

GONZAGA
UNIVERSITY

Office of
Inclusive Excellence

Diversity Digest



*Vietnamese Fan Dance Performance
AAU Night Market 2024*

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Diversity Officer

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Message From The Chief Diversity Officer

Dear Graduates,

As you prepare to start your journey, I offer you my heartfelt congratulations. What an incredible accomplishment!

I hope you are challenged as leaders to examine the world critically and act with compassion, courage, and a commitment to social justice. As Chief Diversity Officer, I dream of a world where every person is seen, every voice is heard, every perspective is valued, and every story matters. Your efforts to listen deeply, advocate boldly, and stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized are some of the take aways from a Jesuit education.

From a poem entitled "Reason, Season, and a Lifetime" by Brian A. Chalker, who accept that people move through our lives for various purposes, and all these relationships have meaning. During your time at Gonzaga, you had people come into your life for a reason: a week or two or a semester. Someone may have entered your life for a season, for example, a year or two or four years or your entire time at GU. After your time at Gonzaga, the season relationship ends, or you drift apart. However, lifetime relationships last and are enduring.

Although short-term, the benefits of a reason relationship could be that the person supported your needs at the time. Short-term relationships can be beneficial and can impact your life in significant ways. Whereas the benefits of a season relationship could stretch your entire time at GU in terms of support, connection, and friendship. Season relationships can be impactful and last longer than a reason relationship, but these relationships also will inevitably end.

Then there are lifetime relationships. Lifetime relationships can bring you joy, aid your growth, and teach you more about yourself and the world around you. The beauty of lifetime relationships is that you form friendships where you see each other during multiple stages of life, and you support each other through it all.

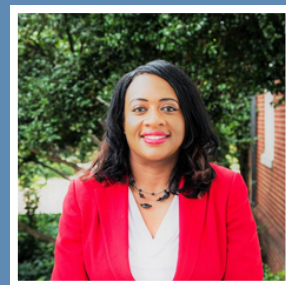
The point is that you treasure all the relationships and connections you made during your time here at Gonzaga University.

I wish you enormous success and that you lead with courage, conviction, and purpose.

Sincerely,



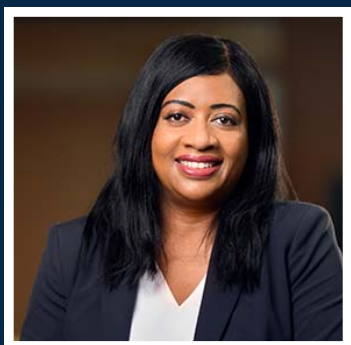
Robin Kelley, Ph.D.



Robin Kelley, Ph.D.

Chief Diversity Officer

MEET THE OFFICE OF INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE (OIE)



Robin Kelley, Ph.D.

Chief Diversity Officer



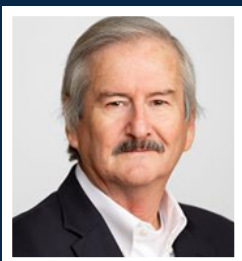
Meghan C. Ridgely, M.L.S.

Assistant to
the CDO and
Office Manager



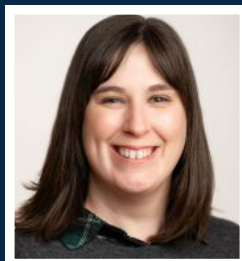
Christine C. Burge

Assistant Director,
Discrimination and
Harassment
Prevention



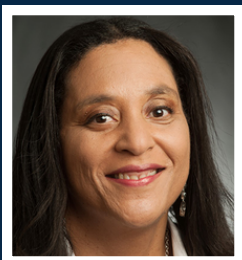
**David Gomez,
M.A.**

Title IX Equity &
Compliance
Investigator



**Kristina
Poffenroth**

Gender Based
Violence Prevention
Education Specialist



**Shalon Parker,
Ph.D.**

Director of the
Underrepresented
Minority Postdoctoral
Fellowship program

THE CLASS OF 2025

As the sun sets on another chapter, the Gonzaga University Class of 2025 stands poised at the edge of a new beginning. With hearts full of memories and minds sharpened by challenge and discovery, these graduates have spent the past four years not only pursuing academic excellence, but also shaping a community rooted in purpose, compassion, and leadership. Today, we celebrate all they've accomplished, the challenges they've overcome, and the journeys that lie ahead, as they step forward with confidence, heart, and a touch of Zag pride.

The Class of 2025 carries with them more than just degrees, they leave with moments that shaped their journey. Favorite memories, cherished campus corners, and the people who made Gonzaga feel like home now become part of their story. Many of these reflections are rooted deeply in the community: from the roar of the Kennel on game nights to quiet moments over coffee at Thomas Hammer, gazing out at the river. It's in the everyday conversations, the unplanned ones between classes or during late-night study sessions, that classmates became lifelong friends. These are the pieces of Gonzaga that remain long after tassels are turned and goodbyes are said.



