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The Crescent

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

fashion

Page 4

May Term, Page 3 | Track and Field, Page 8 | Studying Abroad, Page 8



By Ian Snively

Photo by Shelby Bauer

In the Oregonian's recent article cataloging the best tacos on 99W, Dos Mundos Food Cart was featured as serving "one of the state's best fish tacos," and earned the No. 1 spot on the newspaper's list.

Eddie Rodriguez works with his father, chef Jesús Rodriguez, and his mother, Miriam Rodriguez, at the recently opened Dos Mundos Food Cart. The cart stands in the parking lot outside the Starbucks.

Dos Mundos Food Cart's Facebook page says their restaurant serves "authentic Oaxacan style dishes with an

American twist." They prepare a variety of dishes from enchiladas and fish tacos to other delicacies such as alligator and cricket tacos.

Jesús, his wife, and his son opened the restaurant on May 22, 2016. Jesús had experience working in Californian restaurants and Miriam brought her knowledge of traditional Oaxacan recipes as they prepared their menu.

At first, the Rodriguez family had doubts about Dos Mundos's survival.

"We weren't sure how things were going to turn out," said Rodriguez. "We were a little bit nervous. We've had some thoughts of

closing down."

The food cart gained statewide attention after a few months, however. In Sept. 2016, Dos Mundos was featured in the Wall Street Journal, along with several other Newberg businesses.

"That was a huge deal for us. My mom and my dad were both happy, but we didn't necessarily expect what was going to happen next," Eddie Rodriguez said.

Within a few weeks, the Rodriguez family saw a significant increase in customers. They had about 125 people a day come in wanting to try their tacos, said Eddie.

When the Oregonian rated Dos Mundos's fish tacos as the best taco on Highway 99W, the small business saw another increase in customer numbers.

Rodriguez said his family enjoys Newberg for its farmland and wineries, and they hope to continue serving the community in the future.

"We want to stay here," said Rodriguez. "We want continue making people happy here."



By Kathryn McClintock

Photo by Shelby Bauer

Starting the first week of February, students living on campus will be able to check out kitchen equipment during RA duty hours.

Student Life and Nutrition Matters are promoting this opportunity with "Smoothie Sample Nights," and by providing kitchen sup-

plies and nutritional information to students. Available supplies include mixing bowls, pots and pans, cutting boards, baking pans, measuring cups, mixers, and popcorn poppers.

The goal of this initiative is to promote health on campus. According to a study on college students and their eating habits, most college students get only one of five recommended servings of fruit and vegetables a day, and

skipping meals is a frequent occurrence.

By providing the means for students to create their own colorful and healthy meals, Student Life and Nutrition Matters are hoping to promote greater nutritional awareness.

While George Fox University (GFU) has made more advances than other colleges by buying local ingredients

and providing healthier food options, the kitchen sharing initiative aims to fill in where GFU might not be able to—whether that's tight class schedules that call for pre-packed meals, or healthy, allergy-free alternatives for students with food sensitivities. If students are interested in checking out kitchen equipment, they can sign out items from their RAs during duty hours once the supplies are available.

May Term May Go Away

By Kelsey Herschberger

On Jan. 19, the Undergraduate Coordinating Council at George Fox University (GFU) met to begin the initial conversation about phasing out May Term. The council is made up of the heads of each major department, and the term of on-campus classes starts after commencement.

However, registration for seats in-class has dramatically declined from 137 seats in 2012 to 50 seats in 2016. Meanwhile, registration for online courses has increased from 150 in 2012 to 258 in 2016. Each of these courses are offered at 50% of regular tuition, but additional living

costs may have contributed to students favoring online courses.

While the program will be running a full slate of classes this May, this year's enrollment will play a significant role in the decision of whether or not GFU will continue to offer May Term classes. Most of them are general education or introductory courses to the majors and are aimed at helping students catch up. Officer of Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Samek said, "We would not want to end May term if it's providing a really important service that we can't provide in any other way, even if it's small."

