

GONZAGA

happiness + joy

THIS PAGE:

A glimpse of the architectural design of the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, which opened in April.

ONLINE:

Videos, web extras, more than these pages could possibly hold.

gonzaga.edu/magazine

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Gonzaga Magazine is an opportunity for alumni, parents and friends to stay connected to one another and to the University's Mission. We are dedicated to building community with our readers through authentic storytelling and beautiful images. This publication is our gift to you. If you would like to help offset the costs, please consider a donation to the Fund for Gonzaga at gonzaga.edu/give.

The opinions expressed do not always represent the views of the administration, but are intended to foster open dialogue and lifelong learning in the Jesuit tradition. We welcome your feedback. Email editor@gonzaga.edu.



100% Recycled Fiber



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UPDATE YOUR RECORD

Send your alumni news, change of address and updated contact information to us:
gonzaga.edu/alumninews
or email gonzaga@gonzaga.edu.



BEING GREEN

I was pleased to receive the Spring 2019 issue of Gonzaga. The short article “Powered By Sun, Wind & Water” caught my attention. I am happy to see that GU is making efforts to recycle and use alternative fuels. However, most people are unaware that “clean energy” still needs fossil fuels for construction and that large solar arrays disrupt the environment. Rooftop panels, at least, work on ground already put to another use. I am old enough to remember, during my high school and college years, how the “experts” told us to stop using glass containers (dangers associated with breakage) and paper shopping bags (save a tree) and to use only plastic (good stuff). Today we look on plastic as an evil we need to replace. How could anyone 54 years ago be so foolish as to not see the danger to our planet and wildlife from a toxic, nondegradable substance like plastic? Yes, other energy sources should be tried. But before we make a “plastic mistake” again, let us go about installing these new energy producers slowly and find out what can go wrong before we find ourselves derided by future generations for our selfish, short-sighted approach to energy production. Unlike plastic, this time let us do it right instead of having to clean up a mess and do it over.

- Michael Dunegan ('78)
Las Vegas

CLEAN & CRISP

Just finished reading the Spring issue. It impressed me with its clean look and crisp layout. Kudos to the writers, designers, art director and editors.

- Robert Johnson ('66)
Palo Alto, Calif.

LIFELONG IMPACT

I loved Dale Goodwin's story “Being There.” In 1975, I was one of 92 students who spilled out into Piazza della Repubblica in Florence. What a year! We learned about Italy and we learned about ourselves. We loved and laughed and traveled – and even studied. That time continues to inform my worldview. The friendships endure; every five years we reunite. About 30 of us make time to gather and listen and remember and repeat favorite stories. And we comfort. My Florence roommate has buried her husband after a sudden illness. Another man buries his wife tomorrow. We email, we call, we comfort, we show up. Gonzaga continues to transform us – long after we step off the graduation stage and into our adult lives. What a gift.

- Cathy Johnson ('77)
Olympia, Wash.

Editor's Note: Cathy shared with us further reflections she has written, which we proudly published at gonzaga.edu/magazine. Take a look!

OPTING OUT

While the content of Gonzaga Magazine is appreciated, we would rather read the magazine online. Thank you for understanding and thank you for printing the magazine on 100% recycled paper. If there is a different path to opting out of this publication, please share details.

- John Ballard ('85)
Woodinville, Wash.

Editor's Note: Much of the magazine's content lives online at gonzaga.edu/magazine. We also email a note to magazine recipients about the latest stories after each issue comes out in Fall, Winter and Spring. You can update preferences anytime by sending a note to editor@gonzaga. Thank you!

APPLY TO GONZAGA

GU is moving to one application
deadline of **December 1**
for first-year students.

www.gonzaga.edu/apply





ART BY SARAH EDWARDS (03)

Turning Pain to Joy

The Dalai Lama, in an interview alongside Archbishop Desmond Tutu for “The Book of Joy,” responded to the question “Do you wake up with joy?” with this answer: “If you develop a strong sense of concern for the well-being of all sentient beings and in particular all human beings, this will make you happy in the morning, even *before* coffee.”

Archbishop Tutu would say later in the conversation, “Our greatest joy is when we seek to do good to others.”

These two spiritual giants from different philosophical and religious roots explored the issues of pain and suffering – with which each is intimately acquainted – and how people manage to work through those periods.

“The way we heal our own pain is actually by turning to the pain of others. It is a virtuous cycle. The more we turn toward others, the more joy we experience, and the more joy we experience, the more we can bring joy to others,” author Douglas Abrams surmised from the conversations he recorded with the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu.

The goal is not just to create joy for ourselves, but to “be a reservoir of joy, an oasis of peace, a pool of serenity that can ripple out to all those around you,” the archbishop says.

In this issue, we explore what students, faculty, staff, alumni and Jesuits of Gonzaga have shared about joy in their own lives. You’ll see some common themes – and some opportunities to explore this question for yourself: What makes you happy, brings you joy? And if joy seems to be overshadowed by pain at this point in your life, we hope you find some helpful ideas and inspiration in the pages ahead.

Be sure to reach out and tell us what you think, with an email to editor@gonzaga.edu.

Kate

Kate Vanskike-Bunch, Editor

Making Waves

with Woldson Properties
on Seattle's Waterfront



When Miss Myrtle Woldson was contemplating what she might do with her fortune, she told President Thayne McCulloh that she owned a parking lot. “In a recession you might not think a parking lot would do very well. But then someone built a giant Ferris wheel next to my parking lot and it’s full all the time.”

That parking lot on the waterfront in Seattle, and two other Seattle parking facilities, were part of Miss Woldson’s \$55 million estate bequest to the University when she died in 2014.

This year, Gonzaga completed an agreement with AMLI Residential to ground lease a portion of one of the parking properties, which occupies one city block, to build and operate a 17-story apartment complex. The agreement will provide GU a long-term ground lease payment, generating funds far more significant than annual parking income, to benefit students and maintain the Woldson Performing Arts Center on the Gonzaga campus, says Chuck Murphy, the University’s chief strategy officer. When the long-term lease ends, the building reverts to Gonzaga.

The new structure, projected to be complete by 2023, will be part of the Seattle Waterfront Project, which started with the razing of the old viaduct, recently replaced by an underground tunnel, to clear the visual barrier between downtown and the waterfront.

One of Miss Woldson’s other parking structures is a garage just below Pike Street Market. Plans are developing to create Overlook Walk, a public tiered pathway connecting the waterfront to Pike Place Market and Seattle’s urban core, with terraced plazas to sit, play and enjoy elevated views of Elliott Bay. The lot will provide prime parking for the Seattle Aquarium, the Market and waterfront activities.

“The Ferris wheel is the iconic showpiece on the waterfront right now,” Murphy says. “But this beautiful overlook may become the iconic feature that represents the waterfront as we go forward.”

— Dale Goodwin ('86)

Critical Race & Ethnic Studies

Guided by the passion of students who have asked for deeper and ongoing education related to diversity, equity and inclusion, Gonzaga has formally developed a new Critical Race and Ethnic Studies program. Ethnic studies as a field has been around for about 50 years, with its focus being the historical and academic foundation for student response to social and racial injustice.

The first faculty members came on board this summer to build an interdisciplinary approach to this new effort: **Bernadette Calafell** (formerly at the University of Denver) is chair of the department and **Ellen Cassandra Dame-Griff** (formerly of Winona State, Minnesota) is assistant professor. While searches for these positions were underway, workshops for current faculty members took place to help professors develop their own intercultural skills and bias awareness. Stay tuned for more.

When Women Got the Vote

Across the nation, programs are underway to recognize the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. At Gonzaga, an interdisciplinary team is planning activities to educate, celebrate and advocate.

- » Educate – What does it take to create an amendment? Who benefited from the 19th Amendment initially?
- » Celebrate – In the last 100 years, women have become surgeons, executives, astronauts, political leaders, soldiers and more, and continue to pursue opportunities previously limited to men.
- » Advocate – While progress has been good, there is still work to do. Equal pay and equal access have yet to be achieved in many circles.

“19th & Counting” implies a number of meanings, says Heather Crandall, a faculty representative from the College of Arts and Sciences. “Counting refers to the fact that women count, and we mean that inclusively. We want to count the progress that began with the 19th Amendment.”

19th & Counting

Many annual lectures across the schools – whether in history, English, engineering, business or religious studies – will feature speakers or topics that relate to 19th & Counting in the 2019-20 academic year. Student activities will include a major focus on voter registration and education. Faculty members are submitting personal and academic reflections on various aspects of the theme, which will be published online and potentially in print. A parade is in the works as well – a march featuring the attire of the Suffragettes and the messages they proclaimed a century ago.

Read what's happening and watch the calendar for upcoming events: gonzaga.edu/womenvote.

Want to support the effort or be involved?
Email committee chair **Angela Ruff** (ruff@gonzaga.edu).

Bright and Brighter

Loren Carrillo and **James Vair**, both 2019 graduates, received Fulbright English Teaching Assistant grants to work in Taiwan. Carrillo, from Tacoma, Washington, received a degree in political science; Vair, from West Seattle, has a degree in psychology.

Kathryn Benson ('19) received a competitive two-year fellowship with El Pomar Foundation, a grant-making organization in Colorado Springs. She will participate in outreach programs and connect with nonprofit leaders around the state. She has degrees in economics, Spanish and international studies.

Ivan Jimenez ('19), who headed to Peru on a two-year assignment with the Peace Corps following graduation, wrapped up his senior year with the Governor's Civic Leadership Award for his service and social justice commitments. One of three students statewide to receive the honor, Jimenez earned a degree in engineering management and was a leader in the Zag Volunteer Corps.

Read about other inspiring recent graduates online at gonzaga.edu/commencement.

Ann Ostendorf, associate professor of history, left for Japan this summer to serve a 10-month Fulbright Teaching assignment at the University of Tokyo and Japan Women's College. “Like our students who study abroad, I'm excited about what I'm going to learn about another country and its people,” says Ostendorf. “I'm looking forward to seeing how students respond, and how their questions may differ from those of the students I teach here.”

