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Senior Alyssa Montero reflects on collegiate soccer career  
Page 3



Christmas festivities begin in Portland  
Page 5

## Unisex restrooms cause protest

By SARAH BIERNACKI and JESSICA STANTON  
Crescent Staff

The restrooms located in the Student Union Building and Villa Academic Complex have changed from a man/woman to unisex bathrooms.

George Fox University staff have been considering making this change for some time for a number of reasons.

There were already lockable, single-stall unisex bathrooms on campus, similar to those in Lemmons.

"We [George Fox] have visitors, guests, and students who benefit from using family bathrooms, when they have young children, are transgender, or to alleviate lines for a particular bathroom when there are major

events by providing a greater degree of flexibility," said Brad Lau, vice president for Student Life.

The lockable, single-stall, bathrooms in the Student Union Building and the Villa Academic Complex have been recently converted to allow more flexibility in use.

"We do need to put small signs below the handle that remind those using the restroom to please lock the door. We've also discussed adding a lock mechanism that lets people know whether the bathroom is occupied or available."

The bathrooms are intended for a single user, unless a mother or father with young children is using them as a

family bathroom. The staff has yet to decide to remove the urinals since it might have advantages for family uses.

Since the university's decision to accommodate unisex bathrooms in the Bon, an act of gender discrimination in the form of vandalism has occurred to the public restroom sign.

A recent statement from Student Life was released on the Daily Bruin about the vandalism to the Bathroom signs. It reads as follows:

"Two weeks ago, two restroom signs on campus were defaced during the night

See **RESTROOM** | page 8



The restrooms located just outside the student cafeteria have recently become unisex, causing conflict

Photo by KELLY TOMS | The Crescent

## Celebration brings in Christmas season

By KATHERINE VANLANDINGHAM  
Crescent Staff

George Fox University held its annual Christmas on the Quad event this past Saturday in an effort to unite the community this holiday season.

Serving as a unifying force between the student body and the Alumni Association, this year's festivities were completely organized and coordinated under the supervision of the Bruin Heritage Association.

"The purpose is to really just come together as a student body to celebrate the birth of Jesus," says Bruin Heritage President, Taylor Ellis.

This year's event, like years past, consisted of student fellowship over hot cocoa and an outdoor candle light service in

which the Christmas story was intertwined with the singing of traditional Christmas carols.

"I love the community aspect, how we can all gather at Christmas time," says senior Joseph Pia. "I had come before when I was a kid but it was a different experience coming as a college student and having it especially catered towards me."

Led by vocal talents, Jacob Flaherty, Jordan Moody, and Diana Koba, and instrumentalists, Elissa Shinseki and Vitaliy Burlaka, the community rang in the Christmas season through singing various carols such as "Joy to the World," "The Little Drummer Boy," and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing."

"My favorite part was looking out into the crowd after all the

candles had been lit and seeing that people were not only singing but actually worshipping," says Moody. "Oftentimes we get lost in the fact that these are Christmas carols and lose sight that these are songs about Jesus, our Savior. There is real serenity in that."

"The a capella moments, when everything else died down, were the best parts of the night," said Flaherty.

While Christmas on the Quad is designed for students, there has been a long standing open invitation to the surrounding Newberg community that Shinseki encourages people to take advantage of in the years to come.



Students gather for Christmas carols and a candlelit celebration

Photo by KELLY TOMS | The Crescent

## Empty Bowls throw-a-thon event helps professor

By JULIA HOWELL  
Crescent Staff

George Fox University's Art Department sponsored a throw-a-thon on Nov. 15 that resulted in the creation of over two thousand ceramic bowls in an effort to raise funds for retired Professor of Art Doug Campbell.

The throw-a-thon attracted dozens of students, community members, George Fox alumni, and other artists who worked from noon on Friday until 3 a.m. Saturday.

Campbell suffered a stroke in Nov. 2012 and will need specialized speech therapy as part of his recovery process. Mark Terry, associate professor of visual art and leader of the event, plans to sell the bowls made at the throw-a-thon at the Empty Bowls event to raise funds for Campbell's therapy.

"We hope to earn two-thirds of what Doug needs for this speech therapy with bowl sales," said Terry. "We hope to earn the other third through an art auction."

The Empty Bowls event will be held in March. It will be a soup dinner, where attendees may purchase a bowl for \$12. There will be entertainment and an art auction featuring Campbell's work, as well as pieces from Assistant Professor Gary Buhler, other faculty, alumni, guest artists, and current students.



Miranda DeVore at the potters wheel during the toss-a-thon for Doug Campbell

Photo by KOSETTE ISAKSON | The Crescent

Terry encourages students to bring family members or friends who enjoy art and want to contribute to a worthy cause. He also hopes students will help by simply attending the event with their friends.

"The biggest thing people

can do to help is be there for the dinner and get a bowl," said Terry.

Terry and those at the throw-a-thon received help from a variety of sources over the weekend. He estimates that three-dozen artists contributed

to the bowl-making process. Potters varied from professional artists and past art professors to six-year-old volunteers. Samantha Kingsbury, an art student who is making the event her senior project, was pleased at the turnout.

"We [even] have a little first grader," said Kingsbury. "He heard about it and wanted to help."

Whitney Daily, an art teacher at Newberg High School, was also happy to contribute to the fundraising effort.

"I've known [Campbell] and his wife since high school," said Daily. "They're both very supportive of the arts."

Potters were also surprised to receive baked goods from those who heard about the throw-a-thon. One mother of a student brought twelve dozen treats. University professors provided group meals for the artists over the weekend, and one faculty member delivered a twenty-foot sandwich.

"So many [of the donations] were anonymous," said Terry. "We don't even have their names to thank them."

Other contributions included building blocks loaned by Parr Lumber and clay donated by the George Fox Associated Student Community.

As the date for the Empty Bowls event approaches, Terry and his students will work on firing the bowls to prepare them for sale.

"The throw-a-thon was just the first step," said Terry. "...it'll be cool and have culture and class. You'll have this reminder of what you did to help somebody out."



Murder mystery solved by sophomore class

By RYAN LACKEY  
Crescent Staff

On Nov. 16, George Fox University held the annual Sophomore Black and White in Edwards-Holman Science Center, a formal event for second-year students to dress up and enjoy a night together.

Continuing the tradition of the past few years, the chosen theme was murder mystery. Several student volunteers played characters and acted out a murder scene. The guests, who ostensibly were guests at a memorial party thrown by one of the characters, were challenged to identify the culprit.

"I really enjoyed it," said sophomore Samuel Janisse, who played the first murder victim. "I've never [acted] before, and it was nice to get out of my comfort zone and try something new. I liked adding to the sophomore experience."

The mystery story revolved around a wealthy baron who passed away and named his driver the executor of his will. When the driver was killed, old wounds and conflicts erupted, and the baron's two daughters, their fiancés, and a local

detective attempted to cast blame and secure the fortune for themselves.

Throughout the night, the



Entrance sign at Black and White event  
Photo by KOSSETTE ISAKSON | The Crescent

actors and actresses mingled with the guests, answering

questions while chatting in character. Discussion of money and intrigue mingled around cups of cranberry punch and pastries as sophomores, dressed in ties and blazers and dresses, tried to unravel the crime.

Besides the considerable array of food, a camera and backdrop were available for sepia pictures, and the acting students put on several skits that revealed motives and relationships among the characters.

As the night culminated, guests put in their votes, indicating their suspected culprit. The guilty one was revealed to be the one of the daughter's fiancés, who wanted the family land to develop.

Those guests who guessed correctly had their votes collected for a drawing. Lauren Parker was selected as the winner.

"I had a lot more fun than I expected," said sophomore Tyler Schreiber. "It was fun because it was chaotic and exciting and exhilarating."

2013 commencement ceremony

By JULIA HOWELL  
Crescent Staff

The midyear commencement ceremony will be held Dec. 21 in Miller Gymnasium and will honor 210 undergraduates, graduate students, and adult degree students. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m.

