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Friendsview residents thrive via George Fox University

By **Erinn Hutkin**
for Oregonian Media Group Marketing

When George Fox University Professor Emeritus Dwight Kimberly invites residents from across the street at Friendsview into his science classes, he's not shy about putting them to work.

One Friendsview resident was a retired clinical microbiologist for an Oregon hospital system who helped get bacteria needed for a science class, and then lectured about disease outbreaks and antibiotics. Another Friendsview resident - who suffered from mumps and measles as a child -- spoke to microbiology students about what life was like before vaccines.

There was the retired dentist who told students about the effects of chewing tobacco on teeth, as well as throat and oral cancers. And the former ecologist-turned resident who took students on nature trips to Eastern Oregon - and ended up teaching an ecology class because he was so good.

It's all part of the multi-faceted relationship between the two Newberg campuses that's become purposeful and valuable over the years - and one that's beneficial to both

students and residents.

"Their experience is really important, and it's something that faculty can't provide - firsthand experience," said Kimberly, whose parents have lived at Friendsview for nearly 15 years. "Students need role models, and they need to see how the information they're learning is connected to the world."

In turn, the relationship also benefits Friendsview residents. Kimberly said his father - who's nearly 97 years old - visits the university each week to share knowledge - in the form of repairing vacuum cleaners. The task is something that not only gives his father joy - but purpose.

"My dad said to me... he wants purpose," Kimberly said. "Connecting to George Fox gives (residents) some purpose."

Having Friendsview residents share their knowledge at the university is just one way the relationship is mutually beneficial.

Frank Engle, director of marketing for Friendsview, said the affiliation between the community and the university stems from the fact that both institutions were founded by Quakers, leading to a sense of shared values among the two



Friendsview residents Kay Newell, who moved from Boise, Idaho in September, and Ellouise Chandler visit the George Fox University bookstore.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRIENDSVIEW

communities. Quakers are nationally known for their colleges and universities as well senior-living communities and addressing social concerns within society.

The relationship began before Friendsview opened in 1961. While many retirement communities are located near places that offer shopping or dining, Friendsview's location was chosen for its proximity to George Fox. Engle believes it's one of only two retirement communities in Oregon nestled beside a university, and it's one reason

that - over the years - more people have moved to Friendsview.

For one, Engle says having the liberal arts university nearby allows Friendsview residents to take classes, as well as partake in athletic or cultural events on campus. For those who want more, there are opportunities to mentor students. One example comes from the

women's basketball team. Each player has a resident who serves as a foster friend, and those from Friendsview are there to cheer for the team during games. He said the mentorships have led residents to be invited to player's weddings and other special events.

In addition, the students and residents interact in other ways. For instance, Engle said the university offers a doctorate in psychology, which involves students leading a transitions group for residents new

to Friendsview.

There's also a "reverse internship" program and George Fox's vibrant engineering department. The partnership allows Friendsview residents with degrees and background in the field to enter classrooms and help with classes and projects.

Physical therapy students also get involved. In addition to having retired therapists volunteer in classes and with programs, residents are regularly called upon to serve as volunteers for physical therapy instruction labs.

"It just flows their direction, and it flows our direction," Engle said of the relationship with George Fox. "There are so many ways that our residents and staff connect."

Professors such as Kimberly have seen the benefits of the relationship over the years. From sharing their knowledge to contributing to scholarship funds to making a call to a former colleague when a student needs a job, he said the connection is valuable for both George Fox students and Friendsview residents.

"We're really connected," he said. "It goes both ways. Friendship is always two ways."

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Friendsview is a not-for-profit, faith-based Life Plan Community (formerly known as a continuing care retirement community)
Located in Newberg—right next to George Fox University • Just outside the Portland metropolitan area • Halfway between Mt. Hood and the Oregon coast