To be continued

Which Jesuit ended his conversations with “To Be Continued”?

It was Father Tony Lehmann, S.J., and we honor him by continually publishing stories to a web page by this name. You'll find messages from commencement speakers and keynote addresses from other events, like the Social Justice Missioning. Check out stories from students who are exploring cultures around the world, or journeys of fellow grads. Whenever you're looking for some inspirational reading of the Zag variety, it's here for you, in the spirit of Father Tony.

Your own story could be there, too. Email your idea to editor@gonzaga.edu.

gonzaga.edu/tobecontinued



The Way of the Future

Working across disciplines for the best solutions

By Dale Goodwin ('86)

"Growlers w/ Screw Top Lids," cast porcelain by Mat Rude
from the GU Art Department Faculty Exhibition, 2019

Trevor Flynn ('19) is an enterprising young man. From Homer, Alaska, where fishing is the state's No. 1 industry, Flynn developed an algorithm to monitor and control fishing boat traffic on the Alaskan seas. He put that knowledge to work at Gonzaga as an engineering student.

Flynn and teammates Nicholas Hopwood and Tyler Willis created the computing technology and real-time data analytics software to significantly improve the efficiency of any metropolitan traffic grid. The new software pulls sensory data from across an entire city grid to determine optimized timing for light patterns at intersections. The hardware replaces outdated controllers at each intersection and, used with the software, can make real-time decisions to improve traffic flow.

The engineering students worked closely with students from the School of Business Administration and its New Venture Lab to create a business plan, identify customer segments and channels for marketing the product, develop a cost structure and outline an investor pitch focused on cities as potential customers.

This is just one example of a growing trend at Gonzaga toward interdisciplinary collaboration. In today's world, societal, justice, economic, environmental, business and philosophical challenges are often so complex that it is difficult to fully understand them from a single viewpoint. And employers are seeking employees with multiple perspectives to leverage synergies and find the best answers to these broad issues.

Gonzaga has embraced such interdisciplinary partnership for some time. Here are just a few more examples of ongoing efforts.

- Students from engineering and biology this year collaborated to investigate the performance of activated carbon made from spent coffee grounds in removing lead from drinking water. In an experiment to see if they could repurpose the spent grounds, engineering students created the activated carbon bio-absorbent capable of removing 90% of the lead in various water samples, and the biology students conducted the water testing. This clean water might make for a great cup o' Joe someday.
- Speaking of coffee, another group of New Venture Lab students worked last year with others from Gonzaga's Center for Community Engagement and the Northeast Community Center to create a coffee shop there for employees and visitors, and to provide job training for neighborhood youth. Meanwhile, down the hall in the Jepson Center, a group of students worked with the Arc of Spokane to create a feasibility study for a coffee stand staffed by Arc clients in City Hall.
- In an effort to widen environmental science students' scope of where to look for environmental activists, assistant professor of art Laura Truitt shared the work of 20 artists and their environment-related activity – a painter who partnered with scientists to collect mine tailings to use as pigment, an artist who created an online database to collect climate information, a photographer who records environmental damage.

- Truitt and associate art professor Mat Rude helped chemistry students understand how chemistry plays a role in art materials and studio practice, and how artists use chemistry in their own work, like Rude's cast porcelain shown at left.
- The Schools of Law and Business are creating a wine-focused certificate program to address legal and business aspects of the wine industry, which is so big in this corner of the country and elsewhere.
- Professors in Leadership Studies are partnering with colleagues in the Master of Arts in Theology and Leadership program, as well as in the Master of Nursing Leadership in Healthcare.

"Core and evidence-based principles of Organizational Leadership at Gonzaga align well with professional skills, capacities and dispositions of mission and faith-based organizations," says Anastasia Wendlinder, graduate program director in Religious Studies.

Just recently, the nursing leadership master's degree expanded its leadership course requirements shared with Leadership Studies "to tap into the excellent resources and courses that were already being offered," says nursing instructor Jennifer Garrity. "(Organizational Leadership Chair) Adrian Popa and his team have been very supportive."

Elsewhere, the Art and Integrated Media departments have collaborated in the creation of a cross-discipline visual literacy minor program, initiated in 2018. For some time the Law and Business schools have worked together on combination law and M.B.A. and master's in accounting programs. This past year Gonzaga Law and the University of Washington School of Medicine created the Law-Med Lecture Series on topics of mutual interest, including the last one on opioid abuse, its impact on communities and what is being done to fight this epidemic.

No doubt, there are more great opportunities on the horizon.

Why We Teach

Gonzaga recently was named #1 in Teaching by peer institutions. Here are glimpses of what three professors had to say about the difference at GU. Read their full stories at gonzaga.edu/excellenceinteaching.

Pat McCormick, Professor, Religious Studies

To instill in students a love for lifelong learning, McCormick developed what he calls homework for life.

"I told the class that my concern was that they were going to read a lot in college and that they weren't going to read a lot afterward. I gave them an assignment to read 100 books after college."

In 2017, he received an email from a 2006 graduate who checked in to let him know she'd done it.

Mirjeta Beqiri, Professor, School of Business Administration

While acknowledging the talent and dedication of faculty, Beqiri is

quick to credit the "passionate, motivated and dedicated students" as a key reason Gonzaga has retained outstanding professors.

"Yes, we certainly have inspiring and caring faculty, but we have amazing students to start with. I am inspired by them and that makes a difference for me as a faculty member."

Raymond Reyes, Chief Diversity Officer and Professor

Over 31 years teaching a wide range of courses across multiple schools, Reyes (pictured here with students) says teaching remains a transcendent experience.

"When you're really in the flow, teaching is enjoying the rapture of being alive. It's a beautiful moment when two things happen: You look in your students' eyes and you can see the neurons connecting in new ways, and you can see the light in their eyes. The second part is when they do that for you."



When Families Call

BY DALE GOODWIN ('86)

Gonzaga's Parent and Family Relations office has received national awards for its student leader training program, care for the health and well-being of families, and outstanding family publications.

During last fall's orientation weekend, one student's mom wound her way through the sea of activities to find Amy Swank, director of Gonzaga's Parent and Family Relations.

"She hugged me and said, 'I had to find you and let you know you saved my son's life,'" says Swank. She's cautious about accepting that level of credit, but recognizes that connecting people to the right services can make a major impact.

The woman's son had dealt with loneliness, and when she called the Parent and Family Relations office, staff made the right referrals. "Through the help her son was able to receive, he is on a path to success. To have such an emotional exchange with her still fills my heart deeply," Swank recalls.

There are some 50 student workers and volunteers in the Parent and Family office who make a resounding impact on families of incoming and current students. They provide a calming effect that many families of first-time college students need, and are the glue that holds this relatively new enterprise together.

Swank had worked for two years in University Relations, primarily with parents of current students, before asked to create a parent and family relations office.

"When I arrived at this new job, there was a binder created by a grad student, and half of my desk was put together. The rest was still unassembled. So I joke that we literally built this from the ground up," says Swank, who has been Parent and Family Relations' only director, just completing her 10th year.

Prior to the program's creation, families searched out answers from multiple sources, creating what Swank calls "campus stress." So she centralized communications and created a safe landing space for families. She showed them what it meant to be a collegiate family, and how they can "help us support their students," she says. A help line, newsletter, email and well-maintained web site keep families informed and ease the anxiety many feel when sending their daughters or sons off to school for the first time. To make sure they're hitting the mark, the office created a Parent and Family Council to provide advice on what the institution should be doing to support students.

Most important to the operation are the 11 student workers and 40 volunteers who help families feel OK about letting their students go, knowing that they're in good hands. For orientation weekend, the student crew physically transforms space on campus, creating an environment that welcomes families. "They are advocates and supporters of our families when they are on campus, and dare I say, sometimes counselors," Swank says. They continue to support families throughout the year.

One parent suggested we must pay these ambassadors pretty well for all the work they do, Swank says, responding: "We give them a T-shirt and some pizza. When I started this job I worried whether students would want to work with family members, rather than other students. But we've never had a problem filling our spots."

Changing Family Dynamics

Every year, families bring a unique set of circumstances. What works one year may not the next. "Today's families are communicating with our office more by social media – primarily Facebook – than by email," Swank says. "Who knows what their preferred communication channel will be in another three to five years."

Swank appreciates families and what they bring to the table. "They come from a place of love and support. Their

connection to their student and to their own Gonzaga experience continues to deepen every year. They care for their students, and that turns into care for this place," she says.

Swank revels in the parents who come back for graduation and share how her office has helped the family. "They tell me they feel as connected to Gonzaga as they do to their own alma mater because we, as parents, live through our children."

Former Vice Presidents Sue Weitz and Margot Stanfield always knew there was a balance between care for our families and creating a space where families can be supported, and in so doing, engage them in a way that they want to come back. These two trailblazers conceived the idea for a Parent and Family Relations office, and Vice Provost Judi Biggs-Garbuio is happy to support its growth.

With Swank and her band of student ambassadors, the vision continues to flourish.



What advice do you have for new college parents? Email your suggestions to editor@gonzaga.edu.



Parent and Family Relations Director Amy Swank (right) shares a laugh with parents during orientation. She serves as president of the national association for family engagement in higher education.

The Jesuit and Catholic Soul of Gonzaga

Over the course of the 2018-19 academic year, Gonzaga continued to place intentional focus on its Jesuit, Catholic, humanistic identity and practice – but in an important new way. One significant achievement was completion of the Mission Priority Examen, a new process required of all Jesuit colleges and universities, to explore areas of strength and weakness in Jesuit and Catholic mission identity and practice. Faculty, staff and students in every area had the opportunity to provide input, and then peer reviewers from other institutions evaluated our findings.

This Examen experience led to the identification of four institutional priorities, including a Work Values project, a comprehensive Jesuit Identity Initiative, a reaffirmed mission-based commitment to Diversity, Equity and Cultural Fluency, and Administrative Restructuring to support the vitality and viability of our institution, in service to its mission.