The ceremony will feature speaker Jay Mathisen. Mathisen is from Bend, Ore., and is a 2012 doctoral degree graduate from George Fox University. He has a passion for the nation of Rwanda and wrote his dissertation on post-genocide education reform.

Mathisen plans to return to Rwanda for the fifth time with a team of educators from Central Oregon to help train teachers in the country. They will be working with local non-governmental organizations while on the trip.

"I am passionately pursuing working with teachers in Rwanda," said Mathisen in a statement for Corban University. "It is meaningful work in a place that needs meaningful work."

In 2011, Mathisen received the honor of High School Principal of the Year from the

Confederation of Oregon School Administrators. He has worked as the principal of La Pine High School and Middle School.

"The last few years, [President Baker] has made it a point to bring in our own graduates as commencement speakers," said Karlyn Fleming, the executive assistant to the provost.

"The graduates and their families get very engaged with the important work a lot of them are doing."

The ceremony will also feature musician Heidi Kohne, previously the organist for Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church in Portland.

"[Kohne] is playing some really fun organ pieces," said Fleming. "[The graduates] will probably exit to the Hallelujah Chorus."

"We moved commencement up, and I think it actually works very well for the graduates, being done, [so they] can go have lunch and enjoy [the afternoon]," said Flemming after realizing a conflict of schedule with basketball games later in the evening.

Business students gain experience through completing capstone

By JULIA HOWELL  
Crescent Staff

Each year the business senior capstone class allows students to plan, manage, and develop a small functional business while implementing skills gained in class.

"[We] give business students the experience of literally starting, operating, and managing a business," said Dirk Barram, professor of the senior capstone class. "The idea is, have they learned enough business to do this? Let's test it out."

Throughout the fall semester, students are selected to be part of a team, brainstorm ideas for a project, pitch their ideas to a panel of business leaders and faculty, develop marketing and finance plans, and finally launch the operation for the spring semester.

There are 15 teams in the class this year, made of five to six students each. Each group has a student leader selected by the business department faculty. The leaders then choose

team members by reviewing job applications and conducting interviews.

Barram believes the key to a successful team is a strong leader, "a leader who is people-driven, not self-driven, and focused on the product."

Once the teams were formed and business ideas were determined, the groups created a detailed plan and presented to a panel of faculty and external professionals.

"This was a huge, stressful day," said Barram about the presentations in September. "This year...we said, how about if they pitch their ideas like Shark Tank?"

Nodding to the popular ABC show, Barram invited five successful business executives from outside the George Fox community to judge students' presentations. The panel included Phil Autrey, an entrepreneur and member of Kitchen Sink Holdings; Dave Barram, the former CFO of Apple; Ruth Bennett, the

founder of RBBennett Enterprises; Laurie Koehler, with Intel; and Walt Truelson, founder of Truelson Associates.

Each team had eleven minutes to pitch their ideas. After the presentations, teams were evaluated and awarded

"They're all over the board: food, services, product, inventions. It's diverse because everyone has different ideas."

amounts to finance their operations. The goal is to create enough revenue to repay the loan by the end of the course.

This year, some ideas included selling vinyl stickers, organic soaps, hairbands, tutoring services, webpage marketing, student art, and sports products, among others.

"They're all over the board: food, services, product, inventions. It's diverse because everyone has different ideas," said Barram. "I tell them, if you create a product, it has to be something people will spend money on. It's as simple as that."

Todd Rotolo, one of the team leaders, knew his product would have to be something inventive to be successful. One of his group members had the idea for what Rotolo calls a "sports training aid."

"It helps players learn the proper mechanics of the swing," said Rotolo. His group received assistance from the engineering department on campus to develop a design.

"[The department] actually 3D printed a prototype for us. We would not have been able to do it without them," said Rotolo. "Having this prototype allowed us to sell it to the panelists on pitch day."

Once Rotolo and his group secure a patent for the device,

they will work on research and design.

"We're talking to some engineering labs, some sports science labs on materials, designs, aerodynamics, all these things that go into making it work," said Rotolo, "to make sure that it does indeed work the way we want it to, and that we can actually manufacture it."

Rotolo, though excited to see where the project goes, has simply been glad for the experience of working with a team.

"It's been fun working with [the group] and getting to figure out the dynamics of trying to run a business," he said.

Barram is also glad to see the students working together toward a common goal.

"I love to see businesses succeed, but more importantly I love to see people learn from what they're doing," said Barram. "They'll take that with them the rest of their lives."

Juniors Abroad and study abroad combine programing

By JESSICA RIVERA  
Crescent Staff

The George Fox University study abroad program has undergone several changes to provide students with more opportunities to travel.

Newly named Director for the Center of Study Abroad Paul Chamberlain has been involved with Juniors Abroad for 16 years.

Last fall, President Robin Baker approached Chamberlain about taking the role of combining Juniors Abroad and study abroad into one department.

Many of the programs have become more expensive, and George Fox needed to stay in their budget. Over the summer Chamberlain and President Baker collaborated to form a new proposal for the school year.

Though both programs have combined, the budget for Study Abroad has been refined.

George Fox will no longer cover airfare for students, and more expensive programs will have additional fees above room, board, and tuition.

"George Fox is definitely one of the most generous schools in the nation," said Chamberlain.

The new budget will extend the amount of students accepted into the program. In previous years about 60 students apply annually, but only around 30 get to go. Now, the program is shooting for 60 students to attend next year.

"The difference is more students can go, but some of the programs that they might want to go on will cost a lot of money," said Chamberlain. "However, there will be other programs that won't cost very much at all."

"That's the risk we took by increasing the cost—our hope is that more students will be able to go," said Chamberlain.

Currently Chamberlain is working on finding less expensive programs, and is in negotiations with two of their existing countries to lower the cost.

The next step for students is to apply before the deadline on Jan. 17. The selection committee will review applicants and select students who meet the requirements. Once the students are notified, an

application for the external study abroad program will need to be submitted. If accepted, the students can begin to plan their trip for the fall or spring.

"I'm passionate about getting students to try different cultures and see other parts of the world," said Chamberlain. "It's extremely rewarding. They don't just learn about it, they experience it."

For now, Chamberlain will continue to discuss decreasing costs and searching for cheaper programs with more opportunities.

"It's good for students to experience a different part of God's world," said Chamberlain.

**The Crescent**

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The Crescent has been a publication of the Associated Student Community since 1891.



## Bruins triumph at George Fox Classic

By JARED BEILBY  
Crescent Staff

The George Fox University women's basketball team opened their 2013-14 campaign by hosting the George Fox Classic on Nov. 16-17.

The Bruins, who were ranked number 24 in D3Hoops.com's preseason poll, played host to California Lutheran University, Wheaton College (Ill.), and Northwest Conference rival Linfield College.

"Wheaton's a solid team," said Michael Meek, George Fox's head coach. "I think it was a good early season test for us."

He also added that California Lutheran played well, especially since they have a new coach.

In their first game, the Bruins began strong and beat the California Lutheran Regals 88-59.

The Regals finished last season 23-5, but they couldn't stick with the Bruins, who were paced by senior Hayley Cusick's 17 points.

The next day, the Bruins

took on the Wheaton College Thunder (22-6 in 2012-13) in a 53-50 squeaker.

George Fox led by 12 at half-time, but Wheaton managed to chip away at the lead before missing a three-pointer at the buzzer.

"At the end of the day, we're going to have to make some plays to finish things off," Meek said. "I don't feel like we had done that, but I guess we did just enough to get [the Wheaton game] win and move forward."

Bruins senior Megan Arnoldy led the team with 14 points. Jordyn Peacock pulled down 11 rebounds for the Bruins.

Linfield College lost both their games, 74-57 to Wheaton and 69-61 versus Cal Lutheran. They played the Bruins on Saturday.

Linfield's Kaely Maltman led all scorers with 17.5 points per game. Cusick had the highest average among Bruins, with 14

points per game.

