

# EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

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Last week started off as one of “those days,” with technology challenges getting screens to connect and display. And we didn’t have a flag standing on the floor for the morning Pledge.

Hey, we recite the pledge to the idea of the flag, not the cloth and dye itself, right?

Frank Douglas launched the next Paul Harris Fellow pool and asked if there were others that would like to join. It took two seconds and the pool had all five names.

Also, on the Paul Harris Fellowship front, our 100 of \$10 Brag Sheet filled up. Number 49 was drawn. Congratulations Rod Federwisch on your new Plus How-Many-Now?

With us last week from George Fox University were Melissa Terry (*below*), Chief of Staff, and Lindsay Knox (*above*), Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing.

The topic was the drive through commencement ceremony response to the pandemic.

GFU had some quick thinking to do when the governor closed schools in March 2020. For one, the Spring Term had to be finished in a hybrid online and in person experience.

In April Dr. Baker launched a series of videos named [George Fox Calling](#), words of encouragement to the students and our community.

The first one drew a relational comparison of these new and profound struggles with those of first century Christians. He introduced the concept with a passage from Hebrews 11. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

There were big, scary questions that had no answers. Would the institution survive? Would students be allowed to return to campus?

As the shelter in place campaign dragged on from month to month it became clear there would need to be a new way to welcome new students to campus.

Over the past number of years the football team rallied to storm the dorms greeting family and helping incoming frosh get settled and introduced to their home for the next few years.

The new version of Welcome Weekend pulled from a different student pool ... the School of Nursing.

The nursing students and faculty tendered medical screening to students and family so they would be allowed to enter the dorms



Make the option real to take a whole term away and extend the entire curriculum to the entire enterprise (colleges, schools, etc.).

In mid-COVID planning they all budgeted for loss in prior year students and reduction in incoming students. So, while they anticipated a 25% hit, the reality was only a down of 15% and no loss to numbers of staying students.

The belt tightening included cuts in travel and

moving insurance from Providence to Kaiser. What was NOT cut was retirement, salaries and the Fox commitment to its students and its mission.

Students had been clamoring for an in person Commencement so the team figured out how to perform a drive through ceremony that would take 18 hours and span two days to get everyone through.

Historically students were limited by space on number of guest invites were allowed. So the up side of the drive-through commencement is some students had more family attending and they had fun with the novelty of it.



and without the help of the football team members.

Lindsay, while with George Fox since 2006, started in her role as VP of Enrollment and Marketing only last September. Hey, if you’re gonna make a name for yourself, why not snag the position with the highest stakes and highest risk of failure, right?

It was the perfect place for her to drop the idiom, “never waste a crisis.”

From this crisis was borne George Fox Digital. She envisions the future of education to be an immersive experience, not just a bunch of Zoom meetings and recordings.

And this experience will survive long beyond the pandemic giving students the opportunity to stay home and save on on-campus living expenses. The ability to study while abroad or just stuck home.