While collecting and pondering all of the feedback received during that process, Gonzaga continued the work of deepening its mission offerings in many ways. We merged University Ministry and the Office of Mission into one Office of Mission and Ministry, to reflect our conviction that in a Jesuit context, “mission” and “ministry” are ultimately connected. That team offered a Catholic Identity Series and other opportunities for intellectual engagement and reflection throughout the academic year.

Amid the structural change and the expansive efforts of the Examen, we responded to the contemporary clergy sexual abuse crisis in various ways. We facilitated open conversations regarding Gonzaga’s relationship with the Society of Jesus; held meetings with the rector of the Della Strada Jesuit Community, Fr. Tom Lamanna, S.J., and with the provincial assistant for higher education in the Jesuits West Province, Fr. Bob Niehoff, S.J.; hosted a Liturgy of Lament designed and led by faculty, staff, students, and the rector to acknowledge the sins of the church and to stand with victims; and appointed a University Commission on Gonzaga’s Response to the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis.

You can read full messages on many of these topics at gonzaga.edu/President.

What we learned in the Mission Priority Examen

The final Mission Priority Examen report reaffirmed the importance of a shared commitment to mission among all areas of university life. It also identified gaps in current programs and infrastructure where we will put intentional focus:

Clarity and Accountability: Clearly, courageously and consistently communicate and embody mission values, aligning decision making, resource allocation and priorities

Hiring for Mission: Strengthen our ability to identify candidates who are inspired by and want to contribute to our institutional mission

Formation and Education: Enhance opportunities for campus members to learn about the Society of Jesus, the Catholic tradition, Ignatian spirituality, Jesuit pedagogy and contemporary mission leadership

Integration: Ensure that our mission identity is integrated in curricula across disciplines, organizational practices and decision making, and all areas of university life

Jesuit Engagement: Nurture and deepen relationships with the Society of Jesus, creatively co-laboring in the mission of the University

Ultimately, we see tremendous possibility ahead of us. And we ask you – our parents, alumni, benefactors and friends – to join us: by leading, learning, mentoring, contemplating, writing, praying and otherwise participating however you can. We are so grateful to have you alongside us, sharing in this work for the benefit of a long future in Jesuit higher education. May God continue to bless you, and all of us, abundantly.



Sincerely,
Thayne M. McCulloh, D.Phil., President, with
Michelle Wheatley, D.Min., Acting Vice President for
Mission & Ministry

Meet the Deans

Gonzaga Magazine asked each of the University's four new deans to answer one question:

Why Gonzaga?

Karlene Hoo

DEAN, SCHOOL OF
ENGINEERING
& APPLIED SCIENCE

*Previously Professor of Engineering,
Montana State University, Bozeman*



I was attracted to Gonzaga's mission to educate the whole student with an emphasis on global and civic engagement. Also, I was impressed by Gonzaga's strategic plan, which focuses on existing strengths while seeking sensible opportunities for growth in multidisciplinary education and scholarly activities. Moreover, the faculty and staff in the School of Engineering and Applied Science exhibited strong dedication and enthusiasm to the education and training of the students as evidenced by the variety of design projects, the broad engagement of students in research activities including club activities, and the personal advising and mentoring to help all SEAS students achieve their potential.

Rosey Hunter

DEAN, SCHOOL OF
LEADERSHIP STUDIES

*Previously Associate Professor,
Social Work, University of Utah,
Salt Lake City*



For a decade I have been working with Jesuit initiatives internationally. These relationships have evolved to form a network of social activists across several continents. It was from these Jesuits, like Father Paul Dass, Brother Joseph N. Tukuang and the laity, like Yi San, who are working with young people in Myanmar; and others, like Yonal Alpotrianus, who are working with refugees, that I learned how the spirit of the Jesuits is active in the lives of people. It was the Jesuit mission and the reputation of Gonzaga that attracted me to the position. It is the spaces of love and justice that made it easy to say yes.



Vincent Salyers

DEAN, SCHOOL OF NURSING
& HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY

*Previously Professor of Nursing,
MacEwan University, Edmonton*

I believe with all of my heart that I was led to Gonzaga for this new season of my life. God has a way of bringing us into these seasons and here I am. I have been searching for a university that aligns with my faith, values and abilities – and the School of Nursing & Human Physiology and Gonzaga are the places where this all comes together. I am excited about building on the excellent reputation of the School and University and of working alongside everyone to greatly impact the health and well-being of our campus, communities and beyond.



Yoli Carter

DEAN, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
*Previously Associate Professor of
Education, Berea College, Kentucky*

Many of the humanistic values GU holds true are the ones I grew up with – the ones I have tried to practice as an imperfect, but always trying, human. Author Robert Fulghum captures these values in his writings on kindergarten wisdom, which can be summarized like this: "Share everything, play fair, clean up your own mess, say sorry, hold hands and stick together, live a balanced life – learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some." The way Gonzaga carries out its Jesuit Mission is an example of these simple yet powerful truths.



Years of the Possible

Iconic service immersion program celebrates a generation of impact

By Jeff Bunch '92

Like many Jesuit projects, Gonzaga's Mission: Possible started humbly with a vision and a commitment to action that over time has fostered a lasting legacy.

The year was 1999 and the Zags men's basketball team was starting its legendary postseason run. Meanwhile, a group of GU students was listening to those games between volunteer assignments in rural Mississippi on an "alternative spring break" that would become Mission: Possible. The calling that moved the first group of students remains strong today.

Mission: Possible is a weeklong service immersion program where students serve and learn alongside community partners across the country during spring break. Students explore the complex structural and social realities affecting communities and reflect on their role with these issues through the lens of the four pillars of the Center for Community Engagement: simplicity, spirituality, community and justice.

To celebrate Mission: Possible's 20th anniversary, we take a look at a moment when the program's past collaborated with its future in a poignant way.

See next page.

MISSION:POSSIBLE

Across the nation, students explore the complexities of poverty, racism, immigration, homelessness, disabilities, incarceration and more, through the lens of community programs serving those in need.



2017 Neah Bay



2011 Tacoma



2018 Knoxville



2018 New York City

Serendipity

The past and the future of Mission: Possible connected serendipitously on a brilliant day last spring in the hills above Marin County, California. That's where a group of Gonzaga University students and their staff adviser were busy restoring and protecting butterfly habitat in the Golden Gate National Recreation area alongside partners from a local conservation group.

Meanwhile, alumnus Aaron Sanchez ('02) quickened his pace on the trail with sweeping views high above San Francisco Bay as he approached the group. Sanchez was on break from his day as a marketer at LinkedIn headquarters in San Francisco and, no doubt, memories of a similar trip, 20 years earlier, flooded his mind.

While the setting was different for this group of students, the objective was the same as in Sanchez's days: Give of yourself in service to a greater cause. The informal reunion came together when the organizers of Mission: Possible invited Sanchez to see how the humble program had evolved since its founding in 1999 – and how things have stayed the same.

Sanchez was a member of the original Mission: Possible student group. He signed up for an "alternative Spring Break" during orientation in 1998 and was surprised to be called upon months later about an assignment to visit rural Mississippi. Although Sanchez didn't know what he was getting into, he headed off joyfully with fellow Zags.

Today's GU students go into the modern iteration of the program with more structure in place. Staff in Gonzaga's Center for Community Engagement orchestrate 8 to 10 teams traveling across the nation over Spring Break, while student leaders assigned to each location handle logistics. A faculty or staff member accompanies each team, and the group meets regularly for pre-trip discussions on a variety of social justice topics.

On this day, Sanchez joined students in clearing invasive California underbrush that suffocates the western monarch butterflies' natural habitat. And before departing, he offered a word of thanks to the students on behalf of all Gonzaga alumni, for carrying on Mission: Possible two decades later.

Their work – whether for environmental causes, children's programs, community development or tribal relations – will likely impact them the way it did Sanchez, cementing in them a desire to be part of work that makes a lasting difference.



MISSION:POSSIBLE



Aaron Sanchez (back row, left) met up with 2019 participants of a Mission: Possible excursion near San Francisco. The team worked on and learned about environmental projects in the Bay Area.



Read: Learn about Sanchez's career and his Mission: Possible journey, plus, hear from more students who participate: gonzaga.edu/magazine.

Share: Have a poignant memory of your own Mission: Possible experience? Email editor@gonzaga.edu.

Give. Help make a service-learning opportunity possible for the next Zag servants. Use the envelope enclosed or visit gonzaga.edu/ReadersCare.

•
CHOOSING
JOY

By Kate Vanskike-Bunch

Photos by Zack Berlat ('11) | Design by Reanne Hoblin

There were hundreds of them. Maybe thousands. Photos of people smiling or laughing, not posed, but captured in moments of authentic happiness.

I was searching Gonzaga's photo repository for the perfect image to accompany a story on our website, and there they were. A faculty member beaming with energy at the first Mass of the school year. A security officer engaged in great conversation at an employee picnic. Students enjoying carefree moments between classes. A dog catching a Frisbee, his mouth wide and smiling.

That was all it took to decide our next issue of Gonzaga Magazine would feature joy. We solicited input from the campus community and compiled all the responses: people, actions and activities that bubble up happiness. Here, we share just a snapshot of those replies, in hopes that this collection brings you joy, makes you smile.



“What Makes You Happy, Brings You Joy, Makes You Laugh?”

We posed this question on social media, in the latest magazine and through an email to the campus community. The pages ahead share some of many answers we received.

Jackson Wills ('20)

STUDENT

Keys to happiness

Be healthy in mind, body and soul. Be conscious of what's going on in your life, and the kinds of decisions you are making. It's important not to place too much emphasis on not being sad. You cannot be happy all the time.

On figuring it out

It's dangerous to compare your happiness to someone else's. I think we are all more the same than we think, but still, the techniques that work for me will not work for everyone and part of the journey is figuring it out for yourself.

Turning it around

The main thing that gets me up when I'm down is other people. Sometimes one good conversation is enough to completely turn my mood around. Or to write letters of appreciation in my head to the people I love.