From the administration's perspective, there's no reason

to offer May Term courses if they are not useful to students. Dr. Brian Doak, associate professor of Biblical studies and director of the summer online program said, "We don't offer classes at Fox just so someone can teach them. They're for you, and if they don't serve you, there's no point in having it."

Reportedly, there are no plans to move a major or a significant amount of GFU's education from classroom to online. The focus for online education is retention, since every semester exceeding the conventional four years spent at the University lowers a student's chances of graduating and adds costs. From a business stand-point, the start-up

costs for breaking into the online education market would be too great.

However, the specific education provided during May Term may be impossible to be replaced by the online program. For instance, classes with lab components may require collaborative work with a faculty member, and these classes may not have the same resonance with students limited to the digital content.

Student input will be crucial in the next stages of the May Term decision, and there will be opportunities for students to voice their concerns. Samek said, "We would not want to end effectiveness in the interest of efficiency."

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The Voice of the Students

The Crescent is George Fox University's student newspaper, a publication that has been part of the university and the Associated Student Community since 1891. The opinions and ideas presented in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of George Fox University.

Distribution

Issues can be found in the Student Union Building and are available upon request.

Letters to the editor

Letters are welcomed and will be printed on a first-received basis. They must include the author's signature, academic major, class standing or job title, department name and phone number. Letters are subject to editing for space and clarity.

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Features

fashion

*Photography by Katie Culbertson
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Audrey O'Farrell arrives at our photo shoot with her arms full. Soft knit sweaters and shimmery blouses in shades of pink, mauve and black spill out of her hands in a snuggly, wintry waterfall; she lays the sweaters over the sofa and hands me a bag. "I have more stuff," she says, "and that bag is just shoes."

Pink velvet booties, black pointy-toed shoes, gold loafers—for a second I'm a little jealous, but my attention shifts like a magpie to the vintage suitcase of fantastic statement pieces twin sisters Erica and Amanda Guest have just opened. These two appear to be inspired by menswear: I see cropped dress pants, striped turtlenecks and beautiful oversized coats in subdued tones of camel and gray.

I've given the models freedom to choose whatever they want to wear for this project, and what they select is a beautiful and intimate glimpse into their identities. What inspires them to dress outside the lines at college? "Part of me likes to stand out a little bit, but I also don't want to be too...is ostentatious a good word?" said senior Maddie Hayes, "I kind of like the double take. Like, 'oh, that's kind of cool.'" Hayes describes her approach to style as classic with a splash of edge; on a typical day, she'll layer combinations of chunky knits, high-waisted trousers, and softer pieces in chiffon or satin. "I like to take certain silhouettes and kind of expand on them," she says.

Junior fashion design student Johnny Kang's favorite color is pale pink, a color he's drawn to in his designs and in his wardrobe. O'Farrell, Erica, and Amanda style an outfit for him that include his favorite go-to's: black straight-leg jeans, a black tee, an oversized denim jacket and, of course, a cozy hoodie in ballerina pink. "I don't want to dress like every other guy," he says.

For Kang, Hayes, O'Farrell, Erica, and Amanda, clothing represents self-discovery, art, and freedom to express themselves boldly. Each one of them finds uniquely artistic way to communicate their complex selves using fashion.

As we wander into an empty field to take pictures, the models blend into the Northwest landscape almost magically. The wind whips their coats about, and they laugh; their smiles and confidence are just as beautiful as the mist tumbling over the mountain behind them.



Indoor Track Team

By Hannah Dugan

Photo by Mick Hangland-Skiff

The Bruins came on strong at the Ed Jacoby Invitational at Boise State on Jan. 13 and 14. For their first meet of the season, the Bruins set five new school records and won six events.

"We are looking like possibly one of the strongest men's teams in GFU history," said Head Coach John Smith. "Our women's team was the runner-up last year and we are looking to be stronger this season and ready to challenge again for the top spot."

Only eight athletes from George Fox competed at Boise; a meet at Washington State on Feb. 4 will be the first meet with the whole team. The indoor season pits the Bruins against many teams at Division 1 and 2 levels, which often means longer travel times and tougher competition.