A week after the tournament, George Fox travelled down to California, where they defeated La Verne 76-45 and Chapman 65-62. As of Nov. 25, the Bruins sit with a 4-0 record. Two of the past three times George Fox began 4-0, they wound up in the NCAA Division III National Championship game.

Meek is optimistic for the remainder of the season.

"Right now, we're still trying to put some things together," he said. "We have a ton of upside and we can get better. I think our goal is clear and that is to win [the Northwest Conference] Championship."

Right after finals week, George Fox will host California-Santa Cruz on Dec. 21 and then Simpson (Calif.) on Dec. 22. Between Christmas and the New Year, the Bruins will travel to Trinity, Tex. to take part in the Trinity Christmas Classic.

## Q&A with Alyssa Montero

By JESSICA STANTON  
Crescent Staff

Senior Alyssa Montero has been the keeper for the women's soccer team for all four years of her collegiate career. She was re-awarded the Northwest Conference Women's Soccer Defensive Player of the Year for 2013, her third award in the NWC. Montero will end her college soccer career with 455 saves in 65 games.

What is your major?  
Organization Communication.

What position do you play?

Keeper—I have always been a keeper. My job is to save the ball from going in the net. I have always done it. I always wanted to be a keeper but not allowed because of height. It is a non-interchangeable position on the field. With 11 players on the field at all times, one of them has to always be a goalkeeper.

Have you had any leadership roles on the team?

I have been team captain my junior year, and I am captain this year as well. What that means is I have weekly meetings with the coach. I step up and choose to set an example with the girls on and off the team. Sometimes I lead captain practice days. With the new coach, Cory Hand, he brought a new soccer program to the team. With our previous coach, Andy Heatherington, he would pick the captains. This year Cory allowed the girls on the team to pick the captains. So I was voted by my teammates.

How has soccer shaped who you are?

I have learned valuable life skills: from time management, dedication, competition and have built friendships. Most of my good friends are soccer players. We experience things together.

What was this year's team like?

This year the team is different because of the coaching. Cory has taught about building from within the team leaders. He has told us, the team captains, that we need to work ourselves out of the job. Meaning, we need to help build leaders in the other girls. I think I have done that well. We are super close this year. We lost almost every game but we were there to pick each other back up. All of us girls were vulnerable with each other. This year was more



Senior keeper Alyssa Montero  
Photo by George Fox University

focused and everyone was open to team bonding. This year soccer meant more to me than in the past. I trained the same and communicate the same, but it meant more.

What do you love about being on the team?

I love that we are a family this year. It has been the best part and seeing how everyone wanted to grow as a team. The team was passionate about improving.

What is your favorite pastime?

Hanging out at the beach with friends. I am from Hermosa Beach, Calif., so naturally this is my favorite beach.

What is your dream?

I want to be with the people who make me happy. A 9-to-5 job cannot be that fulfilling. When I am looking for a job, I am looking in L.A. or here.

Will soccer be a part of your future?

I would like for soccer to be a part in some capacity. I have trained so much and put forth a ton of money. I do not want it to go to waste. It would be fun to be a goalkeeper coach.

Why is soccer important to you in one word?

Competition. I love soccer; it is my life. I couldn't have imagined not playing these last four years. I am always dying to win in warm-ups and practices. Soccer has taught me how to manage that competition. It is everywhere in life. I have learned in soccer to leave it all on the field.

## Tiffany Burk's long road to the court

By STACEY ADAMS  
Crescent Staff

To the George Fox University community, Tiffany Burk is known as the middle blocker on the women's volleyball team. However, volleyball was not Burk's first passion growing up.

From the ages of eight to thirteen, Burk was a dancer.

"I knew I wanted to be a ballerina," Burk said. "I went to camps all summer, six times a week. When I turned thirteen, that's when everything kind of changed."

At the age of thirteen, Burk's path was redirected when she broke her left foot. She tried to hop a fence after hearing a woman scream for help. While attempting to clear the fence, Burk's left foot got caught on the fence, causing her to lose her balance. She heard the bone snap on impact when she landed on the ground.

The next three years were spent in a series of casts and walking boots, with electric shock therapy and multiple doctor appointments. During this time, Burk was told that she would never dance again. The break in her foot was next to a movable joint.

"The doctors had never seen a break like mine before, and so

I became like a case study," Burk said. "They didn't want to do surgery because they thought it would make the break worse, and they weren't sure how to go about it. So everything that they did was like one big experiment for getting my foot to heal."



Tiffany Burk never expected to play volleyball  
Photo by STACEY ADAMS | The Crescent

After three years of no results and no healing, Burk was told that she could play through the pain, since no form of treatment was helping. After not being able to play sports all through middle school, she knew she would take the chance.

Burk knew she needed to play volleyball her freshman year of high school in order to

establish herself and build a foundation with the team.

"I went ahead and played on it my freshman year because I knew at that point I was never going to dance again," Burk said. "I needed something else. I needed something else to focus on, so I picked volleyball."

However, after her freshman season, the pain became unbearable, and Burk knew something needed to be done for her foot if she was going to continue playing. She was given two options: leave it alone or have surgery. Burk decided to take a chance.

Burk went through the surgery and healed up the summer before her sophomore year of high school, but wasn't able to heal before the season.

Since then, Burk has worked hard on and off the volleyball court to get to where she is today. Volleyball is now Burk's passion because she's had to work for it.

"It's almost more rewarding with volleyball because I wasn't natural at [it]," Burk said. "I want to take this as far as I can, even now. I'm not ready to be done after my senior year. I want to play overseas. I want to try to go for the Olympics."

## Women's JV basketball expands play

By JESSICA RIVERA  
Crescent Staff

The George Fox University women's JV basketball team will return to play an extended season after surpassing expectations last year.

Last season, the new program was more than successful, as the team finished 7-3. Last year the season ended before winter break but will now continue through January.

Head Coach G.C. Hillburn didn't know what to expect when the program started.

"They had high expectations and wanted to play at a level that was higher than just intramural," said Hillburn.

The players motivated and pushed him to reach a new level of coaching. The team chemistry was a key component to their success. Hillburn said they "really did become greater than the sum of their parts."

"At first I wasn't sure about

it because it was a JV team, and I've never played JV," said sophomore guard Asia Greene. "I was nervous, but the department took it very seriously."

This season will showcase five returners and six newcomers.

"I really am excited about the team I have this year," said Hillburn. "I think we've upgraded in terms of the level of raw talent that we have coming in."

The tougher competition this season will include a community college schedule similar to last year. However, the program swapped out easy wins for tougher teams. The team will also play a double header against Simpson University's JV team and their varsity squad.

With the amount of talent and improvement some of the players have shown, Hillburn believes he has a number of players who may have a chance

for a varsity spot in the future.

Hillburn emphasized that playing JV is more than just a level above recreational basketball.

"It's a real basketball team," said Hillburn. "It's college basketball. It's competitive, fun to watch, and a high level of execution. The kids that are on the floor have talent and have put in enough work that they're a polished product."

During games, Hillburn said to look for aggressiveness, charges, rebounds, and fast breaks.

"We're going to try and score points this year just in transitions and how we run our fast break," said Hillburn.

The team played their home opener against Portland Community College and fell 65-56. Their last game was against Clackamas Community College at the Thanksgiving Invitational on Nov. 29.

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McLain was stationed in Afghanistan from May 2010 till June 2013

# A VETERAN AMONG BRUINS

Photo courtesy of **HEIDI McLAIN** | George Fox University



Photo courtesy of **HEIDI McLAIN** | George Fox University



Photo courtesy of **HEIDI McLAIN** | George Fox University

By **EMILY HAMILTON**  
Crescent Staff

The decision to go into the military is often a hard one to make. Heidi McLain, an Air Force veteran and a transfer student at George Fox, was faced with that decision.

"I chose the military because both my father and grandfather were in the military," explained McLain. "I had felt for several years prior that the Lord was leading me in that direction. I signed a contract with the United States Air Force. I chose this branch because my father was in the Air Force, and I had heard it was the best branch for females."

A 1N3-Cryptological Linguist while in the military, McLain was deployed in Afghanistan from May of 2010 to June of 2013 as a civilian.

