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Football Begins

The GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY Crescent

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS SINCE 1891



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Guest Director Megan Weaver

VOLUME CXLI ISSUE 1

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STADIUM DRAMA: WORTH THE COST?



Students enjoy the new Stoffer Stadium facilities.

Photo by Kelly Toms | Crescent Staff

HONORS PROGRAM OFF TO GOOD START

By Josiah Thurston
Crescent Staff

The William Penn Honors Program began its first year at George Fox University this semester.

Classes within the program are small and led by professors with a penchant for rigorous, interdisciplinary discussions of primary sources. For example, students of Program Director Joseph Clair and Honors Faculty Fellow Brian Doak are led in Socratic discussions about the greatest works of Greek, Mesopotamian and biblical literature.

"We are forced to consider what is true and noble and beautiful in ancient texts besides the Bible, just as we are forced to read the Bible as critically and rigorously as we would these other texts," said Doak.

Although the Honors program courses replace General Education requirements for these students, Doak emphasizes that students aren't "getting out of their Gen. Ed. package."

These students must complete not only their regular coursework in their major but

also read hefty amounts for their honors courses as well. During one specific weekend in September, students were required to read 250 pages of Homer's "Illiad" as well as an additional 250 pages for the next class period.

If there is one fault to the program, Doak remarked, "We have to work with the constraints of budget and available faculty." While he thinks that 18 students in a class is good, somewhere closer to 11 or 12 would be ideal.

Josh Cayetano, a first year student participating in the program, says his favorite part "by far" is the community.

"We're definitely close-knit for only being here for a month. We read together, we study together, [and] we edit our essays together," he said.

The program is named after William Penn, the renowned Quaker and statesman most well known as the founder of Pennsylvania. A close friend of George Fox, Penn was a thinker, an activist, a writer, and a spiritual leader—all roles that the William Penn Honors Program seeks to teach and foster in the students who participate.

By McKenzie Schaffer
Crescent Staff

During the last few weeks of August, George Fox University students passed by the Stoffer Family Stadium as construction workers sweated under the sun, putting together the final pieces of the stadium.

Thanks to donations throughout the community, there are now 2,800 seats available, along with a new TV-screen and scoreboard, allowing live broadcasting and game replays to embellish GFU's home games.

"For the Stoffer Family Stadium, we spent \$1.2 million for 2,800 seats. That was just the grand stands and the bleachers on either side. For just the four stands that the television sits on, the contractor's

bid originally listed \$95,000. I ended up hiring some workers to come in and take care of it for \$25,000 on our own," said Asso-

"WE'RE PRETTY FRUGAL WITH THE MONEY WE GET AND WHERE IT GOES."

ciate Director of Plant Services Dan Schutter.

The new Duke Athletic Center offers a fitness opportunity for the athletes through the generous \$2.1 million donation in 2011 by John and Marilyn Duke. This building houses lockers, offices for coaches, and a training room.

Although the new stadium and multiuse facilities have

improved the attraction of GFU for incoming students, there are still others who have an unsettled view on the renovations and the return of football.

"We did bring in quite a lot of people thanks to football though, whether they're freshmen or just transfers. That's great, but we did that very quickly. More people are being booted off campus earlier because of football and the new facilities that were built," senior Jamie Whisler said.

Budgeting and careful spending are considered through every financial project GFU takes on.

"We're pretty frugal with the money we get and where it goes. We wring a lot out of it. We want to bring exceptional value to the student. That's our end customer," said Schutter.

SUMMER DORM REMODEL A SUCCESS

By Denny Muia
Crescent Staff

Pennington Hall had a major renovation this summer due to old age and the typical wear and tear on college dorms.

After almost five years of planning, the university had the budget and time to update the 1960s era residence hall.

"It's something that, in terms of residential buildings, was something that's been marked as needing it for some time," said Keith Schneider, director of housing.

Some of the updates to the building included bathrooms and blinds. Other changes to the building included upgrades to the HVAC systems, as well as accessibility changes.

"Plant Services and the contractors did a great job," said Brad Lau, vice president of Student Life.

The remodel, despite rumors, had nothing to do with asbestos.

"It needed a face-lift. It's the most requested building for freshmen, so it gets the most abuse," said Schneider.



Massed just before kickoff, the Bruins prepare.

Photo by Joel Rurik | The Crescent

FOOTBALL ARRIVES

By Ryan Lackey
Crescent Staff

As George Fox University kicked off to the Arizona Christian Firestorm, an overwhelming sensation of newness rang louder than the thump of the football or the rolling, raucous bellow of the students. The gleaming steel of the skeletal grandstands – erected in weeks during the summertime – and the hot, rubbery smell of the artificial turf and the impeccable paint everywhere demanded attention: GFU has entered a new epoch, led by eleven men in navy jerseys and sleek helmets.

The official attendance, self-reported by GFU, was 3,659, but the claustrophobic crush of students and alumni and fans, crammed into the bleachers, felt exponential, and the crescendo as the kickoff floated downfield, shouts of a student body collected, was something entirely unfamiliar to the campus – intense, secular, impassioned.

As controversial as the creation of the football program has been, the supporters were single-minded and devoted: our team, our players, our school.

“It’s a rallying point,” said ASC president Jake Vanier. “Victory is a common cause.”

“It’s a unifying thing for different areas,” said junior Caitlin King.