The Class of 2025 during Orientation in 2021

These moments, though unique to each graduate, echo a shared sense of belonging that defines the Gonzaga experience. To capture this spirit, the voices of the Class of 2025 speak volumes. In their own words, students reflect on what they'll miss most and the memories that will stay with them as reminders of a place that shaped not only their education, but who they've become. When asked what they'll miss most or what made Gonzaga feel like home, here's what a few seniors had to say. Gonzaga Student Body Association (GSBA) President Maddie Ediger shared, "It's about 7,000 things I'll miss. It's the people—the people here really helped me grow as a leader and as a person. Leaving is going to be really hard." Another senior reflected on how her club helped her find "a sense of community and the best kinds of friends." One student recalled "meeting one of my best friends in freshman year biology lab," and another shared memories of "studying in Foley during spring and going to Gonzaga basketball games." Together, these moments highlight just a few of the meaningful experiences that define what it means to be a Zag.

As the Class of 2025 steps into their next chapter, they carry with them the friendships, lessons, and memories that made Gonzaga more than just a university. Though their paths now lead in different directions, the spirit of being a Zag remains—guiding them forward with purpose and heart.

Congratulations, Class of 2025!

As their journey at Gonzaga University comes to a close, the Class of 2025 shares moments that made their time as a Zag special. In their own words, students reflect on what they'll miss most and the memories that will stay with them as reminders of a place that shaped not only their education, but who they've become.



Check Out the Full Video Here

EDUCATION CORNER

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH



Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month is celebrated annually in May to honor the diverse and rich cultures, histories, and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. The month-long observance was officially recognized in 1992, following a series of congressional actions. It was chosen to coincide with two significant events in AAPI history: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the U.S. on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, a monumental achievement that was largely constructed by Chinese immigrants.

Throughout the month, various events, programs, and educational initiatives take place across the country to highlight the accomplishments and ongoing struggles of AAPI communities. These efforts foster understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultures within the AAPI umbrella, which includes individuals with heritage from East Asia, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Indian subcontinent. AAPI Heritage Month is not only a time to reflect on past achievements but also a moment to advocate for greater inclusivity, representation, and support for these communities, who have historically faced challenges such as discrimination and marginalization.

EDUCATION CORNER

The celebration emphasizes the vast contributions that AAPI individuals have made in fields ranging from science, technology, and politics to the arts, entertainment, and social justice. It also provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges AAPI communities continue to face, including rising hate crimes, underrepresentation, and the need for greater cultural understanding. By coming together during this month, communities celebrate shared values of resilience, family, and community, while also recognizing the importance of fostering a more inclusive and just society for all.

To connect at Gonzaga University, see the organizations below:

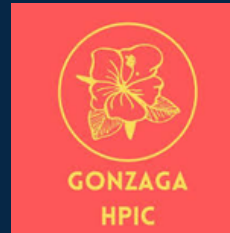
Asian American Union - AAU



Instagram:
[@gonzagaaaau](https://www.instagram.com/gonzagaaaau)

Email:
gonzagaaaau@gmail.com

Hawai'i/Pacific Islander Club



Instagram:
[@gonzaga_hpica](https://www.instagram.com/gonzaga_hpica)

Email:
club-HPIC@zagmail.gonzaga.edu

Asian Pacific Islanders Law Caucus



Instagram:
[@apilc.gu](https://www.instagram.com/apilc.gu)

Email:
law-api@lawschool.gonzaga.edu

Japan Club



Instagram:
[@gujapanclub](https://www.instagram.com/gujapanclub)

Email:
gonzaga.japanesecub@gmail.com

South Asian Student Union - SASU



Instagram:
[@gonzaga.sasu](https://www.instagram.com/gonzaga.sasu)

Email:
gonzaga.sasu@gmail.com

Korean Student Association



Instagram:
[@gu.ksa](https://www.instagram.com/gu.ksa)

Email:
ksa.gonzaga@gmail.com

EDUCATION CORNER

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Jewish American Heritage Month, celebrated each May, is a time to recognize and honor the rich history, culture, and contributions of Jewish Americans to the United States. The observance was officially designated in 2006, following legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by President George W.

Bush. May was chosen as the month to commemorate Jewish heritage because it marks the anniversary of the first Jewish immigrant's arrival in America in 1654. The celebration highlights the deep and enduring impact that Jewish Americans have had on the social, political, and cultural fabric of the nation.

Jewish American Heritage Month offers a platform to reflect on the historical struggles and triumphs of the Jewish community in the U.S. It serves as a reminder of the resilience and perseverance of Jewish Americans, who have faced challenges such as anti-Semitism, discrimination, and the scars of the Holocaust. It also provides an opportunity to celebrate the vibrant traditions, religious practices, and values that are integral to Jewish culture, including the importance of community, education, and social justice.

Throughout the month, various events, educational programs, and cultural activities take place across the country to celebrate Jewish American achievements and promote greater understanding and appreciation of Jewish history. Connect with the Jewish Student Union for community, events, and more information at [@gujewishstudentunion](#) on Instagram.



