

Diversity Digest



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*Former Gonzaga President Father Taelman
with the Chief of the Kalispel Tribe*

From the GU Archives

Message From The Chief Diversity Officer



Robin Kelley, Ph.D.

Chief Diversity Officer

Dear Community Members,

As we move further into the fall semester, I want to reflect on the value of our collective diversity within our university. November is a month of gratitude, and we are especially thankful for the diverse perspectives, backgrounds, identities, and experiences that each member of our community brings to campus. This rich variety not only enhances our learning and working environment but also strengthens our commitment to respect, understanding, unity and solidarity.

This month, we celebrate Native American Heritage Month, which is an opportunity to honor the history, culture, celebrations, and contributions of Native and Indigenous communities. This month's Diversity Digest is packed with events and resources that aim to foster awareness and appreciation for Indigenous voices, both past and present. I encourage you to take part in these opportunities, as they will not only broaden your understanding but also deepen your connection to this essential part of our nation's history.

Also, November celebrates and acknowledges: National Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week, World Kindness Week, World Communications Week, American Education Week, National Stress Awareness Day, Diwali, World Diabetes Day, International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day, and Native Women's Equal Pay Day to name a few.

Thank you for your continued dedication to fostering an inclusive environment at Gonzaga University. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are truly grateful for your commitment. Please enjoy this issue of the Diversity Digest, which is a testament to the progress we have made together.

Warm Regards,
Robin Kelley, Ph.D.
Chief Diversity Officer
Office of Inclusive Excellence

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The Spokane Tribe of Indians

As a Gonzaga community, we recognize that our institution resides on the homelands of the Spokane Tribal People. This month, we focus on and celebrate the histories of the Spokane Tribe of Indians whose ancestors resided in about 3 million acres of land in northeastern Washington before their disposition.

The Spokane Tribe forms part of the Interior Salish-speaking tribes among many in the region. They traditionally hunted, fished, and gathered along the Spokane and Columbia rivers. Their diet relied heavily on salmon, steelhead, and shellfish. The Spokane Tribe currently resides on 159,000 acres in Wellpinit, Washington, and remains an active part of the broader Spokane community. They are committed to safeguarding, managing, and enhancing their natural resources to ensure long-term sustainability. Through a collaborative approach, they focus on developing and applying best management practices to benefit both current and future generations.



Source: <https://www.spokanetribe.com/history/>

TIMELINE

Years and important dates

ANCESTRY

SPOKANE ANCESTRAL LANDS

The Spokane people lived a semi-nomadic lifestyle, relying on hunting, fishing, and gathering in the Spokane and Columbia River regions. Salmon, steelhead, eel, and shellfish made up a large portion of their diet.

1858

SPOKANE TERRITORY

The Spokane Tribe defended their lands against U.S. soldiers as they marched through Spokane territory. No treaty had been established with the U.S. government at the time.

1881

CHIEF LOT'S RESERVATION

President Rutherford B. Hayes formally established the Spokane Indian Reservation, allocating about 154,602 acres of land, known as Chief Lot's Reservation.

1887

RELOCATION

The Upper and Middle Spokane bands signed an agreement to relocate to the Coeur d'Alene, Jocko (Flathead), or Colville reservations. Some eventually moved to the Spokane Reservation.

1951

RECOGNITION

The Spokane Tribe officially became one of the 574 federally recognized tribal governments in the United States. They adopted a formal Constitution that governs the tribe today.

PRESENT

TODAY

The Spokane Tribe manages 159,000 acres of land in Wellpinit, Washington. They focus on preserving and managing their natural resources while remaining actively engaged in the broader Spokane community. The tribe has approximately 2,900 enrolled members.