Favorite lyrics and quotes

“Life's about the people who surround you; love's the only thing it all comes down to.” (Jason Mraz)

“Caring about the happiness of others, you find your own.” (Plato)



Monica Bartlett

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
PSYCHOLOGY

What makes you laugh?

My husband! It's one of several reasons that I married him. Also, the sounds that goats make and Chris Farley's "Saturday Night Live" skits.

Every-day delights

A walk in the sun, an opalescent beetle crossing the sidewalk, a hug from my children, a good cup of coffee. I'm a huge fan of embracing small beauty and joy as those things add up to a great deal of happiness.

What brings you happiness?

My family — immensely. Photography and travel. A job that allows me to continue learning. The horse chestnut trees outside my office window, our neighbor's little Boston Terrier that barks like a man clearing his throat, an emerging storm bruising the Rocky Mountain sky just outside of Browning, Montana.

Happy Gonzaga Staff

Allison Peterson, Office of the President:
"Here's a list of the people (in no particular order) who are the happiest Zags I know. I've really enjoyed mulling this list over; thank you for giving us this joyful task! **Jim White, Molly Spilker, Ray Angle, Jose Hernandez, Cindy Perry, Dale Goodwin, Jeff Bunch, Jackie Van Allen, Borre Ulrichsen** and **Steve Hess, S.J.**"

Kyle Myers, Center for Cura Personalis:
"When I think of someone that embodies happiness and joy, I think of **Lisa Owens** in Housing & Residence Life. She is always welcoming, always finds the positive sides of situations, always cheerful."



August Corppetts ('21)

STUDENT

I laugh with ...

My friends. My roommate Brittany in particular tells the most hilarious stories. I know that I can count on her to cheer me up at any time!

On long-term positivity

Every morning I declare that today will be spectacular, and remind myself that I am living my wildest dreams. Attending my dream college was all I thought about since I was 8 years old, and now that I am here I find myself looking toward the next step in life. By centering myself and living in the moment, I hope to cultivate positivity and optimism for my remaining time here.

When I hear "joy"...

I immediately think of my sister, Emmarae. She is the most radiant person I know; she's naturally unafraid to be herself and encourages others to do the same, has a kind spirit and understanding heart. She represents joy for me because of her outlook on the world, her passion for learning, and her unwavering support.

Fulfilling my purpose

I am absolutely in love with what I am studying, and find fulfillment from my coursework as a political science major with minors in women's and gender studies and leadership. I want to create a more equitable and inclusive world to live in by continuing to educate myself on ways to fight injustice, and sharing my story. As long as I can inspire young women who also have marginalized identities to never let society frame their existence, and get people to start difficult dialogue on topics that are ignored, I will fulfill my purpose.

“What Makes You Happy, Brings You Joy, Makes You Laugh?”

Responses from Alumni,
Staff and Students

Gratitude is the invariable companion of joy. Together they transform ordinary moments, jobs and relationships into blessings.

- Sr. Joy Milos, CSJ



Sr. Joy Milos, CSJ (See pg.22)

Friends: ***Samara (Hanks) Strba ('11)***

For the last four years, my husband and I have hosted an annual Friendsgiving gathering with our fellow Zags in Seattle, including Nick Salisbury, Brittney (Beatty) Salisbury, Allison Berry, Brian Russell, Jason Beecroft, Joey Wakefield, Emily (Ehlers) Wakefield, Spencer Townley and Adam Skarr, all from the class of 2011. It's always a great reminder of the joy that our Zag community continues to bring us. Our friends from Gonzaga have truly become our second family.

Community: ***Jenny Stuchell ('13)***

After graduating from Gonzaga, I started my new chapter of life – integrating into the Spokane community and trying to figure out what came next. It wasn't all easy, but I felt so much joy (and hope) as I soul-searched for my new career path and community. This joy stemmed from the support of my Gonzaga alumni and professor community. There were so many people who helped guide me, and with this great support I was able to focus and start a company. To this day I find so much joy in reconnecting with professors at Gonzaga who allow me to come visit their entrepreneur classes, or who just sit down with me for a cup of coffee to catch up or get some advice. Joy is found in this community of mine - not just Spokane but the Spokane Gonzaga community, who really support their own, for life.

Children as Happy Adults: ***Sean Bailey ('93, '99)***

What makes me happy, gives me joy, and makes me laugh? Laughter comes easily when I get together with our dear GU friends/family and share stories. My wife (Barb Ward, '91) and I have been so blessed with amazing people and experiences in our lives. Joy and happiness come from gratitude and positivity in outlook of life. But besides that, GU basketball contributes to my happiness, for sure. But more seriously and sincerely significant is when I am witness to my own adult children's happiness and feeling of accomplishment. This goes equally with my middle-school students.

Moments with Rui: Erica Shea ('02)

I am joyful when I get to watch my children discover their own joy. It happens when they encounter something in the moment, without wondering what will happen next or how others might perceive it. (Fr. Kuder would be so proud of them!) For example, we recently brought home a new puppy. We named him Rui (as a Zag-loving family might do). Every day Rui does something that gets my children into fits of giggles. I stop worrying about lists and tasks and listen to them laugh. There is nothing more joyful than that sound and watching them encounter these moments for the first time.

All the Feels: Sarah Edwards ('03)

"Sarah Smiles" on Instagram is a showcase of incredible art created from flowers discarded from floral shops in Spokane. With this selection, she wrote: "People say, 'Choose joy.' I say it, too. I know this can actually be quite hard to choose. It's not that simple. Sometimes all I want is to scream, or to throw something. Sometimes I just want to be angry. So I let myself. If I deny my anger/pain/sadness and try to smother them in 'joy,' they will grow. So I feel them, however uncomfortable. Then I find my way back to joy just as quickly as I can. Yes, choose joy. But also choose to honor all your feelings. They all have a place."

Sarah has a second page curated with others, called "The Joy Spreaders." On it, she wrote, "Will you choose joy? Choose to consciously spread joy. It's contagious, you know."

Detachment: Peggy Sue Loroz ('95)

My favorite class as an undergraduate was Christian Leadership with **Father Steve Kuder**. One of the texts was "The Way to Love" by Anthony DeMello, S.J., who wrote: "What can one do to attain happiness? There is nothing you or anyone else can do. Why? For the simple reason that you are already happy right now. ... Why do you not experience this happiness which is already yours? Because your mind is creating unhappiness all the time. Drop this unhappiness of your mind and the happiness that has always been yours will instantly surface."

Fr. Kuder spent a lot of time helping us understand the very Ignatian idea that awareness and detachment are the keys to love and happiness. My 20-year-old self thought she was pretty happy basking in her blissful ignorance, proficiently toting her emotional baggage like a student backpacking around Europe, so she struggled mightily at first with the notion of finding joy and love in the acts of truly seeing and genuinely letting go. To be honest, I am still learning and living these lessons 25 years later, but I regularly offer a prayer of gratitude for Fr. Kuder and other Jesuits who pointed me in the right direction and have reoriented me when I have started to drift along the way.

Choose to consciously spread joy. It's contagious, you know.

- Sarah Edwards ('03)

Called Out: Students share their picks for happiest people at Gonzaga

Konner Sauve ('19), notorious for building up others, named these individuals: "**Monica Bartlett** is my adviser. She exudes joy for the work she does in studying gratitude. Her passion is an inspiration to my own future career goals. **Jamie Osborn** ('19) fully gives of herself to serving others and there is never a time she does not have a smile on her face. **Madelyn Hoban** ('19) is never without a hearty laugh with friends. She brings joy to both our Gonzaga and Spokane community by giving her love through various acts of service."

Hoban's name came up in another message, this one from Ethan Kane ('19). "Madelyn is hands-down the most happiness-exuding Zag I've ever seen. She beams with joy and one can't help but beam after talking with her." Kane also noted, "If you are looking for a happiness-inspiring event, come to a **GUSR** play practice. Joy is there in a palpable and heart-warming way."

Asked how we foster more of both the fleeting and the long-term positive that makes life enjoyable, **Tori Tlachac** ('19) responded: "I think we each need to take more time out of our day to check in and let each other know how much we care. I realize that people are busy, but we should try to make sure our friends and family remain a priority amongst all the chaos. Engaging with friends in various endeavors throughout college has been invaluable – something I will treasure for the rest of my life."

Embrace your calling with passion if you want to discover joy

Sr. Joy Milos, CSJ
Professor Emerita, Religious Studies

After a crazy-making first year of teaching, I finally realized that if I embraced my call to teach, with all the energy it involved, it brought me joy. Fifty-two years later, that's still true.

Having discovered that for myself, I've invited students over the years to discern and embrace their own callings with passion if they want to discover joy. Watching them do that always delights me. To help them along, I've often shared some insights about that process.

1

Joy isn't earned. It always comes as gift. It's discovered, embraced, celebrated and shared.

2

Joy needs to spill over into the lives of others. Tagore, the great Indian artist, writer and Nobel Prize recipient, summarized it well. "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."

3

Joy is woven into the fabric of everyday life. If we think it only appears in ecstatic high points, we'll miss much joy in life. And it helps to slow down on occasion to really see what's in front of us.

4

Gratitude is the invariable companion of joy. Together they transform ordinary moments, jobs and relationships into blessings.

Happiness: Academically Speaking

Happiness and joy have the potential to reach the world through every field of study.

In theatre, students have investigated the connection between happiness and heartache through the play “Gruesome Playground Injuries.” In religious studies, they can explore the joys of Catholic traditions like the celebration of Mass, as well as the tenets of other religious belief systems. Professor **John Sheveland** shares Buddhist teachings, including one of the four boundless attitudes that focuses on the joy of others – impartial and unrestricted in its scope toward all sentient beings. Philosophy students often read works of C.S. Lewis, whose book “The Four Loves” explores the nature of happiness.

Psychology classes discuss happiness as both a cause and an effect of positive outcomes. Department Chair **Monica Bartlett** may have been selected for a spotlight in this feature because students named her as someone who “exudes” joy. But she has academic expertise on the subject, too.