EDUCATION CORNER

HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH

HAITIAN
HERITAGE



Month

Haitian Heritage Month, celebrated annually in May, is a time to recognize the rich cultural, historical, and social contributions of the Haitian community, both in the United States and around the world. The month-long celebration is a reflection of the vibrant culture, resilience, and strength of the Haitian people. May was chosen to coincide with Haiti's independence, which was declared on January 1, 1804, following a revolution against French colonial rule. However, the month of May also commemorates the first Haitian constitution, which was adopted on May 20, 1805.

Throughout Haitian Heritage Month, communities across the U.S. organize a variety of cultural events, performances, and educational activities to share the history, music, art, and traditions of Haiti. These celebrations highlight the profound impact of Haiti's revolutionary history, particularly the Haitian Revolution, which remains one of the most significant moments in the fight for freedom and self-determination in the Americas. Haiti was the first independent black republic and the first country in the Western Hemisphere to abolish slavery, making its history an important part of the global fight against oppression.

Haitian Heritage Month also serves as a platform to celebrate the continued achievements of the Haitian diaspora, particularly in the United States, where Haitian Americans have made notable contributions in fields such as politics, music, art, education, and healthcare. The observance fosters a deeper understanding of the challenges the Haitian community has faced, from the legacy of colonialism to the ongoing effects of political instability and natural disasters. It also emphasizes the importance of unity, community, and pride in preserving and sharing the Haitian cultural heritage with future generations.

EDUCATION CORNER

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mental Health Awareness Month, observed every May, is dedicated to raising awareness about mental health, reducing stigma, and promoting the importance of mental well-being. This month-long observance serves as an opportunity to encourage conversations about mental health, educate the public on recognizing the signs of mental health conditions, and provide resources for support and treatment. Mental Health Awareness Month aims to break the silence surrounding mental health struggles and encourage individuals to seek help without fear of judgment. It emphasizes the fact that mental health is just as important as physical health and should be prioritized in all aspects of well-being.

Throughout the month, communities across the country host events, workshops, and campaigns to promote mental health education and advocate for better access to mental health services. Activities often include open forums, screenings, informational materials, and mental health challenges designed to create spaces for discussion and connection. By encouraging awareness and dialogue, Mental Health Awareness Month works to empower individuals to take control of their mental health and seek resources and support when needed.

**MENTAL
HEALTH**
AWARENESS MONTH
— MAY —



EDUCATION CORNER

At Gonzaga University, students have access to several resources dedicated to mental health and wellness. The Counseling Center offers confidential individual therapy, group therapy, and workshops designed to help students manage stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns. Students can also access workshops focused on mindfulness, stress management, and self-care. The Center for Student Well-Being provides additional resources for mental health support, including peer counseling and wellness programs that promote balance and self-awareness. Additionally, the university offers a 24/7 crisis hotline for students in need of immediate assistance, as well as an online portal where students can book appointments with counselors. With these resources, Gonzaga strives to create a supportive environment where students can prioritize their mental health and find the help they need to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.



**[Click Here for
Health & Counseling
Services](#)**



**[Click here for
Student Well-Being
Cura Personalis
Resources](#)**

EDUCATION CORNER

BETTER HEARING & SPEECH MONTH

Better Hearing & Speech Month, observed each May, is dedicated to raising awareness about communication disorders, the importance of hearing and speech health, and the services available to individuals experiencing challenges in these areas. The observance highlights the impact that hearing and speech disorders can have on everyday life, from relationships to academic and professional success, while also providing valuable information about prevention, treatment, and resources.



**BETTER
HEARING
& SPEECH
MONTH**
— MAY —

Throughout the month, various campaigns, educational programs, and events are held to promote the significance of early detection and intervention for speech, language, and hearing issues. The goal is to empower individuals to seek support when needed and understand the importance of hearing and speech health in overall well-being. Better Hearing & Speech Month encourages people to take proactive steps toward protecting their hearing and speech and to learn more about resources that can help improve communication skills.

At Gonzaga University, students have access to a range of resources to support their hearing and speech needs. The university offers workshops and counseling through the Center for Health & Well-Being to address communication difficulties that may impact academic performance or personal interactions. Explore these resources at [Health & Well-Being at Gonzaga University](#).

ASK OIE TITLE IX ANYTHING



We know that it can be confusing to understand and navigate Gonzaga's policies and procedures as they relate to Title IX, Harassment and Non-Discrimination, and bias incidents. In the next few Diversity Digest issues, our goal is to provide an in-depth explainer on each process.

[TITLE IX RESOURCES](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Gonzaga University Harassment and Non-Discrimination Policy?

Gonzaga's Harassment and Non-Discrimination Policy prohibits harassment and discrimination because of someone's identity as a member of a **protected class**. The policy defines protected classes, the types of behaviors that are considered harassment and discrimination (including incidents of sexual misconduct that do not fall under Title IX regulations) and describes the ways Gonzaga addresses instances of harassment and discrimination.

What are protected classes?

Protected classes are groups and identities that are legally shielded from harassment and discrimination. Protected classes are determined by federal, state, and local laws. Federally, the protected classes are race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, and veteran status. Washington state protected classes also include gender identity, sexuality, marital status, and use of a service animal (as a part of disability protections). These classes are protected because individuals have faced systemic discrimination in the past and non-discrimination policies help to remedy and prevent that discrimination.

