

4-18-2018

"The Crescent" Student Newspaper, April 18, 2018

George Fox University Archives

The Crescent

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

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HO

JAYDEE
ROMICK

LEO
CRUZ

ALIYA
WHITEHILL

KEENAN
O'HERN

TAYLOR
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FEATURES



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APRIL 18TH, 2018 | ISSUE X VOLUME CXLX

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The Voice of the Students

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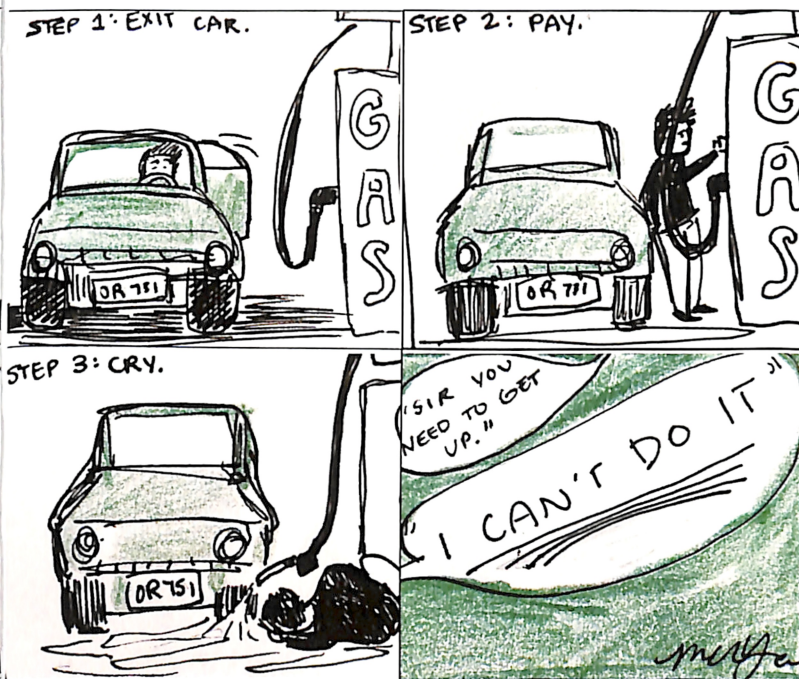
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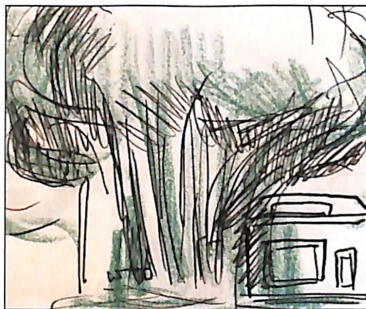
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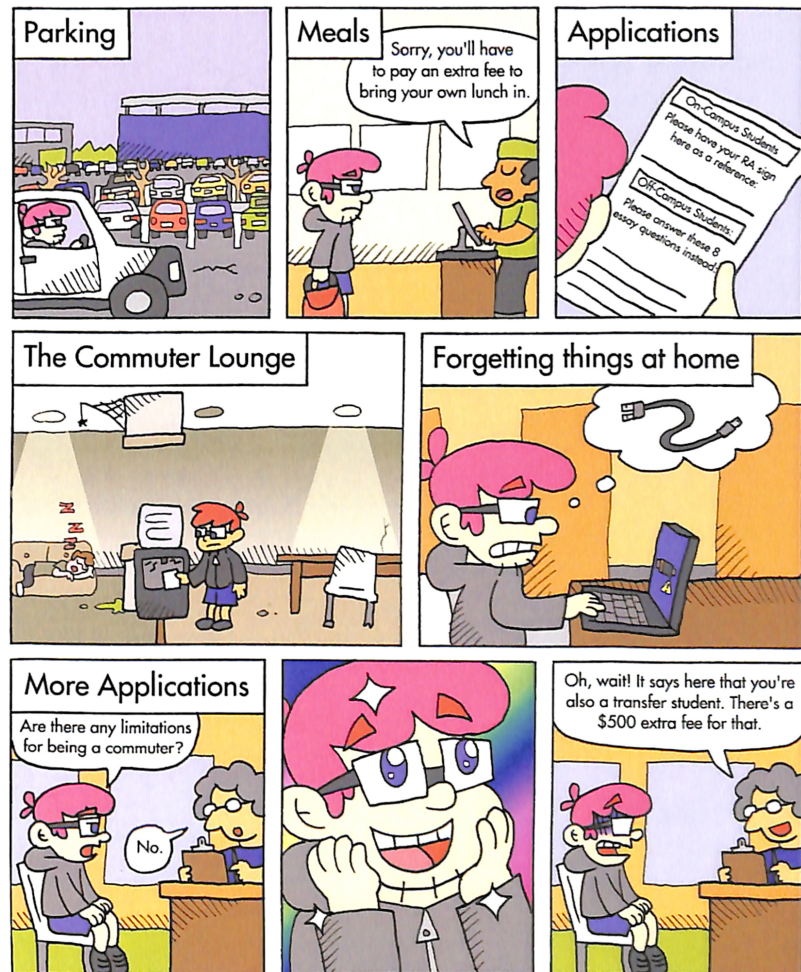
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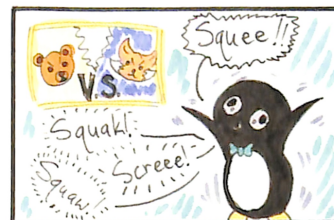
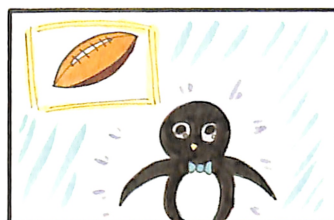
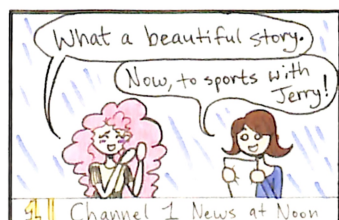
When Oregonians Try to Pump Gas