In her Human Flourishing course, Bartlett’s students explore human strength and well-being, positive emotions and their functions, correlates of thriving relationships, the benefits of forgiveness, and the outcomes of human character strengths (such as bravery, kindness and humor). Her research lab on Positive Emotion and Social Behavior studies gratitude and how it helps build social relationships and boost a personal sense of well-being.

Academic discussion on happiness and joy is not limited to the humanities. In the School of Business Administration, Marketing Professor **Peggy Sue Loro** focuses on how marketers can help consumers improve their well-being and happiness not just through buying things but also by making good choices in health-related, financial, environmental and other pro-social contexts.

Within the philosophy department, entire courses are devoted to happiness, and offerings from **Erik Schmidt** and **Mark Alfino** are in high demand among students. Happiness Studies is an interdisciplinary field of studies gaining momentum as well. Alfino says happiness courses (at Gonzaga) date from the early 2000s and “reflect an empirical research base in psychology, political science, economics and other disciplines that is only about 10-20 years older than that. Of course, philosophy has a global literature on happiness that goes back 2-2.5 millennia, but the contemporary study has added many new avenues for reflection.”

Alfino adds, “For both students and faculty, studying happiness can have a great impact since it has such obvious personal implications. It is a great way to make philosophy relevant at a personal level.”

Questions for Reflection

(From Mark Alfino’s course on happiness)

1. How objective, real, subjective is happiness?
2. What roles do fate and luck play? Wealth? Love?
3. To what extent can we influence our general happiness by the things we do?
4. What insights and practices from philosophical and religious thought may have an impact?
5. What do I need to know and practice to be happy?

FURTHER READING:

Faculty Recommendations

“**Stumbling on Happiness**”
– Daniel Gilbert

“**The Paradox of Choice: Why More is Less**” – Barry Swartz

“**Authentic Happiness**”
– Martin Seligman

“**Finding True Happiness: Satisfying Our Restless Hearts**” – Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, S.J.

“**Surprised by Joy**” – C.S. Lewis

“**The Art of Happiness**”
– Dalai Lama

“**The Blue Zones of Happiness: Lessons From the World’s Happiest People**”
– Dan Buettner

POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY & happy apps

“Fifty percent of your happiness/joy is genetically set, 10% is influenced by circumstances and 40% is influenced by managing our thoughts and our intentional activity,” says Hertz, citing Sonja Lyubormirsky’s “The How of Happiness.”

A growing trend in personal (and professional) development is positive psychology – the scientific study of “human flourishing” or “what happens when things go right” or “strengths that enable individuals and communities to thrive,” depending on which organization is defining it. Regardless of the terminology, this is about learning what enables achievement, fosters happiness, clarifies meaning, builds courage.

For Kara Hertz ('01), executive director of Alumni Relations, completing training for certification in the field was a choice based on a desire to strengthen leadership skills. For Tara Hiller, a licensed mental health counselor in Gonzaga’s Health and Counseling Services, attending conferences on positive psychology and happiness are ways she can enhance her care of students.

“Research shows that 50% of your happiness/joy is genetically set, 10% is influenced by circumstances but 40% is influenced by how we’re managing our thoughts and our intentional activity,” says Hertz. According to the Coaching and Positive Psychology Institute where she received her training, these are some building blocks of happiness:

- 1 ● Positive thinking
- 2 ● Social connection (relationships and experiencing kindness from others)
- 3 ● Managing the negative
- 4 ● Living in the moment
- 5 ● Achievement (setting and reaching goals)

Apps

For Hiller and her colleagues whose work is mostly with busy, young, stressed-out college students, tips and tools include mobile apps that can provide support in personal growth and developing resiliency. Here are a few they list on their website:

- 1 ● **GPS FOR THE SOUL**
find and return to that centering place of harmony and balance
- 2 ● **HAPPIER**
stay more present; take a quick meditation pause or capture small happy moments
- 3 ● **HAPPIFY**
effective tools to take control of your emotional well-being
- 4 ● **COACH.ME**
free tracking tools to set and achieve goals

Help Yourself, Help Others

Care to join other Zags in happiness-boosting conversations and activities? Email hertzkgonzaga.edu.

While the Wellness Toolbox on Gonzaga's website was developed with students in mind, the Health & Counseling Services materials could be helpful for anyone. Visit gonzaga.edu/magazine for links.

Want to help support the life-enhancing and even life-saving services offered to students through the Health & Wellbeing department? Visit gonzaga.edu/ReadersCare.

Need a Boost? Try the happiness daily half-dozen for a week!

- 1 ● Write down three blessings.
- 2 ● Do something kind for someone else.
- 3 ● Move for 20 minutes.
- 4 ● Laugh.
- 5 ● Dedicate 60 seconds to quiet, deep breathing.
- 6 ● Think about (and do!) something that brings you joy.



Most frequently named sources of joy on our Instagram were pets, music, art, travel, faith, Gonzaga friends, Zag basketball games, being in nature. Here are few others:

@kourtschott
"singing in my car"

@czeisner
"seeing others succeed"

@gracesiemering
"making others happy"

@gogan.tiwana
"class getting canceled"

@amishgoatfarm
"Rolling St. Mary's by 20 points"



Following Jesus into His Joy

Adapted from an Easter Homily
by Father Stephen Kuder, S.J.

Father Stephen Kuder, S.J.

“...what if we don’t really feel so joyful? What if we don’t even feel very happy? We can have health problems, financial problems, or grieve the death of a loved one or feel burdened, burdened by busyness or loneliness or boredom. Joy just seems out of the question.”

- Father Stephen Kuder, S.J.

At the Last Supper, the last time Jesus was with his disciples, he said to them, “I am telling you these things so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.” Wow! Jesus is saying, “I want to give you complete joy.”

A sister of the Sacred Heart once said, “To be a joy-bringer and a joy-bearer says it all.” That’s Jesus, and that can be us too, bringing joy to one another.

First, we have to ask ourselves this central question: “How do we follow Jesus into his joy?” It sounds easy enough on the surface, but remember, it’s not about us and our joyfulness (or lack of it), it’s about Jesus. It’s Jesus who invites us to follow him into his joy, which is that his victory over sin and death can be shared by all people.

Jesus’ joy is so great because he has come back after he had been driven out of our human flesh by death. But now he’s risen from the dead, and he has this tremendous joy of sharing his new human condition with all of us. It is clear that Jesus’ great joy is to be with humankind. And so we have to do this as Christians, we have to follow Jesus this way. A great spiritual teacher warns us that if we do not follow Jesus into his joy we will ultimately find it hard to believe that we are following him at all. Whoa.

But wait a minute, what if we don’t really feel so joyful? What if we don’t even feel very happy? We can have health problems, financial problems, or grieve the death of a loved one or feel burdened, burdened by busyness or loneliness or boredom. Joy just seems out of the question.

Here is the good news: Jesus Christ will take care of all of that. The risen Jesus reaches down, takes us by the hand and pulls us up out of our un-joy.

Every Sunday we proclaim the Apostles Creed, and we say that we believe Jesus descended into Hell and the third day he rose again. What’s that all about? What’s that gap in there between his death and resurrection? Early Christians called that the harrowing of Hell. If you Google this, you will see images and icons of Jesus reaching down into the underworld through a grave, and who does he have by the hand? Adam. He’s pulling up Adam. And whose hand does Adam have? Eve’s. And behind them, all of those just people who died before the resurrection. Jesus is pulling them all up! In hundreds of different depictions of this on Google, you see Jesus pulling them up, just as he pulls us up out of our hells of anxiety, worries, problems.

His hand is always outstretched. All we have to do is reach up and grasp it. Jesus will bring complete joy into our lives.

a gratitude EXERCISE

What you will need:

1. A writing utensil
2. A comfy place to sit

What has been the best part of your day so far?



What is something you are looking forward to?



Think of a person who seems happy. What do you notice?



Write about – or draw a picture of – a favorite memory.



Snap a photo of your responses and email it to editor@gonzaga.edu for a chance to win some Zag swag (and maybe have your submission included in the next magazine!).

Download a PDF of this gratitude exercise at gonzaga.edu/magazine.

By Jeff Bunch ('92)

TELLING WAR

IT IS NO SECRET
THAT OUR VETERANS
RETURN FROM WAR
NOT ONLY
WOUNDED PHYSICALLY
BUT OFTEN DEEPLY
SCARRED, SPIRITUALLY,
PSYCHOLOGICALLY
AND SOCIALLY.

THROUGH THE HUMANITIES,
GONZAGA'S LISA SILVESTRI
FOUND A UNIQUE WAY TO
HONOR THEIR SERVICE AND
THEIR STORIES.





“Telling War” set its sights on giving voice to veterans, through creative arts and multimedia storytelling, to engage in meaningful dialogue about the experience of war.

The effort was personal for Silvestri, communication studies faculty member, who secured a \$100,000 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant for a two-year project that recently concluded. Her family includes several veterans and she observed that many vets are reluctant to talk about their experiences. She wanted to change that dynamic for the local community.

Silvestri partnered with arts educator Rebekah Wilkins-Pepiton (both shown at left, center) on an innovative method to help veterans, particularly those from the Vietnam and Iraq/Afghanistan-era conflicts, express themselves.

The pair spearheaded a series of events designed to stimulate dialogue and move members of the community to share their stories. Several prominent authors – themselves veterans – came to Gonzaga for readings, discussion sessions and workshops to model storytelling as a form of healing. Various humanities-based forms of expression were central to helping participants, and their families, process.



Silvestri also taught a “Telling War” first-year seminar in 2017 to guide a study in the modern experience of war through a multidisciplinary lens. One of the outcomes was training students who were interested in capturing veteran stories. Some served as storytelling facilitators and others supported event programming.

A greater impact was the noticeable positive effect on the lives of participants.

