traveled the globe as a motivational speaker and entertainer as a member of the Harlem All-Stars, an outgrowth of the Harlem Globetrotters. Playing alongside basketball legends Meadowlark Lemon and Curly Neal has given Harrison a platform to spread a message of hope to the masses.

The conviction that drives him? Be willing to set others up for success, putting their interests ahead of your own.

“That’s what I’m all about,” says Harrison, a point guard for the Bruins (1984-86) who led the squad in assists his first season and who stands at No. 5 on the university’s all-time steals list. “That’s why I call my book and my company by the same name – The Perfect Assist. I realized as a player that, in order for me to be the most successful point guard I could be, somebody’s success had to come before mine. Because if I pass you the ball and you miss the shot, I don’t get an assist. “So, my whole focus is this: How can I put people in places so they can have success?”

Learn more about I Choose Love USA at Ichooseloveusa.com
### ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

**Fox Fun Fact**

An on- and off-campus tradition, the college’s annual Fall Race, an on-off end of George Fox tradition, in 1926.

### 2020–21

Corey Johnson (MBA20) in October became senior management analyst for the city of Tigard (Oregon), leaving after seven years with the Tualatin Hills (Oregon) Park and Recreation District, where he was operations analyst the last three years.

Lindsay Arquezzi (Go) is using her new degree in Christian ministries as youth leader at Living Savior Lutheran Church in Tualatin, Oregon.

Joshua Andresen (PS20) in April 2021 became agency relations coordinator with the Marion Polk Food Share program in Salem, Oregon, a nonprofit that serves 46,000 monthly.

Anna Sovereign (Go) after graduation started as a legislative policy assistant with the House Republican Office and House District 39 of the Oregon Legislative Assembly. She lives in Oregon City, Oregon.

Angeline Berrian (MBA20) started last June as a school-based therapist at Columbia Wellness, a mental healthcare agency in Kelso, Washington.

DaKris (DM20) is now in Roswell, Georgia, where he is associate pastor of Mission Outreach at the Roswell Presbyterian Church, starting in January. Previously, he was in Christian ministry in New Zealand and as an English as a second language teacher at the school of missions at King University in Bristol, Tennessee.

Shni D’Ale-Orenda (MAT20) on April 1 started Imagine Education Creation Daysayre in Tillamook, Oregon.

Ake Hastings (G20) has started her own business, Spectrum Music Studio, in Boise, Idaho, where she teaches violin, viola, music theory and composition classes. She also is pursuing a master’s degree in violin performance at Boise State University, where she plays violin as a member of the graduate string quartet.

Jessel Rio (Go) started in February as a member of the newly created strategic foresight and analytics team at George Fox. As a student she was an administrative assistant in George Fox’s Department of History, Sociology and Politics for three years.

Lanie Krim (Go) is now in New York City, where he is an investment banking finance and strategy analyst with Goldman Sachs, a multinational investment bank and financial services company.

Jonathan Wilson (Go) is immediately putting his civil engineering degree to use, in the summer joining 31 Consulting, a civil engineering, resources engineering and community planning firm in Beaverton, Oregon.

Riley Morsce (Go) started immediately after graduation as a student success coach with the International Sports Sciences Association in Phoenix, a distance education and certification company, where she motivates students to achieve their goals.

Katia (Papiewnicki) Fabel (Go) is using her nursing degree, starting in September as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland.

Austin O’Dellan (Go), after serving as a summer housing residential assistant at George Fox, now is a behavior technician at Alternative Behavior Strategies, Inc., in Alpine, California, where he cares for children on the autism spectrum.

Amanda Rugley (Go) is using her elementary education degree with English as a Second Language endorsement as an English Language Learners middle school teacher in the Parkrose (Oregon) School District.

Brian Ehlers (Go) is a vocational rehabilitation specialist with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Vancouver, Washington. He has been in that position since 2018, but started with the VA there in 2015 as a social services representative.

Jerry S. K. Adzoli (DBA20) is in Newnan, Georgia, as a senior quality specialist with Quado, a firm that helps life sciences companies get their life-saving products to the market. He started last year after three years as a quality manager for a systems consultant with Battelle, consulting at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Charity-Marie Sansivico (MWSW) is a child and family therapist in Caldwell, Idaho, at Mana Resources, a family-owned business founded to help at-risk youth with transitional housing and training, and now encompassing mental health service with 10 counselors.

Marisa Stewart (MBA20) at graduation started as hospital manager at VCA Animal Hospitals in Portland, overseeing staff, client and office management and budget monitoring.

Danielle Garza (MBA20) is a political and legislative assistant at Laborers’ International Union of North America, Portland Local 737, in her second year.

David Angelelo (Go) started in August as a junior graphic designer with Traveo, a corporate travel data capture firm based in Dallas. He works remotely from Tigard, Oregon.

Greg Borresen (ADP20) in his second year as a support desk analyst with the Oregon Centralized Voter Registration Department of the Oregon Secretary of State is in the role he started as a student in 2019.

Dawn Kilman (DM20) is now in Wilmore, Kentucky, where she started in January as an associate for her paralegal practice at Asbury University, a Christian school with 1,700 students. She is a member of the student life staff and responsible for cultural diversity programming.

Juliane Reichen (Go) is using her organizational communication degree as director of hospitality at Hogan Hospital, specifically at Chick-fil-A in Tanabourne, Oregon. In her third year with the company, she started in the new position in October, promoted from new hire orientation and front-of-house training administrator.

Raydon Staub (G20) in January graduated from Marine Corps boot camp in San Diego as Company Honor man, the highest accomplishment for a Marine in recruit training. He now is at the School of Infantry, training at Camp Pendleton, California, with plans to become a commissioned Marine.

### IN MEMORY

**Fox Fun Fact**

For more than 40 years, George Fox gave a computer to each incoming undergrad student.

**Fox Fun Fact**

Mary Santal taught at George Fox for more than 50 years (1961-2013), our longest-serving professor.

### ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

**Recruit/Job News**

(OADP), Feb. 9, 2021, in Gore, Virginia.

Joeke Pressor (ADP20), Dec. 21, 2020, in Forest Grove, Oregon.

Susan (Foster) Capuia (MAT20), Sept. 29, 2020, in South Dennis, Massachusetts.


Eric Keck (EdD20), July 8, 2020, in Northfield, New Hampshire.

Margaret (Guder) Tripp (Go), April 11, 2021, in Portland.


Laura Bluxomquist, May 1, 2021, in Mountain Home, Idaho. Assistant Professor of Counseling, Graduate School of Counseling, 2020-2021.

Andrew Wiese, May 9, 2021, in Portland. Visiting Assistant Professor of Business, MBA and undergraduate programs, 2017-2021.
At George Fox, student-athletes are prepared for success well beyond the field of play, with an emphasis on one-on-one mentoring, academic excellence and spiritual formation.

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Your gift will help student-athletes fully achieve their academic and athletic potential while developing into the people God meant them to be.

Give today using the envelope on page 58 or at giving.georgefox.edu
Driving to the Finish Line

It was a commencement ceremony unlike any other. Graduates and their families piled into cars, trucks and even a small bus, following a route through campus lined with cheering faculty and staff. At the end, the culmination of years of hard work: the opportunity for grads to walk across that stage and receive their diploma.

→ See more on page 10.