NATIVE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AT GU

sčintx^w Native American Center

“The House” is located at 414 E. Sharp Ave., west of Cataldo. Previously known as the Center for American Indian Studies, the facility was rededicated as the sčintx^w Native American Cultural Center in 2020. sčintx^w is a Spokane-Coeur d’Alene Salish word that translates as “Indian House” and describes a gathering spot where Native students can go to feel at home. sčintx^w is also the home of the Office of Tribal Relations which cosponsors opportunities to learn about important issues to the Native American community and allies. Checkout [@gu_nativehouse](#) on Instagram for upcoming events.



sčintx^w Native American Cultural Center

Native American Law Student Association (NALSA)



The National Native American Law Students Association (“National NALSA”) was founded in 1970, promoting studies in Federal Indian Law, Tribal Law, and supporting Native students in law school. As of this year, Gonzaga’s NALSA has been re-established. Randle Kinswa, the NALSA president, brought back the club to support law students by creating a space where students who are apart of indigenous communities can connect with both professionals and each other. Contact Randle Kinswa at rkinswa@lawschool.gonzaga.edu to get in touch and learn more about NALSA at Gonzaga.

Masters in Business Administration in American Indian Entrepreneurship (MBA AIE)

Established in 2001, the MBA AIE at Gonzaga University was founded with the support of the Johnson Scholarship Foundation (JSF). The program is committed to developing business leaders who can support their tribes, reservations, governments, and economies through sustainable and diversified business ideas. For 23 years, this program has supported more than 74 alumni with skills and knowledge to drive positive change within their tribes and reservations. Each new cohort begins in the summer and each semester combines immersion on-campus and distance learning. During immersions, students engage with business leaders and consultants advancing the economic development possibilities for Native people. They visit both Native-owned and non-Native-owned businesses to see how strategy became reality.

The MBA AIE is a 2-year, 35-credit hour program. In partnership with JSF, students receive a 50% discount on their MBA along with additional scholarship to cover travel and course materials. In order to apply, you must:

- Be enrolled membership in a federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native Tribe (with the exception of non-natives working at tribal colleges and native-owned businesses)
- Earned a bachelor's degree

For more information, please reach out to: mba@gonzaga.edu



EDUCATION CORNER

First Generation Day



FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE CELEBRATION

Observed on November 8th, First Generation Day is dedicated to celebrating and recognizing the achievements and experiences of first-generation college students—students who are first in their families to attend or graduate college. This day is meant to raise awareness about unique challenges these students may face, such as navigating college systems without prior family experience, overcoming financial barriers, and often balancing academic responsibilities with family or work obligations. Universities also have the opportunity to highlight the success and contributions of first-gen students on academic communities.

Many universities mark this day with events, workshops, and social media campaigns to provide support, share resources, and celebrate first-gen achievements. Gonzaga University's TVRAS supports first-gen students through initiatives such as community building events, workshops, and other resources. The November 8th observance aligns with the anniversary of the Higher Education Act of 1965 signing, which aimed to improve educational access for underrepresented groups.

EDUCATION CORNER

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Transgender Day of Remembrance is observed annually on November 20th to honor the memory of transgender people who have lost their lives due to acts of violence fueled by transphobia. The day serves as a powerful reminder of the persistent challenges the transgender community faces, including prejudice, discrimination, and violence. Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) was founded in 1999 by Gwendolyn Smith, a transgender advocate. The day is often marked by vigils, community events, and gatherings. TDOR aims to raise awareness about the violence transgender people face while fostering a sense of solidarity and support within and beyond the trans community.



In addition to raising awareness on the disproportionate levels of violence and discrimination the transgender community faces, TDOR serves as a call to action on numerous challenges. Obstacles such as hate crimes, social marginalization, and lack of access to healthcare are brought to light on this day as active hinderances to the transgender community. While TDOR is a day of remembrance it goes beyond just November 20th as it is critical reminder that society must address and provide solutions for the inequalities endured by the transgender community.