On the opening drive, Firestorm quarterback Gerrit Groenwold passed directly into the hands of eager Bruin cornerback Adrian Bonner who returned the interception thirty yards downfield. As the Bruin offense began their inaugural drive, the sound was climactic and intense. In one of the game’s more lighthearted moments, Bruin quarterback Grant Schroeder, mimicking Packers signalcaller Brett Favre,

actually completed his first pass to himself, snatching his own tipped throw.

Displaying the vitriolic arm that would lead both teams with 301 yards passing, Schroeder bombed the next pass deep over the middle, and a pass interference penalty vaulted the Bruins into Firestorm territory. The next play, Schroeder launched another long pass into the arms of Charles Riga; then, Schroeder rolled out on a naked bootleg, covered fifteen yards, and dove over the pylon for the score, giving the Bruins a 6-0 lead after a missed PAT.

A staccato Firestorm drive would lead to a 42-yard field goal chance that Michael Costella would nail, narrowing the deficit, 6-3. GFU nearly scored again, but Schroeder’s 20-yard touchdown was called back, and the Bruins settled for a field goal; after the first quarter, the score stood 9-3.

Arizona Christian, after beginning the game unsteadily on offense, began to find their groove in the second quarter, increasing their already snappy tempo. Gabriel Jordan ran in from 21 yards out and the Firestorm took the lead, 10-9. Again stifled on offense, the Bruins bombed a 64-yard punt and immediately capitalized, as linebacker Will Leenders picked off a pass from Firestorm quarterback Ryan Esslinger who, after replacing Groenwold, retained his predecessor’s penchant for overthrows.

As the Bruins offense returned to the field, Schroeder dropped a perfect ball into the arms of Brad Lander, who ran a perfect skinny post splitting the hapless Firestorm safeties, for a 42-yard touchdown. After another missed PAT, GFU led 15-10.

Esslinger, who replaced Groenwold after a few

lackluster drives, overthrew another receiver as the next Arizona Christian drive lurched forward. The Firestorm found more success on the ground, employing motion and draw plays to hustle down to the red zone, where Esslinger, this time on foot, dashed wide and snuck into the corner of the endzone.

After spending most of the game in the spread-shotgun, football’s version of pop music, the Bruins moved into the staid I-formation on the next drive, now trailing 17-15. Bruins tailback John Shaffer came alive; he lead both teams with 86 yards rushing. A rumbling, inertial runner, Shaffer pushed the pile on fourth down to give the Bruins a crucial first; a dart from Schroeder to Austin Taylor gave kicker Uriel Gonzalez a 27-yard chance in the fading moments of the first half. Gonzalez connected, sending the Bruins inside with an 18-17 lead.

Pushing their rapid tempo further, the Firestorm sped downfield as the second half began, led by a newly precise Esslinger. In the red zone, though, the Bruins stiffened and allowed just a field goal. After a ho-hum drive, the Bruins punted to a ravenous Firestorm, who maintained their momentum. The Bruins, sitting in a loose cover-two shell, conceded the flats and short game, and Arizona Christian happily

obliged, methodically dissembling the Bruin defense with screens and peppering the defensive line with draws and traps. Esslinger hit a 14-yard pass to Brandon Fisher to take the lead, 27-18.

After punting, the Bruins, struggling behind a languishing offensive line, were energized by a spectacular play from defensive back Justin Leatherman who picked off another Esslinger overthrow. Undaunted, the Firestorm snatched a tipped Schroeder throw, danced downfield with screens and the mobile Esslinger, and added another field goal, 30-18.

Stymied by the Firestorm defense, the Bruins faced another fourth-and-short on the ensuing drive, and again the Bruins’ Schaffer, with the inevitability of a glacier, steamrolled for another first down. The offensive line rallied, and Shaffer dashed for another new set of downs behind bruising fullback Lenana Meekisho. He then fumbled, and the Firestorm recovered.

Incredibly, the Bruin defense, after languishing nearly an entire half, grew suddenly abrasive and drew a safety from the pinned-back Firestorm, reducing the deficit to 30-20. The offense responded in turn. On the subsequent drive, a scrambling Schroeder, chased by the marauding Firestorm defensive, fired a fifty-yard bomb

to Lander, who hauled in the prayer and took the Bruins to the opposing 11. A fourth-down slant to Lander fell short, but a pass-interference call gave the Bruins life anew, and tight end Derek Richwine caught Schroeder’s second touchdown pass.

Now down just three, 30-27, the Bruins lined up for an onside kick – a kick that Gonzalez booted directly out of bounds. Needing just a single first down to clinch the game, Arizona Christian, fittingly, completed a screen pass, and the sluggish clock wound down.

Despite the defeat, the GFU crowd remained eager, supportive, and upbeat. Coach Casey lauded the Bruins’ performance and shouldered much of the negative responsibility.

“We hate losing,” said Casey, “but most of the mistakes today were by coaches. Scheme-wise, we had weaknesses. A few times, we had the wrong personnel on the offensive line, and we couldn’t get off the field on defense. We’ll cut out mistakes and penalties. This one is on the coaches.”

“We have great fans,” President Baker remarked. “Taking the event into perspective, this is the biggest thing to happen to the University in some time. It’s a great way to feature the school.”

“It’s about life experience,” philosophized Shaffer. “Not wins and losses.”

