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LEGACY

George Fox
University

VOL. XXVIII, NO. 2

MAY 1998

Legacy of a Leader

Cancer Claims Life of President Edward F. Stevens

Edward F. Stevens' 15 years as president of George Fox University were clearly historic ones for the institution.

Those years ended May 21 when he died in a Portland convalescent center after a yearlong battle with a brain tumor that triggered a severe stroke last summer.

The "Stevens Era" at George Fox was a time of unprecedented growth in enrollment, facilities, programs and budgets, as a small Christian college grew into a leading Christian university for the Pacific Northwest and the nation.

At the same time, George Fox has held true to its core values, with more graduates than ever aiming to make an impact for the kingdom of God in a challenging world.

To Stevens, that was the most important purpose of his work. He took pleasure in seeing the institution growing in its service to God. "George Fox—this community—belongs to Christ in a real way," he said early in his presidency.

With a warm and outgoing personality, strong faith, and enthusiasm for the rigors

of his office, Stevens helped energize the George Fox community to a long list of achievements. When he became president on July 1, 1983, what was then George Fox College had an enrollment of 650 students, a budget of \$5.3 million, 42 faculty members, and a traditional program for undergraduate students.

Since then, the college has, through rapid growth and a merger, become a university with an enrollment last fall of 2,255—more than four times the 1986 enrollment of 549 students. The budget is now more than five times greater—about \$28 million.

The University—created in 1996 by the merger of Western Evangelical Seminary with George Fox College—today offers 38 undergraduate majors and nine graduate degree programs. When Stevens took office, there were about 20 majors and no graduate programs.

In his 1991 book marking George Fox's 100th anniversary, faculty member Ralph Beebe noted that as president, "Stevens was not afraid to take bold,

even controversial action." That approach by the institution's leader was later recognized as critical in taking George Fox through severe financial challenges in the mid-1980s.

At the conclusion of Stevens' first five years as president, George Fox had cleared so many hurdles that, for the first time, the institution made *U.S. News*

(See *LEGACY*, page 2)

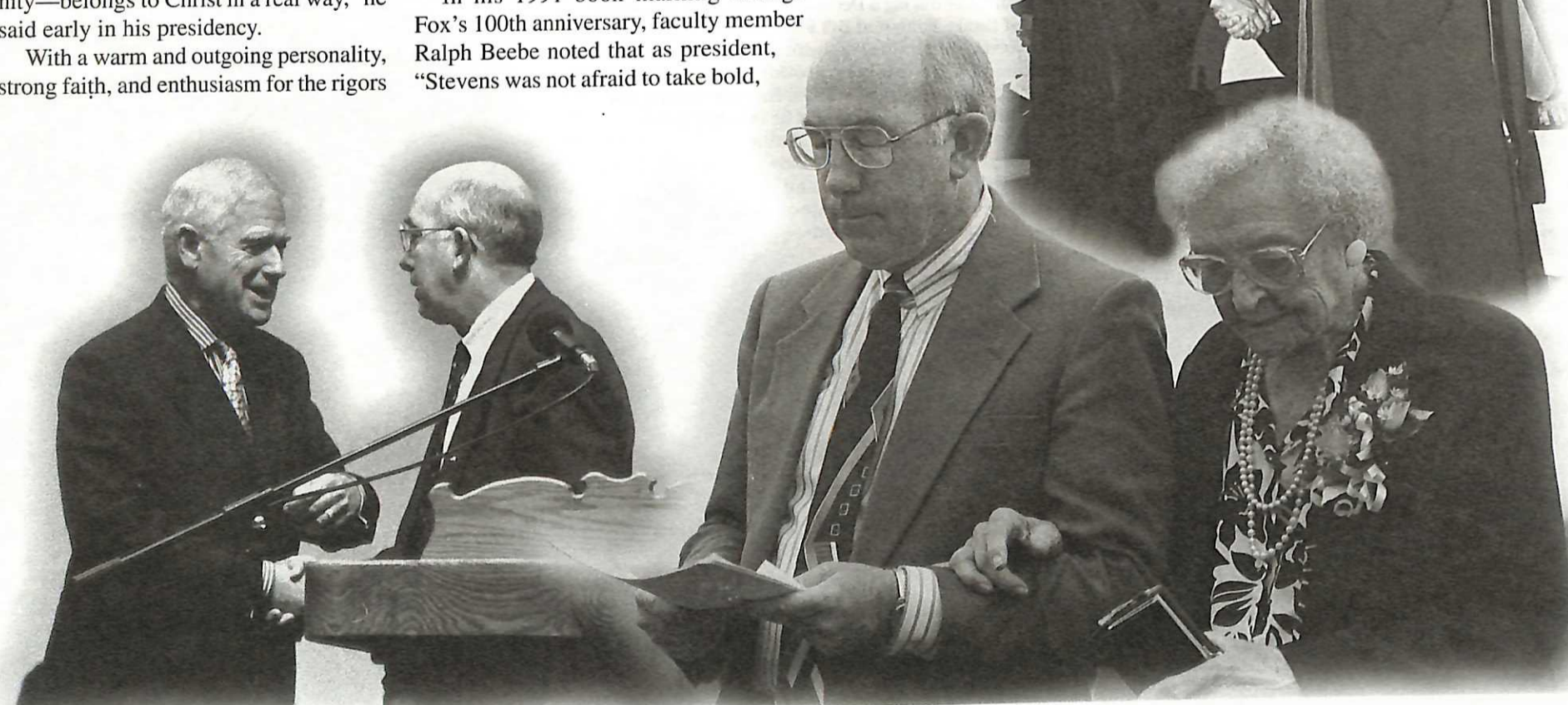
Clockwise from top: Ed Stevens' roots in Wyoming were evidenced by the cowboy hat and boots he occasionally wore. Commencement was one of Stevens' favorite times. Stevens joins Mildred Colcord Patton in a moment of prayer during the dedication of the resurfaced Colcord Field track. Former U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield is introduced by Stevens during last December's midyear graduation ceremonies.

**The End
of an Era**

EDWARD F. STEVENS

President of
George Fox University

1983-1998



'Just Call Me Ed'

Stevens Combined Warmth, Determination, and Informality During His Tenure at George Fox

The day after Ed Stevens died, he was remembered in a short campus meeting as the executive who knew secretaries and custodians by name, as a forceful leader, and as a decent second baseman in a pick-up softball game.

When in college, he was a 5-foot-10 basketball point guard nicknamed "Fast Eddie" who helped his team into the 1961-62 NCAA small college final four. He explained, "We had some talented players, but I wasn't one of them. I got by on determination."

That's the way he led George Fox—with grit greased with down-home friendliness. He was a back slapper and a hand shaker. In public, he spent most of the time in the center of the action, greeting people and swapping stories.

His charm could be matched by his intensity. It was obvious when he meant business. Those who worked closely with him knew when he was fighting to control his temper during meetings, sitting silently with head down and hands clenched. Whenever a George Fox basketball game was close near the end, he would leave to pace the lobby rather than risk exploding.

Ed was a fighter to the end.

On the morning of May 19—weeks after doctors had admitted there was nothing more they could do for his brain tumor—his family was informed Ed was not expected to live past noon.

But he did. He refused to any longer be hooked up to the machines of medicine, but he fought on past noon, and the next noon and the noon after that. Finally, on May 21, death claimed his cancer-weakened body.

