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George Fox University Archives

The Crescent

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

BASKETBALL CAPTAIN
JULIE LITCHFIELD
PG.7 |

THE ONLY MUSLIM
ON THE QUAD
PG. 10-11 |

BILL JOLLIFF:
POET,
PROFESSOR,
BANJO EXTRAORDINAIRE
PG.12-13 |



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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.

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Issues can be found in most academic or residential buildings on campus.

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.

Contact

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Cover Photo: Jessica Holder

Meet Maci



By Megan Creighton

Maci Jokumsen, a junior at George Fox University (GFU), finished her first cross-country season by securing an all-region honor on Nov. 11 at the NCAA Division III West Region Cross Country Championship, held at Occidental College in California.

Jokumsen, who has played soccer for most of her life, decided that it was time for a change. She decided to leave soccer because, she says, “Last year, I kind of lost the passion for it. I found myself not enjoying the sport itself as much as I had in the past.”

She chose cross-country as her new sport because of her love for running. She found it to be a bigger change than she had been expecting, when she realized how much goes into cross-country other than just the running.

“The transition was different, but needed,” she says, expressing her gratitude toward the cross-country team, who supported her each step of the way and helped as much as they could.

Kayla Moore is a senior at GFU and the other recipient of the all-region honors. Moore says she and Jokumsen are fairly close friends and have been since the 2017 track season. They competed in the same events during track and supported each other over the summer when they struggled to stay motivated to do early-morning workouts before work.

“She [Jokumsen] had a rough go at the start of the season honestly,” Moore said. “... I know she didn’t have the season she wanted.” It took a lot of adjustment and training for Jokumsen to really get into the groove of things, but her efforts clearly paid off at her last race of the season.

*Former GFU Football Player
Files
\$70 Million
Lawsuit*

By Jacks Whitehurst

In 2015, Samuel Wani injured his thumb during football practice at George Fox University (GFU). While he practiced for only two weeks and attended classes for less than one week, it was not until June 2017, according to the Newberg Graphic, that he filed several claims against GFU without an attorney.

The Newberg Graphic noted that these claims include charges of cyber bullying, racial verbal harassment, negligence, refusal of treatment, medical fraud, racial discrimination, HIPAA violations, and breach of contract."

Wani reports that after injuring his thumb on Aug. 20, 2015, he did not receive sufficient treatment from the GFU football team and was denied treatment three times, stating to the Newberg Graphic that he then promptly went to Newberg Providence Medical Center to have an x-ray taken. The results showed "a fracture and major swelling of the metacarpophalangeal (MP) joint in his thumb."

Wani also claims that after his football season had ended due to his injury, he was targeted by a teammate in a cyberbullying incident on Instagram. While not in a place to make comments about the pending lawsuit, GFU officials have released several media statements covering most of the allegations since the lawsuit has been filed. GFU states, "As the suit has just been filed and the university is still collecting information, the university is not in a position to comment generally on Mr. Wani's allegations or the pending litigation. University Student Life staff, athletic department staff, coaches and medical providers spent extensive time with Mr. Wani during his short attendance attempting to understand and address his concerns."

"He voluntarily left the team and withdrew from the university despite the university's encouragement that he stay."

It was several months after he left GFU that Wani had surgery on his thumb correcting the injury and receiving a cast, during which he was in contact with the university requesting multiple times that they pay for the costs of his treatment.

The lawsuit goes on to accuse several GFU staff members as well as staff from Newberg Providence Medical Center of falsifying medical records, saying that they covered up his injury so that they would not have to pay for it.

In their second statement GFU said, "The university's medical insurance provides coverage after a student's primary medical insurance is exhausted ... the university has made efforts to help Mr. Wani with his insurance claims."

The Newberg Graphic states that "Wani is seeking more than \$70 million in damages, including \$40 million plus medical expenses from George Fox, claiming 'this is the amount of money I would be making in a six to eight-year NFL career as a defensive end or linebacker.'"

GFU states in their second official media release, "Until this lawsuit, university staff believed they had adequately addressed Mr. Wani's concerns ... we certainly wish Mr. Wani the best in his academic and athletic endeavors.