"I was stationed at several different provinces inside Afghanistan including Kunar, Nangrahar, Ghazni, and Wardak. I went out on missions with my teams and helped translate between US troops and local Afghans," said McLain.

Soon after McLain joined the military, she found the work to be grueling.

"Sometimes, it just sucks. There is no way around it," said McLain. But the rewards are worth the effort.

"My most rewarding experience

during my time in Afghanistan was my work with the Female Engagement Team while in Ghazni," she said. "On one occasion, we had been allowed to go out on a patrol with one of the infantry units through several local villages. A young boy came to me, and told me that he had seen some men bury a bomb in the road where we were walking the day before. He showed our guys

**"I signed a contract with the United States Air Force... I had heard it was the best branch for females."**

the location and our dog confirmed there was a bomb there. That kid saved some lives."

During McLain's time in Afghanistan, she made a deep connection with a fellow translator named Hameed.

"He became my brother. Over that yearlong period, he helped me adjust to the local dialects of Pashto and I helped him out with his English, including the word 'dude' which he thought was hilarious,"

she said. "His father was killed by the Taliban several years ago, and he was supporting his mother and sister by working with U.S. troops. It was from him I learned of the many people in the world under names of other faiths, even Islam, who have a genuine relationship with, and desire to serve, God."

In the future McLain hopes to use her experiences with the military to assist soldiers coming back from overseas with a degree in psychology.

"I felt like God laid it on my heart to use my experiences as military, and with military, to help soldiers coming back from deployment," she said. "It's a rough time; it doesn't matter who you are. Some of our guys see some really messed up things and struggle with it. Those are the people I want to help, because I saw them too."

For McLain, the military was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

"I know people are scared away from the military because of the prospect of boot camp, family opinion, or fear of going to war, but I really would recommend it. I cannot say enough good things about the opportunities it provided me. Anyone looking, come talk to me!"

## Chehalem Symphony debuts Brent Weaver's "A Farewell Overture"

By **EMILY HAMILTON**  
Crescent Staff

On Nov. 17, the Chehalem Symphony, an orchestra made up of George Fox students, teachers, and community members, performed a concert in Bauman Auditorium.

The concert featured three pieces: a concerto for cello composed by Robert Shuman, Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony #5 in D Major, and "A Farewell Overture" composed by George Fox's own Dr. Brent Weaver, the associate professor of Music Theory and Composition.

The performance of "A Farewell Overture" was a world premiere.

"It was great to have so many students actually in on the first performance of this new piece," said Weaver. "Usually when I have a new piece performed it's somewhere else, but having it performed here was really special... it's a very generous act of love for musicians to work to bring this to reality."

The piece was also unique and special in its purpose.

"I wrote a brief electronic piece last year as a tribute to my dad," Weaver said. "I wanted to write a more lyrical piece that honored him, and he passed away after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease in late September, just as I was finishing the score. I tried to portray his upbeat, cheerful spirit and the nature of the thing he was fighting."

Despite the piece's sad nature, Weaver insists focusing on the brighter side.

"It's strange to think of a work of art about someone dying as optimistic, but I think this one is. [It's] a glimpse of a life lived well," he said.

The performance of the piece impacted everyone who played it.

"We all feel really privileged to be a part of something so special. It feels wonderful to know that we joined Brent in something that is bigger than just ourselves. Who knows who

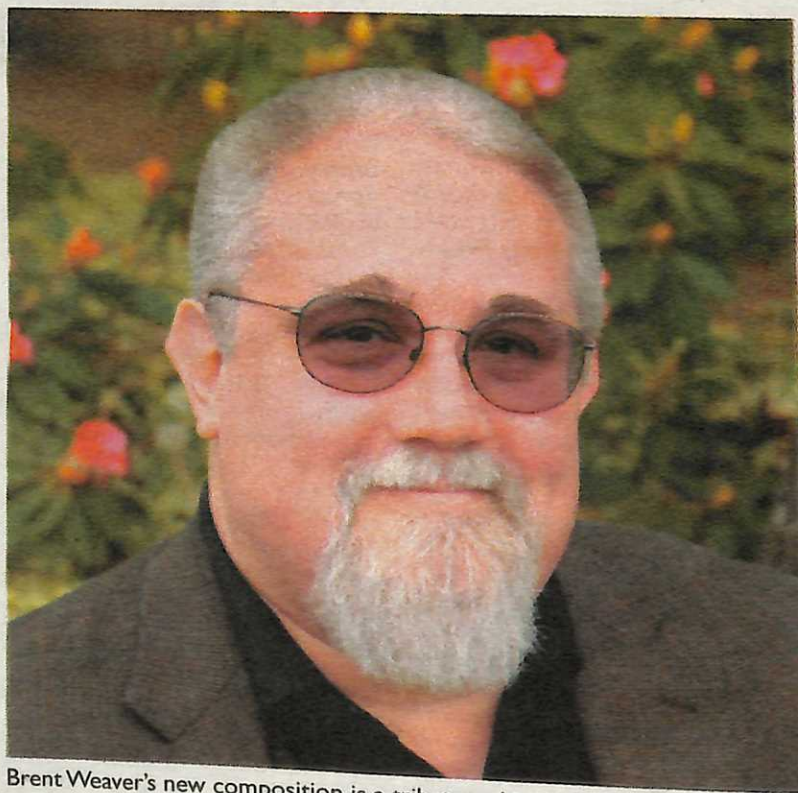
will play this piece in years to come?" said cellist Casey Hastings, a student in her first year with the Chehalem Symphony.

In addition to the performance of "A Farewell Overture," the concert also featured soloist Valdine Ritchie Mishkin, also a music professor at GFU, on cello.

"Valdine Mishkin sounded beautiful. That was a really great experience for me, to see my cello teacher play this incredibly difficult concerto with such passion and artistry," said Hastings.

Overall, the concert was a celebration of music and community.

"For me, music is a reminder that our souls are all crafted by the same God," Hastings said. "My deepest hope is that my music gives people a moment of beauty or pleasure, and gets them to think about who they are, who their neighbor is, and [ultimately] who God is."



Brent Weaver's new composition is a tribute to his late father

Photo courtesy of **GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY**



# Christmas in PORTLAND

By **EMILY LUND**  
Crescent Staff

If you firmly believe that these few weeks before Christmas are the most wonderful time of the year, then you're in luck—a drive north is your ticket to a holiday extravaganza.

No, not to the North Pole, but someplace a little closer: Portland, Ore. Everyone's favorite weird city provides Northwesterners with plenty of opportunities to spread the Christmas spirit.

With this wide variety of holiday options, it's almost impossible to not enjoy the most wonderful time of the year!



Photo courtesy of **JULIA QLEINIK**

The Grotto, a Catholic shrine and botanical garden, also hosts a spectacularly lit Christmas celebration. Their Christmas Festival of Lights features nightly choral concerts, puppet shows, carolers, a petting zoo, and, of course, hot chocolate. The walk, which runs through the various lighted areas, is approximately a quarter mile in the nighttime cold, so dress accordingly! Admission is \$9, and guests are asked to bring canned or dry foods for food bank donations. To find out more, visit [thegrotto.org/christmas](http://thegrotto.org/christmas).



Photo courtesy of **RICHTPT**

At the Oregon Zoo, you can wander through a wonderland of Christmas lights, drink some hot chocolate, and check out some amazing animals for just \$10. ZooLights runs every night of the week, with the gates opening at 5 p.m. and guests allowed on the grounds until 9 p.m. (9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday). For more information, visit the official ZooLights site at [oregonzoo.org/visit/zoolights](http://oregonzoo.org/visit/zoolights).



Photo courtesy of **MCMLEAGUE**

What shouts Christmas more than some good old-fashioned ice skating? At the Lloyd Center, it's easy to take a break from shopping for friends and family and unleash your skating skills. For hours and admission times, check out the ice rink's official site at [lloydcenterice.com](http://lloydcenterice.com).