Why does the Harassment and Non-Discrimination policy include sex and gender when the Title IX policy is all about sex and gender?

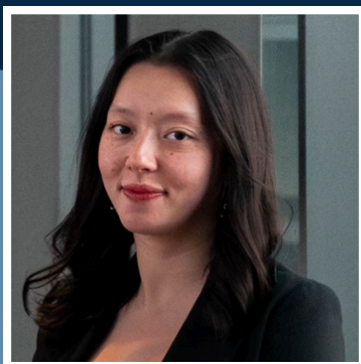
In the April issue of Diversity Digest, we talked about the Title IX policy and its role in preventing and addressing harassment and discrimination based on sex and/or gender. Title IX is a federal regulation that is very specific about how and when the university can address sex-based harassment and discrimination. The Harassment and Non-Discrimination policy acts as a net to catch instances of harassment or discrimination when the Title IX policy does not apply and allows Gonzaga to address the off-campus incidents in a similar manner to Title IX.

How does someone report an incident of harassment or discrimination?

An individual who has experienced harassment or discrimination can file an incident report online without needing to know whether the incident falls under the Title IX or Harassment and Non-Discrimination policy. Students, faculty, faculty, and staff can find the incident report form at the footer of every Gonzaga webpage under "Title IX." After a report is filed, the Title IX Coordinator will reach out to the impacted party and offer to meet to discuss the situation. At that first meeting, called an intake, the Title IX Coordinator will let the impacted party know their rights, provide resources, and explain the process. We will cover more of the process for both Title IX and the Harassment and Non-Discrimination Policies as well as bias incidents in a future issue!

[REPORT AN
INCIDENT](#)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Alexis Ewing

Graduate School of Business, MBA in Project Management

Alexis Ewing is a graduate student pursuing her MBA in Project Management. Originally from Denver, Colorado, she completed her B.S. in Engineering Management with a concentration in civil engineering and a minor in business. She found a passion working on project development, proposals, and other businesslike deliverables for various engineering projects which inspired her to pursue her MBA. After graduating, Alexis would like to take on a business-oriented role in project development and marketing at a civil engineering company.

In high school, Alexis loved math and science. Having lived in Colorado her entire life, Alexis wanted to attend a university out-of-state. She was interested in the Pacific Northwest region and her cousin, a mechanical engineering Zag alumni, recommended Gonzaga University for their engineering program. She took an interest in their Engineering Project Management major and decided to visit the school for a tour. The small class sizes and the Gonzaga community drew Alexis to attend GU.

During her time at Gonzaga, Alexis has been involved in various student organizations. Last year, she served as the Night Market Coordinator for Gonzaga's Asian American Union where she worked on creating a program that was more inclusive of diverse Asian cultures and performances. Alexis explained "We worked hard to go beyond just East Asian representation."



K-pop at Night Market 2024



Lilac Lance at the PNW ASCE Symposium at UBC

She also played a major role in the Gonzaga ASCE Concrete Canoe team. For the past two years, she has been the Academics & Aesthetics Lead where she headed the team's project proposals, visual aids, and marketing materials. Last year, the team placed 3rd overall with their canoe, *The Lilac Lance*. Her experiences in Concrete Canoe have inspired her career path in the civil engineering field.

Outside of academia, Alexis love to travel. She spent a month solo-traveling across Spain last year and is currently planning a three-month long trip to Asia this summer where she will be visiting eight countries and more than 20 cities. She is also a huge foodie and has a goal to try 350 new places this year. She really enjoys sushi and going trying omakase experiences. Her go-to drink is an unsweetened iced matcha latte with oat milk and one thing people may be surprised to know is that she doesn't have a big sweet tooth.

Currently, Alexis serves as the liaison of multicultural programs at the Office of Inclusive Excellence (OIE). In this role, she works at the Gonzaga School of Law under student affairs supporting various student organizations and their diversity initiatives. She also leads a four-person undergraduate digital marketing team for the OIE, helping to manage their marketing projects.

One piece of advice Alexis shares with students is to try new things and take opportunities. "Life is short and college is shorter so take advantage of everything you have here," says Alexis. "There is always going to be school and work stress, and sometimes you need to put yourself first. Don't miss out experiences you can't get anywhere else."



Alexis in Córdoba, Spain

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Yolanda Gallardo, Ph.D.

Dean, School of Education

Having previously taught along the U.S.-Mexico border, Dr. Yolanda Gallardo has since taken on the role of Dean of the School of Education at Gonzaga University. Her work is grounded in a deep commitment to justice, equity, and love for others, which are values she brings as a leader in the Gonzaga community.

Dr. Gallardo comes from a family of educators. Her father, a first-generation immigrant from Mexico, was a teacher who faced discouragement in school because of his darker skin. He fought for his dream to be a teacher and was able to get his certification. Her grandmother was also a teacher in Mexico. Seeing the impact her family made on students inspired Dr. Gallardo to pursue higher education. When it came time to choose a major, she knew right away that she wanted to be an educator. She went on to teach in schools that primarily served students of color and families living in poverty.