"The university condemns all forms of cyberbullying and racial discrimination, which have no place in the George Fox community," the statement reads.

More information regarding the case will be released as the lawsuit continues under investigation; however, GFU has only released two statements to -date. For up-to-date coverage, see The Newberg Graphic online at pamplinmediagroup.com.

The League Championship

How our football team is drawing
closer after each game

By Megan Creighton

After its 2014 return to George Fox University (GFU), the football team is starting to make its mark on the Northwest Conference, and is currently standing at number 19 in Division Three national polls for the 2017 season.

After three years of hard training and conditioning, the GFU football team is starting to become a threat to the other D-III college football teams. With five wins and only two losses so far this season, the team has shown major growth since their first year with just one win.

"We started the first meeting in 2014 ... and the very first question I asked them was 'Is there any rule that says we have to act like a startup program?'" Head Coach Chris Casey said. "And our players said, 'No,' and I said we're not going to act like a startup program, we're going to act like a championship level program."

The team has lived up to the challenge, with intensive practices and undeterred spirits. Casey has coached this team into the top-25 contender, with no signs of the team slowing down anytime soon.

The whole team is working hard to reach championship level. Freshman linebacker Tyler Vasega said, "As a freshman, my goal is to give my seniors on the team their very best chance at getting a championship ring; I would ask the same of the freshmen when that time comes my senior year here at George Fox."

Among the few members of the very first team roster in 2013, when the team trained without games, is fifth-year senior Grant Schroeder. Schroeder, who plays as quarterback, said, "Everyone's bought into the vision that Coach Casey has brought for the past four years."

The team takes the season one week at a time. Each game is the focus, with the knowledge that each game brings them closer to the league championship.





Four years ago, Julie Litchfield lived in a small town on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. She did not know what she wanted to do for college, except that she wanted to be a collegiate athlete. Fast-forward to today and Litchfield is graduating this year with a degree in biology and plans to attend graduate school in order to become a nurse practitioner. She is also one of the captains of the George Fox University (GFU) basketball team and is engaged to be married this summer.

Moving to Newberg for school was definitely an adjustment for Litchfield. She found out about GFU through an assistant coach in high school who played for George Fox in the years the team won the national championship.

"I wasn't sure that I wanted to play basketball in college until senior year of high school. I actually was pretty set on soccer for a while; I thought I had a more realistic chance at that," said Litchfield. "But basketball has become a really big part of me during these past four years."

Litchfield started playing basketball at the age of five and grew up playing soccer and volleyball as well. Getting active has always been her favorite thing to do. She loves snowboarding, too, during the off-season.

As captain of the GFU squad, Litchfield makes sure that the team is always on the same page. In the pre-season, when coaches cannot be involved in planning practices, she makes sure that the open gym workouts happen and accounts for everyone's schedules. It is harder than it seems, she says, because of everyone's schedules and planning around the other sports teams using Duke Athletic Center. One day they had to have three different practices scheduled.

"Julie works hard at practice every day, no matter how she is feeling, and no matter how well everyone else is playing. She is steady, dependable, and an excellent leader. I am blessed to call her my teammate," said sophomore Emily Holder.

The team dynamic is one of the best parts of playing

Julie Litchfield

By Emma Lindberg

for GFU, said Litchfield. The team spends so much time together and is really closely bonded. One of Litchfield's favorite team memories is getting to spend a day at Disneyland last year after playing games in California. They travel across the country together for games and support each other on and off the court. As a captain, Litchfield is an encourager and motivator, in addition to her official duties.

"[Julie] is one of the people that you know is always going to work 110 percent on the court. I can always count on her to be there for me and my teammates. She always pushes me to become a better player during practice," said sophomore Emma Klym.

The Bruins won their first pre-season game on Nov. 17, starting off the season strong with a score of 68 - 57.

"It's hard to know what to expect, but I have a really good feeling about this season. We have some really strong freshmen coming in, as well as the sophomore class that got a lot of experience playing last year," says Litchfield.

In her senior season, Litchfield is excited to be a part of an amazing team and just enjoy the sport. She loves the atmosphere at the home games and the support that students have for GFU sports. Students can watch Litchfield and the rest of our women's basketball team at Linfield College on Dec. 1 or in Wheeler Athletic Center on Dec. 9.