Photo courtesy of **ELIOT NEIGHBORHOOD**

If the fine arts are more to your liking, then consider attending a performance of Portland Playhouse's "A Christmas Carol." Don't worry about breaking the bank: for a cheaper deal on tickets, choose to sit on the sides of the auditorium. For more information and to snatch up some tickets, visit [portlandplayhouse.org/event/a-christmas-carol](http://portlandplayhouse.org/event/a-christmas-carol).

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## Student Profile

Name: Jason Wilson

Year: Senior

Major: Cinema and Media Communication

Advice to underclassmen: Foster relationships... in other words, network.

By **TORI NUNNENKAMP**  
Crescent Staff

Jason Wilson is majoring in Cinema and Media Communication, after transferring to George Fox University two years ago.

He first went to community college and obtained a multi-media two-year degree. Some upper-division classes were satisfied, but most general education credits were not.

He is now a senior, graduating in December, a semester later than he would have liked. His previous credits helped expedite getting his bachelor's degree at George Fox, though the future is a little more uncertain.

"Grad school for me is unrealistic at this point because it's a huge [financial] commitment towards going a certain direction," Wilson said.

Still, he has plenty of experience already to give him a head start in a job search. In the spring semester of 2013 Wilson got the chance to work with a business professor at George Fox to produce an educational film. He was the producer on a crew of five.

"Internships have given me a good look of how the whole production process works, how to work with a client, meet deadlines," he said.

The classes he has taken have helped prepare him to work in the field, but the practical experience immersed him in the myriad of details in production, including the

painstaking work of business ethics.

Even his part-time jobs in the Communication and Media Departments have bolstered his experience in basic office skills.

Now, he is still exploring all of the possible directions he can go.

"I'm a triple emphasis major, so I have production, audio engineering, and multi-media design animation, so with all three of those, it's a wide-open field into anything," Wilson said.

Possible employers could range from tiny not-for-profits to big networks, all of which need dedication. For Wilson, the perfect job depends on the feel of the company, whether it manages two or two hundred employees.

"A dream job would be working at someplace like Skywalker Sound in California," he said.

His advice to students set to graduate in a semester or two? Foster personal relationships—in other words, network. Wilson makes a point to repeat that a single personal connection is better than throwing business cards on desks of potential employers.

Once you begin to get the attention of employers, be sure to work hard, be conscious of your workload, and be respectful of the time of other people.

From experience, Wilson said, "The biggest thing is just having a positive attitude and being willing to try."



# Dating faux pas: DTR the coward's way

By **RYAN LACKEY**  
Crescent Staff

While the concepts of the friend zone and DTRs aren't unique to George Fox, they do seem to be particularly pervasive. Relationships are paramount here, both romantic and otherwise. We live on an incredibly social campus; you're supposed to be known, and being known involves finding someone to date and marry.

One could then see the friend zone phenomenon at George Fox as merely a result of the hyper-romanticized atmosphere. After all, with more relationships come more failed relationships, more women and men who like you, but not really. And all these false starts lead to the DTRs – how else is that special someone supposed to bludgeon and sear your heart in the most Christian manner possible?

This is a nice theory, but in actuality this culture of platonic relationships is a direct reaction to contemporary hookup culture. It's an example of Christian isolationism, Christians pulling away from the world subconsciously: if the secular world is hypersexualized, if romance and dating has devolved into meaningless, easy sex, then by golly, we'll go the

opposite direction!

George Fox students, especially men (I recognize and support the fact that men aren't always the pursuers; however, for clarity's sake, I'll stick to stereotypes), are so sensitive to the sexual stereotype of college guys that they go to extreme lengths to appear absolutely asexual. Better to seem androgynous than a horny guy with a sexual appetite. It's obviously more Christian that way.

What we're left with, then, are men who in their over-the-top efforts to seem uninterested in sex fail to establish their intentions. There's obviously a very distinct line between being romantically interested in someone and being interested only in stripping off their clothes; but this point, it seems, is lost on George Fox students. And the lack of socially typical signs and signals confuse those being pursued – how can you blame a woman for considering you as only a friend when your terror of being thought deviant paralyzes you, prevents you from ever making a move or attempting to show your true feelings?

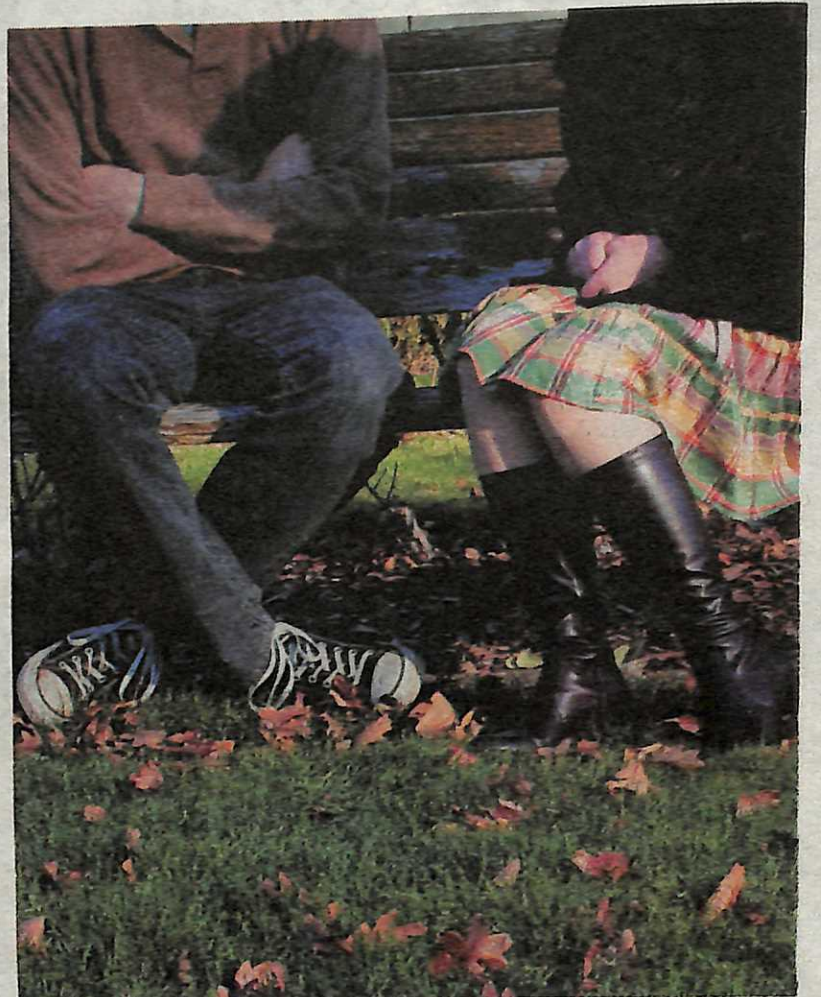
What results is the hilarious and ridiculous DTR: women so exasperated that they actually have to sit the man down

and discuss the relationship because he's been so opaque and coy regarding his own feelings. Goodness, guys, don't we complain often enough about the incomprehensible signals girls send? Well, at least they have the courage to send them!

Showing your feelings, your physical attraction, towards someone isn't being sleazy or participatory in an overblown sociocultural phenomenon. It's a declaration of honesty and vulnerability. You aren't being pure, righteous, or moral by remaining reserved, and you certainly aren't being Christian. You're being ignorant and cowardly.

You can treat a woman respectfully and kindly while still maintaining the boldness and confidence that's crucial, not just when finding someone to love, but also in living authentically. Slipping an arm around someone or leaning in for a kiss isn't akin to slamming a few shots and peeling off clothing.

Don't let a relationship become muddled and confused—be just and considerate and true to yourself. Offer your truest self and be absolutely honest about your intentions.