Dr. Gallardo describes her path as a continuum that is rooted in lived experience and shaped by the stories of her family and the students she served. Teaching on the border, she witnessed students facing enormous challenges, including schools hiring people to monitor cross-border attendance. She also taught during the English-only movement. Over time, she worked alongside families to build a school that still thrives today. She pursued a Ph.D. after realizing that her voice was often overlooked. She didn't set out to become a dean but found herself in leadership roles that allowed her to serve more people. "Whether as a dean, a teacher, or a daughter," she said, "it's all about loving others." That core value continues to guide her work at GU.

Her identity grounds her work in empathy and advocacy. She keeps in mind the students when working. Hoping one day that the Gonzaga graduates will one day serve others and

the community. She works to make sure every program reflects a commitment to inclusion and human dignity.

Dr. Gallardo played a pivotal role in launching the Office of a Pedagogy of Hope through Research and Practice at Gonzaga. The office is dedicated to addressing marginalization in education and reimagining learning environments to be inclusive and accessible to all. It supports research aligned with its mission, offers learning events, promotes faculty development, and builds meaningful partnerships both within Gonzaga and across the broader community. She hopes to see DEI work embedded naturally into every curriculum across campus. Some ways she is looking to improve the School of Education are outlined below:

Internal Development

Offering professional development within the School of Education.

Gonzaga Community

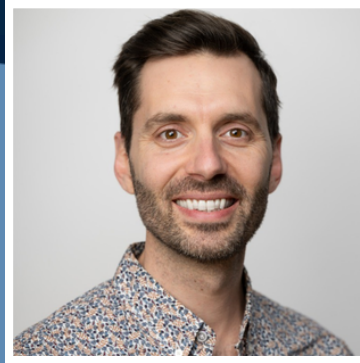
Hosting hope shops, guest speakers, and book studies.

Wider Community

Partnering with others in Spokane to highlight the “why” behind care and concern for all people, especially those often left out of the conversation.

Dr. Gallardo loves interacting with others—especially meeting students and hearing what they’re passionate about. She enjoys watching the faculty’s faces light up when they talk about their students. One of her proudest moments is helping to start a school that continues to grow and thrive. With 37 years in education, she sees every milestone as part of a larger journey of service. One piece of advice she she shared was to “Be willing to listen, to learn, to teach, and to love. People often don’t listen to each other anymore. We need to see one another as human beings and as members of the same team.”

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Matthew Johann-Baker

Director, Resolution Center for Student Conduct and Conflict

Matthew Johann-Baker's serves as the Director of Student Conduct at Gonzaga University. Originally thinking he'd become a middle or high school art teacher, Matthew studied at the University of Saint Francis receiving his B.S. in Art Education. During college, he found himself drawn to student affairs where he served as an RA, getting involved with orientation, student government, and anything else that let him help build community. That passion led him to earn his Master's in Higher Education and launched his career in student life.

Prior to joining Gonzaga, Matthew worked in residence life at Whitworth, and later at Berea College in Kentucky—an institution known for being the first racially integrated college in the South and for not charging tuition. The school's commitment to racial justice and community work deeply resonated with him. In 2017 he joined Gonzaga, initially coordinating late-night programming and supporting cultural clubs. Over time, he found his way to the Resolution Center, where his role today is all about helping students grow through conflict, reflection, and community care.

Matthew was drawn to Gonzaga because of its community. Whether it's supporting one another in moments of need, pushing for justice, or staying grounded in the mission to care for the margins, he says, "It feels good to be

in a place that's committed to inclusion and care for all." Recent conversations on campus about national education policy shifts have only deepened his appreciation for how steadfast the Gonzaga community is in standing for its values.

Social justice plays a big part in his role at GU. "Our center deals with student conduct," he explains, "but we try to approach it in a way that's rooted in care—not punishment." Rather than mirroring the criminal justice system, Matthew and his team work to center restorative practices. That means bringing in community voices, focusing on healing, and helping students see how their actions impact others. "The goal is to restore—not to punish," he says. At times, handling conflicts at Gonzaga can be challenging. One piece of advice he shared would be to follow this Franciscan value: seek to understand before being understood. "Conflict can make us want to defend our side right away," he says. "But if we take time to hear the other person, we might learn something important—not just about them, but about ourselves." Matthew recalls a letter he keeps in his office from a student who had been through a tough conduct process. "They wrote to thank me for listening, for caring, and for making space for them to grow." Those are the moments that stick—when showing up with compassion can truly change a student's trajectory.

Outside of Gonzaga, Matthew's a cyclist. He's ridden on tours across Honduras, Italy, and Washington, and he's gearing up for a new ride through Denmark. It's one of the ways he connects with the world and finds peace. Looking ahead at the Resolution Center, he hopes to see restorative practices not just as an alternative, but as the foundation. "Right now, restorative justice is used in special cases," he says, "but I want it to be the core of how we do accountability. I'd love for Gonzaga to be a leader in showing how we can build community."