"Indoor is a great way for us to showcase some of our top talent at the national level, but it is also a fantastic preparation

for the outdoor season," said Smith. Among the top talent is sophomore Annie Wright, who won the Pentathlon with a score of 3,278 points, in the process winning the 800 meter and shot-put.

Wright is ranked first in the nation after her finish in Boise. Rachael Kraske broke the school record for the 60-meter dash and the 60-meter hurdles. "I was pretty excited when I broke the school records. It felt good to see my hard work pay off in a very real way," she said. Kraske graduated in 2015 but is competing exclusively for the 2017 indoor track team as she earns her MAT at George Fox.

Junior Rachel King set the school record for the indoor 200 and 400-meter dashes. A finishing time of 57.75 in the 400 smashed King's own PR and school record, which she set back in 2014 with a time of 58.72.

Another highlight was high jumper sophomore Jacoby Wolfe who won the event with a mark of seven feet even.

Despite its individual nature, track is a team-oriented sport. For example, during spring break, the track team travels to California to compete in two meets and bond as a team. The meets "are pivotal to our entire season," said Smith.

"We have some awesome team and devotional time, which is just as important, if not more so. This trip really defines who we are as a team," Smith added. "Track tends to be a sport with a different feel since it is co-ed. I think the balance it brings just creates a really fun vibe."

"Since everyone competes at different times, it's hard to get us all together, so in general we just try to watch each other's events and be supportive," said veteran competitor Kraske. "One thing we would always do during Outdoor is cheer on

the men's and women's 4x400 race which is usually the last race of the meet. Since I usually ran in that race, I would just cheer on the guys. But it was always so good to be together for that, and honestly, it makes such a huge difference when you're running that race."

"My favorite part about the track team is the motivation I get not only from my coaches but everyone around me," Said Wolfe. "It is an individual sport but at the end of the day we score as a team and are trying to win conference as a team."



Studying Abroad

From Stranger to Family

By Joshua Cayetano

Ahlan wa sahan! Welcome! Whenever I enter a building, those words follow closely behind. The direct translation is something like this: "You're my family, so be at rest." Spoken by any Arab, the words ring true. They remind me that here, in the kingdom of Jordan, I am both family and stranger, friend and foreigner, kin and outsider.

Over the next three months, I and a few others will share our experience of living in an unfamiliar place surrounded by unfamiliar people in an unfamiliar culture. The slow march from stranger to family is universal, and I encourage any reader to reflect on his or her own experiences as it might relate to this

journey I am excited to share with you.

At George Fox University (GFU), I study the Middle East. I read about the Syrian and Iraqi refugee crisis. I research Muslim-Christian relations. In Amman, Jordan, I am surrounded by these issues, and they seem both insurmountable yet somehow less significant, often at the same time.

They are less significant not because they do not matter, but because they cease to be simple issues. The black ink and the white page become the callouses and scars on the hand extended in friendship.

On 22 Jan. I attended a church in a building full of Iraqi refugees, but as I raised my hands in worship, the song of unity and praise replaced the words of every article I had read on the persecuted church. The day before, I sat with two Muslim Jordanian friends, and all talk of fear and difference drowned in the three cups of tea we shared.

Yet the further I press, the more I experience the complexity of these issues. Everyone has a different opinion, a better angle, and new infor-

mation. Even historical facts are disputed territory. At a distance, it appears to be an immovable mountain of opinions, fears, and anger.

As a student studying abroad, I am invited to become a part of the solution, not just the conversation. The immovable mountain dissolves into a sea of people, each welcoming me to see their perspective, experience their way of life, and become a part of their family.

I welcome this journey from stranger to family. It is the reason I study at GFU. When I cease to view the region as a problem that needs solving, and begin to see people that need to be loved, I know my education abroad will be complete.

Three weeks into my study abroad, I still wait on the threshold of the city. I stand out with my white skin, my terrible Arabic, and my khaki joggers. But every day I am invited into the lives of the people of Jordan, and every day I move closer to people and further away from problems. Ahlan wa sahan, they say. Welcome. You are family. Be at rest.