For more organizations and resources head to <https://transequality.org/>
<https://glaad.org/tdor/>.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

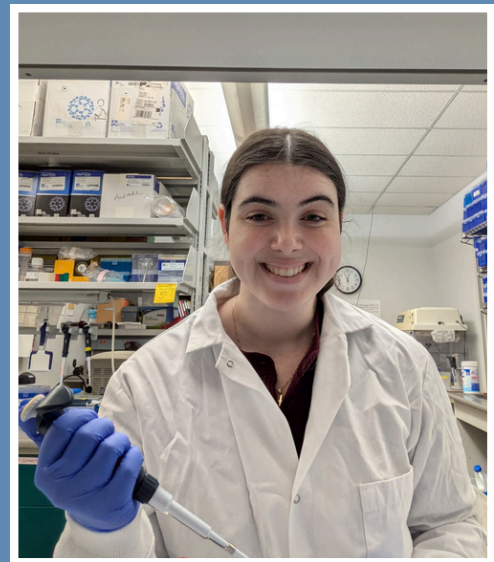


Grace McDonald

Senior, Biology and Spanish

Grace McDonald is a senior pursuing a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Spanish. Throughout her time at Gonzaga, Grace's has been involved in GSBA serving as the senator to the School of Nursing and Human Physiology for the 2022-2023 academic year. The following year, she was the Director of Sustainability, which was newly integrated in 2023. In this position, she helped make the Green Fund more accessible to students and encouraged projects and initiatives that benefitted the entire Spokane community. Some notable projects she was apart of include the Clothing Donation Station project, with XYZ. She also supported the initiative to increase the Sustainability Fee by \$5 to fund more sustainability at Gonzaga. Outside of GSBA, she has been a TA for Biology 105 lab and Biology 207 lab the past two years. Currently, she works as an Undergraduate Research Assistant in Dr. Andrade's Environmental Microbiology Lab.

When starting at Gonzaga, Grace had an interest in pursuing a nursing degree. However, she discovered her passion for Biology in her nursing coursework. Her interest in Biology motivated her to do research in Dr. Andrade's lab.



Grace in the Biology Lab

Grace's is currently working on the Aeromonas River Project. This project analyzes the findings of bacteria found in the Little Spokane River and assessing their threat to human and aquatic health as pathogens. She is hoping to find what species of Aeromonas bacteria are present, where they are found in relation to the Spokane Rainbow Trout Hatchery and in places where Salmon are released, how virulent they are (their potential for causing disease), and what antibiotics are effective in treating these bacteria.



Aeromonas River Project Team Collecting Samples

With Grace's great involvement towards the Spokane and Gonzaga community she says in her free time she enjoys things such as skiing, playing Minecraft and going on walks.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Kyle Shimabuku, Ph.D., P.E. Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering

Over the past 5 years, Associate Professor Dr. Kyle Shimabuku has pursued research on water treatment processes to provide safe drinking water to low-income and local communities. Dr. Shimabuku began teaching at Gonzaga University 2019 for the Department of Civil Engineering. He teaches classes such as Environmental Engineering, Sustainable Systems, and, his personal favorite, Water Treatment Processes.

Dr. Shimabuku grew up in Ventura, California. He has a passion for the outdoors and enjoys surfing, skiing, and river rafting. He completed his B.S. in Civil Engineering at San Diego State University and later received his M.S and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder. During his studies, he found a passion for environmental engineering and the engineering behind water treatment.

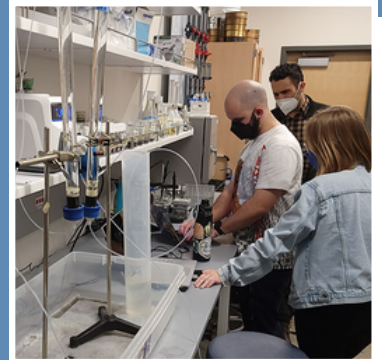
The lack of access to safe drinking water has been a major focus of Dr. Shimabuku's research. The costs of basic services, such as food, water, and energy, disproportionately impacts those with lower income. Additionally, contaminated water is a leading cause in childhood mortality, which drew him to study how to overcome these challenges in areas of the USA and Mexico. Innovation and new technology can help minimize service costs and provide safe access to clean water, benefiting domestic and overseas communities. Since 2019, Dr. Shimabuku has advised almost 20 students in three research projects focused around water treatment in local and low-income communities.