STUDENT CULTURE CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Hawai'i/Pacific Islander Club

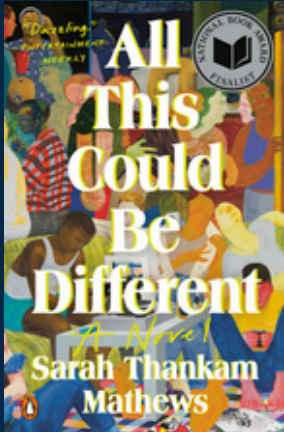


The Hawai'i/Pacific Islander Club (HPIC) at Gonzaga is a vibrant cultural community that offers a home away from home for students from across the Pacific Islands. HPIC is rooted in family, identity, and education, creating space for connection

through weekly gatherings, cultural exchange, and collaboration with other UACC clubs. Beyond campus, HPIC partners with organizations like the Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington to uplift and support the broader Pacific Islander community. They also engage with local middle schools to mentor and inspire younger generations.

The highlight of the year is HPIC's annual Lū'au, now in its 54th year—a long-standing tradition celebrating the beauty and diversity of Pacific cultures. This year's theme, "He 'Ohana I Hua 'Ia E Ka Wai" ("A Family United By Water"), honors the belief that the ocean connects Pacific Islanders as one extended family. Guests can look forward to a joyful evening of cultural performances, delicious food, interactive games, and a marketplace with goods from the islands. It's a night of aloha, celebration, and community that truly embodies HPIC's spirit. HPIC's Lū'au is held annually in the Spring at Gonzaga University.

MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS



All This Could Be Different

Book

From a brilliant new voice comes an electrifying novel of a young immigrant building a life for herself — a warm, dazzling, and profound saga of queer love, friendship, work, and precarity in twenty-first century America. Sarah Thankam Mathews grew up between Oman and India and immigrated to the United States when she was seventeen. This book provides a fictional rendition of a coming to age story with the experience as brown queer immigrant.

Glimpse of Us by Joji

Music

Filthy Frank was the former online persona of George Kusunoki Miller, a Japanese-Australian singer, rapper, record producer, and former comedian. In January 2013, Miller, as Filthy Frank, uploaded a short video of himself and friends dancing to a track, which sparked the “Harlem Shake” video trend. Miller has also used the names Pink Guy and Joji. His music is described as a mix of trip hop, lo-fi, and R&B.



Sativa by Jhené Aiko

Music

Jhené Aiko Efuru Chilombo is an R&B singer, songwriter, and rapper from Los Angeles, California. Her 2014 debut album, *Souled Out*, established an atmospheric aesthetic that she expanded upon in her 2017 album, *Trip*. *Trip* is a self-discovery journey that delves into psychedelia as a way to examine reality, not escape it. Aiko has collaborated with artists like Drake, Kendrick Lamar, and Nick Jona.

Film Recommendations



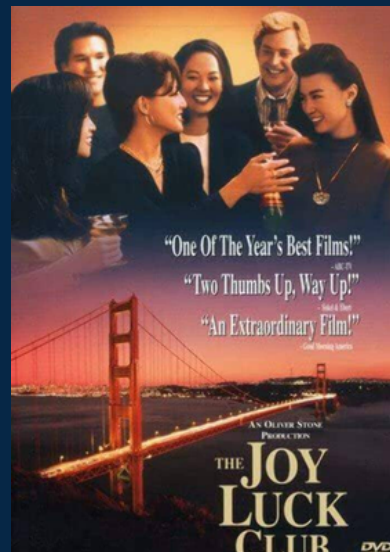
Crazy Rich Asians

Crazy Rich Asians is a romantic comedy film based on a novel by Kevin Kwan. It follows New Yorker Rachel Chu as she travels to Singapore with her boyfriend, Nick Young, only to discover that he comes from one of the wealthiest and most influential families in Asia. This is a story about belonging and staying true to yourself.



Moana

Moana is an animated film from Disney that follows a Polynesian teenager named Moana as she sets sail across the ocean to save her island. She teams up with the demigod Maui on a journey filled with mythical creatures, ancient lore, and self-discovery. The film celebrates courage, culture, and the power of forging your own path.



The Joy Luck Club

The Joy Luck Club is a film based on Amy Tan's novel, which explores the complex relationships between four Chinese-American women and their immigrant mothers. The film delves into themes of identity, cultural heritage, sacrifice, and the bonds between mothers and daughters.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Office of Inclusive Excellence

Solidarity Through Diversity Symposium

When: Thursday, May 21st, 2025
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Keynote Luncheon at Noon
Cataldo Globe Room

Breakout Sessions
Hemmingson 314



[Register Here](#)



We are pleased to invite you to the 2nd Annual Solidarity Through Diversity Symposium. This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Jennifer M. Gómez from Boston University. The symposium sessions after her talk will be in Hemmingson 314. The topic of the panel will be resilience and well-being during these turbulent and uncertain times.