MESSY BUNS



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By: Tsacha Hyneman

NOELLE HO

By Emma Lindberg



You may know Noelle Ho as the first Vice President (VP) of Multicultural Life on the Associated Student Committee (ASC), contestant #2 on the Dating Game or the president of the Psychology Club, but those who are close to her know her as a “truth-bearer.”

“She loves people deeply and intentionally with truth. She did an excellent job in her multicultural role because she sits with people in their pain; she meets them where they are at,” said senior Sami Nero, who has known Ho since their freshman year and was her roommate last spring.

Ho describes her time at George Fox University (GFU) as one of growth and challenges. She found a community of lifetime friends that believe in her through ASC, who made her truly feel known, and became involved in the Asian American club and the psychology club.

“I think I just understand more how to interact with people better and how people want to be loved and how people want to be heard. Just recognizing that each individual is so unique and you can never have a person fully figured out,” said Ho.

In her role as the first VP of Multicultural Life, Ho strived to amplify the voices of different cultures on campus. Two years ago, ASC did not advertise events for the multicultural clubs on campus. Ho wanted to provide opportunities for students that are different from one another to connect and be able to understand how much they have in common, without minimizing what is unique about each person and each culture.

“I wanted to change this campus through one-on-one interactions...My end goal was to see people understanding one another better,” said Ho.

Ho wants to use this skill of bridging the gap between people in her future career. After graduation, she wants to go into industrial organiza-

tional psychology and help businesses with their team dynamics, vision casting, building structure and training.

As an “introverted extrovert,” Ho understands that leaders are not always the loudest people in the room. Because she sees the values of different perspectives and of the ability to lead quietly, she wants to redefine what it means to empower and what it means to be a leader. In her studies as a psychology major, she has learned how to use concrete data and research to support her ideas about leadership and teamwork.

“I really hate buzzwords, and I want to revolutionize the way things are phrased to be very innovative and very new,” said Ho. “It’s very easy to get caught up in a very cliché way of saying things and it’s not productive; I don’t think it works. I want to bring innovation in how we train people to be leaders.”

Her time at GFU has prepared her to be a strong leader who knows how to adapt and when she needs to be assertive. She has learned that putting yourself out there will leave you vulnerable to getting hurt but to do it anyway, and that not everyone will agree with your opinion, but that should not stop you from voicing it. The growth she experienced at GFU, she said, has led her to be less of a people-pleaser and to be rooted in her own beliefs.