Photos by Satoshi Seth

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Photos by Satoshi Seth



22-year-old twins Stephanie and Laurie Peterson are not only graduating from George Fox University (GFU) this semester, they have developed their own photography and videography business called The Pair Visuals.

Hailing from White Bear Lake, Minn. they came to GFU to pursue their passions of photography and videography in a small, Christ-centered community.

"We felt led to take the risk and go," said Stephanie.

Integrating music with videography has always been a special inspiration of Laurie's. "Music is really important for me because it achieves more emotion, and impacting people through video [has] been my passion," she said.

Photo by Jessica Holder

The Pair Visuals

By Kaylee Hatfield

One of Stephanie's passions is furthering her late professor John Bennett's legacy. "He pushed me as a person and photographer to create and to make, make, make," she said. "There is no question now that [photography] was what I was called to do."

For the twins, GFU has been full of wonderful people and resources. "It has caused me to grow in a lot of ways—spiritually, mentally, and emotionally," said Laurie.

Stephanie added that the art department "became a family for us being so far away from our home. I know when we graduate...these are going to be lasting relationships in a professional way, as well."

The Peterson sisters both loved visually conceptualizing stories as kids and have always wanted to create a business together. They felt that this was the right time because they have the confidence, experience, and training.

Brainstorming and conceptualizing together is a constant between the two. "We both have different roles in our business, but we have entirely one vision and one idea," said Stephanie.

This is formalized in their business's motto: Two creatives. One vision. "It's an experience of working with twins who have the same mind," said Laurie, "and for clients who want video and photography in one place."

Jeff Cameron, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design, helped solidify the twins' creatively fitting business logo of a pear cut in half.

"They have everything they need as far as skills, determination and ability," he said about their business. "They are quality people...and have a way of communicating that is one of their strengths."

The Petersons have built their professional portfolio through portrait sessions, documentaries, weddings, and work with local businesses like Newberg Tourism. A recurring theme in their productions is being real, authentic, and vulnerable.

Their advice to other creative individuals is to work on their own passions, through and outside of the classroom. They encourage others to keep making work, taking risks, and growing from constructive criticism, because the reward will be great.

"From my experience," said Stephanie, whose biggest goal in life is glorifying God through her work, "God works in the unknown and through the fear...He only gives you what you can handle."

After graduation, Laurie said their goal "is to finalize and establish The Pair Visuals and create a more concrete system of social media and projects."

"Where we can provide photographic and video documentation in all aspects of clients' media needs," Stephanie added.

To contact Laurie and Stephanie Peterson or check out their work, you can find them on their social media accounts through the handle @thepairvisuals, through their website: thepairvisuals.squarespace.com, or email them at their business address thepairvisuals@gmail.com.

The Only Muslim on the Quad

By Josh Cayetano



Walking around the George Fox University (GFU) campus, one is bound to see many baseball caps, a few beanies, and maybe a couple odd umbrellas. But only one student at GFU wears the hijab, the traditional Islamic head covering for women, and her name is Asma Al-Harami.

Al-Harami is, in all likelihood, the only Muslim attending GFU.

In January 2016, Al-Harami arrived in Oregon from Qatar two days before the semester began. Her closest friend was 3,000 miles away in Boston, Mass.

"It's going to be an interesting adventure," Al-Harami said as she stepped off the plane.

Though her first time on the west coast, this was not her first time in the United States. The twenty-one year old spent seven months at a language center in Boston a year earlier. She is the first person in her family to ever travel to the United States.

Her friends in Qatar told her she was crazy for wanting to study in America. They could not understand why a Muslim girl would want to leave behind the personal chefs, maids, and drivers they all enjoyed in Qatar.

"I didn't like the idea of waking up with everything

"...left behind the personal chefs, maids, and drivers."

prepared for me," Al-Harami said. "I want to work hard."

Al-Harami did not tell her friends she was applying to study in Boston, and still did not tell them until she was getting on the plane to leave.

"They were shocked," Al-Harami said. "But then they became really supportive."

Her dad always supported her as she followed her dreams. When he was eighteen, he became the only child in his family to leave Iran and pursue a better life in Qatar.

