

2017

## "The Crescent" Student Newspaper, April 20, 2017

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# The Crescent

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

## Class of 2017

*Senior Issue:  
10 Amazing  
People*



By Kelsey Herschberger

Photo by Katie Culbertson

Markayla Shattuck, a senior psychology major, is deeply involved with campus life at George Fox University (GFU). She served as a peer advisor her sophomore year and discovered a passion. “I really liked being involved on campus and dipping my toes into a lot of different things,” Shattuck said.

She focused her efforts on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day events, and eventually got involved with the Black Students’ Union (BSU). Shattuck was elected president of BSU during her junior year, and she still serves in the position today.

Shattuck played softball in the 2014 season and has worked as an athletic recruiter since 2016. Additionally, she has worked in admissions since 2015.

Her studies have led her toward an interest in criminal justice. “I want to work with women in prison and at-risk youth,” she said. In order to achieve this goal, Shattuck will attend the graduate psychology program at GFU to pursue her doctorate in Psychology.

Shattuck feels that GFU prepared her well for her profession and graduate school. The opportunities that GFU provided helped to fill her CV with valuable experience, but also impacted the way she saw the world. “Being at George Fox has changed me and my perspective and what I want to do in life,” Shattuck said.



Markayla Shattuck

# Sierra Brambila

By Megan Beam

Photo By Katie Culbertson

Sierra Brambila was not sure where she was headed after she graduated from high school. Unsure of her major, she left that decision in the hands of God. After much prayer and consideration, she felt that He had placed one major placed on her heart: Political Science.

At first, Brambila was resistant. “No, thank you,” she said, “You’re not supposed to talk about those things, so no thank you.”

Expecting to pursue a degree in theater, studio art, or biochemistry, political science was nowhere on her radar. But no matter what she thought, she couldn’t resist her calling to this major.

In the end, she realized, her degree did not really matter. Her goal was to work to eradicate poverty. She didn’t need a degree for that.

Through her pursuit of a political science degree, along with a minor in theater, she has studied how to break the poverty cycle in hopes of putting that knowledge to work in the near future.

Following graduation, Brambila isn’t sure where she would like to live. “Ideally, I would just be somewhere out of the United States serving,” she said.

For now, she plans to return to Portland and find a job. Brambila wants to keep her options open as she leaves university life.

Brambila’s time at George Fox University (GFU) has been transformational. Though it has been one of the most challenging times of her life, she still appreciates all she has experienced.

“Even though it was difficult and even when it was the most challenging, it was still exactly where I needed to be,” Brambila explained.

Her experience in the theater department and with Spiritual and Intercultural Life (SpIL) allowed her to explore and learn about storytelling and immersion.

In theater, she was challenged to tell stories that people needed to hear, even when they may not want to hear them.

Through SpIL, Brambila was able to plan Portland 101, an immersive trip that took five GFU students on a journey to explore urban outreach.

The work she has done for SpIL has prepared her for what she wants to do

in life. “Your college experience is what you make out of it,” Brambila said. She has certainly made it great.



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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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COVER PHOTO: SOPHIA ZEMPEL



# Erika Muir

By Megan Beam

Photo by Sophia Zempel



Native Oregonian and self-proclaimed super senior, Erika Muir is nearing a degree in Art and Design, with an emphasis in interior design. She is earning minors in fashion merchandising and design and project management.

This degree in art and design is a significant departure from her original intention. Muir planned on pursuing a degree in nursing at George Fox University (GFU) until she was persuaded to try her hand at psychology with hopes of becoming a counselor.

As she worked through classes, she began to feel that psychology was not for her, but realized that the draw towards psychology had come from art therapy. She began playing with the idea of majoring in art and design and chose to pay special attention to interior design.

“I thought that it was cool that people could design spaces that other people would experience life in and be a part of,” Muir said.

After graduation, Muir intends to pursue a job in the wedding industry, helping design and plan special events for clients. She explained that she desires such a role because it is a synthesis of her organizational skills and creativity.

“I’m all about flowers and beautiful things and big productions,” said Muir.

Her journey through several majors was not fruitless. The time allowed her to experience a variety of classes, more than the typical liberal arts education.

Muir explained that her education at GFU had provided a firm foundation and encouraged her to think for herself and form her own views.

“Now I feel like I have some solid answers or at least a way to find answers to my questions in life.”

Muir looks forward to graduation, but looking back, she’s had some great memories: from Welcome Weekend her freshman year, to directing fashion shows, she’s enjoyed it all.