Photos by Bethany Woods



Jaydee Romick

By Kaylee Hatfield

“There’s nothing like it!” said Jaydee Romick about her position in improving the health and well-being of community members. She is a student working with the cardiopulmonary division of George Fox University’s (GFU) Physical Therapy Community Clinic. This spring Romick will be graduating with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

At GFU, Romick has balanced her time proficiently between education and clinical work. “By far this has been a more rewarding experience than challenging,” she said. “[GFU] seeks to develop the next generation of awesome therapists, those that practice at the top of their license.”

The community clinic has a three-angled approach they call



“patient-centered care.” In this regard they utilize input from physical therapists, physicians, and the patients themselves. Out of this concept students and clinicians build a community of growth and accountability with each patient. The final objective is for the patient to reach their goals by being empowered to make life-changing improvements to their strength and health.

Much of Romick’s time has been spent working alongside Dr. Daniel Kang, director of the cardiopulmonary therapeutics division. Kang attested to Romick’s character, faith and work ethic: “Jaydee has an enormous amount of passion. She doesn’t just talk about it but does something about it.” Regarding Kang, Romick said, “He instills a sort of confidence that makes you feel like you could breathe underwater.”

As part of the community clinic, Romick, along with other GFU graduate students and therapists, helps train cardiac patients to improve their health and fitness. She has also taught nutrition courses for cardiac rehabilitation during GFU’s Health and Wellness Week.

Romick and the other faculty involved in the community

clinic are able to build stronger connections with their patients by listening to their stories. “No matter if they’ve been through a major heart complication or are trying to avoid it. If they have a reason to keep their heart beating, it can pull them through the toughest situations,” said Romick. “I can honestly say [it’s] changed the way I see the world, but more importantly the way I see myself.”

Throughout her tenure at GFU and the physical therapy clinic, Romick feels even more optimistic about her future and the future of physical therapy. She hopes to open her own practice with a genuine desire to improve the health of her community.

Trying New Things Senior Year

By Hannah Lee

As a biology major, Leo Cruz was not planning on acting for the first time—second semester senior year. “I think it was more than anything just an opportunity that presented itself,” Cruz said.

Cruz, a senior biology major here at George Fox University (GFU), was initially reluctant when his friend asked him to act in a play at the Chehalem Cultural Center, but does not regret his decision.

“I feel like it’s opened my eyes to the way things are set up,” Cruz said. “You usually just see the finished product but learning lines, how to deliver, feeding other [the other actors’] energy... it’s been fun.”

Though he did not have any previous experience, Cruz was eager to jump out of his comfort zone. This is something he has grown in during his collegiate years, and something he wishes he had been more comfortable with coming into GFU.

When asked what he would tell his freshman self, Cruz said, “It’s going to be stressful but it’s going to be fun. Your first year’s going to fly by so quick, and before you know it, you’ll be a senior and have to figure out the rest of your life. But just enjoy it. You’re going to be asked to push yourself in ways you never would and you’re going to have to step out of your comfort zone, but at the end of the day, you’re going to be thankful you did it.”

Cruz went with a friend to a dance last year and found himself called to helping first-generation students and mentoring people like him. This is where he has seen the “Be Known” motto the most.

“It’s a two-way road for sure,” Cruz said. “In order to be known, you have to put yourself out there a little bit. There’s a place at this school for everybody, but you

have to step out of your comfort zone to get there. I’m grateful for being pushed to go to that. But you’re not known until you go out and talk to people.”

Cruz believes there needs to be more mentoring on campus. “I wish that individual majors would help connect the older students with the younger students, so they can know how to prepare,” he said. He has found mentoring and having mentors to be one of the best things he has experienced at GFU, and he hopes to see more of it in the future.

Next, Cruz is headed to Azusa Pacific University to attend the graduate program for student

affairs. Though this is very different from his undergrad of biology, he feels compelled to share his story and show students like him that they are capable of success.



Aliya Whitehill: On Route to Notre Dame

By Mollisande Williams



Photos by Kate Gray

Aliya Whitehill, a Portland native, originally wanted to move out of state for college but ended up coming to George Fox University (GFU). Ironically, her school is now what is sending her to the Midwest to earn a Ph.D. after she graduates.

A senior chemistry major at GFU, Whitehill has had quite a journey to get to where she is now. Heavily involved in the theater department her first two years here, she has dipped her toes into different subjects she enjoys to find her true passion.