In his previous 15 years, he had used his efficient mix of friendliness and fierceness to build the University. It seems like Ed—almost by sheer will—transformed George Fox from a financially struggling church college and put it on the track to becoming one of the most respected Christian universities in the nation.

Ed's faith in Christ and personal struggles were open to all who asked. While recovering from the stroke, he became a staff favorite when in the hospital because of his cheerfulness and constant singing of hymns that filled the hallways. Many comment on his ability to be vulnerable, especially when he took students or employees out to a meal.

He was able to find humor in the hard early years. He joked that in his first year there were 657 students and through his "dynamic leadership," he immediately took enrollment down to 549. Soon after, his bold decisions began to pay dividends.

(See ED, page 3)

Legacy: George Fox Growth and Facilities While Staying

(Continued from page 1)

& *World Report* magazine's list of "America's Best Colleges"—an honor it has now received annually for a full decade.

In a faculty newsletter at the time, Lee Nash, now professor emeritus of history, wrote that "most of the recognition factors that brought our college to the attention of so many...relate significantly to Ed Stevens' stewardship as well as his visibility.... This pleasant recognition is no fluke, but the result of a dynamic institution's multifaceted success as perceived from the outside, and as stimulated by superb presidential leadership."

Among the academic majors added at George Fox under Stevens' direction were computer information science, video communication, international studies, engineering, foreign languages, elementary education and art.

The first graduate program was added in 1990, when the doctoral program in psychology moved from Western Seminary in Portland to George Fox. During the next several years, master's degree programs in teaching, education, business administration and Christian studies were added. The remaining graduate programs came when WES became part of the new university.

A whole new concept in undergraduate study was set up at George Fox in 1986 and has seen great success. The degree-completion program, the first such program on the West Coast, is designed for adults who already have completed two years of college. The program has allowed 1,800 people to finish degrees in management of human resources or management and organizational leadership—while still working—through

Left to right: Western Evangelical Seminary President David Le Shana and President Stevens in front of the George Fox campus during the time WES merged with the college to form a university. Stevens takes a student's order while flipping pancakes during a December "Midnight Breakfast" the week of finals. Ruth and Bill Field share a lighter moment with Stevens during a college dinner. Outfitted in a sumo wrestling suit, Stevens helps provide entertainment during the Faculty Retreat in 1995. Stevens during one of the many George Fox events he emceed as president. Always approachable, Stevens allowed himself to be kidnapped from his home and brought to chapel in his pajamas as part of a student fundraising event.

a specific course of study with no electives. Since then, the program's format has been adopted by several other private colleges and universities in the Northwest.

In the fall of 1995, George Fox established a formal presence outside Oregon borders by offering the degree-completion program for the first time at its Boise Center in Idaho.

A long list of new and innovative programs have been established during the past 14 years. They include "Computers Across the Curriculum," which supplies personal computers to all new traditional undergraduate students upon enrollment; Juniors Abroad, a university-funded international study program for third-year students; the Center for Peace Learning, established in 1985; and the English Language Institute.

Growth in facilities has also occurred under Stevens' leadership. In 1988 the former Shambaugh Library was doubled in size and became the \$2.5 million Murdock Learning Resource Center. In 1990 and 1991, respectively, Willcuts and Beebe residence halls opened. The 64-foot

Centennial Tower and carillon was constructed at the center of the Newberg campus "quad." During three summers in the early 1990s, Heacock Commons underwent an expansion and renovation. In 1994 the Edwards-Holman Science Center opened, as did a renovated auditorium on the third floor of adjoining Wood-Mar Hall. In 1995 a new prayer chapel was built, overlooking the Hess Creek Canyon. Another residence hall, University Hall, opened in the fall of 1996, and the former Calder Center was remodeled and reopened in the fall of 1997 as the Lemmons Center. A new Plant Services building is now under construction on the Newberg campus and is to open in July.

The Hampton Plaza building in southwest Portland had served as home for WES since 1993 and became the



A 1984 photo of Stevens with his wife, Linda, and daughters, Cathy (center) and Carla (right).



Stevens during the early years in his office in Wood-Mar Hall.



s in Reputation, Enrollment True to Its Mission



Bob Monroe, chairman of the Board of Trustees (left), and Jack Willcuts, Northwest Yearly Meeting superintendent, place the George Fox medallion on President Stevens during his inauguration in 1983.

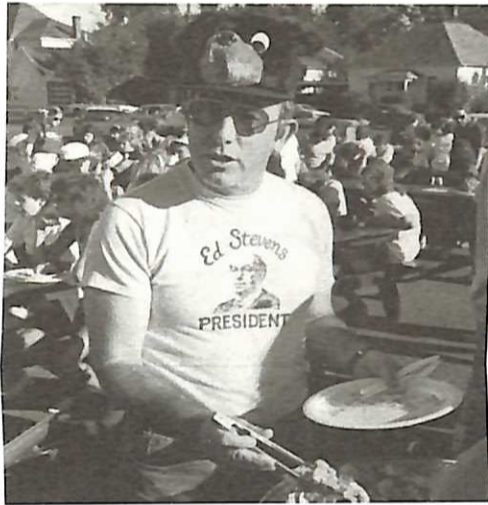


University's Portland Center as a result of a major 1996 renovation that coincided with the merger.

Much of the growth occurred because of two major and successful fund-raising campaigns since Stevens' arrival. The Century II campaign in 1986-88 raised \$6 million, and the Centennial Campaign from 1992 to 1995 raised \$14 million. The Stevens years also were marked by an unbroken string of annual balanced budgets for George Fox, a string which has now reached 27 years. Stevens directed credit for that achievement to Don Millage, the University's longtime chief financial officer.

After eight years with Stevens as president, the institution in 1991 marked its first century and was becoming increasingly recognized nationally for its first-rate educational programs. Five times since 1989, the Templeton Foundation named George Fox to its yearly list of "character-building colleges" nationally.

The huge growth in enrollment during the Stevens years did not occur because



FAR LEFT: Stevens offers moral support to the women's basketball team during a timeout.

LEFT: His T-shirt tells people that the man in the bear hat during orientation is indeed the president of George Fox.

of any slippage of admissions standards. In fact, the opposite was true. Average SAT scores for entering freshmen have risen steadily

since the mid-1980s.

Open about his love for his work and his belief in Christian higher education, Stevens was known for devoting far more than a regular full-time schedule to the rigorous duties of the presidency. But he also was a dedicated husband and father who in his last few years joined his wife in effusively showering attention on their new grandchild.

Through the ups and downs of university leadership, Stevens was quick to rely on God for day-to-day guidance and to keep the institution's focus on the Lord. In one of his first talks to Newberg community leaders after taking the presidency, he said that "knowing Jesus Christ in a personal way" was his constant personal goal. "This continues to be the most important thing in my life," he said.

Ed: Life Lived in Service to Christ (Continued from page 2)

Risky, controversial moves—including hiring a student-recruitment firm, starting adult continuing education, and offering computers to each freshman—brought growth and recognition.

He knew what he wanted and didn't mind ruffling a few feathers to make it happen. He told stories about how tough his father was and how his upbringing had shaped him. He said he was never intimidated by the reputations or personalities of the national leaders with whom he often mixed, because he knew they couldn't compare with his dad. Ed's deep thundering voice, outgoing nature and confident demeanor at national conferences and meetings likely were big factors in the building of George Fox's academic reputation.