The DTR can be a stressful moment for both individuals

Photo by **KELLY TOMS** | The Crescent

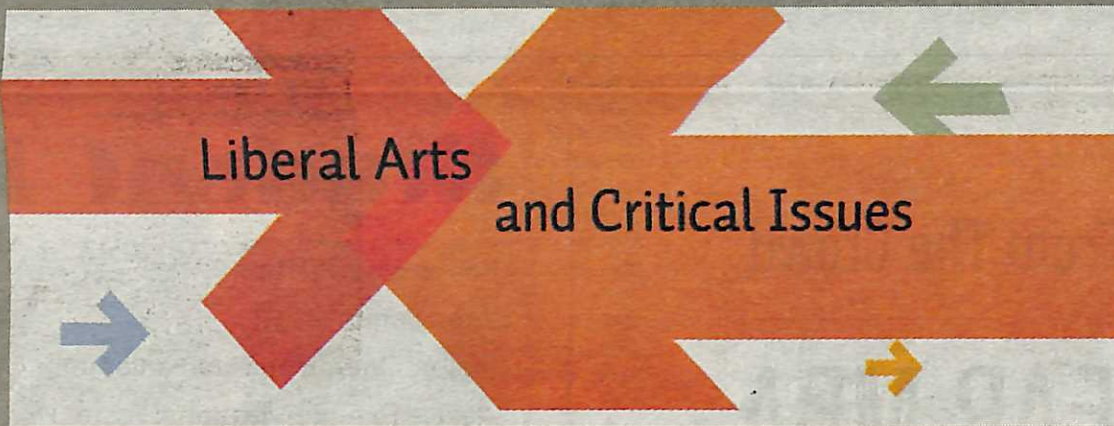
## Liberal Arts and Critical Issues tries, falls short of goals

By **TORI NUNNENKAMP**  
Crescent Staff

During most of the Liberal Arts and Critical Issues lectures I attended this semester, I tried to keep myself amused. I drew the line at checking Facebook in class, but I did make a list of things I could be doing in place of LACI: rollerblading, finishing the day's crossword puzzle, or knitting scarves for the homeless.

I think all of those options would make me an equally well-rounded person. LACI falls just short of rounding out our liberal arts education, though not for lack of good intentions.

I understand the faculty's desire for students to have a united experience at George Fox; if we simply went to our separate departments after freshman seminar, it would be harder to "Be Known" by any of the other majors. Only those people who switch majors would be able to dispel the



The LACI logo is a common sight to seniors. LACI is an education requirement for all students

Photo courtesy of **GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY**

rumors that one department or another brews Polyjuice Potions or keeps ogres in the basement.

But even though the class aims to unify our majors at the end of our George Fox career, in the end it feels lopsided. Without a corresponding class in our first year, a final push

to think globally doesn't feel natural.

The topics for LACI fall semester were interesting choices but far too broad for only ten lectures. I applaud those people who can compress Rwandan cook stoves, Japanese culture shock, and Cuban women's issues into a

single semester.

Unfortunately, I felt pulled from one continent to the next without a chance to catch my breath. The topics we discussed were worldwide but an inch deep. They leave me wanting more in-depth discussions, rather than a different subject every week.

Here's a suggestion: bring in some George Fox professors to talk about their passions, even if those topics fall outside of the classes they teach. Perhaps we could even let each LACI class focus on one issue in the world that needs solutions from multiple disciplines.

Although discussing the state of the world makes us well-informed students on the cusp of graduating into the real workplace, could we also talk about the practical aspects of obtaining a liberal arts degree? How are we different for attending a liberal arts university? After graduation, how do we find a job and, beyond that, contentment?

If we asked a few more probing questions, if we brought the huge subject of the world down to a personal level, we could learn a lot more about our own place in it.

## The top 10 worst Christmas songs

By **ANNA BRAMSON**  
Crescent Staff

It's the hap-happiest season of all.

That remains one of the truest statements about Christmas. Along with the fact that Starbucks Christmas drinks make waking up Monday mornings a bit easier; it is now socially acceptable to quote the movie "Elf," and we get about three weeks off for Christmas break.

There is nothing really to complain about this holiday season. I mean, there is one thing: just one small thing that seems to get overlooked every year. I'm talking about Christmas music. That stuff people start playing right after Halloween, before we even take our costumes off.

What happened to Thanksgiving?

Anyway, I'm here to talk about the top ten worst Christmas songs. Now, I will apologize ahead of time if anyone's all-time favorites appear on this list. This is not the end-all be-all list, just a plethora of songs I could easily do without each year. I hope we can still be friends when this is over.

Starting off the list at number 10 is "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" by Gayla Peevey. Let's just think about the reality of a child asking for a hippopotamus for Christmas. I mean, while it's a real possibility, I think we can safely say that Santa has not been delivering a large supply.

9. "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" by Elmo and Patsy. What about this song spreads Christmas cheer? Grandma drank too much eggnog and stumbled out of

the house unnoticed. Where was Grandpa? The fact this song has an annoying twang doesn't help much either.

8. "Jingle Bell Rock" by the Chipmunks. I think I can safely put all and every song the Chipmunks sing on this list but I don't have enough room. I have nothing against the Jingle Bell Rock itself, but when three squeaky fictional characters are singing it to me, suddenly it loses its—well, it just loses everything it had going for it.

7. "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth" by Michael Bublé and Elmo. Now Michael Bublé on his own is fantastic, but what went through his mind when he thought singing a song with Elmo would be a good idea? Elmo doesn't even have teeth.

See **SONGS** | page 8

## Student Twitter out of hand

By **STACEY ADAMS**  
Crescent Staff

One way that students communicate with each other or try to vent about their stress is through social media.

It is a common practice that individuals get braver because they are able to hide behind their computer screens and do not have to necessarily own up to what they post on the Internet.

Within the George Fox community, we've seen this through the Facebook pages "Anonymous at Fox" and "Overheard at Fox." However, now the social media community of George Fox has spread its wings to Twitter.

At the beginning of November, two new Twitter accounts popped up under the names of @GeorgeFoxGirl, created on Nov. 1, and @GeorgeFoxBoy,

created on Nov. 3. Both of these Twitter accounts tweet about the stereotypical behaviors that one would assume a student attending George Fox University would have.

On Nov. 6, @GeorgeFoxBoy tweeted: "Skipping class . . . to go to chapel #GFB."

It seems that these Twitter accounts were created to mock what George Fox students face on a daily basis, whether it be chapel, schoolwork, sports, or relationships. However, these accounts take it one step too far and have posted some pretty controversial thoughts that would make anyone uncomfortable.

On Nov. 8, @GeorgeFoxGirl tweeted: "Blowjobs because sex is immoral #GFGirl!"

On Nov. 4, @GeorgeFoxBoy

See **TWITTER** | page 8



## That unsure, awkward phase

By LEVI BOWERS  
Crescent Staff

This year's Liberal Arts and Critical Issues (LACI) presentations were rather interesting. There were creative styles, from well-done posters to monitors and even a paper mâché elephant head. Of course, it is entirely possible that I just found them interesting because many of the presenters were people I knew and I wanted to be supportive.

These presentations show a different side of the senior class than I am used to seeing. There in the hallway of the Hoover Academic Building and in the atrium of the Edwards-Holman Science Center (EHS) stood rows of well-dressed young adults facing the world and its issues. This is not always the case.

I have many friends who are seniors this year. Whenever the subject of graduation is brought up, a multitude of responses tends to follow, everything from frustration at having to wait any longer all the way to outright denial.

Some people have even found a sort of awkward middle ground. These individuals are ready to be out of school

but are almost afraid to leave because they just do not know what they are going to do with themselves afterwards. To these people, the future is like the sun: bright and shiny but just way too hot/far away to touch.

Only being a junior myself, I can just offer minor advice, like focus on the moment and do not forget to stop for a minute and laugh. Perhaps, instead of worrying about what the

"...we take ourselves just a bit too seriously and learning to simply laugh at ourselves can be a humbling experience."

future holds, it may be a better idea to just worry about what is needed now. That could be anything from the need to eat a grilled cheese sandwich or the need to attend to friendships. Both are very important activities.