Thinking about social work as a major initially, it was not until Whitehill took the first year of chemistry courses did she truly feel confident with her direction. Loving the academic rigor that comes from science-based classes and wanting to help others, she longed to find the perfect balance. Chemistry, which incorporated both aspects, was the major she landed on.

"I realized that, in science, you can still impact people's lives," Whitehill said.

Whitehill's sophomore year included advanced inorganic chemistry taught by Professor Carlisle Chambers, a class that was both challenging and rewarding. Instead of pushing her away from the meticulous major, she knew she was in the right place. "I love chemistry, particularly in the places where it begins to intersect with physics and geology. There are a lot of new things we're discovering. I just want to keep learning about it," she said.

After a summer program with the American Chemical Society and the Department of Energy, Whitehill was encouraged by her mentors to apply to Ph.D. programs in order to get more young people involved in nuclear science. After contacting several programs that interested her, Whitehill visited Notre Dame and felt it was the right fit.

Come graduation, she will be joining a lab specializing in actinide geochemistry. This focuses on heavy elements low on the periodic table, which are often radioactive. The lab researches these elements and the structures



they form under certain conditions. "I'm looking at it as a five-year adventure," she said. "I really love the Pacific Northwest so it's hard to be saying goodbye to Oregon."

As for GFU, Whitehill said she will miss the little moments with the communities she has developed here and the relationships she has built with her roommates. The professors she has learned from and the classes that have given her the first taste of discovery are always something she will remember. However, waiting for her across the states in Indiana is the potential for even more discovery.

Keenan O'Hern Says "Yes" to Life

By Mollisande Williams

Keenan O'Hern might just be the epitome of living life with open arms. A senior marketing major at George Fox University (GFU), O'Hern takes advantage of every opportunity for a new experience, even if that means being pushed outside of his comfort zone.

He was not always like this. As a young boy, he was shy and remained within his comfortable boundaries.

But through his years at GFU, O'Hern learned to say, "Why not?" This mindset has taken him to many different interesting encounters.

During a marketing conference where he spoke in San Francisco, O'Hern found himself in a room with a few well-known people. Queen Latifa walked in.

O'Hern made his way over to her in hopes of getting permission to ask a question. "I'm a big fan of you and your beatboxing. Can I beatbox for you?"

This love for spontaneity and adventure often leads him to fun and quirky experiences. He has also encountered some that give him insight on his faith.

As a senior with constant questions about the future, O'Hern felt called to take the next step of God's plan for him, but was not sure what that was. As it turned out, wisdom was just a phone call away.

Bob Goff, the best-selling author of



"Love Does," leaves his personal phone number in the back of his books. O'Hern thought he might as well give him a call.

This led to a conversation between the two about the command from God to love others.

"It made me think about how simple life can be if we just allow it to," said O'Hern. "There're so many stressors. But I've got friends around me and I've got a great life. There's a lot to be joyful of." He smiled.

Recently engaged to GFU senior Stacy Kozlowski, O'Hern has begun preparing for the world outside of college.

"I think about the foundation I have now, especially going out into the workforce and marriage, and I feel pretty ready," he said.



While ready for the next chapter in his life, O'Hern will look back at his time at GFU with fond memories. Many of these memories he acquired by stepping outside of his comfort zone.

The ones he will remember most, O'Hern said, are the simpler ones: the sunny days on the quad, playing Frisbee outside, and spending hours in conversation with friends at Coffee Cottage.

These activities, conversations, and relationships have “weaved the web of this beautiful painting of who I am,” he said. Crafted by these experiences, O'Hern will continue to embrace life through the many random, crazy, and humbling opportunities presented, wherever he goes.

Trusting

By Hannah Lee

“I guess it’s a funny story of how I got here” said Lindquist.

Taylor Lindquist, a senior biblical studies major at George Fox University (GFU), was not expecting anything in particular when he came to college. He originally came to play baseball, but by the end of freshman year, decided he did not want baseball to be his identity.

“In that ambiguity, that chaos,” Lindquist said, “I learned I’m decent at this whole biblical studies thing.”

Lindquist comes from a faith-driven family and even went to a Christian school but pursuing biblical studies certainly was not part of his plan. Furthermore, he did not expect so many doors to start opening.

“I started meeting influential people. It was junior year. I was like, ‘This is the game...the career path I wanna go down,’” he said.