Ed had few if any hobbies. When the 1984 yearbook ran a staged photo of him with golf clubs and a basketball, he grumbled how misleading it was. He hardly ever took time off for play—unless it was with a prospective donor or with his granddaughter.

George Fox was his hobby. Even when he was recovering from the initial stroke, he would walk across campus and stop in the Registrar's Office to ask about "the numbers," always wanting to know how next year's enrollment looked.

He was a Wyoming native who felt at home in a cowboy hat and boots. One of his favorite places to eat was the tiny rural Donald (Ore.) Cafe, where he sat alongside customers who wore overalls and boots.

Another favorite eatery was a Newberg Chinese restaurant where he'd become so familiar anyone could sit down and order the "Ed Stevens Special."

Members of his staff remember the determined way he would enter his office building. First the outside door would slam, followed by his strong, heavy footsteps. Often he'd be singing.

Following his death, there is a hush in the office and upon the campus.



EDWARD F. STEVENS

1940 TO 1998

Edward F. Stevens, who became a national higher education leader while guiding George Fox University to unprecedented growth and high academic recognition, died May 21 in Portland, Ore. He was 57.

Stevens, the 10th president of George Fox, was in his 15th year when he suffered a severe stroke June 7, 1997, and began treatment for a brain tumor that caused the stroke. He was visiting a vacation home in Arizona in recent months when his condition worsened. He was hospitalized in that state for much of the spring but was flown home to Oregon on May 5 to a Portland convalescent center where he received care until his death.

At Stevens' bedside at the time of his death were his wife, Linda, and daughters, Carla and Cathy.

Shortly after his stroke, Stevens was placed on medical leave by George Fox's Board of Trustees, but still with the title of president for the current contract year. Thomas F. Johnson, dean of the University's Western Evangelical Seminary, was appointed in October to serve as interim president. Stevens, who assumed office July 1, 1983, was to have become the University's presidential diplomat beginning July 1.

While serving as George Fox president, Stevens also served as the head of several national organizations. He

was chairman of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Council of Presidents, the organization's top ruling body, from 1992 to 1993. Stevens was chairman of the national Christian College Consortium in 1987 and 1988. In February he was to have become president of the American Association of Presidents of Independent Colleges and Universities. He had served as a board member of the national Council of Independent Colleges.

In Oregon, Stevens served as chairman of the Oregon Independent College Association and board member of the Oregon Independent Colleges Foundation. He was a member of the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges; was founding chair of PORTALS, the Portland Area Library

System; and was a member of the executive council of the Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church. He was a member of the Newberg Friends Church.

On the local level, he had served as a director of the Newberg Rotary Club; campaign chairman and board member for Yamhill County United Way; consultant to Chehalem Youth and Family Services of Newberg; and on the board of commissioners of Newberg Community Hospital (now Providence Newberg Hospital).

He received Newberg's "Citizen of the Year" award for 1996 for his

many volunteer efforts. That year he also received special recognition from Augustana College in South Dakota, where he had previously taught. In 1973 he was given the Young Alumni Achievement Award from Nebraska Wesleyan University, and in 1976 the Leadership Fellows Award from the Bush Foundation in St. Paul, Minn.

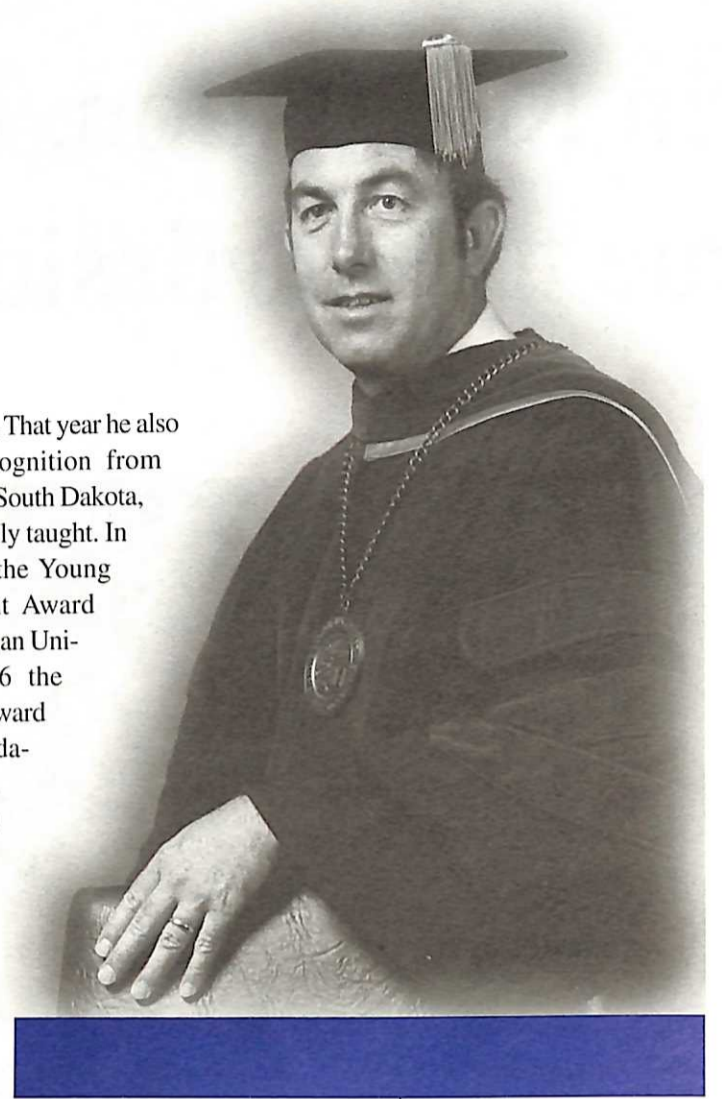
Stevens came to what was then George Fox College from Sioux Falls College (now the University of Sioux Falls) in South Dakota, where he served three years as

executive assistant to the president and business professor and five years as chief development officer. He also spent two years as executive vice president of the Kearney State College Foundation in Nebraska and four years teaching education and coaching basketball at Augustana College.

Prior to his college administrative roles, Stevens was with Iseman Division of U.S. Industries, based in Sioux Falls, from 1971 to 1974, serving successively as director of training, general manager and vice president of manufacturing, and vice president for public relations and personnel.

From 1963 to 1971, Stevens was a basketball coach at the high school and college level. In the 1965-66 and 1966-67 seasons, Stevens was assistant coach under Joe Cipriano at the University of Nebraska. From 1967 to 1971 he was head coach at Augustana College as well as assistant professor of education. He founded the Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter at that school.

Stevens advanced to college coaching following a two-year high school career. In 1963-64 he coached the Alvo-Eagle (Neb.) High School basketball team, and the next year the Madison (Neb.) High



School squad. He also taught physics, chemistry and general science courses.

Stevens in 1983 earned a doctorate in higher education, with an emphasis in marketing and management, at the University of Minnesota, and in 1967 a master's degree in educational psychology, statistics and measurements from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He did his undergraduate work initially at the University of Denver and then at Nebraska Wesleyan University, where in 1963 he received a bachelor's degree in education, physics and chemistry.