# Katie Burks

By Evangelina Montelongo Photo by Sophia Zempel

Being a part of the nursing major at George Fox University (GFU) is not without its challenges. Clinicals, exams, hours of studying—it all can be overwhelming, to say the least. As Katie Burks finishes her last year in the nursing program, she reminds us of why it is all worth it.

As the first member of her family to enter the medical field, Burks embarked on her education with determination, only slightly daunted by the fear of entering the unknown. Four years later, she aspires to have a focus in Pediatrics, feeling called to help mothers through their challenges with children.

“The biggest thing that’s kept me going is remembering why I’m doing it and remembering the patients and their families,” said Burks. “I want to be able to somehow bring joy to those people during those really hard times.”

Just recently Burks was reminded of her resoluteness to pursue her career. After performing her duties as an in-home caretaker, Burks went through the tremendous difficulty of losing a patient; and though it was heartbreaking, she has since realized that it has helped her focus on what is most important.

“That was a really good reminder for me during this last stretch,” Burks said. “A reminder of ‘This is why you’re here, this is why you’re doing this.’ I’m doing this to help people and be a light for them.”

Years before college Burks began developing her ability to juggle countless activities—from practicing her singing for 7 years to leading musical worship throughout high school and into college. As if nursing didn’t leave Burks with a heavy enough load, especially during her senior year, Burks took on the responsibility of being a Resident Assistant (RA) for Hobson 1 women. Now Burks is planting roots near her family and seeking opportunities at Legacy Hospital or Salem Hospital.

Wherever Burks ends up there is no doubt her position will be valued. Though at times she has strug-



gled to grow and see things from a brighter, ambitious perspective, Burks has countless reasons to be thankful for her bright future.

“Fox was the best place for me,” said Burks. “You wonder if this is the right nursing program for you, but George Fox has the most nurses sought after for hospitals. They have something others don’t and the only thing I can think of that’s dif-

ferent is that we’re a Christian school.”

As Burks begins a new part of her journey, she is equipped with the tools and the faith to give that light to patients and families alike.

“It’s been a roller coaster but a lot of growth has come from that,” Burks said.



# Nick Juchau

By Ian Snively

Photo by Emma Claire Delisle

Nick Juchau is passionate about machinery and engineering. George Fox University (GFU) not only helped him shape his creations, but it also helped him shape his adult life.

Due to the expense of California colleges, Juchau looked for opportunities in Oregon. While GFU was certainly not cheap, Juchau said that their scholarship package made him interested.

"I was wowed by the campus," said Juchau. "It was very clean and neat. I got to meet one of the upper engineering professors, Mike Magill, who I still know on a first name basis."

Juchau said the engineering degree and the Christian environment was what most attracted him to GFU, not to mention the hands-on experience it offered.

For work-study, Juchau worked at the machine shop on campus as a tool room and shop supervisor.

"Last year I would walk around and make sure freshmen were using everything safely. This year I mostly run the tool room checking the tools in the new maker space."

Throughout his four years at GFU, Juchau worked on several large projects. One of the projects was part of GFU's Servant Engineering Program, which is dedicated to creating projects to serve others around the world.

Juchau and a team of other students assisted a doctor at the Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland. He was tasked to create a surgical implement that would not need to be handled by a specialist, didn't have disposable parts, and could be used in sub-Saharan Africa.

"We worked on this surgical implement to make it, in his [the doctor's] words, 'bullet-proof,'" said Juchau. "Be-



cause it's going to be abused out there."

The implement was a "Skin Graft". "They cut off a piece of your skin," said Juchau. "They feed it through this thing, and they punch a bunch of holes into it to make it a 'fish net' so it stretches. The idea is that they put that over a burnt or deep wound. It would grow in-between and allow the wound to weep so it won't turn into a giant blister."

While studying at GFU, Juchau introduced students to tabletop role-playing, a hobby he has enjoyed since high school. In 2013 Juchau created the "Critical Hit Club" in which students meet every other weekend to role-play as fantasy characters in various adventures. Juchau hosted as a "game master" for his "steam punk" themed campaigns.

"I enjoy it when I give people choices," said Juchau. "And when they have to choose between two wrong decisions, that's my favorite."

Juchau stays in Oregon during short breaks. However, on longer breaks he drives for eleven hours between Davis, Calif. and Oregon, only stopping at his grandparents' home.

Juchau chuckles at the thought. "It's nice because I get to sleep in, drive for several hours and not be home at one in the morning."

Now, Juchau is weeks away from graduating, which he says makes him both excited and nervous. He hopes to someday work at a shipyard in Puget Sound, Washington. Juchau says GFU taught him discipline, as well as a greater awareness of the world around him.