This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Jennifer M. Gómez from Boston University, who will present on the topic "How To Be Effective? Institutional Courage & Dreamstorming for Collective Action." Dr. Gómez's talk will be from 12-1 pm, in the Globe Room of Cataldo Hall. She will provide valuable insights on fostering institutional courage and collective action, important themes that can resonate across our work and departments. Lunch will be provided during the keynote address.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Office of Inclusive Excellence

Inclusive Excellence Leadership Academy Graduation

When: Friday, May 2nd, 2025, 11:30 AM

Where: Hemmingson Ballroom
Cardoner (North)

About: The Inclusive Excellence Leadership Academy (IELA) is designed as a scaffolding or building blocks adult learning and development program that will help the Gonzaga realize our Inclusive Excellence strategic goals as a learning community. Graduation for this year's IELA Class of 2025 will celebrate the completion of the academy and students will receive an "Inclusive Excellence Leadership Certificate"



Cultivating Community

When: Friday, May 2nd, 2025, 3:30 PM

Where: Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center Second Floor Balcony

About: Faculty, staff, and community members of color and allies are invited to attend a reception on May 2, 2025, from 3:30 pm to 5 pm. Connect with Colleagues from Gonzaga University, Eastern Washington University, Whitworth University, Spokane Falls Community College, Walla Walla University, Washington State University Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, and community members. Light refreshments will be served, including hors d'oeuvres, desserts, beer, and wine.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Campus Events

Spokane Chapter & Kennel Club Spring Networking Social

About: Join the Kennel Club Social Club to connect with rising GU seniors and graduating Zags! Free food, drink specials, and lots of Zag Nation connections.

Where: Borrachos, 211 N Division St, Spokane, WA

When: Thursday, May 01, 2025 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM



Spokane Intercollegiate Research Conference

About: SIRC provides undergraduate students the opportunity to present their original research and creative works. While all such projects are welcome, we particularly invite projects that fit this year's theme: "Serving Spokane", e.g., those that involve or serve our local Spokane community. All majors are welcome to apply.

Where: Hemmingson Ballroom

When: Saturday, May 03, 2025 9:00 AM - 5:00 AM

Spring Choral Celebration Concert

About: Join the Gonzaga Choral Program for their last concert of the season, celebrating the year, honoring our seniors and reflecting on the many journeys we traveled together. Each choir will sing a variety of music from traditional to modern choral songs. It will be a fun, uplifting afternoon of great music, join us!

Where: Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

When: Sunday, May 04, 2025 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Student Academic Achievement Awards 2025

About: Annual event to recognize academic student achievement with awards by school and academic department, opened with a procession of faculty and administrative leaders. By invitation only.

Where: John J. Hemmingson Ballroom

When: Friday, May 09, 2025 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

2025 Law Commencement

About: Join your fellow J.D. graduates for commencement followed by a champagne reception on the back lawn of the Law School. Family and friends are welcome to celebrate with you! Tickets for each guest are required. Participating Law School graduates are provided unlimited complimentary tickets. McCarthy doors open for guest seating at 8:00 AM.

Where: McCarthy Athletic Center, 801 N. Cincinnati Street, Spokane, WA 99258

When: Saturday, May 10, 2025 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

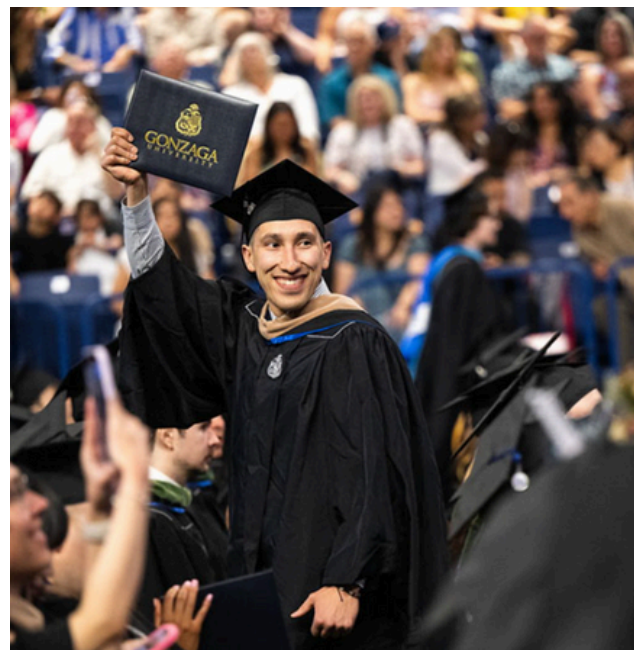


2025 Graduate Commencement

About: Join your graduates for commencement followed by a light champagne reception on the Herak Lawn. Family and friends are welcome to celebrate with you! Tickets for each guest are required. Participating Graduates are provided unlimited complimentary tickets. McCarthy doors open for guest seating at 11:00 AM.

Where: McCarthy Athletic Center, 801 N. Cincinnati Street, Spokane, WA 99258

When: Saturday, May 10, 2025 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Commencement Mass 2025

About: Graduates and guests of all faiths are welcome to join us for the 2025 Commencement Mass. Tickets are not required and there is no procession. The St. Aloysius Church doors open for guest seating at 2:00 PM. A livestream will be available at St. Aloysius Church's Website.