Stevens was born Sept. 7, 1940, to Edward D. and Esther E. Stevens in Newcastle, Wyo. He graduated in 1959 from Upton (Wyo.) High School. He married Linda Elaine Loewenstein on June 3, 1962. He is survived by his wife; two daughters and sons-in-law, Carla and Mackey Carlson, Portland, and Catherine and Joel Kassebaum, Newberg; a brother, Frank, Gillette, Wyo.; two sisters, Mary Hart, Upton, Wyo., and Kay Martinez, Albuquerque, N.M.; and one granddaughter, Camille Kassebaum, Newberg.

Memorial gifts are suggested to the Ed and Linda Stevens Scholarship Fund at George Fox University.

Goodbye, Ed

We will miss you, Ed.

We will miss your firm handshake
and your soft and loving eyes.

We will miss your creative mind—
even your lunch time repartee.

We will miss your commanding
but servant presence at George Fox.

Most of all we will miss
your cheerful witness to Christ
when our faith faltered.

One day we'll join you, Ed.
Meanwhile explore and enjoy
the beautiful new campus
of God's eternal kingdom.

Arthur O. Roberts
Professor at Large
May 21, 1998

Future Building's Name to Honor Stevens

The name Ed Stevens will not soon be forgotten by those associated with him during his 15 years on campus.

It will also be known by future generations.

George Fox's next major building—the projected \$5 million administrative/student services building—will carry his name.

Acting through its Executive Committee, the George Fox University Board of Trustees approved the new name in March. Plans were in process to announce the naming on June 20 at a large recognition gathering to honor Stevens for his service to George Fox. When it became apparent that Stevens' health would not allow that timing, Board Chairman Dea Cox was asked by the board to fly to

Phoenix, where Stevens was hospitalized for treatment of his brain tumor. There, at Stevens' bedside, Cox personally told him of the honor. Although unable to speak at that time, Stevens smiled and indicated he understood.

Cox then made the public announcement at the memorial service for Stevens on campus on May 27.

The planned building, for which fund raising has begun, will anchor the southwest corner of what is now the campus quad, helping it to become more of a rectangle. It is planned that it will house new administrative offices for Enrollment Services and Student Life, consolidating those areas into one location for the convenience of students. The build-

ing also will contain space for the university bookstore, student government offices, and new classrooms.

Stevens had been an instigator for this new plan, insisting there is a need for students to have a "one-stop shopping center" as they are admitted, register for classes, pay their bills and purchase books.

Currently in the concept phase, it is thought the building might be the first of a two-building complex, with the adjacent second building to house the remaining administrative offices: Financial Affairs, Academic Affairs, Advancement and University Relations, and the President's Office.

On the drawing boards as the "University Center," the building now has a definite name when it is completed.

A SPECIAL EDITION

You may have noticed this issue of LIFE has two mastheads (or nameplates) and two individual mailing labels. It's not a mistake. Rather, it was the quickest way to communicate to our readers about the death of President Ed Stevens. Two days before his death, what is now the inside portion of this issue was labeled and delivered to the University mail room for mailing. Upon the death of President Stevens, that issue was placed on hold and the University Relations Office—in two days—created what is now the outside portion of this edition. Volunteers then meshed the two separate publications into one for mailing to you as soon as possible.

Author Richard Foster Returns to His Alma Mater as Visiting Professor

Richard Foster, a George Fox University alumnus and popular Christian author and speaker, will return to the University this fall as visiting professor of spiritual formation.

Foster also has donated his personal research and manuscript papers to the University, to be available through the Murdock Learning Resource Center on the Newberg campus.

Both announcements were made in mid-February by Interim President Tom Johnson at the University's Homecoming Honors Luncheon, where Foster received special recognition.

The papers, reflecting Foster's work over the last 20 years as an author and seminar leader, are an exciting addition to the George Fox library collection, says Johnson. "They will serve as a wonderful resource to our students and faculty," he says.

Foster will come back to George Fox Oct. 5-10. While details of his time at the University remain to be worked out, Foster will speak in various classes and at chapel services during daytime hours at the Newberg campus and lead evening workshops for the University's Western Evangelical Seminary at the Portland Center campus. Such workshops would probably be geared toward pastors and address spiritual formation or congregational renewal issues.

Also on Friday, Oct. 9, and Saturday, Oct. 10, tentative plans call for Foster to lead a local spiritual renewal and prayer conference in cooperation with Newberg Friends

Church. The conference would be similar in format to the Renovaré conferences on spiritual formation that Foster leads across the nation.

"I'm hoping that it's the start of a long-term relationship that would bring him back on a regular basis," Johnson says.

Foster is the president and founder of Renovaré Ministries Inc., an internationally known nonprofit organization committed to church renewal through the formation of small groups for fellowship, education, service, mutual support, and accountability. He lives in Colorado.

He is the author of several best sellers, the first of which was "Celebration of Discipline." Published 20 years ago by Harper Collins, it has been translated into 25 languages and was the basis for a video and cassette tape series. His other books include "Freedom of Simplicity," "The Challenge of the Disciplined Life," and "Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home."

Johnson says he is delighted that Foster will teach at the University this fall. "I couldn't be more pleased," he says. "This is a really important step for the University—to get someone of Richard's caliber focusing on an area in which we're seeking to develop students' lives. It provides us an ally in our faculty's efforts to work on students' spiritual formation and also for WES faculty as they train pastors and church leaders to do spiritual formation in their congregations."

Foster received his philosophy and reli-

gion degree from George Fox in 1964. He then attended Fuller Theological Seminary in California, receiving a degree in 1970 in pastoral theology. He was recorded as a Friends minister in 1967 and served churches in California and Oregon. He wrote "Celebration of Discipline" while a member of the pastoral team at Newberg Friends Church.



Richard Foster returns to his alma mater this fall as visiting professor of spiritual formation.

Largest Graduating Class Ever Hears ABS President

Eugene Habecker, president of the American Bible Society and former dean of students at George Fox University, returned to George Fox to speak May 2 to the largest graduating class in the University's 107-year history.



Eugene Habecker

Habecker spoke at both the morning commencement and the University's graduate and continuing education students, and at the evening ceremony, for those completing their undergraduate degrees. Both services were in the Wheeler Sports Center on the Newberg campus. Between the two ceremonies, an afternoon baccalaureate service in Bauman Auditorium featured speaker Rev. Sam Sherrard, president of Youth for Christ International and father of Class of 1998 member Esther Sherrard.

This was the first time that growth in the graduating class—and thus in commencement itself—caused the University

to split the ceremonies into two categories. The University awarded diplomas to approximately 454 students, surpassing last spring's record of 414 graduates. Of the new graduates, an estimated 322 received bachelor's degrees, and 132 will be given graduate degrees.

Prior to this event, Habecker's most recent visit to George Fox was in November 1996, when he spoke in a chapel service as part of a Portland-area observance of National Bible Week. Habecker has been president of ABS since 1991.

The mission of the American Bible Society is to make scripture available to as many people as possible through translation, publication, and distribution. Since its founding in 1816, the American Bible Society has distributed more than 8.6 billion Bibles, testaments, and scripture portions and selections.

Bible society grants made possible the distribution of 91 million scriptures in the United States alone between January 1994 and June 1995. Internationally, ABS pursues its goal through membership in the United Bible Societies (UBS), a world fellowship of 120 national Bible societies.

Most recently, ABS helped to distribute 234 million Bibles, New Testaments, and scripture selections worldwide.