The Crescent

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Main Office (503) 554-3011
Business / Ad Inquiries (503) 554-3017

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The Crescent
c/o Letter to the editor
George Fox University
414 N. Meridian St., Box E
Newberg, OR 97132
thecrescentgfu@gmail.com

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SCHROEDER SHOULDERS CHALLENGE



Photo by McKayla Phillips | The Crescent

By McKenzie Schaffer
Crescent Staff

Sophomore Grant Schroeder represents George Fox University as captain and quarterback of the restored football team. With ten years of experience, Schroeder has preferred football throughout his high school and college careers, ultimately placing him in a significant role for this season.

"Grant's biggest strengths are in his accuracy of throwing a football, his leadership abilities, and his positive attitude being a team player. He's respected by his teammates for his work ethic and his performance level," Head Coach Chris Casey said.

As a kid, Schroeder turned to athletics on his own. While some may pick up a football for the first time through their parents' encouragement, Schroeder found his interests through

the big-name football players.

"I always gravitated towards football, baseball, or basketball when I was a kid. I grew up watching Brett Favre of the Green Bay Packers, and Scott Frost of the Nebraska Cornhuskers on television," Schroeder said. "I picked up a football without my dad ever putting one into my hand. I have always been a competitor since I was young, and that hasn't changed."

After coming to GFU, Schroeder anticipated being able to play both football and baseball, but quickly realized his civil engineering major and business minor would cut his athletic involvement down to one sport. Schroeder chose football.

"Winning and getting better keeps me motivated. I play for God's glory. If He has given me the talent to play sports that I love, I am going to do everything in my power to work hard and hone my skills in order to glorify God with my words and actions on the field," Schroeder said.

"A missionary spreads God's Word by going out into the world and spreading the Gospel," Schroeder said. "In the same way, I love the opportunity to do something I love and bring God glory through the talents and abilities He has given me. There's always going to be something to improve."

COACH SHANNON IMPACTS YOUNG ATHLETES



Shannon, far left, coaches to give back.

Photo by McKayla Phillips | The Crescent

By Emily Hamilton
Crescent Staff

For the last two years, Junior Jack Shannon has coached youth basketball for both the boys' JV II at Newberg High School and NBC summer basketball camps.

Shannon manages to juggle working in the chemistry field and his love of coaching. When asked why he got involved in youth sports, he said, "I wanted to give back to the game that gave a lot to me growing up."

Coaching has also played a role in Shannon's personal life. "I have learned a lot of patience and communication from coaching basketball. Not everyone sees the game the way you do, and this forces you to see [the game] from someone else's perspective in order to communicate. That takes a lot of patience, especially continually

encouraging players to keep trying." However Shannon believes that the payoff is worth the effort. "When a player finally gets the play or the skill right and you see that smile, it makes it all worth it."

Shannon insists that three elements are necessary when working with youth: "Kids need to feel successful, a sense of belonging, and most of all loved. As a coach, if you can give your kids those three things they will have fun, and really want to improve."

In addition to his own impact on the kids he coaches, Shannon also described the way the kids impact his own life.

"They really give me a shot in the arm when I need it. This past year at one of our camps we had a 9 year old, and it was basically his first time playing ball. He couldn't even get the

ball to the rim at the beginning of the week. Toward the middle of the week we were playing a game and his teammates got him the ball. The other team let him shoot and when it went in the entire camp cheered! It really gave me a lot of energy to finish the week off strong. [The kids] have definitely made me mature in my dealings with people as well as my time management."

The opportunities awarded to Shannon through his work in coaching have allowed him to travel to Alaska, and someday he also hopes to take an NBC travel team overseas "somewhere like the UK, or Italy." Even among these incredible experiences Shannon insists that the best opportunity "is getting to share [his] story with kids, and the gospel through basketball." Shannon says "I am not one to go out and preach, but through NBC camps and coaching I have found a way to share that part of my life through a game that has played a big part in my own life."

Shannon left a note for aspiring coaches:

"Take your job seriously. The players you coach will remember you because you are so influential in their lives... The best advice I ever got was 'you may not remember every kid you coach, but they will remember you,' and it is definitely true."

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THE NEW FACE OF LEADERSHIP

ASC PRESIDENT JUSTIN VANIER SPEAKS OUT

By Josh Cayetano
Crescent Staff

Do you want to travel across the country to attend Passion 2015? How about spend a Friday night paintballing with your floormates? Have you ever taken a step back and admired the aesthetic beauty of George Fox University?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, chances are you will be affected by Jake Vanier and ASC.

Vanier, a junior at GFU and the president of ASC, began his freshman year as a consumer of ASC. Vanier applied to the Academic Pursuit Fund, one of the many resources ASC offers, and was funded by ASC to travel to Passion 2013, where 60,000 university students crammed into the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

By supporting similar endeavors both locally and nationwide, Vanier hopes to continue building the student body into the welcoming and loving community he has experienced at GFU.

His sophomore year, Vanier worked 20-25 hours a week as the vice president of Representation, coordinating with

representatives from all the campus housing blocks while simultaneously filling in other various roles for ASC, participating on the track team, and taking an 18-credit workload.

This year, although Vanier is focused on completing his degree in business, he shuffles the majority of his time between attending board meetings, overseeing ASC’s Central Committee, and, occasionally, spending time with a diverse number of students around campus.

“I believe that knowing who you’re representing helps you do a better job representing,” Vanier explained.

But Vanier was not always so confident about his role at GFU.

“While I was thinking about running [for President], I was talking to my brother and I told him I felt completely unqualified and he said, ‘That’s good,’” said Vanier with a slight smile on his face. “And that just struck me... to be able to realize that it’s not me working, it’s Christ working through me.”