Now, nearly two decades later, here Asma Al-Harami was following in her father's footsteps. Al-Harami left her four siblings and her two parents to pursue her dream to study in the United States.

"I feel like my dad worked really hard for us," Al-Harami said. "I wanted to prove all he worked for was not for nothing."

But the United States was not as accepting as she had hoped.

During a layover in Chicago, Al-Harami was de-

tained in the airport and made to wait in a room with three monitors who replayed the coverage from the San Bernardino shooting.

Al-Harami was tired and angry. "What do you want me to say?" she asked. "Like, oh yeah, I can relate?"

In America, wearing the hijab marks a woman. There are many Muslim women, including many of Al-Harami's friends, who decide not to wear the hijab, but she has made a conscious choice to wear the head covering as a sign of devotion to Islam.

Even on the GFU campus, Al-Harami understands her hijab is a barrier preventing normal, day-to-day interactions with other students. Around the hijab, students are often cautious and uncertain.

For a brief time during the spring 2017 semester, Al-Harami decided to take off her hijab.

"I wanted to experience not being a hijabi here in the States," Al-Harami said, referring to the Muslim

her a picture of her hair, and offered to show it to her.

Not every interaction at GFU is as simple or child-like as the classmate who asked to about her hair.

One art professor asked Al-Harami how her faith was shaped coming to a Christian university with a predominantly Christian student body. Al-Harami told the professor living here had made her faith stronger because "being close to God makes me strong."

The professor replied, "But you have to be close to the right god."

"I just smiled at him and didn't say anything," Al-Harami said. "Smile and wave."

Islam, for Al-Harami, is a way of living. It is praying five times a day. It is devotion to Allah, who guides his followers to the right path.

Along her path, full of adventure and mystery, Al-Harami has drawn on God's strength to keep positive.

"Al-Harami understands her hijab is a barrier preventing normal, day-to-day interactions with other student."

women who wear a hijab.

With a wry smile she added, "A lot of people thought I was going to convert to Christianity when I took it off."

The effect was immediate. Classmates whom she had seen all semester suddenly said hello and even complimented her hair, asking if it was naturally curly.

Students would smile at her as she crossed the quad. For a short time, Al-Harami felt like she fit in.

But that moment was short-lived. She put the hijab back on.

"You are not the person to do things to make people to like you by changing you," Al-Harami told herself.

This semester, the familiar blend of cautiousness and curiosity colors Al-Harami's conversations with her peers.

One woman, with whom Al-Harami had two classes, nervously approached her and said, "I want to ask you a question, but I don't want to be mean."

Al-Harami smiled and encouraged her to ask.

"I'm just curious how long your hair is," the girl asked.

The Qatari student laughed and proceeded to show

She has learned many things, most important among them how to treat people different than herself: without judgment.

"There are good Christians and there are bad Christians, just like there are good Muslims and bad Muslims."

After nearly two years at GFU, Asma Al-Harami has some advice for the students of GFU who might not know how to interact with someone from a different faith, especially a covered Muslim woman.

"When you see someone who is not of the same religion or a different background, don't assume things," Al-Harami said.

"Second, smile. Maybe.

"And then just go for it."



Photos by Coleman Wiemer

Bill Jolliff

Professor of English

By Jacks Whitehurst

Poet. Professor of English. Banjo extraordinaire. These are just a few words to describe Bill Jolliff, long-time faculty member and active writer and researcher at George Fox University (GFU). Most students may know him as “the guy that went up on stage and played the banjo during chapel.”

Jolliff grew up in Magnetic Springs, Ohio, where “the springs are actually magnetic,” he said. Jolliff started playing the guitar and banjo with his grandmother when he was 15.

During his high school years, he started forming an interest in American literature. Particularly interesting to him were the works of Robert Frost and John Steinbeck.

As he studied English at Ohio State University (OSU) he continued to play the banjo and joined a Bluegrass band called “Side Rally Authority.” Even after the band split up just a few years later, his musical interests carried on throughout the rest of his life.

Jolliff said, “In my undergraduate work I was thinking about becoming a pastor, so I split my English courses between writing courses and literature courses; I also took a lot of ancient Greek in preparation for seminary.”