Lindquist has been very involved in mentoring middle and high school students at Westside Church. Coming from a background of teachers, he knew he wanted to do something similar, but hoped to be a col-

lege professor.

Senior year came, and Taylor did not know what to do. “[I thought] maybe I’ll do law, but then it just hit me that I don’t want to do this. Right then and there I decided to jump full into religious studies and being a professor,” he said.

Lindquist then spent some time in Rome. He came back ready to reconnect with old professors and make a game plan for getting into graduate school.

He felt GFU was the perfect place to figure it all out. “It’s not mutually exclusive to be a student and an athlete, and to be [both], getting to know professors outside of classes...I just had a lot of opportunity for these things to take place,” he said.

“The fact that we’re able to converse on equal level

instead of [having] this hierarchal professor,” he said. It’s one of those rare things I’m getting to grasp.”

Lindquist is heading to Yale to study at the Divinity school. He hopes to get his doctorate there and become a professor, but he is open to God changing his plan.

“It’s good to have that end goal, but just by taking the next step in obedience and willingness to go wherever is a step in the right direction. It’s about seeing the beauty and intentionality of the chaos,” he said.

“Where you are is where you need to be.”

Wherever he ends up, Lindquist wants to continue to always have faith in God and show his love to everyone. He is incredibly grateful for GFU, specifically the professors who have spoken into his life, and hopes he is able to do the same for his students someday.



God's Plan



Photos by Jessica Holder

Mina Starks

By Jacks Whitehurst

First generation college student. Favorite book: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Three summer jobs: Crazy Eight Clothing, Lowes, nanny. Meet Mina Starks, Tacoma native, soon-to-be graduate of George Fox University (GFU), and soon-to-be off to a Master of Arts and Teaching program at the University of Puget Sound.

None of those things will start for her just yet; she has other short-term goals in mind.

"The day after graduation I plan to go home and sleep for a week straight."

Starks' personal journey at GFU is one from which every student, prospective or current, should hear and learn. While she began her journey at GFU expecting to finish with an engineering degree, some radical changes took place in her life in just a few short years that have shaped her personal beliefs and challenged the way she lives currently.

Like many other students have experienced, GFU offered something special once Starks stepped on campus for the first time. "[GFU] was that perfect distance away from home where I feel like I could grow up a little bit," Starks said, "but if I got super homesick, I could be home within four hours."

Yet, two years deep into mechanical engineering, Starks realized that was not what she wanted to do. "I realized that I am miserable and I don't like this," she said.

"So, I thought, What do I love to do? I love books and I love writing, so I went ahead with English." Even though still unsure what to do with that type of degree, she knew English was the right choice.

The switch was a risky move credit-wise, but her professors were able to help her get right on track and graduate in four years.

"I was immediately happier," Starks said.

Along with that major change at the end of her sophomore year, many other changes came in the form of questions of personal identity and views of Christianity. "The type of Christian I was when I got here was the quintessential: 'I know the Bible, but I know the Bible in the way it's been taught to me, and I have never done any real interpretation of it on my own,'" said Starks.



"When I got to this point, I kind of went through this existential crisis and became super disillusioned with Christianity as an institution. So, I started reading the Bible really heavily on my own, and I stopped going to church. I think it has made me a stronger Christian, but I don't think that it is necessarily normal for everyone else," Starks said.

Starks said her change of major had a lot to do with what was going on inside herself. "There is definitely a connection between the time that I stopped going to church, started reading my Bible a lot, and when I changed my major," she said. "There was just a weird disconnect that I had to overcome."

While Starks' experience is specific to her life, clearly had she not been at GFU she may not have had the same outcome.

Her experience in the last two years has helped Starks understand that questions are often very helpful spiritually. She is bold enough to ask the difficult questions, without fear of what the answer might be.

"If the Bible is a text similar to the ones that we read for classes, where we are allowed to have our own interpretations based on proof, how come it's the only one where there is only supposed to be one interpretation?" Starks said.

For those considering big things at the moment, Starks said, "It's really cliché, but you have to go with what's best for you mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Follow your heart."

"I get how hard it is to turn off the practical side of things—stuff that will make [you] tons of money or thinking that you can't do what you want—if you truly have a passion for something you will find a way," she said.

Starks plans to be a high school English teacher. "I'm going straight to grad school to get that out of the way. I can always change my career path" said Starks. For now, she sees teaching as a good opportunity to give back students in the same way her professors poured into her.