From his experience in ASC at GFU, Vanier has realized the value in a support network: a group of trusted individuals who



Jake Vanier, the new ASC president, hard at work in the ASC office.

Photo by Samuel Hoard | The Crescent

can give him an outside perspective just as his brother, Justin Vanier, had. Including Justin, there have been a few people who have been a continuous source of wisdom and leadership, such as Austin Marl, the resident assistant for his first-year dorm floor, and Brad Lau, the vice president of Student Life.

Similarly, Vanier aims for ASC to be a “consistent force

in the midst of change,” where students can feel welcomed and loved as they realize they cannot venture through college alone. One of the ways he is pursuing this goal is by advocating for a Student Activities Center, fully equipped with basketball courts, volleyball courts, and a stage specifically for ASC-related activities, including intramural sports.

When describing his

motivation to continue serving on ASC, Vanier said, “I love this campus, I love GFU, and I love the people here.” Vanier’s passion for leadership through service is allowing him to contribute his hands to the many that have preceded him, molding George Fox University into the shared image of a unified, loving, and Christ-centered campus.



Brenna



Chandler

Photos courtesy of Brenna and Chandler Brutscher | George Fox University

VAMOS A ESPAÑA

BRUTSCHER TWINS SHARE STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

By Kelsey Vaughn
Crescent Staff

Sisters Brenna and Chandler Brutscher have a lot in common. Besides being identical twins, they are studying the same things—both are Spanish and Art double majors—and share a passion for travel. However, this semester, they no longer share the same dorm room, as Chandler is abroad with the Semester in Spain program.

“I think about the term ‘living vicariously’ through someone,” Brenna said of being separated from her twin. “I kind of feel like I’m reliving parts of the experience as I see her photos.”

Another thing that these sisters share: their current separation is a repeat of last fall, when Brenna was on the same study abroad trip that Chandler is on now.

The Semester in Spain program is one of the study abroad options for Spanish majors. For four months, students live with host families in Seville and take classes at

Acento de Trinity, a facility run by Trinity Christian College. All classes are taught in Spanish, contributing further to the immersion experience.

Students also take short trips to other parts of Spain. Brenna was able to travel to Toledo, Granada, and a few other cities, seeing the best of Spanish art and culture along the way. She made friends with Spaniards, lived with Spaniards, and embraced a Spaniard lifestyle. Now, her sister has embarked on that same journey.

“It’s been a challenge to keep up with the native Spaniards and get ‘the gist’ of what they’re saying,” Chandler said of her time in Spain so far, “but it has been a huge blessing to meet new people and learn a new way of living.”

Brenna’s memories of the trip seem to echo that sentiment. Although adjusting to the language was difficult—she described her frustration at feeling like she was “backsliding” for the first weeks—it was worth it to be fully immersed in a different culture.

Hearing Brenna’s

description of her progress would make any second language learner jealous: “It’s cool because instead of thinking in English and translating it into Spanish, you start to think in Spanish and speak in it.”

In a way, there is a parallel between the language proficiency gained through studying abroad and the relationship that the Brutscher sisters share. When Chandler communicates with Brenna, there is no need for her to “translate” her experience so that Brenna can understand.

For instance, when talking about the view from “Las Setas” (shown in the accompanying pictures), both sisters know exactly what that view is like and have their own memories attached to it.

Communication is made all the easier by the bond of sisterhood and friendship that they already share. When they look back on their semesters abroad in Spain, there is no doubt that the experience will have been made all the richer by their ability to speak a common language of understanding.

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS

By Heather Harney
Crescent Staff

The deaths of comedian Robin Williams and Dundee resident Jennifer Huston have brought suicide close to home. While most people have heard the term "suicide," many do not know that every 40 seconds someone takes his or her own life.

Suicide is preventable. Since 2003, World Suicide Prevention Week has taken place every September. During this week, organizations such as the International Association for Suicide Prevention reach out to educate others about the second leading cause of death around the world for those aged 15 to 29.

Kaitlyn Jacobs, a freshman at George Fox University, wants others to know more about suicide prevention.

"At chapel they said something about Suicide Prevention Awareness Week, but I think it should be broadcast," Jacobs said. "More people should know because not everyone goes to chapel, so the people who weren't there probably don't know."

Jacobs' cousin battled with thoughts of suicide before a friend shared her suicide plan with a teacher. Thankfully, after treatment, Jacobs' cousin is doing better.

Jacobs attended two high schools in the San Diego area that participate in World Suicide Prevention Week every year. These opportunities to discuss the myths and truths about suicide inspired Jacobs to become a voice to those who have had suicidal thoughts or who have lost someone to suicide.

Each year, it is estimated that 800,000 thousand people take their own lives. The World Health Organization continues to address the myths about suicide, myths such as "people who talk about suicide do not mean to do it,"

by educating those who are willing to listen and learn.

Feelings of loneliness and depression are real and should not be ignored. Jacobs would like to see more awareness of this on campus, with signs providing information on the warning signs of suicide or a group of peers one can seek out.

"You should pay attention to others," Jacobs said. "I didn't see what was happening with my cousin."

This moved Jacobs to make a difference. She has decided to become a psychiatrist because of her cousin and her desire to be a voice for suicide prevention.

"We need to talk about it," Jacobs stated. "If people who have gone through it shared that experience, the stigma might go away."

Students may not know they are responsible for their self-care at George Fox University. According to the GFU Handbook, "The University believes it is important to foster an environment that encourages students to maintain a standard of responsibility for self-care." GFU provides students with onsite Health and Counseling Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. On the Health and Counseling page, students will find a link to The Jed Foundation, the nation's leading organization in suicide prevention for students, and a video link on "Reasons to Stay."