Habecker served as dean of students at George Fox for four years in the mid-1970s before eventually becoming president of Huntington College in Indiana, holding that post for 10 years. Habecker holds degrees from Taylor and Ball State universities in Indiana and a doctorate from the University of Michigan and earned a law degree from Temple University in Pennsylvania. He also is a graduate of Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management, and he holds honorary doctorates from several colleges. Habecker is the author of dozens of articles and four books: "Affirmative Action in the Independent College" (1977), "The Other Side of Leadership" (1987), "Leading with a Follower's Heart" (1990), and "Rediscovering the Soul of Leadership" (1996).

Sherrard, who lives in Hawaii, was elected in August 1996 at YFC's 10th Triennial World Convention in Taiwan to lead the worldwide youth ministry toward the next century.

Sherrard, 57, was born and educated in Sri Lanka and is a 32-year veteran of Youth for Christ. He left a career in auditing and founded Youth for Christ in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, in January 1966. As national director, he led one of the most effective YFC programs in Asia.

In April 1974 he became executive director of Hawaii YFC, building it into one of the most extensive Christian youth ministries in the state. In 1986, Sherrard received the YFC/USA President's Award for Outstanding Achievement, and Hawaii YFC was recognized as one of the leading YFC chapters in the U.S.

From 1994 to 1996, Sherrard was appointed the Americas Area Director of Youth for Christ International, with responsibility for North, Central, and South America, as well as the Caribbean Islands.

Sherrard and his wife, Manel, are the parents of four children, one deceased. Sherrard is an ordained minister with the Christian and Missionary Alliance, and for nearly 20 years has pastored Leeward Community Church in Pearl City on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, growing it into the state's largest C&MA church.



Homecoming Events Showcase Bruin Pride

From class reunions to the Sports Hall of Fame banquet, from "powderpuff" football to "The Sound of Music," 1998 homecoming activities offered something for everyone. Students, alumni, friends, faculty, and staff of George Fox University and Western Evangelical Seminary celebrated the "Heritage of the Blue and Gold" during homecoming February 12-14.

The weekend began with the Sports Hall of Fame banquet and inductions Thursday evening (see related story, page 4), and the sporting festivities continued with both men's and women's basketball teams winning against the University of Puget Sound and Pacific University. Homecoming royalty was crowned during halftime of the men's game Saturday night.

"We were excited about reintroducing this old tradition," says Sheri Philips, director of alumni and parent relations. "The students seemed to enjoy crowning the royalty and honoring the homecoming court amid alumni, friends, and families."

Throughout the weekend, homecoming attendees packed the theater department's performances of Rodgers' and Hammerstein's "Sound of Music" and enjoyed varied events. Those included workshops by faculty, bookstore shopping, and a luncheon and lecture recognizing George Fox graduate Richard Foster and the re-release and 20th anniversary of his best-selling book "The Celebration of Discipline," written while he was on staff with Newberg Friends Church (see related story, page 1).

A highlight of the weekend, the luncheon honored alumni award recipients, whose profiles are presented on pages 2 and 3. "We honored alumni who are impacting the lives of many people," says Philips. "Clearly, George Fox University is sending out students who are prepared academically, socially, and culturally to become great leaders."

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From House to House

Distinguished Alumna takes success from real estate to state Senate.

A challenging pace, constant deadlines, and intense debate have all been regular parts of Eileen Qutub's life since she was first elected to the Oregon Legislature in 1994.

But Qutub, who spent two years in the state House of Representatives before being elected to the state Senate in 1996, wasn't totally unprepared for these challenges at the Capitol. Among her many life experiences, she worked as a full-time real estate appraiser while also enrolled in George Fox University's degree-completion program in 1992-93. That regimen exposed her to—what else?—a challenging pace, constant deadlines, and intense debate.

In fact, the lively discussions she had with George Fox classmates helped hone the debating skills she now uses on the floor of the Senate.

"I remember in one intense discussion, one of my classmates joking that he would never want to be in the party opposite me," she says with a laugh.

Juggling her duties as a college student while working full time as an appraiser for the Clark County (Wash.) government also helped train her to stay on her toes, she says.

"I remember when I was writing the final research paper for the George Fox program,



Eileen Qutub

going to my job as an appraiser, but still thinking about it," she says. "Boy, it was on my mind constantly, that 'This thing is due!'"

Qutub, who graduated from George Fox in 1993 with a bachelor of arts degree in management of human resources, was one of three individuals recognized by George Fox as "Distinguished Alumni" during homecoming festivities in February. Recipients were chosen for their professional success, Christian service, and support of their alma mater.

Qutub represents Washington County's District 4 in the Senate. In Salem she has served on the Ways and Means Committees in both houses of the Legislature and has also been involved in committees dealing with criminal and civil law. Qutub currently chairs the Senate Interim Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Corrections. She is also serving on the Rules and Executive Appointments Committee, the Emergency Board, and the Budget Committee.

Qutub and her husband, Abe, a design engineer for Freightliner Corporation, have a combined family of five grown children and five grandchildren. The Qutubs are active in Southwest Bible Church of Beaverton.

Before enrolling at George Fox, Qutub had earned some community college credit on what she called a "piecemeal" basis in Portland and in North Carolina. Although she had owned and operated her own small business—a beauty salon—near Portland for five years, and had worked for several years as a

real estate appraiser in North Carolina, she found job hunting difficult in the Northwest because she did not have a college diploma. "In order to succeed any further than I had gone, I needed a college degree," she recalls.

Seeking a local degree-completion program, Qutub already knew of George Fox's strong academic reputation and was particularly attracted to the University because of its faith foundations.

"It very plainly stated that it was a Christ-centered school," she says. "I welcomed that."

A woman who was one of her George Fox classmates became a prayer partner and adviser for Qutub as she "anguished" over whether to jump into the world of politics. "I sought the Lord a lot, and called this friend of mine," she says. "I wanted to do what the Lord wanted me to do—not just follow what ambitiously I thought would be good. I wanted to be in His will."

Once her diploma was in hand, Qutub had a stronger personal base from which to pursue new aspirations, including the rough-and-tumble life of a political career. She looks back on her 18 months in the George Fox program as a critical step in the path that led to her leadership role in Salem today.

"It was very, very important," she says. "I hold education in high regard, and it was very important for me in my confidence as a candidate."

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Recently, students at George Fox University participated in the nationally used "Student Satisfaction Inventory," an instrument designed to measure the strength of their expectations about college life and their level of satisfaction. The survey discovers what is important to students, how satisfied they are, and the gap between their importance and satisfaction ratings. This is great stuff for us as administrators to get a handle on as we work with our dynamic Christian student body.

When a given item's importance and level of satisfaction are both high, it is an institutional strength. Here are George Fox's strengths, as measured by the students:

1. The course content within my major is valuable.
2. The teaching in my major is excellent.
3. The faculty are knowledgeable in their field.
4. The quality of instruction in my non-major classes is excellent.
5. It is an enjoyable experience to be a student here.
6. I am able to experience intellectual growth here.
7. There is a commitment to academic excellence here.

If the main purpose of college is education, our students think we are doing it well.

I also am pleased to report the following also were rated as strengths:

8. Being on this campus is contributing to my spiritual growth.
9. My understanding of God is being strengthened by classroom and campus experiences.
10. Given where I am spiritually right now, this campus is a good fit for me.
11. This campus provides adequate opportunities for involvement in ministry.