And what are these  
See PHASE | page 8

## Classroom film misrepresents facts

By RYAN LACKEY  
Crescent Staff

One of George Fox's Environmental Science classes recently showed a documentary during a lab period, which isn't inherently odd or unusual.

Often, the complex concepts and relationships taught in a science class— even a 100-level class— require visual support to properly explain. This documentary, however, was neither scientific nor illuminating.

In fact, "The Great Global Warming Swindle," which originally aired on Britain's Channel Four, was not only labelled by the scientific community as factually incorrect but, upon release, garnered heavy criticism from The Guardian, the University of Reading, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the British Antarctic Survey, among others. Two of the scientists who appeared in the film, Eigil Friis-Christensen and Carl Wunsch, publicly denounced the film and claimed they'd been "duped" into participating.

Contrary to widely-held scientific consensus, the film asserted that global warming is entirely natural, an uptick in

the regular rise and fall of world temperatures. Additionally, the film states carbon dioxide emissions are not a worrisome factor and that other phenomena mainstream scientists label as warning signs— reduced ozone, destruction of rainforests, melting ice caps— are either common or nonexistent.

Paradoxically, the film also asserts that global warming doesn't exist at all, that temperatures and other data have been skewed to fit a particular political agenda. This sort of conspiracy theory is akin to claiming the moon landing was faked or that Lyndon Johnson had Kennedy killed.

Towards the conclusion, the film has the audacity to refer to environmentally concerned citizens as "anti-human" and places all the blame upon them for African poverty; apparently, the only thing preventing Africa from being a prosperous continent are restrictions on fossil fuels.

While the film is laughably terrible, the decision to show it in class is far more reprehensible. The ostensible purpose of an environmental science course is to teach students the

science of the biosphere and our role in protecting it. To show impressionable students, many of whom have little prior background with such denialists, a film that not only dismisses global warming but calls those who are concerned "anti-human" is a moral failing of the highest degree.

College students pay exorbitant sums to be taught, to learn, to continue in the great tradition of pursuing veritas. By presenting this "documentary" as fact, the class and its instructor have failed to enact the duty of an educator: to form better human beings. What's more, they've robbed the students of their time, their money, and their trust.

Altering or constructing a course to fit a certain agenda is indefensible; it's intellectual embezzlement. As college students, our fight is waged against ignorance; we strive to enlighten ourselves and those around us. Though some people still stubbornly insist on remaining in the dark, we cannot allow such academic lethargy to infect the next generation of scholars, leaders, and teachers.

## Canyon cyclists and pedestrians need to be more mindful of each other

By DREW SURGEON  
Crescent Staff

It happens almost every day: when I walk down the canyon on my way to class, suddenly and without warning comes a swish of air and then ZING! Another student on a bicycle comes zipping past me, taking advantage of the gravity that a downhill slope affords wheeled vehicles. He or she cuts it pretty close, often missing me by as little as two feet before speeding off to wherever they need to go.

This is the state of affairs in the canyon which divides George Fox University in half. I am confident that at this point in life whoever is riding the bicycle is probably experienced enough and has enough years under their belt to be a responsible and safe cyclist.

Nevertheless, when a cyclist

zips past me without so much as a warning yell, I sometimes get nervous that I could one day be hit. Fortunately, there have been only a few accidents in the canyon, but in order to prevent further accidents it may be a good idea to have some guidelines in place.

A potential solution I see to this problem is pretty simple: if you happen to be riding a bike down the canyon, show some common courtesy and give a warning yell to the people walking before you pass them on your way to work or class. In addition to this, try to give pedestrians more room, at least six feet because you never know in which direction they may move when you warn them. Be prepared to give them a wide zone.

As for pedestrians, you can help by not walking five to a side as you traverse the canyon.

It is hard to feel sympathy towards pedestrians walking in the canyon when half a dozen people walk side by side and prevent cyclists from having adequate room to navigate past them safely.

The stairs do exist for a reason, although understandably their architecture is so unusual as to be impractical. At most, I would suggest you should walk three to a side to ensure an unobstructed flow of traffic.

With these simple guidelines, the canyon should be a safer place to walk or ride a bicycle in. The canyon is an important hub of traffic between the campus and the residential areas, so just use some common sense and we can all avoid any further mishaps.



While bicycles offer convenient transportation, riders must remain respectful to fellow students

Photo by KELLY TOMS | The Crescent

## NCAA coaching rules too stringent

By EMILY HAMILTON  
Crescent Staff

Spring athletes are currently training without coaches because of guidelines established by National Collegiate Athletic Association bylaws 17.1.2 and 17.1.3.

After completing a six-week practice period in the fall, spring athletes are now training on their own until regular season begins in the spring.

In this area the NCAA has overstepped its boundaries; this rule does not prevent practice from happening, nor does it prevent coaches from being involved in their athletes' athletic activities.

The NCAA should not try to regulate these training periods so strictly. Upon signing on to participate in a sport at the collegiate level, an athlete should expect to practice, in some form or another, for the entire academic year. This does not mean intensive work every single day, but it does mean some form of technique training, or even light physical

maintenance, to keep them healthy for the regular season.

This of course would not mean giving academic institutions free reign to make their athletes practice an unreasonable or harmful amount. Instead, regulating the number of hours an athlete is allowed to practice in a day, or creating rules to protect athletes from overwork during final exams or during school breaks, would be perfectly acceptable.

In its current configuration, the NCAA is simply making it tedious for athletes to practice, but in no way preventing it.

With personal workout schedules and captain practices, athletic programs will find a way to keep their athletes in good physical form and ready for the upcoming season, despite any rules.

The NCAA classifies these two organized periods as traditional, regular season, and non-traditional, out of season, segments. Spring sports are limited to 19 weeks of organized practice, but upon

speaking to any spring athlete on campus, one would find most of them have been practicing in one way or another from the very first day of school.

This is a good thing for athletes; it keeps them in good physical shape for the upcoming regular season, allowing them to start their very first competition in top form. Without practice, athletes would spend most of the regular season trying to reach peak performance. In addition, exercise is a great stress reliever in a college environment.

Overall, the NCAA has gone too far in this area of rule-making. Instead of creating laws that are helpful to athletes, it has created a swamp of guidelines with easy loopholes, which are annoying to both athletes and coaches. The NCAA should focus on what is best for student athletes and create laws that protect them from overwork, but not in a way that impairs their training or performance.

## Study abroad: The options

By SAM ENGELMAN  
Crescent Staff

International studies majors are required to spend at least one semester abroad. This should be an enlightening, fun, and useful experience. To make the process as easy as possible, George Fox has created a list of "GFU approved" programs and locations. These range from Russia to Senegal, locations representing the various languages offered at George Fox and usually fitting with students' goals of living or working in that area of the world.

What if you're a little unconventional, though? What if your goal is so unique, so personalized, that George Fox has no program that fits? Are you forced to come to terms with four months in England when you want to work in Kazakhstan, or in my case the Middle East? Or what if you don't want to study international studies at all?

Luckily for the determined expatriate, you have an option, thousands to be exact. The truth is that if you put your mind to it you can study abroad in almost

every country, regardless of your major or future goals.

I personally am a double major in finance and international studies, a weird combination, and then I want to live and work in the Middle East. This means I have to take Arabic, which is not offered at George Fox, and there is no study abroad program that allows me to take finance classes.

So, I put my mind to finding a solution, and after many emails and a meeting or two with the registrar's office I found a solution: The American University of Sharjah, a U.S.-accredited university in the United Arab Emirates.

I can take finance classes and Arabic classes while satisfying my study abroad requirement. This will also give me a chance to meet people in the area and make business contacts.

The point is that no matter how strange your passion may be, you can create a truly personalized international experience at George Fox: with the proper amount of determination, of course.



**RESTROOM:** New unisex restrooms in Klages Dining Hall  
Continued from page 1

with "X's" over specific gender symbols. The markings were immediately removed by university staff. In addition to being an act of vandalism, this action brought pain to members of our community. This kind of action has no place in a community like ours.