To be more aware, students should also know the following numbers, just in case they or someone they know need to talk to someone about suicide: 1-800-273-8255 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline), 1-800-560-5535 (Yamhill County Crisis Line), 1-800-716-9769 (Portland Crisis Line).

MEET THE NEW FRESHMAN CLASS

By Elizabeth Cranston
Crescent Staff

There has been an increase in students this year, and we are all starting to notice the Bon lines getting a little longer and the quad being a little more crowded. According to Director of Undergraduate Admissions Lindsay Knox, in the 2011-12 academic year, the freshman class was made up of 428 students, with 98 transfer students and 57 international students.

In the last academic year, there was a 41 percent increase in the incoming class, with 604 students. This does not include the 105 transfer students and 58 international students. This academic year, the class of 2018 has 616 students, with 110 transfers and 34 international students.

Senior Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions Nate McIntyre said the large increase is due to "a convergence of many factors."

"The football team could have something to do with the increase, but I also feel that overall GFU marketing and awareness is playing a big role," McIntyre said.

Assistant Director of Visitor Experience Mande Wilmot added that the new recruitment strategies GFU is using are helping bring more prospective students.

This large incoming class has

evened out the gender divide. In the 2011-12 academic year, the student population was 60 percent women and 40 percent men. This academic year, the population is 50.6 percent women and 49.4 percent men, according to Knox. McIntyre theorizes that the new football team is largely responsible for this change.

Here is a breakdown of the top 12 majors by head count for the class of 2018:

105 Engineering; 98 Business; 83 Nursing; 47 Biology; 38 Elementary education; 33 Art; 33 Exercise science; 26 Psychology; 22 Cinema media communications; 22 Computer science; 19 English.

56 percent of students in this year's class are from Oregon and 44 percent are from out of state, said Knox.

Freshman Ariel Herreran, stated that so far he enjoys attending George Fox University.

"It has a strong community and is a good school," said Herreran.

Regarding the school slogan, "Be Known," Herreran doesn't feel as if he is hopeful that being on the soccer team will help him achieve this goal.

Freshman Jamie Barrett has had a different experience so far.

"I like the saying ['Be Known']," said Barrett. "I feel like I know a lot of people and that I am known as well. I even feel like my professors know me."

WEAVER DEVISES UNIQUE APPROACH TO SHAKESPEARE

By Josiah Thurston
Crescent Staff

Megan Weaver is not your typical theatrical director. Raised in Newberg and an alumnus of George Fox University, Weaver has returned to the community in order to direct GFU's fall comedy, "Twelfth Night," by William Shakespeare.

Weaver's tactics and directing style differ greatly from what is considered the norm within the thespian community, mainly through her use of devising. Devising occurs when actors are "making theatre, generally without a playwright" or in cooperation with a playwright.

A devised show will often begin without a script and be built up, with everyone involved in most, if not all, of the process. It is essentially "collaborative" in nature and "boundaries between disciplines get very blurred. Actors frequently have design input, designers

frequently have writing input, and as the director, [Weaver] may step into who knows how many shoes."

Devising seeks to give life and flexibility to stories that are otherwise locked into the way that the writer has written them. While Weaver acknowledges that "a lot of beautiful work" has come out of the more rigid, traditional style, she also claims that it "can be detrimental to beautiful art."

Although the actors will be performing Shakespeare's text as written (it is common practice to modernize or abbreviate the language), Weaver continues to employ the idea of devising as a "generative technique" (although clearly the playwright cannot collaborate on the performance), utilizing structured improvisation to "discover... what's really going on outside of what's just being said."

Weaver describes "Twelfth



Weaver supervises a rehearsal for the upcoming play, "Twelfth Night".

Photo by Kelly Toms | The Crescent

Night" as "offer[ing] a celebration of ambiguity, a struggle to find...authentic selves, a fragmented world" and "really funny." She hopes to introduce Shakespeare to students or deepen their comprehension of him, especially because she believes him to be the "author of today's language."

Her "different way of approaching it" allows GFU theatre students to experience performance, design, and collaboration in new and meaningful ways. Cydney Thompson, a senior playing the role of Feste

the Fool, explained, "[Devising] really helps the actors bond and build a really strong working dynamic."

When asked about her faith and how it interacts with and defines her art, Weaver responded, "My faith is... a series of questions. They're questions that I try to hold with as much courage and authenticity as I can. There's a truth and a vulnerability in that that is very human. And to me [it's] what I'm striving for every time I put something on stage".

In addition to her extensive

directing credits, Weaver also cofounded FullStop Collective, which is now going into its eighth year of existence with Weaver as the executive artistic director. Weaver has dreams of eventually being a full time artistic director of her own company, but until then she is "excited to be here." "It's good to be back."

Performances of "Twelfth Night" will be running Oct. 23-25 and Oct. 30-Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. A matinee performance will run on Nov. 2 at 2 p.m.

FOX CONFESSIONS: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT COULD BE

By Heather Harney
Crescent Staff

The “Fox Confessions” page contains a plethora of crush declarations, sin admissions, trolls and traps, observed hilarity, and at times, honest expressions of loneliness and doubt.

A survey of students revealed 39% have never read Fox Confessions while 14% of students spend over two hours a day on the page. With the promise of true anonymity, the administrator states he or she is not privy to who posts what.