Dr. Shimabuku examines a biochar sample

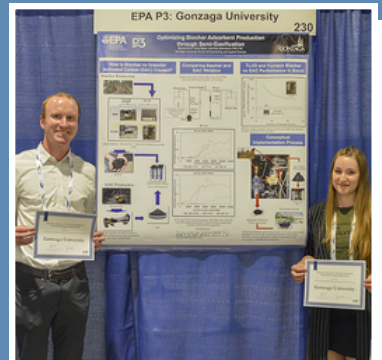
FLUORIDE WATER CONTAMINATION

Dr. Shimabuku and his research team began studying fluoride water contamination in Fall 2020 in collaboration with Caminos de Agua, a non-profit organization. They took an application approach, recreating and testing the water conditions in San Miguel, Mexico. They published a paper in Summer 2023 and Dr. Shimabuku serves on the advisory board of Caminos de Agua.



PFAS WATER FILTRATION

In Summer 2021, the EPA provided a grant to study the contamination of PFAS in rural and disadvantaged communities. The team researched sustainable alternatives to fight PFAS levels in Airway Heights. In June 2023, Dr. Shimabuku and his student research team won the US EPA P3 Award ("People, Prosperity, Planet") for their PFAS Water Filtration solution.



WATER SECURITY AGAINST WILDFIRE IMPACTS

His latest research project focuses on the impact wildfires have had on drinking water. Him and his senior design student team analyzed pre and post-fire data from the Labor Day fires of Summer 2020. This past May, Dr. Shimabuku's senior design team was awarded 1st place in the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association's student design competition for their innovative solution.



Now, Dr. Shimabuku continues to pursue his passions of teaching and water treatment research. He encourages the next generation of civil engineers to support the improvement of the environment and human health in their practice. In his classes, Dr. Shimabuku draws awareness to the social impacts of civil engineering and sustainability concerns in the profession. He is proud of the projects he has completed and would like to continue supporting students and putting them in a position to excel in their research projects.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Matthew Laramie

Program Coordinator at the Office for Transfer, Veteran, and Returning Adult Student and First Generation Initiatives (TVRAS)

Previously working as the VetCorps coordinator at Gonzaga, Matthew Laramie has transitioned to his current role as Program Coordinator. Working out of the MVAC (Military, Veteran, and Returning Adult Center), he primarily focuses on supporting military, veteran, and returning adults. Read more to learn about Matthew.

Hometown:

Butte, Montana

Major:

I graduated from Gonzaga University with my Degree in English (Writing) and a minor in Visual Literacy

What are the top priorities for the TVRAS office right now?

My top Priorities for the TVRAS+FGI office would be for the populations to understand the recent decision to move the populations into different spaces around campus, and to get the new MVRAC house where it needs to be as far as setting up the space. It's been a challenging project, but we are moving the ball forward, every day.

How did you get to Gonzaga?

I joined the Navy shortly after high school. I spent six years focusing on advanced electronics for electronic weapon systems and four years as Navy law enforcement as a watch commander and the Command Range Master/Firearms Instructor. After ten years in the Navy, I worked in corporate America for ten years, and that was when I truly realized money does not equate to happiness. I became a substitute teacher and a track coach in Idaho for a few years while I decided how I wanted to move forward in life. I started my degree at North Idaho College in 2018 and finished my bachelor's degree at Gonzaga in 2023. After graduation, I decided to give a year of service to the VA through the AmeriCorps program, and I became the VetCorps Navigator for Gonzaga. This year, I started with Gonzaga in the new MVRAC house on campus. I am also under contract to convert a different author's novel into a screenplay and I am starting filming on documentary this year. It has been an amazing journey and I wouldn't change a thing.

What are your passions outside of work?