# Simeon Brown

By Kelsey Herschberger

Photo by Katie Culbertson

If you have spent any time in front of the Chehalem Symphony Orchestra, you might have spotted Simeon Brown, a senior music performance major. As first chair violin in the symphony orchestra, it's his job to get the orchestra in tune and welcome the conductor onstage.

This wasn't always the focus of Brown's years at George Fox University (GFU), though. When he first arrived, Brown was balancing an engineering and music double major, but that wasn't meant to be. "Over the course of my time here, I discovered that music was where my passion was and where I wanted to go," said Brown.

Brown quickly proved his talent during his time at GFU. He won the concerto competition in 2013 and 2015, gaining distinction and the opportunity to perform his piece with the rest of the orchestra. Such a chance is rare for an undergraduate student, as it is usually reserved for masters and doctoral students. Performing a piece with the orchestra is comparable to undergraduate research in other majors.

Looking ahead, Brown will be pursuing a master's degree program at the University of Oregon in music performance. "What I'm hoping to do is play in movie soundtracks. That's the goal. I really just want to perform anywhere," said Brown.

With any luck, GFU students will be hearing from Brown again in the very near future.







# Vlada Wilson

By McKenzie Young

Photo by Adrienne Speer

Vlada Wilson is excited about finance. “Right now I am working as a business developer for a mortgage company. I’m also trading stocks. I love to do that,” said Wilson. “I trade while I’m in class. I probably shouldn’t but I love it.”

After graduation, Wilson is planning on starting in a position at Academy Mortgage, but she has other ideas for her long-term future. “I want to start something of my own, but to get there you have to work and find an opportunity,” said Wilson. “Opportunities are all around you but you have to understand which one is for you.”

Wilson didn’t start out with dreams of running a business. When she first came to George Fox University (GFU), she wanted to pursue a nursing degree. “After an internship, I realized no, I didn’t want to do that. I wanted to be innovative and

creative but in a business setting.”

Though originally she had gone into accounting, a recent setback with illness has made her rethink her plans. “I had a tough thing come up this summer so I couldn’t complete my internship. I thought, ‘what am I supposed to do?’ Sometimes things are just thrown at you and you’re like ‘why?’” The experience inspired her to step outside of her comfort zone and interview with a big name in finance, Goldman Sachs.

As for her experience at GFU, Wilson said that it is all about the people. “They are the number one thing that has shaped my experience here.” She said that during her tough time in the summer, her friends were invaluable. “Professors too,” said Wilson. “My professor, Bill Stevens, would devote hours to help prep me for interviews. He would even take time on

the weekends to go to coffee and prep.” He was available and willing to help her succeed. “But at the same time, I think it’s up to you,” she said.

“While the school provides us with tools to succeed, each student has to make the choice to pick them up and use them,” said Wilson.

# Casey Hastings

By Evangelina Montelongo

Photo by Sophia Zempel



of her high school improv team. Eventually, she accumulated different opportunities through her job with Intel during college. All of these things have combined to make an individual passionate about excellence.

“People like [Annie Clark], like Carrie Brownstein,” said Hastings. “People that do it all, those people really inspire me. They do several things and do them really well. Their stories have been able to inspire those that are in more marginalized groups.”

Hastings’s time at GFU is coming to a close, but by no means are her aspirations ending. After graduation, Hastings will take some time to develop her talents in Portland before pursuing graduate school in Germany. A long list of goals still remains for her. Traveling to New York, making a film, and creating an album are among others at the top of the list.

When she embarks on a new journey there is no doubt that her character will allow her to succeed. Yet despite accomplishing as much as she has and striving for such meaningful goals, Hastings still concludes her education on a humble note.

“I’m really thankful,” said Hastings, “For the people I’ve met here and the opportunities I’ve been given that I don’t think I deserve sometimes. I’m really thankful for everything I’ve been able to experience here and the people in my life.”

Defying expectations was not always natural for Casey Hastings. When she first began her education at George Fox University (GFU), Hastings was shy and curious about what the future held for her. However, Hastings has managed to take the dreams she always held for herself and shape them into reality.

With a major in Marketing, what one might not anticipate from Casey is her passion for the arts. After falling in love with the cello, Hastings was presented with a scholarship that allowed her to pursue that passion.

She played the cello in the GFU symphony for all four years of her undergraduate career.

“She went through and worked at it on her own,” said Rebekah Hanson, a member of the Music Department and university symphony. “She taught herself pretty well and went about it with a great attitude. I was really impressed because the follow-through to get to the level she got to was really awesome.”