People are free of consequences as they continue to hide behind the curtain. Unlike “Anonymous at George Fox,” which shut down last year due to alleged pressure from the administration, Fox Confessions continues to let people confess their sins, albeit to the world as proud announcement of sorts.

A casual observer running across Fox Confessions could find a post about drinking, hook-ups, a vivid description and shout out to a “hottie,” the love of burritos, or a cry for human interaction. While this page does offer a chance to disclose secrets, most posts cast a ridiculous view of life at George Fox University. Of students surveyed, 61% said they look at Fox Confessions in order to read about crazy things students do.

What makes anonymity so enticing? Perhaps we do this to make ourselves feel better about our lives. Secrets give us power—or so we believe. In a world encouraging us to share our lives with everyone, accountability has been banished to ride in the backseat while celebrity is given shotgun. Consequences have become a blurred line.

But words matter. When did we forget that?

Regardless of anonymity, our words matter. Using Fox Confessions to share thoughts like “during freshman year, I would slide and glide into chapel and then go have sex with my girlfriend. Chapel is just a waste of time anyways” does not gain the poster anything other than judgment or responses like “You must not be that good or it didn’t go well . . . you are ashamed enough that you have to post anonymously. . . . No real confidence.” Words matter.

It would be great to see students take time to think about the intent of their words. Perhaps we could reach out to those who confess they are surrounded by shadows and feel alone.

According to a survey conducted by the Crescent, over 53% of students said they reach out to those who are lonely. And yet on Friday, September 12, one poster said he or she “might be contemplating suicide yet again” and was told to “Stop it . . . Don’t drown yourself in self-pity.”

When did a cry for help become something to shame someone over? And yet, you will see responses in which someone is directed to “try to find a hobby.” It makes me ponder if we have forgotten how to talk to and encourage each other. I dislike questioning whether or not someone has any compassion.

I wonder what would happen if there was no longer the option to be anonymous. I hope people would be daring enough to share their dreams, questions, stumbles, geeky moments, or hilarious observations. Fox Confessions could serve to initiate conversations to help each other laugh, grow, and heal. So I ask: can we come out from behind the curtain and start a conversation? I wonder: would we, could we, all be that brave?



The anonymous logo for George Fox’s Fox Confessions Facebook page gives an overview of what the page stands for.

Photo courtesy of Fox Confessions

#GFUHOTTIES

By Chelsea Gritten
Crescent Staff

As of the first week of school, an Instagram page called “GFU Hotties” has been gracing news feeds with dozens of George Fox University’s “hottest” students.

The page consists of both men and women who have had pictures sent into the page where the anonymous administrator approves the photos.

Scrolling through the page, you’ll find the photos vary from posed headshots to goofy selfies, from formal dresses and suits to shirtless men. Before you go rushing to this page to see for yourself, take a moment to think of the danger hiding behind these simple, smiley photos.

Though probably started with a light-hearted and fun intent, the positive aspects of this Instagram page cannot be enjoyed without understanding the unforeseen negative consequences.

It is true that this page can be a cute way to compliment someone. It can especially be used as a chance for crushes or girlfriends/boyfriends to dote upon the person they admire.

I have also heard that some people believe the page to be a way to boost confidence and make people feel better about themselves, but is the confidence for a few worth leaving many others out?

The real problem with the

GFU Hotties page it create a false sense of identity and worth in the lives of so many. Your worth as a person should not come from how many likes you get on a picture of your face or how many people comment “You’re beautiful.”

Everyone desires attention in some form, but we should not seek it from such superficial and subjective means. I would so much rather be admired for aspects of my character than whether the shape of my face is pleasant or my teeth are straight or I am wearing cute clothes and nice make-up.

Student JJ Switzer similarly said, “I have met far too many people who struggle with self-esteem and feelings of inadequacy to be okay with things like that. It seems that most people are so used to it that they don’t see the harm of it.”

This harm comes both from a skewed opinion of self-worth and an increased sense of competition and judgment. Not only is the page founded on the idea of judging whether people are attractive or not, but this judgment becomes a comparing contest amongst the various posts.

If you read the comments on some of these photos you will find words like “why does she not have as many likes as so-and-so” or “he’s the hottest in such-and-such a group.” By encouraging this comparison it is easy for people to have a sense of entitlement that takes

the idea of building confidence much too far.

Yes, there are positive comments about people being “beautiful inside and out” or being “a woman/man of God.” Yes, it is possible to just scroll through Instagram and treat this page as any other. Yes, it is easy to laugh at the funny pictures and admire the beautiful ones. But is it easy to turn off your sense of judgment and see these as GFU students as people and not photos?

Personally, I have a hard time with this balance. I want to get to know people for who they are and admire my friends and schoolmates for their personalities, not their photogenic genes. I don’t want to walk around campus and see someone who I only recognize because of his shirtless picture on GFU Hotties.

Many of these negative aspects may seem like silly concerns that are not valid, that are thought about too deeply. The page isn’t hurting anyone and it does provide some entertainment, as well as a chance to compliment others, so maybe we should be okay with simple things like this. This is the norm, right?

Maybe it doesn’t appear to really matter. But maybe, just maybe, we can learn to see how the biggest changes and impacts come from the smallest things. Our whole view of self-worth and confidence could shift for the better if we don’t look for it in the eyes of others.

EFFECTS OF THE NEW FRESHMEN CLASS

By Amanda Brooke
Crescent Staff

The freshman class is larger than ever before! Now the questions are: why has there been such growth? What effect will this have on George Fox University? Will this growth be good for GFU, or detrimental in some way?