"I've noticed that some public schools lack a lot of resources which just puts them really far behind," Starks said. "I want to teach in impoverished areas, in places where people don't really want to teach."

Starks represents something wonderful about what bold actions in faith and personal belief can do. No matter what has happened in the course of her life, she seems to live by a personal standard that is sound advice to many: "Don't let anyone else's external opinions influence your future life."

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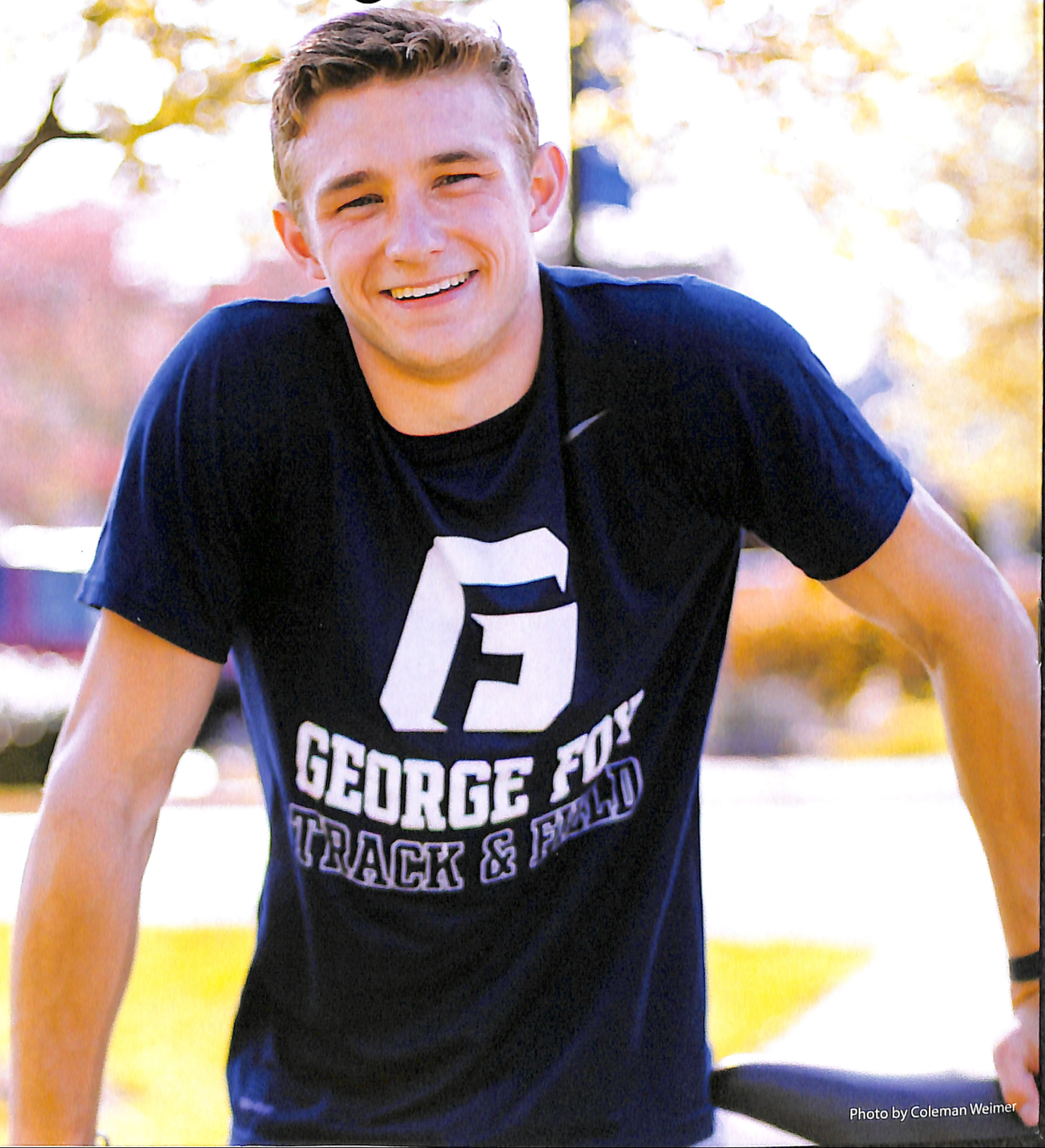


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