Spokane’s Larry Plager can attest to that. A Marine combat veteran, he enlisted and was sent to the Vietnam War in 1968 as an 18-year-old, alongside a few friends and dozens of other Washingtonians who were part of the Evergreen State Platoon. He lost several friends in the war and experienced other tragedies that still haunt him today.

During the early “Telling War” events, Plager was guarded about his background. As he kept showing up and participating, he began to display changes that were noticeable to those involved with the project. He had one-on-one discussions with guest speakers, other veterans, Silvestri and the students. Ultimately, he ended up sharing his story on camera, expressing himself in writing, and fully embracing every experience.

Plager’s willingness to share his experiences publicly illustrates the positive encouragement he received from the “Telling War” project.

Read more about “Telling War” and see online extras, including stories and photo galleries.
gonzaga.edu/magazine

“My goal was for veterans to realize their own wisdom. I didn’t exactly know what that would look like when it happened. Each veteran is different. Larry is one of the more explicit examples. But I think all the participants, to some extent, recognized what they have to offer us.”

- Lisa Silvestri, assistant professor, Communication Studies

"... I and the rest of the Marines in our company line the passage way leading up to the flight deck. I'm 18, a little over five foot eleven, weigh all of 140 pounds and carry half my body weight in gear. I know I'm scared. Vietnam can kill a guy, you know. I think of friends who have already been killed. Of the guys I enlisted with from Spokane, two are dead and three have been wounded and sent home. Two others I know, also dead. I wonder when it will be my turn to be mourned. But I do my job."

*Excerpt from "Helicopter Assault,"
a piece by veteran Larry Plager in the
"Telling War Anthology."*





Taking Center Stage

Gonzaga Opens Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

Story by Kate Vanskike | Photos by Zack Berlat ('11)



Miss Myrtle Woldson peered across downtown Spokane from her Sumner Drive home and noticed the glinting sun on the copper accents of the Jundt Art Museum. It was this part of the Gonzaga campus she could see best from her second-story sitting room. When she wasn't tending to her French gardens, keeping up on current events or watching Gonzaga basketball, perhaps she surveyed the approximate distance between St. Aloysius Church and Lake Arthur (it would be like her to calculate such details) and dreamed of a facility like the Rosauer building she admired. Maybe

she reminisced about her own musical education (she played harp and piano), and even envisioned the plies and pirouettes of dancers who would glide across a future stage.

Fortunately, Miss Woldson was clear about her wishes before she passed away in 2014: She wanted her hard-earned, carefully monitored real-estate fortune to benefit Gonzaga University, the arts, and generations of students to come. In April 2019, with the opening of a performing arts center bearing her name, those plans began to come to fruition.

A Window to History





The Myrtle Woldson Collection, adjacent to the center's second-floor lobby, pays tribute to Miss Woldson and inspires students and visitors to pursue self-empowerment. The museumlike series of spaces includes narrative panels and multimedia displays celebrating Miss Woldson's life, entrepreneurship and philanthropy. The collection is open to the public Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in addition to performance times.

A photograph of three people, Timothy Westerhaus, Suzanne Ostersmith, and Kathleen Jeffs, sitting in an auditorium and clapping enthusiastically. They are surrounded by rows of empty wooden chairs with patterned upholstery. The lighting is warm and focused on the clapping trio.

More than a Season

The directors, left to right: Timothy Westerhaus, Suzanne Ostersmith and Kathleen Jeffs

The premiere performance at the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center was a showcase of remarkable creativity and collaboration. What happened when the curtain rose for the first time at the Woldson was the product three years in the making, representing music, dance and acting, the beauty of the Spokane region and even the personality of the late Miss Woldson.

Creating such an epic piece, fit to surprise and delight, entertain and inspire, required the collective genius of seasoned professionals – not merely performers, but engineers of the stage experience. Fortunately, the necessary experts were on hand: **Kathleen Jeffs**, chair of theatre and dance; **Suzanne Ostersmith**, director of dance; and **Timothy Westerhaus**, chair of music.

The trio spent a year listening to music scores before discovering “A Time to Dance,” a 2012 composition by Alec

Roth. Built on four movements that reflect the seasons, it provides ample opportunity to showcase the unique talents of both vocalists and instrumentalists. The team named their interpretation of Roth’s work “A New Season,” with Ostersmith as director.

“She transformed a piece of music inspired by dance into a custom-built piece for this particular moment in Gonzaga history,” says Jeffs.

“We wanted it to be all about artistry, place and potential,” says Ostersmith, who collaborated with former Washington State Poet Laureate Tod Marshall to find poems from local writers that represented the seasons of the Inland Northwest.

“It required a coherent vision for this all to come together,” says Jeffs. “I really admire the magnitude of participation made possible by (Ostersmith’s) galvanizing vision and the capacities of the new building.”



“Everyone at Gonzaga has helped to make Miss Woldson’s dream a reality.”

– **Monty Danner**, *friend and personal representative of the benefactor, at the dedication of the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center*

Westerhaus adds that working on “A New Season” has redefined how the team works together. “This is the only way to move forward. It opens up so much possibility for students to learn from one another.”

The example set by the performing arts leadership trio is noted among others. Colleagues at Gonzaga, for sure, but also peers from other institutions. The collaborative model was obvious to accreditors visiting the music department recently, as Westerhaus explained the make-up of his students. “We’re not a music conservatory or a dance school,” he said. “My students are engineers and educators, nurses and accountants.”

Following the opening of the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, and its first run of usual student productions, it’s unlikely Gonzaga’s level of collaboration will remain a secret. Like the building itself, the arts programs are building on a legacy and forever looking to the horizon with great intent and purpose.

Behind *the* Scenes

- » **Leslie Stamoolis** (below), costume designer, crafted the apparel for 150 looks and even designed a piece reflective of the style benefactor Miss Woldson once wore to the San Francisco opera.
- » **Charlie Pepiton**, associate professor of theatre, provided vocal coaching for the actors who, instead of performing traditional dialogue or monologue scripts, delivered poetry-slam presentation and showcased Spokane poet Bethany Montgomery of Power 2 the Poetry.
- » In the new facility, **Courtney Smith** (bottom right), technical director, can experiment more with projection tools for the next level of visual performance.
- » **Laura Sims**, director of the center, joined GU to oversee the building – its construction progress, its programming, staffing, ticket sales and more. She was previously founding director of the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center. She says the Myrtle Woldson center “opens up so many possibilities for Gonzaga, as well as local events and national productions.”





Spokane's Newest Performing Arts Center

Size: 57,550 square feet

Construction cost: \$30 million

Mainstage theater: 759 seats (595 orchestra, 164 in balcony and side boxes). Named the Fr. Bernard J. Coughlin, S.J., Theater, after GU's 23rd president

Recital hall: 168 seats. Named the Martin and Edwidge Woldson Recital Hall after Myrtle's parents

Special features: The stage features a proscenium arch and a fly loft. The orchestra pit can rise to create a "thrust" stage area or descend for an orchestra during musical or dance productions. On the second floor is an interdisciplinary arts design studio.



MYRTLE WOLDSON
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

AT GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

Laura Sims, Director
211 E. DeSmet Ave.
(corner of Pearl and DeSmet)

Info: 509-313-4776
Box Office: 509-313-2787
mwpac@gonzaga.edu
gonzaga.edu/mwpac

Chapters of ZagNation

Who:

58,000 living alumni members

What:

Involved in 51 Chapters

When:

Since the 2005 beginning of chapter membership

Where:

More than 50 locations

How:

Gathering for game watches, service projects and networking



Sean McKinzie



Danielle Cendejas
(in red)



Christelle Gorman

Little-known facts

» Tacoma was the **first chapter**

» **Japan, Canada & Florence** have chapters

» Membership is **FREE!**

Upcoming Chapter Events

San Diego Padres: **Sept. 7**

Golf Tournaments: **Sept. 7**, Seattle; **Sept. 29**, Portland

Bay Area Grand Prix: **Sept. 14**, San Francisco

Choir & Glee Club Reunions: **Oct. 4-6**, GU campus

Career Treks: **Oct. 17-18**, Spokane; **Oct. 21-22**, NYC

Be Involved!

Tell us about your chapter events and tag us (@zagalumni and @gonzagau) when you share on social media.

Email story ideas to editor@gonzaga.edu.

Share your chapter dreams with Drew Rieder (riederd@gonzaga.edu).

LA-Area Zags

Nearly 2,500 Gonzaga alumni call Los Angeles and Orange counties home. Add another 900 current parents, 2,100 former parents and more than 1,500 who identify as “friends” of the University, and that totals around 7,100 fans who were happy to lead cheers for the Bulldogs during the Sweet Sixteen and Elite Eight in March Madness 2019.

Serving as their leader, event coordinator and spirit ignitor is **Danielle Cendejas ('04)**, who has united the chapter for five years now. “I enjoy fostering an extension of the Gonzaga community in LA,” she says.

The Other Washington

On the East Coast, **Christelle Gorman ('07)** keeps the D.C. Alumni Chapter busy through special traditions like serving at the Cherry Blossom Festival, the July Fourth parade, laying wreaths on the graves of American heroes at Arlington Cemetery, volunteering for D.C. Day of Service and more. “Our group activities are social justice-driven with a focus on the Jesuit principle of loving one another,” she says.

More than a hundred members participate in these opportunities, plus game watches (thank you, Forrest Smith, '09, for coordinating) and networking events. Gorman, who works for the National Alliance of States and Territorial AIDS Directors, says, “We were all drawn to D.C. to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Our chapter serves as a reminder of that, and helps to replenish our Bulldog zagalicious spirit.”

On the Home Front: Spokane

Sean McKenzie ('98) works at Engie Insight – a Spokane-based company that helps large multilocation businesses manage utility costs. He recently embarked on a new role there as a team leader, which he says is all about “making sure we have happy and productive employees.”

But McKenzie’s other “job” is heading up the largest chapter of Gonzaga alumni, right here in Spokane. He says: “I became involved in the chapter because my wife and I attended a few events and really loved the opportunity to remain connected to a place that was and is so special to us. I see it as an opportunity to maintain that connection but also as a way to help other people have the opportunity to go to GU. Our Jesuit education shows us that we should be persons for others and the chapters are a great way to continue that mission.”