“I DON’T EXPECT HUGE GROWTH IN THE NEXT FRESHMAN CLASS.”

“Who we admit versus who we don’t admit hasn’t changed,” explained Director of Undergraduate Admissions Lindsay Knox. “We look at each student individually, and how they could grow academically and as a part of the community at GFU. There have been slightly more applications . . . really, it’s just that more people have been choosing George Fox.”

Several worries are that the student population will become too large for GFU to accommodate them, that the student-to-teacher ratio will no

longer stay low, and that the university will no longer be able to keep their promise that we will “Be Known.”

“There has been talk about [finding ways to accommodate more students]; I don’t expect huge growth in the next freshman class. I expect us to stay at 590-630 each year. Obviously, the overall population of the student body will grow. We are not planning on that ratio [of student-to-teacher] changing. We will hold to our promise to ‘Be Known,’” said Knox.

Then why do some still feel discomfort when they think about the growth of GFU? It is not because just our school is changing, but our home. We came to GFU with hopes of experiencing the tight-knit community that was promised to us. The larger GFU gets, the harder it is to feel close and connected. In fear of change and losing something we love, we get defensive and even angry when we think about new people forcing our school to grow and us to change.

However, GFU still holds to their promise that we will “Be Known.” They strive to keep our community knit together, and we need to strive with them. We can do this by accepting this change and lovingly inviting new freshmen into our community.

ARE GRADES BEING INFLATED?

By Denny Muia
Crescent Staff

Grade inflation has been a problem in higher education since grades were invented. Each year students perform better, work harder, and learn more. At least, that's what the data shows.

But what if the data is flawed? What if the climb in the average college grade point average isn't a result of our colleges churning out more intelligent individuals? Can we rely on grades as an effective standard of our academic achievement or are those grades objective?

"I am realistic enough to know [that] obviously when you're grading a paper, there's a subjective level of me decid[ing] whether or not an argument is strong," said Caitlin Corning professor of history at George Fox. "I have found over the years that using grading rubrics allows me at the end to see

that this paper is a 'C,' or an 'A.'" Amanda Robert, an instructor in the GFU biology department, said, "that the value of an 'A' has gone down, as has the value of a degree in general."

So what about the students who still fail? Mark MacLeod-Harrison said that "most of our students are good enough to get some kind of passing grade. The 'F's usually go to the people who just don't do the work."

It would be hard to defend our current grading system as totally objective, but how do professors find the balance between objectivity and bias?

McLeod-Harrison, a philosophy professor at GFU, said that "there is no such thing" as objective grading. However, he says that he will let his students argue with him about quizzes and if they can convince him the question was somehow unfair, he will sometimes give the class points for the question.

Corning said when grading papers, she will go back and re-grade the first few to ensure her standards didn't change.

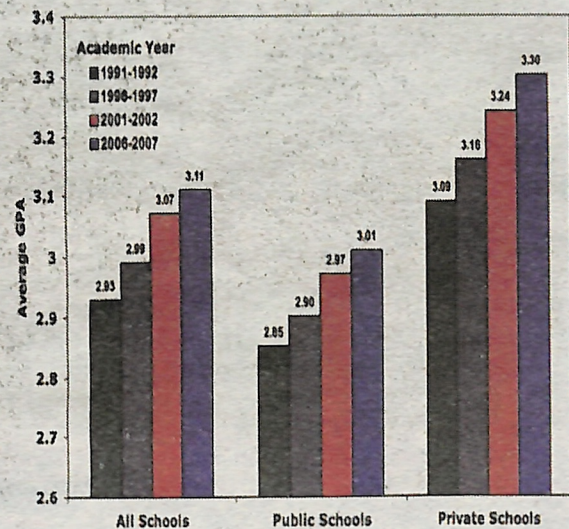
So what factors have contributed to grade inflation?

According to MacLeod-Harrison, it's the "consumeristic" mindset of the student body. He said, "the whole idea that the humanities courses are softer and more lenient isn't true. Objective criteria doesn't have to be stated to be in effect."

Robert offered her reasoning: "I would like to think it's students working harder, but I don't necessarily believe that. I think it also might be the standardization of testing."

Regardless of the cause, GPAs continue to rise across the nation. While there may not be a totally objective standard in grading, the professors at George Fox are doing their best to keep a fair grading system.

Recent GPA Trends Nationwide



Increase in GPAs was found in both public and private colleges between 1991 and 2007.

Graphic courtesy of Gradeinflation.com

FOOTBALL TACKLES GFU THE PROS AND CONS OF FOOTBALL ON GFU COMMUNITY

By Amanda Brooke
Crescent Staff

This is the first year since 1968 that George Fox University has had a football program. Many people are excited and have been waiting for this for years. Others find the new football program disconcerting and even irritating.

What are the cons of having a football program? In what ways could this hurt GFU?

This is also the first year of the William Penn Great Book Honors Program. It seems the fact that football has started has gotten much more attention than the fact that GFU has a new honors program.

"I think there is a vast problem at . . . almost all colleges and universities where sports get an unusual amount of attention at a place that should be focused on higher education," explained Dr. Joseph Clair, director of the honors program. "In that sense, we probably are perhaps participating in a larger phenomenon at colleges and universities. I don't think that's been a big problem at this university."

The term "university" means "an institution of learning of the highest level." Thus, the main focus

should be on academics and advances made in academics. This also means the bulk of our financial resources should go towards furthering that.