Where: St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 330 E Boone Ave, Spokane, WA 99202

When: Saturday, May 10, 2025 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM



2025 Undergraduate Commencement

About: Join your graduates for commencement followed by a light champagne reception on the Herak Lawn. Family and friends are welcome to celebrate with you! Tickets for each guest are required. Each participating undergraduate student is limited to seven complimentary tickets. McCarthy doors open for guest seating at 8:30 AM.

Where: Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena, 720 W Mallon Ave, Spokane, WA 99201

When: Sunday, May 11, 2025 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Spokane Events

Cirque du Soleil CRYSTAL

About: Cirque du Soleil CRYSTAL redefines performance by combining world-class skating with jaw-dropping acrobatics. In this surreal journey of self-discovery, Crystal, a creative misfit, dives into a frozen dreamworld where imagination takes center stage. With bold visuals, a dynamic soundtrack, and seamless storytelling, the show captivates audiences with its daring feats and vibrant artistry. CRYSTAL invites you to break through the ordinary and experience a playful, empowering spectacle like no other.

Where: Spokane Arena, 720 W Mallon Ave, Spokane, WA 99201

When: May 1 - May 4, Various Times



Star Wars: Return of the Jedi

About: The original Star Wars trilogy comes to a close with Luke, Leia, and Han's triumph over Imperial forces at the Battle of Endor, and you'll see the film in high definition on a big screen while your Spokane Symphony plays John Williams's epic soundtrack live on stage. May the Force be with you!

Where: Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, Spokane, WA

When: Sat, May 3 & Sun, May 4

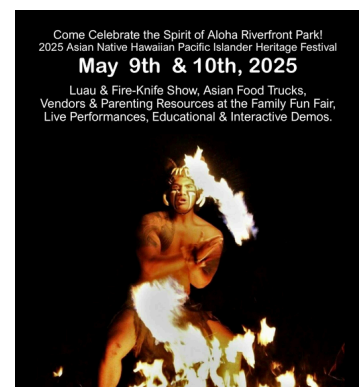


Spokane's ANHPI Heritage Festival

About: On May 9th, Spokane's ANHPI Heritage Festival will take place at Riverfront Park, featuring live performances, vendors, demonstrations, and family-friendly activities celebrating Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander cultures.

Where: Riverfront Park, 507 N Howard St, Spokane, WA 99201

When: May 9th, 2025, 12:00 pm & May 10th, 2025, 5:00 pm



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Josh Blue

About: Catch the much loved comedian, artist and ex-seven-a-side-soccer paralympian Josh Blue on tour this year! The trailblazing comedian's sharp wit, unflinching honesty and often self-deprecating humor has made him a star of the circuit and beyond, having been the first ever stand-up comedian to perform on The Ellen DeGeneres show, the winner of NBC's Last Comic Standing in 2006 and more recently placing third in America's Got Talent.

Where: Spokane Comedy Club, 315 W. Sprague, Spokane WA 99201

When: Thu, May 15 7:00 PM; Fri, May 16 7:00 PM; Sat, May 17 7:00 PM, 9:45 PM

Champions of Magic

About: Following a decade touring the world as one of the most successful magic shows in history, the Champions Of Magic team are back with an explosive ALL NEW show featuring thrilling and mind-bending illusions. Fusing their skills in grand scale magic, a flair for spectacle and undeniable showmanship, this interactive, high-energy show is sure to entertain the entire family. Combining their signature humor with groundbreaking magic, the world's only team of illusionists present a brand-new production unlike anything that has come before

Where: First Interstate Center for the Arts, Spokane, WA

When: Saturday May 17, 2025 3:30pm



Outlaw Music Festival - 10th Anniversary Tour

About: See Willie Nelson & Family, Bob Dylan, Billy Strings, Sierra Hull, and Lily Meola at ONE Spokane Stadium on Thursday, May 22 for an unforgettable night! Founded in partnership with the iconic and beloved Willie Nelson, The Outlaw Music Festival is North America's largest touring music festival, where music stars, fans, and brands come together for a full day of music, food + drink, and shopping, creating an unforgettable lifestyle experience for all.

Where: ONE Spokane Stadium, Spokane, WA

When: Thursday, May 22, 2025 4:00 PM - 11:00 PM

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Days in May

Day for Awareness of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls

Monday, May 5, 2025

May 5 is a special day in the U.S. and Canada to remember and bring attention to Indigenous women and girls who have gone missing or been killed. People show their support by joining walks, protests, and events to raise awareness. Many also wear red to honor them.

Cinco de Mayo

Monday, May 5, 2025

Marks the Mexican army's win over the French at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. While it's an important moment in Mexico's history, the day is more widely celebrated in the U.S. to honor Mexican culture and heritage, rather than being a major holiday in Mexico itself.

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia

Saturday, May 17, 2025

The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia was started in 2004 to raise awareness about the violence and unfair treatment faced by LGBTQ+ people, including those with different sexual orientations, gender identities, and sex characteristics.

Memorial Day

Monday, May 26, 2025

Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday of May, is a federal holiday dedicated to remembering and honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.



OFFICE OF **INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE**

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