McKenzie says his favorite part about being president is building relationships. “We have some wonderful, talented folks on our board who do amazing work. We have an awesome staff at the University to support us. We are blessed to get to work with student groups on campus. All the people I meet at our events remind me how special the Gonzaga community is, and how we really are Zags for life.”

Discover more at
www.gonzaga.edu/alumni

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**ZAG
ALUMNI
REUNION**
October 11-13, 2019
GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

Come back to the place you'll always call home.
Classes of 2014, 2009, 2004, 1999, 1994, 1989, 1979 & Gold Club
Register at gonzaga.edu/reunion



Who's this Zag?

With a doctorate from Cal Berkeley, this political scientist found his home at Gonzaga some 48 years ago, barely wet behind the ears, as one of a whole new breed of young, aspiring, confident young professors. The young Turks they were called. He found GU to be authentic, where good teaching was heralded and people were good to one another. He ran unsuccessfully for Washington State's House of Representatives in 1973, championing educational opportunities and environmental concerns. Teaching at GU is the only full-time, nonseasonal work he's had, except for a one-year stint as acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, 2012-13. And he's still going strong. (Hint: This is not Richard Dreyfus.)

If you know this mystery Zag, share a favorite memory. Email editor@gonzaga.edu, or write to Editor, Gonzaga Magazine, Gonzaga University, 502 E. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA 99258-0070.



Sister Mary Garvin, S.N.J.M.

Professor, Religious Studies
(1939-2013)

After completing her Doctor of Ministry degree from Andover Newton Theological School where her major research focused on the intersection of the International Women's Movement and Vatican Council II, she never lost her passion to champion for women's rights. Sr. Garvin later participated in the United Nations Commission on Women.

She was also a highly respected international scholar and one of Gonzaga's most revered professors. She touched many lives both within and outside the University community, serving as adviser, author, spiritual director and leader. She was a firm advocate for the liberal arts and their impact on each student's education. She often said, "I have immense gratitude for my own Jesuit, Catholic education," and she gave back blessings to her students. In addition to teaching, she served as associate director of GU's Credo Program. An ardent sports fan, you might have been a little surprised by her habit to launch an occasional sharp, smart-aleck remark directed at the umpires at Pecarovich Field.

READER RESPONSES

Your Zag is Mary Garvin. One of the best teachers on GU's campus. She was an effective bridge between conservative & liberal Catholics. She was brilliant. And I miss her.

Maureen English ('00)
Spokane

I'd know that face anywhere - that's Sr. Mary Garvin, and she was my adviser. I liked her so much that I chose to keep her as my adviser even after I switched majors. She was the best, always smiling during our semester check-ins. She had total trust and faith in my capabilities and my thought processes, and she respected who I was and the direction in which I wanted to go. I'm feeling further and further removed from my Gonzaga student experience these days, but when I do catch myself thinking about it, she's one of the first people who come to mind.

Shannon Kestell ('11)
Spokane

What I remember most about the Women and the Contemporary Church class that I took with Sister Mary Garvin is not the beautiful and vibrant ways that women animate the Catholic faith around the world but the grace, love and hospitality that infused Sister Mary's teaching. At the time, I thought little of it, but now, as a professor myself, I often consider Sister Mary's example. From heaven, she reminds me that we learn more than subject matter in the classroom, we learn how to be with one another.

Laura Collins ('07)
Colorado Springs

I knew Mary Garvin since I was a junior at Gonzaga Prep in 1954. I met her earlier that year at one of the Sodality mixers, and took her to my first dance, Prep's Junior Prom, at the Davenport Hotel that spring. Mary was smart, gracious, and a person of great faith. It didn't surprise me that she became a nun, and that she also became an esteemed faculty member at Gonzaga University. A wonderful person who is now sharing in God's glory.

Robert Hanson ('59)
Spokane

Your Mystery Zag is Mary Garvin. She was instrumental in my returning to Gonzaga to get my master's degree in religious studies (1999). We had many wonderful conversations at school and over lunch. She was a great asset to Gonzaga and someone I truly admired. What a blessing to know her.

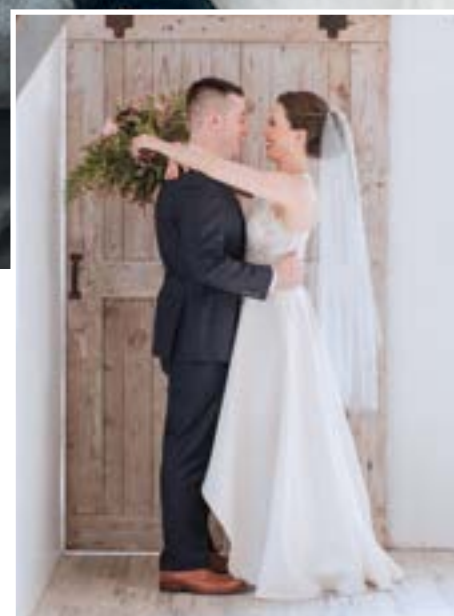
Judy Sweeney ('99)
Richland, Wash.

I loved Sister Mary Garvin. She was my undergraduate adviser and mentor in the Religious Studies department. Kind, intelligent and committed to justice. GU was a better place having her in it.

Jessica Spracklen ('09)
Cheney, Wash.

Wedding Bells & Babies

Sofia, joining '13 **Amanda (Murray)** and '13 **Erik Fuentes**, and big brother Julian



1. *Josefine*, to '08 **Emily Pfeifer** and Allen Swanson
2. *Henry*, joining '04 **Katie (O'Neill) Eubank** and Sam Eubank, and big sister Grace
3. *Mila*, to '14 **Kaitlyn (Burt) Beck** and Mitchell Beck
4. *Alexander*, to '06 **Melissa Tran** and William Gilmer
5. *Nora*, to '14 **Kendall (Tait) Brown** and '14 **Aubrey Brown**
6. *Jensen*, joining '09 **Amanda (Parsons) Peters**, '08 **John Peters**, and big sister Brookelyn
7. *Carmen*, to '09 **Sara (Sanchez) Swatek** and '09 **Mike Swatek**
8. *Hudson*, to '09 **Jessica (Hubbard) Coombs** and '09 **Nathaniel Coombs**

'09 **Knute Olsen** and Taya Postma exchanged vows in Lynden, Washington, last March.

'12 **Kaitlin Sandin** and Justin Cormier were married in Lessburg, Virginia, in the company of several other Zags.

'12 **Kristin Ehlebracht** and '12 **Cory Geerdts** celebrated their union in June 2018 with over 30 Zags in attendance, including the best man who also officiated the wedding.

'15 **Sasha Olson** and '15 **Nicholas Rhodes** tied the knot in Portland last summer. The couple met at Jack and Dan's during their junior year. More than 40 Zags attended their celebration.

'15 **Kristen Vierhaus** and '17 **Travis Carter** married in the presence of many Zags at The University Club of San Francisco (*pictured above*).

Visit gonzaga.edu/magazine to see photos of all the new couples and babies. Plus, share YOUR news: gonzaga.edu/alumninews.

Business

'10 **M.B.A. Scott Adkins** (pictured below), president and CEO of Inspirus Credit Union, was named Washington Advocate of the Year at the 2018 awards of the Northwest Credit Union Association. Inspirus serves members of educational institutions.



'14 **Shane Roach**, who lives with wife '14 **Amanda (Silva)** in the Bay Area, recently left his "cool tech job" at Lyft in the Silicon Valley and launched his own business, chelon, a direct-to-consumer e-commerce company with a twist. Shane's college job at Nordstrom deepened his desire to work in the fashion industry, but his business courses at Gonzaga provided the understanding of traditional retail markup – fostering what would become the impetus to create his own products that would be more affordable. "High quality does not have to equal high cost," he shared in a recent blog.



Education

'91 **Marc Hillestad**, a career and technical education teacher at Cedarcrest High School in Duvall, Washington, was named Advisor of the Year at the Washington DECA Conference, honoring his support of his chapter members, helping students to succeed in school, careers and life.

'98 **Brent Limos**, pictured above with Superintendent of Hawaii Catholic Schools Michael Rockers and Bishop Larry Silva, Diocese of Honolulu, recently received a service award for 20 years of "dedicated and loyal service to the ministry of Catholic education" in Hawaii Catholic Schools.

He is director of admissions at Damien Memorial School in Honolulu, where he earned another award for his loyalty to the school.

'06 **Colin Terry** completed a Ph.D. in educational psychology and educational technology at Michigan State. His research considered the educational effects of media- distracted behavior (multitasking in class, for example). He and wife '06 **Meagan Brncick** live in Colorado where Colin is associate dean of students at the Colorado School of Mines.

Leadership

'80 **Cam Sylvester** (at right) is regional director for the North America office of Latitude Global Volunteering. He writes, "After 30 years teaching at Capilano University in North Vancouver, British Columbia, I retired for eight hours or so before taking on this new challenge in fall of 2017. Latitude is the original 'gap year' program, established in 1972. I'm enjoying sending youth from across the U.S. and Canada on volunteer programs as a means to improve their readiness for university, and life in general." In a recent visit with Princess Anne, the organization's sponsor in the U.K., Cam says he took a moment to tell her why Harry would make a better king than William.



'04, '07 **M.A. Kali Wicks** was sworn in as a city commissioner for Helena, Montana, in December. She previously worked for the State of Montana, involved in facility planning, community and workforce development, higher education and health care. She also has worked in government relations for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana.



'15 **Ph.D. Nate Pearson** is director of the Center for Integrity in Leadership at Berry College, a Christian liberal arts school in Georgia.