I love to work with wood through carpentry or just being creative. I have currently completed a few home renovations I'm pretty proud of, and I have made a sign for the side of the MVRAC building that will hopefully be revealed soon. I love the outdoors in the PNW, and frequent them in all seasons as an escape from the hustle of everyday life. I love live music and have been to over a hundred concerts in my life. Traveling to new places and revisiting some from my past Naval days is how I would spend my time if I ever struck it rich.

What's something you're really proud of accomplishing?

I am very proud of accomplishing the first episode of the screenplay I am writing. It took a lot to transfer someone else's thoughts and artwork into something I have had to turn into my own. I am proud to be a father to two beautiful daughters. I'm proud to be a Zag and that I am able to help the students in my populations make life changing decisions about their futures.

MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

NATIVE AMERICAN MEDIA

"Reel Injun" (2009)

A documentary directed by Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond, exploring the portrayal of Native Americans in Hollywood films over the years.



Black Belt Eagle Scout (Katherine Paul)

A queer, Swinomish/Iñupiaq musician whose indie rock sound is deeply introspective, blending personal experience with themes of Indigenous identity. Her album "At the Party With My Brown Friends" is a great place to start.

"Braiding Sweetgrass" (2013), Robin Wall Kimmerer

By offering an Indigenous perspective on ecological responsibility, Kimmerer challenges Western views of nature as something to be dominated or controlled. Instead, she advocates for a worldview that sees nature as a living, breathing entity deserving of respect and care—one that requires a mutual relationship of give and take.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Office of Inclusive Excellence

Colleagues of Color

Wednesday November 6th
Room 153 College Common (Hub)
12pm-1pm

IMPACT

Thursday November 14th
Hemmingson 201 -Joan Jundt Lounge
12pm-1pm

Inclusive Excellence Strategic Planning Leads

Wednesday November 20th
Hemmingson 201 - Joann Jundt
Lounge, 12-1pm

Inclusive Excellence Leadership Academy Orientation

Friday November 15th
Room 153 College Common (Hub)
10am-12pm

Inclusive Excellence Leadership Academy Workshop 1

Friday November 22nd
Room 153 College Common (Hub)
9am-3pm

Too Red to Handle?

Wednesday November 20th
College Hall 245
6 - 7pm



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Campus Events

South Asian Student Union's Mela

About: The South Asian Student Union (SASU) will be hosting their signature event Mela (मेला), which means festival or fair in Sanskrit. This year's theme is "Sapno ka Safar: Journey of Dreams", exploring how generational change, growth, and struggles have shaped our identities as South Asians/South Asian Americans. Tickets are for sale and can be purchased [here](#). For any questions, please contact spamma@zagmail.gonzaga.edu

Where: Hemmingson Ballroom

When: Saturday November 16th, 2024, 6pm-9pm



Spokane Events

Dia De Los Muertos with Nuestras Raices

About: Join us for a day filled with traditional music, delicious food, vibrant decorations, and meaningful ofrendas. Bring a photo of your loved one or pet to add to our community ofrendas and honor their memory.

You are also invited to **First Friday, November 1st**, to see the Ofrendas and Catrinas exhibition from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Where: 1214 E. Sprague Avenue, Spokane, Washington

When: Nov. 2, from 1-8 PM

Accessible Parking and Entrance

Free Parking

Gonzaga vs. Baylor

About: Gonzaga Men's Basketball and Baylor will clash on opening night of the 2024-25 season in the Spokane Arena Nov. 4. This will be the first of a three-game agreement over the next three seasons.

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

When: November 4th, 2024

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Around the USA

Election Day

November 5th, 2024

What is it: Election Day is the day where election is held to determine who will go into office.



Veterans Day

November 11th, 2024

What is it: Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

Thanksgiving

November 28th, 2024

What is it: Annual national holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year.

Native American Heritage Day

November 29th, 2024

What is it: Native American Day honors the cultural contributions of Native American communities to the respective state's history, as well as to the overall country



OFFICE OF **INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE**

Thanks for reading this month's Diversity Digest!

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