After finishing up his bachelor’s degree in English at OSU, he went to Ashland Theological Seminary, expecting to stay until completing his work. But Jolliff said that “after getting to seminary, it would have been only about eight weeks when I decided that I probably was not going to be going into pastoral ministry—in part because of my own theological questions about the very nature of a monopiscopal kind of system.”

One of the most distinct memories that Jolliff can recall at this point in his life came in a few words from Carl F. H. Henry, founder of Christianity Today Magazine, when he offered a challenge to all of the seminary students at a ministerial conference: “Maybe a few of you should go back into your own disciplines and try to do the best work you possibly can as Christians in academics.”

With that, Jolliff decided to head back to OSU, where he went on to earn his Ph.D. in English, writing his dissertation on

the American naturalist writers of the 1890s.

Around this time in his life, as he was teaching part-time at OSU during his graduate work, he began to understand his own theological values. Jolliff said, “Probably the person who resonated most deeply with me was an old Quaker theologian named Robert Barclay.”

In 1988, he went on to teach at Messiah College in Pennsylvania for six years before seeing a job opening at a small Quaker university in Oregon.

Since coming to GFU 1994, Jolliff’s interest in American Appalachian writers has led him to publish several books and articles in the field of study, and hundreds of poems. His poetry collection, “Twisted Shapes of Light” (2015), was one of his most recent achievements.

“One of the greatest blessings of poetry is empathy training.”

For Jolliff, part of literature’s value is its high accessibility.

He said, “How many people in your immediate circles do you feel like you really have access to be inside their heads and really know how they tick? When you start reading novels or poetry, you get a certain sense of the commonality of feeling and increased understanding of the ability to identify with people who have been in a very different situation than you.”

Jolliff and his wife Brenda have three kids: Jacob in New York City who plays in the Yonder Mountain String Band that travels over 120 days of the year; Rebecca, a Willamette graduate and a grant writer in Washington D.C. for an organization that supports non-profit work; and his youngest, Anna, doing graduate work in psychology at the University of Wisconsin.

Student Voting

By Emma Lindberg

On Nov. 8, elections were held around the country for local positions in office, tax measures, non-partisan ballot measures, and more. At George Fox University (GFU), however, there seems to be a lack of political participation and discussion.

Last year's election was a vital time to stand up for what you believe in, but I heard a lot of people saying things along the lines of "I'm not really interested in politics" and "I don't like talking about political issues."

While there is a time and a place for discussing these tough topics, as members of a technologically advanced society with so much information at our disposal, it is our responsibility to be educated about issues in our society.

There is no excuse for ignorance anymore. Access to news and politics is readily available, so it is important for the individual to educate themselves. Political opinions hold no meaning unless attached to action.

I conducted a survey with 100 members of the GFU community on voting habits, and 91 percent of those participants are registered to vote, while only 41 percent voted in their local elections. While maybe this survey does not reflect the data of the whole student body, likely most students or people in general do not vote in their local elections, based on national statistics.

Of the survey participants, 74 percent said they thought their vote mattered. Knowing a vote makes a difference while choosing not to vote is selfish.

Students aged 18-24 could be the deciding demographic if we showed up to vote. We have

the numbers but lack the motivation to take action and stay informed.

This does not just apply to national elections. Local lawmakers have an even larger influence on issues directly affecting students' daily life than the federal government in many circumstances.

For example, in 2014, the Seattle City Council voted to incrementally raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. This action has a direct impact on the workers and companies of Seattle. It is important to make sure the people holding these local offices are the people who stand for what is best for the region.

Many times there are nonpartisan measures on the ballot for local elections. Staying aware of voting topics is vital because there can be items about funding for different city projects in local communities.

I would argue that local and congressional elections are more important now than ever. In my district in Washington, there was an election for a state senate seat that would break the GOP majority in Olympia.

Democrats were elected into important offices in Virginia, New Jersey, and New York City, as well as turning over control in six state House and Senate races, according to CNN. This is a direct reaction to the disaster that is Trump's White House.

People are unhappy with the direction this country is heading and are taking action to combat it. Now more than ever, we, as young people, must speak up and take action.



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