At this point, it seems quite a bit of our financial resources are focused on our new football program. There are many different academic projects that deserve and need more consideration. Football is not a necessary component of a university, while quality learning certainly is.

Even members of other sports teams feel that more resources are being given to the football team, and that the football team is being favored.

"Lacrosse is a new sport too, and we hardly get any attention," said an anonymous lacrosse player. "Also, they got free mouth guards specially fitted at the dentist's. We had to buy our own: these two dollars mouth guards that suck."

This new football program, most importantly, is taking attention away from academics. However, it is also taking away attention from other sports, which deserve just as much notice. Why should someone who excels at football receive more attention than someone who excels at academics or lacrosse? I believe the new football program could affect other programs, and that steps need to be taken to ensure that does not happen.

By Julia Howell
Crescent Staff

Football, football, football. It seems to be all anyone talks about anymore. And rightly so—it has changed just about everything on campus. To all the naysayers out there who are sick of hearing everything revolve about the new Bruins team—I hear you.

But maybe things aren't as bad as we think.

Sports present a huge opportunity for getting the word out about GFU. Football is a big deal for colleges. It attracts fans, donors, parents, and students. The football program will get these people in the door—and then they will discover other great parts of GFU, like the nursing program or the music program.

It also does a lot for the GFU community itself. For an institution that seems to be lacking in the school spirit department, football has the potential to bring school unity, excitement, and something to rally around.

One complaint repeated recently around campus is that it seems a lot of money was spent on the program, which is true. It's hard to keep going back to an art building that's falling apart when the school puts in a brand-new AstroTurf field and a Jumbotron screen. However, the money from the construction was almost entirely

from donations. The funds were not taken out of tuition or academic programs.

Another popular complaint concerns the university's apparent impending academic decline. Football will not bring down the academic quality of GFU—in fact, it will heighten it. After a winning season, colleges usually have increases in enrollment. More students applying means the admission staff can be more selective in who they accept.

This means that the average GPA will actually go up.

A George Fox football team also has advantages for the larger community of Newberg. It will bring families and alumni to town to attend a game, and then they will go out to lunch or shop around downtown. Football will pour back into the local businesses.

It's also just a fun thing to do when your friends or parents come to town (or that special someone—what's more romantic than cuddling together under a blanket outside in the crisp autumn air?).

Change is always a hard thing to get used to. It can be annoying or painful at times, but it's the only way to grow. Yes, we may be a little sick of hearing about football, but we can't be sick of seeing how GFU is growing and expanding into an exciting new place.



Some students have taken the addition of football in stride
Photo by Joel Rurik | The Crescent

**"FOOTBALL PROGRAM... IS
TAKING AWAY FROM ACADEMICS"**

VS.

**"FOOTBALL HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BRING SCHOOL
UNITY"**



ASC created Involvio to keep students connected and updated on campus events
 Photo courtesy of the Associated Student Community | George Fox University

NEW APP CONNECTS STUDENTS

By Izzy Anderson
 Crescent Staff

Available on both the Android and Apple stores, Involvio is an app that the Associated Student Community is hoping everybody will download.

Most commonly used for campus engagement, Involvio is a tool that is highly beneficial for ASC to make contact with the student body.

"We are trying as hard as we can to get everyone involved," says Vice President of Communications Josiah Nuzum.

While it would seem there are already enough ways to hear

about events on campus, the app differs from things like The Daily Bruin and the Stall Street Journal in several ways.

It has a full calendar already in its database, eliminating the need to send out anything daily, and students have full access at any given moment. Involvio has an interactive map so that students can see where each event is being held.

It also features a "get directions" button under each event, which will bring up the phone's map, and then direct the student to the right area. There is also an "explore" tool, showing a full Newberg map with red houses

in circles, showing where each living area is, and also buildings like Ross and the Student Union Building.

Students can also connect it to their Facebook accounts. When connected to Facebook, the students can see which of their friends are going or planning on going to any event and who is subscribed to each list.

ASC's hope for the future is that the app will someday be expanded so that individual floors, clubs, and intramural teams can all have their own sections with lists and private events where they can involve their students and teammates.

FRESH STEPS FOR COMMON GROUND

By Julia Howell
 Crescent Staff

Common Ground, the GFU student LGBTQA group, has an opportunity this year for a fresh start.

"ITS MEMBERS NOW FEEL THEY CAN BE PRESENT AT GFU WITHOUT CAUSING TENSION"

The group was formed in 2011 in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and allied students, but has never been granted official club status.

However, its members now feel they can be present at GFU without causing tension.

"This year, we're probably at the best place in our relationship with Student Life," said Common Ground leader and GFU senior Jamie Woolsey.

Bran Lau, vice president of Student Life, is hopeful about

the future of the group as well. "We are...careful to make sure clubs are consistent with George Fox's stated mission, values, tradition, and community commitments," said Lau. "Common Ground has done some great work in supporting students on our campus and I hope this continues as we work together where our shared purposes align."

Woolsey's own experience helped draw him to the group. He had friends at other Christian universities who were misunderstood in their sexual identity.

"I wanted to be a part [of Common Ground] to do whatever I could to make sure people would not have to experience that here," said Woolsey.

For any students who feel misunderstood at GFU this year, Woolsey hopes Common Ground can be a supportive place to voice their concerns.

"There is a place where you're welcome and accepted for exactly who you are," said Woolsey.

Common Ground meets weekly and can be reached at gfucommonground@gmail.com.

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