Hastings’s ability to surprise her peers shouldn’t come as a surprise. She practiced ballet for 10 years, and became a member





# Mikaela Easterlin

By Hannah Dugan

Photo by Emma Claire Delisle

You may have seen her working at the Bon, dancing around in neon suspenders and bright red lipstick. Her name is Mikaela Easterlin and she prides herself in her ability to embarrass herself and others.

“Some of my favorite memories involve finding quiet people around me and getting them to open up by being weird and making them feel more comfortable by being weird too. This includes dancing when I work at the Bon,” she said.

Easterlin will graduate this spring with a degree in interdisciplinary studies focusing on health, physical education, and art. She hopes to be a high school teacher. “I’ve always loved athletics as well as mentoring. I feel like being a teacher is the perfect way to combine the two,” she said.

Her love of athletics has been expressed through her involvement in lacrosse and basketball over the past four years.

After freshman year, she decided to leave basketball in order to join the first lacrosse team at George Fox University (GFU). Although she is graduating this spring, Easterlin will play next season, as it is her last year of eligibility.

During her time at GFU, Easterlin is most proud of “being able to say I was one of the very first people ever to be on the lacrosse team.” The women’s lacrosse team has come a long way in a short time, going from nothing to conference champions in just four years.

Her propensity for art reveals a lesser-known side of Easterlin. Her friends are still surprised to find out that she is an artist. She particularly enjoys ceramics.

“I love the hands-on aspect of it and putting my thoughts into three-dimensional figures. I just got into it last semester but

it’s something I want to continue.”

Easterlin says college has been a time of growth. “I’ve definitely made mistakes but I wouldn’t change those because I’ve grown through them,” she said. A piece of that growth is exhibited in her advice to younger students: “Take the time to get to know others. You don’t know where someone is at by a short interaction. Jesus wants us to be a part of a community, and you can’t do that without taking the time to get to know the little aspects of a community.”

What’s up next for Mikaela? More school. She plans to get her masters in teaching from GFU.



# Nathanael Ayers

By Kathryn McClintock

Photo by Sophia Zempel

Nathanael Ayers is a senior theatre major at George Fox University (GFU) and an artist—someone dedicated to his craft. He starred as the titular George Seurat in this year’s musical, Sunday in the Park with George.

Dedicated to the story, his chosen path is effortlessly validated when he begins to talk about it. “As an actor, I’ve learned how to approach theatre from the point of view of someone who is doing it as a service,” he said. “Because that’s what we’re trying to do for the world, we’re trying to serve it with the story. The story really touches us, because we can relate to it, in one way or another.”

Ayers has been at GFU for three years, and though his talent is easily observed on the stage, he’s been involved in other activities around campus. He did choir for two years, and, though his schedule has kept him from attending most meetings, has been interested in the Common Ground group.

The realm of theatre includes much more than the actors who inhabit roles, and his involvement reflects this. “Acting is what I want to do with my life, but I also got involved with sound design, because

the technical and design teacher kind of invited me into it my first year here,” said Ayers. He worked on the sound design of the newest production, Deus Ex Millenia.

When asked about his favorite memories at GFU, it’s no surprise that they are, by and large, within the theatre community. One that stood out was his recollection of the Tech Olympics. The Tech Olympics are the final for stagecraft, in which groups gather together to complete technical tasks while being timed.

“We’d got a group together, and we’d worked together in the past, and we were trying to set a record,” said Ayers, smiling at the memory. “So we got together, and we did it, and at the end, we’d beaten the record by, like, a minute and a half, and it was very exciting. It was so tense when we were waiting for the time to be announced.”

Through the productions the Theatre department has put on, his classes at GFU, and the community, Ayers has been greatly impacted by his time as an undergraduate student. “I’ve learned a lot about empathy, and what it means to be an empathetic human being. And I’ve learned

how to be more honest with myself and others, and to speak up when I think something needs to be said, but also be more careful about what I say,” said Ayers. “Those things have prepared me for not only being a theatre artist but for being a good human.”

Moving on from here, Ayers plans to stick around Newberg, living with friends and applying for jobs. He’s already been cast in Broadway Rose’s production of Gypsy, which will be his first professional show.

When Ayers leaves GFU, he’d like to be remembered as “someone who worked hard at their craft, and someone who cared a lot for people,” he said. “I would love to be remembered for some of the roles I’ve played, specifically George.”

To steal a line from Sunday in the Park, “art isn’t easy.” That being said, Nathanael Ayers seems to be doing a wonderful job of it.





*Thank you for a  
wonderful year!  
- The Crescent Staff*