Isn't that exciting? Our students also are growing spiritually—in their relationship with God and in service. High academic standards (for which George Fox has been recognized in national surveys)



and spiritual challenge that results in students seeing their lives as belonging to Christ for his service in the world—that is our mission, and our students think we are on the road to achieving it.

Students are critical consumers. They should be; their education costs them and their families a significant investment. They always are asking, "Is my investment worth it?" One way to measure that is to find out if we are delivering—academically and spiritually—what we have promised.

Clearly, we are.

But before we get all teary-eyed about dear old George Fox, we had better ask, "What did the students think were our weaknesses?" After all, Quakers have been known for their honesty. A weakness is an item that is rated by students as important, but for which there is below average satisfaction. "Read 'em and weep," as my poker-playing father (pre-conversion, of course) used to say:

1. Tuition paid is a worthwhile investment.
2. Adequate financial aid is available for most students.

These are the top two dissatisfactions. They are both financial. Even though George Fox's tuition (\$15,450 this year) is right in the middle of our regional comparison group, it is still expensive to attend college today, especially a private college not subsidized by the state.

In response to these concerns, we have done two things for next year. Tuition is increasing by only 4.6 percent, barely enough to give cost of living increases to employees' pay for rising technology, utility, and health care costs and adequately maintain our buildings and grounds. Any of you serving on church trustee boards know that these items rise faster than inflation.

Our second response is to increase the amount of financial aid available to students. We have added \$486,000 to the financial aid budget for next year. To do this means tightening our belts in almost every other area of the University. But we take students and their families seriously when they tell us that, while they value their George Fox University education (for both its spiritual and academic aspects), they need help controlling their costs.

What were some of the other areas needing more attention at George Fox?

3. I am able to register for classes I need

with few conflicts.

Large universities offer multiple sections of classes at different times of the day and evening. Smaller schools, to avoid using more adjunct faculty and to keep costs down, offer one or two sections of a class, forcing students and their advisors to plan more carefully.

Students also were concerned that we limit the use of adjunct faculty, and we agree with them. We have good adjunct instructors, but our students are paying to learn from our core full-time faculty and are apparently satisfied with them.

4. Residence halls are comfortable.

Some are more comfortable than others, the newer ones more so than the older ones. No residence hall room is as comfortable as your own room back home, especially since dorm rooms are usually shared. Our residence life staff meet regularly with students to work together to make life in the halls as pleasant as possible. It's not boot camp; far from it! But it's not Courtyard by Marriott, either.

Evening, part-time, and commuting students also felt their needs could be more adequately addressed. And they are right. Repeat after me, "The customer is always _____." I think you can fill in the rest of that sentence. At George Fox we listen. We cannot always do tomorrow everything everyone would like, but we listen, prioritize, and act, making improvements in an orderly way, seeking to be good stewards of God's resources provided through tuition—and your gifts.

So, warts and all—or maybe warts and beauty marks—that's what students perceive about what we are doing right and what needs help. So, if you are an alumnus or friend of the University, I have four questions for you:

- What is your perception of the University?
- What is great and definitely worth keeping?
- What needs a shot in the arm?
- How can you help make the college experience at George Fox even better?

Tom

Thomas F. Johnson
Interim President

Just Say 'No'

WES Alumnus of the Year redefines the three Rs.

For Bob and Lois Taber, serving the Lord in overseas missions work has meant learning to just say "no" — no retreat, no reserve, no regrets.

High school sweethearts, the Tabers were married just three weeks before Bob took his first pastorate—at a small rural church 100 miles from Westmar College in Iowa, where Bob was beginning his senior year. A year later, with only a two-year teaching degree and a strong letter of recommendation, Lois was offered an elementary teaching position at Sunset School in West Linn, Oregon. It was then, Bob Taber says, "we both knew God was leading us to Western Evangelical Seminary."



Bob and Lois Taber

At WES, the Tabers first heard Dr. Eugene Erny, president of the Oriental Missionary Society, now OMS International. During the Tabers' 12 years of full-time pastoral work following Bob's graduation from WES in 1953, they had several OMS missionaries visit their church, and they attended annual OMS conventions.

In 1964, the Tabers left their four small children behind while they went on a two-week OMS mission trip to Haiti. When they returned, they were so changed, their oldest remarked, "Something's happened to Dad and Mom. They're different!" Bob explains the experience in a bit more detail. "In Haiti, our hearts were broken by

the things that break the heart of God. Our sense of values and our priorities changed. Our desire to help those who had never heard the Gospel increased, and we prayed God would never put our broken hearts together again because it is so easy in the health and wealth of North America to forget the great needs of the world."

Thirty-three years later, Bob is still working with OMS International. He has served as a regional director, missionary evangelist, and vice president of U.S. ministries. The Tabers are in Russia on assignment until June 1, 1998. He is serving as interim OMS field director and is also teaching in the Moscow Evangelical Christian Seminary, founded by OMS in 1993. The Tabers have served on 38 overseas assignments in 24 countries, a history of service that led to Bob being named WES Alumnus of the Year.

While they say it is difficult to define their most memorable assignment, they recall "marvelous teaching and preaching ministries as a husband

and wife team in India" and in Russia, where they have led marriage and family seminars.

Family has always been important to the Tabers. They have four children (including son Randy, a WES graduate who planted an Evangelical church in Bend, Oregon, in the early 1980s) and eleven grandchildren to show for their 49 years of marriage.

Encouragement is a vital part of the Tabers' ministry, and they love to talk to others considering overseas missions. "The nerve of missionary involvement is the conviction that in the Christian revelation, there is something distinctive and vital that the world cannot do without," Bob explains.

"God has a plan for every Christian's life," he continues, "and we thank Him for His loving guidance. May God bless each person in preparation for ministry, those in the midst of rich and fruitful ministry, and those in retirement. May it be with the spirit of mind and heart with which all can say, 'no retreat, no reserve, no regrets!'"

Words of Encouragement

Alumna of the Year credits parents and education with her success.

Words are a powerful tool, one that can stop a person from trying something new or encourage her to go after anything her heart desires. Take Peggy Fowler, for example.

Fowler is one of those people who's always known what she wanted to do. Her interest in chemistry goes all the way back to eighth grade, and she pursued her studies in that field throughout college, earning a bachelor of science in chemistry and mathematics from George Fox in 1973. She continued her education by attending public utility executive programs at the University of Michigan and the University of Idaho.



Peggy Fowler

Having proven herself in a field that continues to be dominated by men, Fowler says it was her parents' encouragement that convinced her that women could be anything they wanted to be. "Both my parents would always let me do things that interested me," she says, "and they always encouraged excellence." Her father was a Quaker minister, and Fowler and her family continue to attend Newberg Friends Church.

Today, Fowler is one of the highest ranking women in her profession. After graduation, she was hired by Portland General Electric as a chemist. Her career wound its way through management of environmental and analytical services, to managing the PGE Gresham Division, to managing service and installation and hydroelectric and thermal generation plants. She became vice president of power production in 1990, senior vice president of customer

service and delivery in 1995, and executive vice president and chief operating officer in 1996. In July 1997 she was promoted to her current position, president and chief operating officer of PGE Distribution Operations.

Throughout her tenure at PGE, Fowler has come to be known and respected for her sensitive leadership as well as her knowledge of the utility business. Her ability to listen, communicate, and empathize with those she manages prompted PGE's CEO Ken Harrison to tell the *Portland Business Journal* that Fowler "inspires trust on the part of all the people that work for her." Her love for people is part of how she lives out her faith in the corporate world. As Fowler explains, "the importance of helping others is what made me decide to go into the management rather than the technical side."