We believe that all people are of great worth and value in the eyes of our Creator God and seek to increasingly become a campus characterized by loving support of one another (even when we disagree). Cultural humility and civility means that we seek to understand and appreciate others who are different from ourselves. Language and/or behavior that relies on stereotypes or is demeaning toward individuals or groups of individuals is unacceptable for George Fox students and employees, whether it occurs in person, through social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) or anonymously."

Members of Common Ground gave this statement to the Crescent staff. "The university was good about getting the sign cleaned promptly, but as soon as we became aware of the sign defacing, we saw this as a blatant act of transphobia intended to make a marginalized minority group on campus feel unwelcome and hated. Because of our conviction that transgender accommodations are crucial for GFU to be a more welcoming place, and because we believe any act made to devalue the transgender population at GFU is abhorrent, we felt it necessary to take action to reverse this display of negativity."

Common Ground held a peaceful protest Friday afternoon. They were also able to meet with administration to discuss the next steps of action.

**SONGS:** Some Christmas songs need to not be played.  
Continued from page 6

6. "Funky, Funky, Xmas" by New Kids on the Block. The '80s are alive and well in this song. Maybe that's why they lost me in the first eight seconds. But it's sort of like a train wreck: you just can't stop listening. Have a funky, funky Christmas.

5. "All I want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey. Nothing personal against Mariah Carey; this song just takes me back to my middle school days when we had to do a performance to this song on our dance team. The only '90s Christmas music that is acceptable is N'Sync's Christmas albums. Everyone knows this.

4. "Santa Baby" by Madonna. I can't. I just can't make it past the first two words without wincing. Her voice gets under my skin. Family friendly song? I think not.

3. "Baby It's Cold Outside" by Dolly Parton and Rob Stewart. Oh my word, skip! Christmas can go on without this little number ever getting radio time. Their voices don't mesh well and it can't stand up next to Zooey Deschanel and Will Ferrell's rendition in "Elf"; but no one's really can.

2. "12 Days of Christmas" by whoever and everyone who has ever sung this song. No one really enjoys it; you're just put in a trance so you have to listen to the whole thing. And when you try and sing it back later you can't seem to get past day five without forgetting something. Talk about frustrating.

Drum-roll please...number one has to go to the Biebs.

1. "Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber. I will admit I had the Bieber fever once upon a time but I've recovered. We love to hate on Justin, but he asks for it. I can't seem to listen to this song without cringing a little on the inside and the outside.

If I have offended you in any way, I am not a Christmas song/holiday/anything that has to do with this time of year hater. I love to "jingle all the way" and have myself a "merry little Christmas" as much as the next person.

So with that, I hope you all have a wonderful holiday full of cheer and festive music: the good stuff of course.

**TWITTER:** GF Boy and GF Girl tweets get out of hand  
Continued from page 6

tweeted: "I brought my sombrero . . . do I make the soccer team? #GFBoy."

Both these accounts have pushed the boundaries, both sexually and racially.

At first, it seemed that both accounts were going to be intended for good, fun humor, until these tweets emerged in their feeds.

Both accounts look very similar in the content and ways in which they post. The only difference is that the girl account posts more frequently than the boy account. This makes me think that the same person is running both accounts, and may just favor speaking out on the girl account more.

It appears that this person, whoever that may be, is not only starving for attention, but is also trying to address what is bugging them in the wrong way.

Hiding behind the computer screen under an anonymous alias is not the way to approach anything that you want to see changed—no matter what today's popular shows depict.

This is especially true when it comes to offending other students' ethnicity.

These Twitter accounts are in no way a reflection of what George Fox students are as a whole and make a joke of controversial issues that are funny in no form.

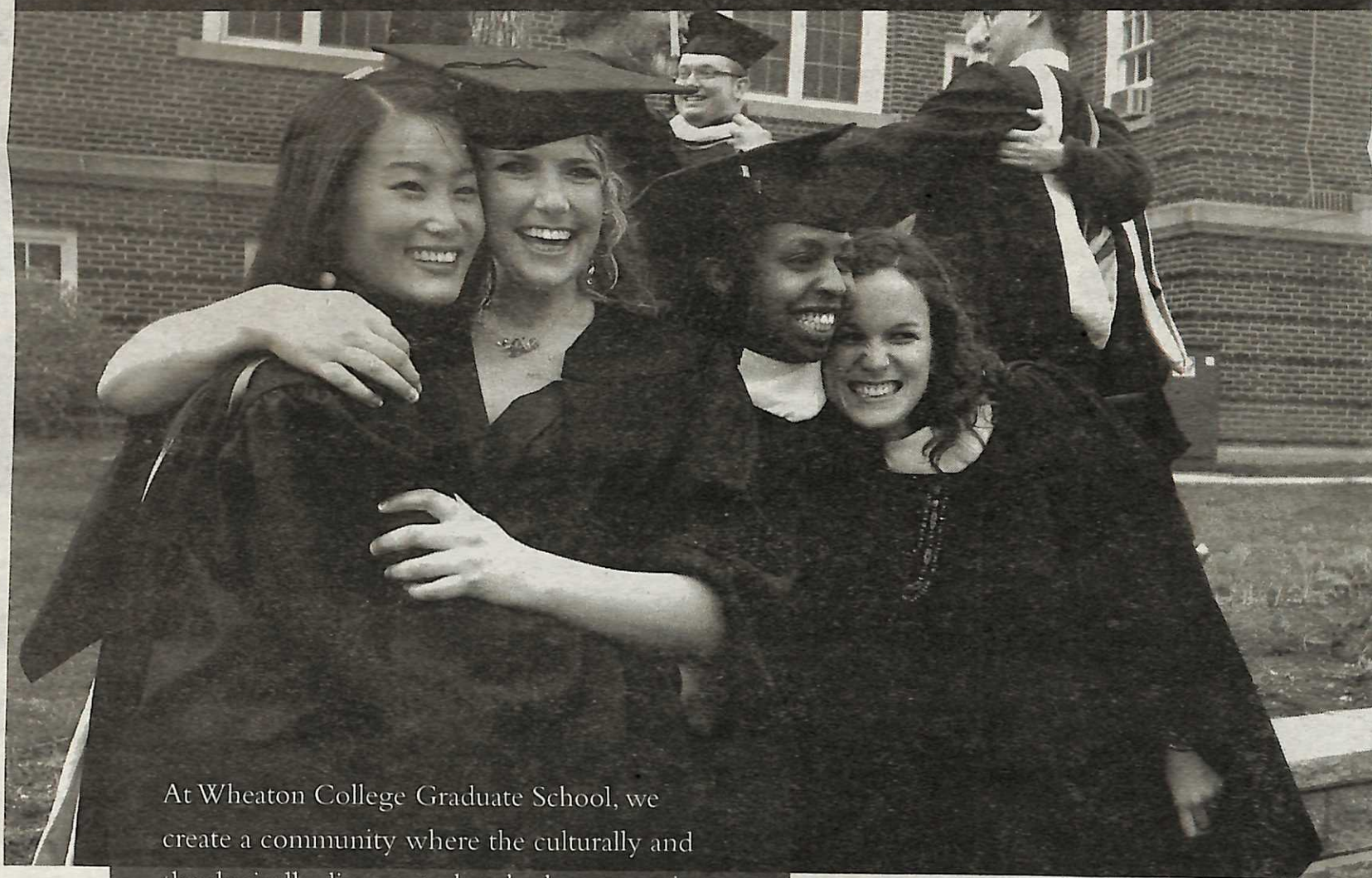
**PHASE:** The next steps in life should be taken with laughter  
Continued from page 7

moments without laughter every now and again? Sometimes we take ourselves just a bit too seriously and learning to simply laugh at ourselves can be a humbling experience. Plus, think of the endorphins that are released when we laugh!

Sure, this advice is a bit cliché, but that does not make it bad advice. How it is used is what really matters.

While viewing the LACI presentations, I saw a group of capable individuals. Maybe they do not all have it all together, but that is fine. Who really has life all figured out anyway?

## ACADEMIC RIGOR + SERVANTHOOD



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