Art Department Awards and Exhibits: Time for a New Approach?

By McKenzie Young

Photo by Mick Hangland-Skill

George Fox University's (GFU) Art Department has a long-standing tradition of honoring student work through events like the annual Student Art Exhibit and the Lippi Awards. But as students prepare to submit their work each year, some ask: is the judging fair?

As an art major, I have participated in this process once in its entirety and am in the middle of my second attempt. What I have noticed during both instances is that, partly because of the nature of the competition, the reasoning behind the awards certain students receive seems very subjective. That is to say that, while there is a huge well of talent in the Art department, a very small percentage of it is recognized to the extent that it deserves. Unsurprisingly, jurors come in with certain ideas about what makes "good" art. They are bad jurors, but they are human. What sometimes occurs, however, is that certain students do not receive awards—even though any other set of jurors may have loved their work. Many art majors can become discouraged because they enter their best work and still aren't selected. While this is a natural part of the working world, and particularly the creative world (Vincent Van Gogh wasn't recognized for his talent until well after his death), students new to fine arts may not understand that placement in the show sometimes has little to do with their skill level.

The issue of subjectivity is not one that can be fixed. It is a natural part of the human connection with art and one of the beautiful things about visual communication. How-

ever, as we direct our focus to the Lippi Awards, the event which follows the Student Art Exhibit, a problem develops. The participants in this show are not selected by a random panel of jurors, and the pieces themselves are not selected out of the full well of talent in the Department. Instead, the only pieces that have a chance are those that were previously selected for the Student Art Exhibit. Within that limited group, the finalists are selected by professors. Furthermore, the winners are voted on by peers.

I have good relationships with many of the professors who have dedicated their time to the arts here at GFU; I have enjoyed learning from them. I know that several other students have also had positive experiences in their classes. Can these positive experiences prove to be a problem when it comes time for the Lippi Awards? Who is to say that the professors aren't selecting finalists based on biases, conscious or unconscious? Should this affect the recognition that student work receives or does not receive? What happens when it's time for peers to vote on the works and some of the students in the running are more or less unknown? The voting can become more about who is liked than the quality of their work.

The professors in the Art Department are attentive and talented people, and they encourage students to push toward their goals. This is why I believe we should strive to make sure awards are based on the artistic merits of each student's work. Perhaps we ought to consider how we can move toward a more objective approach to the evaluation of GFU students' artwork—where are our blind spots as a department?



A Winter Sign

By Evangelina Montelongo

Photo by Mick Hangland-Skill

Navigating through snowy weather conditions is never easy, especially at a university where 44% of undergraduates are commuting to school. The start of this spring semester pushed students and faculty at George Fox University (GFU) to different schedules as a white blanket covered Newberg, Ore

For some students, canceled classes meant an extra day to sleep in and enjoy Christmas break, but as one class turned into several, some became frustrated with this delay in learning.

Student-athletes who need a field to practice were required to work inside, limiting their ability to practice certain sporting exercises. Higher lev-

el classes either forced students to continue to work alone on their scheduled assignments or pushed the syllabus forward by squeezing classes together. Professors had to figure out how to accelerate their courses.

Oregon's unpredictable weather means the sudden changes will undoubtedly affect some classes at GFU. When schedules are affected to this extent, however, students have to consider the money and effort put into their education.

Adjunct Biology Professor Kirsten Riggan said, "The goal is to produce well-rounded students who display mastery in a particular subject area and I don't think that goal was impacted."

As the semester progresses and the routine of classes becomes monotonous, students can easily forget the motive

behind their education. While we cannot thank the snow for those icy patches everyone has slid over at least once, we can thank the snow for reminding the community at GFU how much we actually desire to learn.

Athlete Sky Divinagracia said, "I had to actually push myself to do the work on my own and not just because I had class the next day."

Class cancellation at the beginning of a semester can feel like a relief, but as we return to our familiar habits of learning, we have the snow to thank for bringing the purpose of education at GFU back to the forefront of everyone's mind.

We want to hear from you!

We strive to make the voice of the students known.

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