In spite of her success, Fowler was surprised at being chosen George Fox University's Alumna of the Year. "I was honored and surprised," she explains, "because there are a lot of people from the college—ministers and missionaries and so many others—who do wonderful things. I was surprised to be honored for my work in the business world."

As if her "work in the business world" isn't enough to gain accolades, Fowler serves on the George Fox board of trustees and its executive committee, and on several other prominent boards including the Association for Portland Progress, Goodwill Industries, and Oregon Independent College Foundation.

She freely gives her time to the University, knowing that her education is the foundation for her success. "George Fox believes in the difference higher education—a Christian liberal arts education—can make in what a person can contribute. Such a cause needs our help and support," she explains. "I'm so thankful for Ed Stevens and others who have encouraged alumni and business people to participate."

Partners in Ministry

Alumni couple complement each other's ministry of healing.

With their talents, educational backgrounds, and high-visibility professions, Rev. Eric Smith and his wife, Dr. Mari Kay Evans-Smith, would likely fit the trendy label of "power couple" in today's society.

But the Smiths readily acknowledge that it is the power of Christ, and not their own strength, that compels them to an active life of ministry that touches many lives. This caring attitude toward others, coupled with an impressive list of mutual accomplishments over the past 14 years, led George Fox University to name them among Distinguished Alumni of 1998.

Eric has been pastor of Cherry Grove Friends Church in Battleground, Wash., for the past six years, and Mari Kay has a pediatrics practice in Portland. Eric and Mari Kay, who met at George Fox, are both 1984 graduates—he with a degree in social studies teaching and she with a degree in biology.

Even before coming to George Fox, the 6-foot-7 Eric was attracting notice. Student body president at his high school, he was recruited by more than two dozen different colleges because of his basketball skills before he selected George Fox.

After attending George Fox, Eric continued his education, graduating from Fuller Theological Seminary with a master of divinity degree, then from Pepperdine University with a doctor of education degree. He quips that his



Eric and Mari Kay Smith

"greatest feat" was successfully defending his doctoral thesis "in the midst of the Los Angeles riots," at the Pepperdine campus on the border of south central L.A.

Before taking the Cherry Grove pastorate, Eric served two years on the pastoral staff at Jefferson Evangelical Church in Salem and then eight years in youth adult ministries at Rose Drive Friends Church in Southern California. At Cherry Grove, he has guided the church

through dynamic growth, seeing a 50 percent increase in worship attendance. He serves the community by encouraging church involvement in Vancouver's Open House Ministries shelter for the homeless.

Since his graduation from George Fox, Eric has continued to use his music ability and recorded a tape composed mostly of his own songs. He also filmed a 60-minute professional video on "How to Play the Guitar."

Eric not only considers his wife "a great partner in ministry," but also readily refers to her as his "best friend."

As a young student, Mari Kay went to Haiti on a short-term missions trip with her church, Reedwood Friends in Portland. That trip was the inspiration for her choice of medicine as a career and for her interest in medical missions work. In 1984 she was named George Fox's Outstanding Senior Woman.

Mari Kay continued her studies at Loma Linda Medical School and then

completed her residency in pediatrics at the University of California, Irvine. Throughout her studies, she served alongside Eric with his ministry at Rose Drive Friends and in her spare time played flute in the church orchestra. When the Smiths relocated to Clark County, Mari Kay began practicing pediatrics part time with what is now Northwest Pediatric Associates. In addition, she attends to the medical needs of several high-risk young women through the Clackamas House of Janus Youth Programs in the Portland area.

Last Easter, Mari Kay went on a 10-day medical mission to Peru with a team of five physicians, one nurse, and a dentist to set up a temporary clinic for the Aymara people. The team was challenged by the language barrier and limited access to running water and electricity. Using donated medicine and equipment, the team treated approximately 200 people for a variety of illnesses within just three days. She hopes to be part of medical missions trips in the future.

The Smiths acknowledge that it is unusual for a pastor to be married to a physician, "but we have an unusual God who is responsible for doing things like this." Eric notes that their respective ministries are compatible, as he helps bring emotional and spiritual healing while Mari Kay seeks to provide physical healing. The Smiths agree that their work is an extension of the Christian values they saw and admired in their professors at George Fox.

The Smiths also have been blessed with two children, 6-year-old Chelsea and 3-year-old Isaiah.

"Busy as it sounds like we are, our family is a real priority," Eric says. "I think the church environment to raise our family is great. It's just a great church."

ALUMNI NOTES

Dale Campbell (G60) completed the Tucson, Ariz., marathon in December 1997 in 4 1/2 hours.

Won Gym (G63) has retired after 26 years as computer programmer and research analyst for Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, Ohio.

Joyce Claussen (HRM88) has retired after 20 years as media assistant for the Lebanon (Ore.) Community School District.

Jeanne Ann (McDonald) Taylor (n89) had her artwork on display at an invitational show at the Mitre's Touch Gallery in La Grande, Ore., in March and April.

Elizabeth Hunt (G96) is floor manager for the A.C. Gilbert Discovery Village in Salem, Ore.

MARRIAGES

Orlo Baldwin (G75) and Sheryl Stark, Nov. 28, 1997, in Tucson, Ariz.

Juli Fendall (G85) and Kenneth Cone, March 21, 1998, in Newberg.

Laura Macy (G91) and David Lehman, Oct. 25, 1997, in Salem, Ore.

Anita Linhart (G94) and Eric Johnson, Sept. 27, 1997, in Albany, Ore.

Kathy Cleaver (G96) and Steve Tanksley, Feb. 28, 1998, in Portland.

Amy Dent (G97) and **Sean Beebe** (G97), Feb. 28, 1998, in Salem, Ore.

Elizabeth Houser (MAT97) and Scot Morse, Jan. 3, 1998, in Albany, Ore.

Alison Kilpatrick (G97) and Brian Craker, Aug. 2, 1997, in Lake Oswego, Ore.

BIRTHS

Cindy (Lund) (G86) and Ken Mogseth, a boy, Eric Jens, Feb. 16, 1998, in Vancouver, Wash.

Jim (G91) and Tami White, a boy, James W. White III, March 20, 1997, in Kent, Wash.

Eric (G95) and Michelle Nash, a boy, Landon Price, Feb. 16, 1998, in Newberg.

George Fox Basketball Teams Equally Successful

George Fox's men's and women's basketball teams enjoyed successful and remarkably similar seasons this winter.

How Similar?

- Both the men (22nd) and the women (23rd) made appearances in the NAIA Division II national poll.
- Both teams went into the final regular-season game needing a win on the road to claim a share of the Northwest Conference title. Both took early leads but couldn't hold them against playoff-bound opponents.
- Both teams tied for second place in the Northwest Conference with 13-5 records and, because of tie-breaker rules, ended up as the No. 3 seeds in the league tournaments.
- Both ended their seasons in first-round NCIC playoff games against teams that advanced to the national tournament.
- Both had their top scorer named the conference Player of the Year.

Women Say Hello and Goodbye

Most of George Fox's top women's players spent the season either starting or ending their collegiate careers.

NAIA Division II Second-Team All-American forward Nancy Rissmiller (Tigard, Ore.), was one of three senior starters who savored one of George Fox's best-ever seasons. Rissmiller was named Northwest Conference Player of the Year and combined with senior guards Cherish Carroll of Fairbanks, Alaska, and Tonya Miller of West Linn, Ore., to help George Fox go 16-9 overall, 11-1 at home. The Lady Bruins ranked in the NAIA Division II top-25 poll for the third consecutive season and tied an NAIA-era school record with eight consecutive wins.

Newcomers Katie Greller (Orange City, Iowa) and Tabitha Dawson (Eagle, Idaho) both wrote themselves into the George Fox record book in their freshman seasons. A 6-foot center who earned NCIC second-team honors, Greller obliterated the George Fox season field-goal accuracy record of 51.8 percent by hitting 58.2 percent of her shots. Dawson, a 5-foot-11 forward, was awesome in her first game, hitting all five of her 3-point attempts to tie a school single-game record. She also led the Northwest Conference in free-throw percentage at 88.6 percent.

Bruin Men Reverse Fortunes in Single Year

Without a senior on the roster, George Fox's men's team nearly doubled its wins and made a run at the Northwest Conference title.

One year after going 8-16, the Bruins improved to 15-10 this season. George Fox was in first or second place in the conference the entire year.

Jared Gallop (Roseburg, Ore.), a 6-foot-7 junior forward, became just the second George Fox player to earn NAIA Division II first-team All-American honors after being named the Player of the Year in the Northwest Conference. He led the league in scoring at 23.1 points per game.

Kyle Valentine (West Linn, Ore.) a nimble 5-foot-10 junior point guard, earned All-American honorable mention and NCIC first-team honors after leading the conference in steals (3.6 per game) and finishing second in assists (6.1 per game).

NCIC honorable mention went to the league's top shot blocker, 6-foot-8 junior center Mike Faber (Salem, Ore.). He rejected 2.8 shots a game.

George Fox finished the regular season as the nation's best free throw shooting team in NAIA Division II, sinking 77.2 percent of its attempts.

BRUIN SPORTS

Bruins' Bigg-est Fan

In the world of small-college basketball, Mike "Biggs" Wirta is a big-time fan.

As a volunteer statistician for George Fox University's men's basketball team, Wirta's numbers are impressive. After a quarter century of volunteering, he figures he's seen more than 800 George Fox games.

His loyalty is unquestionable. The last time he missed a George Fox home contest was a two-game stretch in December 1972, when the Army requested his presence at basic training in South Carolina—the only time since watching his first George Fox game as a freshman in 1968 that he's been AWOL from a game played in Newberg.

The last time the Bruins hit the road without him was more than a decade ago, in 1985. At the end of the 1997-98 season, he had worked 371 consecutive games home and away.

He has recorded the high and low points—from agonizing through 20 losses during the 1978-79 season to the heady days of a No. 2 national ranking in 1991-92.

Twice since 1985, his streak almost came to an end. The day before a game in 1988, an inner-ear infection left him weak and disoriented with vertigo. After a trip to the hospital and an intravenous injection (IV), he was back at courtside.

"Before and after the game he basically wasn't with us," says Barry Hubbell, then George Fox sports information director. "He could barely walk or talk, but he was determined his streak wasn't going to end. So we propped him up and he kept stats."

En route to a 1994 playoff game in La Grande, Ore., a snowstorm temporarily closed the Interstate. When the highway was finally opened, Wirta reached the arena 45 minutes after the game was scheduled to start. Fortunately, as he walked in the gym, the game was seconds from beginning. The referees had been caught in the same traffic tie-up.

Thanks to his habit of arriving well in advance of tip off, even a washed out bridge on his way to remote Klamath Falls, Ore., didn't keep him from a 1974 game. He found another route and made it on time.

At the games, Wirta can get emotionally involved. He breaks pencil lead in his intensity and agonizes over every turnover and opponent free throw.

His devotion is easy to see. His wardrobe is stocked with George Fox sweatshirts, and the license plate on his DeLorean sports car reads BRUINS.

Wirta donates both his time and money to the athletic department. The panels on the front of Miller Gym's press row and the seat covers on the chairs where the players sit are his gifts. On road trips, he pays for his own plane fare and food.

When he isn't following the Bruins around the Northwest, Wirta meticulously cares for their home court. A custodial supervisor at George Fox, one of his main responsibilities is the campus sports center. Before every home game, he wields a moist mop over the floor, puts up tables for press row, and cleans up the lobbies and locker rooms. Every summer he spends about four days resurfacing the court.

Wirta's stat-keeping forms were handed down to him in 1971, and he didn't change his process until the recent advent of computer statistics. Preferably with one assistant—but not impossible by himself—he can record an entire game's stats on three sheets of paper.

He never had to work as hard on individual field goal attempts as the night in 1978 when future NBA player Freeman Williams took 67 shots to score 66 points in leading Portland State past George Fox. Wirta can't remember anyone else launching more than half that amount.

In the mid '70s, he bought his first calculator for around \$50. For a couple of decades his neat handwritten accumulative stats accompanied every George Fox basketball sports release. Now he calls out the action for a computer operator to type in during home men's and women's games. He continues to follow the team to away games and

does his own stat keeping, if only to make sure his Bruins' efforts are represented accurately. More than once, he's been asked to keep official stats when a computer broke down or student statisticians failed to show.

As serious as Wirta is about wanting his Bruins to win, he is one of the friendliest faces a visiting coach can find. Long ago nicknamed "Biggs" after a cartoon character, he often can be found chatting with opponents or referees prior to a game. He avidly keeps up on small-college results and can recall stats, players, and coaches spanning four decades.

His recollection is legendary. Pick a George Fox game in the last few decades, and he probably can tell you the result, leading scorer, and who hit the game-winning shot.

Years ago, he poured through old newspapers and scorebooks to determine George Fox's record performances—the few he didn't witness himself. The results appear in the school's award-winning media guide.

He's picked up a few accolades himself behind the stat table. When George Fox started a Volunteer of the Year award program, he was the second recipient. He joined the NAIA District 2 Hall of Fame in 1994, winning a Meritorious Service Award. This year, he was elected into the George Fox Sports Hall of Fame. When the class of inductees was announced at half time of the homecoming game, he received the loudest cheers while he waved to the crowd in his warm, friendly, almost child-like way.

The game Wirta is most proud of occurred in the late 1980s at St. Martin's College in Lacey, Wash., when the scoreboard broke. The score was kept on a chalkboard while time was kept on a stop watch. Wirta sat behind the timekeeper and asked for an update as each Bruin stepped on or off the court. After the game he dutifully produced minutes played for each player.

Not much gets by Mike Wirta—the Bruins' biggest fan.



Volunteer statistician Mike "Biggs" Wirta hasn't missed a Bruin basketball game at home since 1972.

ATTENTION BOISE AND SOUTHERN IDAHO ALUMNI, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS!

Mark your calendar for **SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1998**, for the George Fox University Boise Hawks Baseball Night and Pregame Dinner. **FREE BOISE HAWKS TICKETS** will be available after July 1 at the George Fox University Boise Center, 8660 W. Emerald Plaza, Suite 112, Boise, Idaho 83704; (208) 375-3900. Tickets may be picked up or held for you until game night. Dinner, coordinated by Southern Idaho alumni, will offer updates on the University and fellowship time.

More details to come!