Writing



In her new memoir, **'67 Connie Davis** describes the unimaginable obstacles she endured to adopt a baby she found on the steps of a cathedral in Ethiopia. "Three Years in Ethiopia: How a Civil War and Epidemics Led Me to My Daughter" shares Connie's journey as an infectious disease specialist, working in 20 African and Asian countries. After starting her career as one of the first black women admitted to the UC-San Francisco School of Medicine, she became acting director of the World Health Organization's Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit.

'71 Ed O'Shaughnessy, a history buff, decided in his retirement to explore his ancestry. He discovered that, during his great-grandparents' grand tour of Europe in 1888, they were American witnesses to the evictions of poor tenant farmers in Ireland. During these notorious events, the iconic battering ram was photographed, and Ed's great grandfather took copious notes,

publishing them in 1889. Now, the younger is publishing the relics and his own research in two peer-reviewed history journals, *The Other Clare* and the *New York Irish History* journal. He is a recurring contributor to both publications.

Former Gonzaga Bulletin staff writer **'92 David Herman** published a book called "Almost Yankees: The Summer of 1981 and the Greatest Baseball Team You've Never Heard Of." It's a nostalgic story of Minor League Baseball, focusing on the Columbus Clippers' rise to fame. But it's also about Herman's personal reflections on how baseball has intersected with his life over the years. After leaving Gonzaga, he pursued a sports writing career and is now a managing editor for Microsoft News.

'09 Diane McKenney took her degree in exercise science and set out for a life of adventure. An orthopedic physical therapist by trade, she's a mountaineer who set out to summit Mount Rainier one fateful weekend. Amid a storm that swallowed the trail, she found her way to safety with Jared Rund, who became her husband and co-author of "Strangers in the Storm," a story about love and survival.



Ministry

'06 Katherine Leger has become Sister Maria Advocata Nostra with the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara. Her ministry is parish work at the Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Anthony in Phoenix.

Military



'95 Col. Jason Evers is the new commander for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District in the Ohio River Basin, which includes more than 300 navigable miles of the Ohio River in West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio, plus nine major tributaries. It encompasses 45,000 square miles in five states — West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia and North Carolina.



'01 Dan Futrell is CEO of the Pat Tillman Foundation, which seeks to empower military veterans and spouses as the next generation of public and private sector leaders. Dan was a Tillman Scholar at Harvard, benefiting from the legacy of Pat Tillman, who died while serving in Afghanistan.

Law

'92 J.D. Dan Keppler was promoted to principal in the Portland office of Garvey Schubert Barer. He focuses on business and securities litigation, and is chair-elect of the Oregon State Bar Association.

'96 J.D. Darlene Barrier Caruso has been promoted to chief deputy attorney general for the Gaming Division of the Nevada Attorney General's Office.

'10 J.D. Stephanie Krebs-Anderson joined Engie Insight as a member of corporate counsel. She lives in Spokane with her husband and daughter.

'46, '48 M.A. Robert Hattrup, April 11, Yakima, Wash. Bought 500 acres and developed it into a successful farm operation, passed it down to his children, and served on numerous boards.

'49, '62 M.Ed. Mark Schuerman, Feb. 28, Spokane Valley. A Navy veteran, he lived in Guam, Okinawa, Japan and the Philippines before retiring with his wife, Donna, in Spokane Valley.

'50 Edward Walsh, Jan. 19, Nine Mile Falls, Wash. Worked 58 years for KXLY as an accountant. Served as a Spokane County Fire District 9 volunteer firefighter.

'51 Robert Blair, Feb. 6, Spokane. Before attending Gonzaga and beginning his career as vice president of North Coast Life Insurance Company, he served on a Navy cruiser.

'52 J.D. Joe Delay, May 8, Spokane. Enjoyed a 67-year career in private practice. Honored as one of the Best Lawyers in America twice, he served as president of the Washington State Bar Association.

'52 Gordon VanScotter, Feb. 3, Orogrande, Idaho. Served four years in the trenches for the 146th Combat Engineering Battalion, and a life in engineering.

'52 M.A. Patricia "Pat" Shanks, Jan. 19, Spokane. A teacher and a zealous volunteer with churches and charities.

'53, '69 M.B.A. William "Bill" Jacobs, April 2, Mukilteo, Wash. After honorable discharge from the U.S. Army Air Corps, he worked in marketing and sales at Phillips Petroleum Co.

'54 John Kelly, April 24, Great Falls, Mont. Served as an engineer with Boeing in Seattle and Spokane, and city engineer for Great Falls.

'54 Philip Weivoda, Feb. 7, Yakima, Wash. Recognized for his fervent volunteerism, including 14 years of service with the Yakima Office of DSHS; awarded the Distinguished Medal of Service in 2016.

'55 Norman "Norm" Lehman, March 17, Tillamook, Ore. An educator of many roles: teacher, coach, activity director, vice principal, interim principal and junior high principal.

'56 Ken Bongers, April 30, Yakima, Wash. Lifelong teacher, coach, fan. Member of Eisenhower High School Hall of Fame.

'56, '64 M.Ed. Betty Harrington, March 5, Spokane. A respected advocate for education and advancing women in the workplace, this nurse spent 35 years at Sacred Heart Medical Center, and was inducted into the Washington State Nurses Association Hall of Fame in 1996.

'56 Lt. Col. Louis Ray Lefebvre, Feb. 24, Flowery Branch, Ga. Wounded in Vietnam, awarded a Purple Heart and Silver Star. Served as a Roadway Express manager and substitute teacher.

'56 Mildred Sprague, April 22, Anthem, Ariz. A nursing instructor at Phoenix College, she later served 15 years as a guidance counselor.

'57 J.D. Ted Roy, April 13, Moxee, Wash. Practiced law in the Yakima (Wash.) Valley into his 70s.

'58 Ronald Myers, Feb. 13, Spokane. Born and raised in Spokane. Film buff and writer who studied math at Gonzaga and Eastern Washington University.

'59 Larry Koentopp, Jan. 12, Las Vegas. Gonzaga head baseball coach and later athletic director, he served as owner of the Spokane Indians and Las Vegas Stars.

'62 Richard Badgett, March 30, Spokane. Electronics technician and longtime Federal Aviation Administration employee.

'63 Michael McFarland, Jan. 23, Spokane. Joined his uncle's accounting firm, McFarland & Alton, now Moss Adams LLP, and served many years.

'65 Catherine (Shaw) Schafer, Jan. 10, Bellevue, Wash. Worked for Boeing, the Bellevue and Spokane school districts, and Puget Power.

'65 Don Milligan, April 2, Spokane. An advocate of tribal rights, he dedicated his professional life to the advancement of Indian Child Welfare and helped pioneer the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

'65 Ralph Alfieri, March 13, Redmond, Wash. Former assistant attorney general and private practice attorney who mentored many associates.

'67 Karen Hunter, Jan. 25, Grand Rapids, Mich. Taught for Godwin Public Schools, and directed theater.

'67 Melanie Keiper Homan, Jan. 19, Sunnyvale, Calif. Volunteered with the Allied Arts Guild for more than 20 years and advocated for women's empowerment.

'67 Vernon Mayer, April 24, Regent, N.D. On a trumpet scholarship, Mayer earned an engineering degree at GU, and a Ph.D. in metallurgy from Iowa State, where he taught before managing the family farm.

'68, '71 J.D. James Caraher, April 20, Vashon Island, Wash. Served as assistant prosecuting attorney in King and Pierce counties before opening his own law practice.

'70 James Dixon, May 3, Henderson, N.Y. Former basketball player for Coach Hank Anderson, he retired from AT&T.

'71 Christine (Kelly) Donaldson, Jan. 25, Liberty Lake, Wash. Taught more than 30 years in the Central Valley School District.

'72, '81 M.A. Judy Quinlivan, Feb. 7, Spokane. Former Gonzaga regent and recruiter, she served Spokane's Parks and Recreation Department for 27 years. Worked at Barrister Winery after retirement.

'72 Timothy Turner, March 5, Spokane. Worked with Hollister-Stier/Bayer for most of his career in computer programming and networks.

'73 J.D. David Compton, April 3, Seattle. A longtime youth mentor for Boys Scouts and DeMolay.

'74 J.D. Andrew "Andy" Bohrsen, April 4, Goodyear, Ariz. Enjoyed a successful law career, trying 100 jury trials to verdict and arguing 75 appeals.

'75 J.D. Stephen Zagelow, Jan. 22, Olympia, Wash. Public and private practice attorney, his experience with brain injury inspired him to advocate for persons with brain injuries and improved mental health facilities.

'76, '91 M.A. David Ulmen, April 19, Spokane. Taught in Spokane Catholic schools and language arts at Sacajewea Middle School.

'77 J.D. John Simpson, April 28, Jackson County, Fla. Except for law school at GU, spent his life in the Florida panhandle.

'80 J.D. Charles Lempesis, May 10, Post Falls, Idaho. His 40-year law career included service at the Kootenai County Public Defender's office, Post Falls City Attorney and in private practice.

'81 James Grant, April 27, Medical Lake, Wash. A Lutheran minister, he served also as a penitentiary and hospital chaplain.

'81 Brian McDevitt, April 10, Avon Lake, Ohio. Proud husband, father, brother, uncle.

'82 M.A. Sr. Marietta (Eleanor) McGannon, March 15, Burlingame, Calif. This Sister of Mercy taught for 30 years, and volunteered at the Sister Mary Philippa Clinic.

'83 M.A. Sr. Mary Therese Gallagher, April 15, Fort Atkinson, Wis. Served several administrative and spiritual positions for the Trinitarian Sisters.

'84 Margaret Fasulo, Feb. 22, Greenfield, Mass. Artist and educator with a passion for social justice. Volunteered with the JVC, and taught literature, math and art at The Center School.

'85 Joe Maughan, Feb. 15, Seattle. A giving friend and family member who loved the Calgary Flames and Zags.

'85, '92 M.E., '96 M.B.A. James Smith, Oct. 18, 2018, Bonney Lake, Wash. An engineer assisting in the design and development of the F-22 and Osprey aircrafts, and satellites.

'86 J.D. Linda (Phillips) Mathis, Jan. 23, Newport, Wash. Owned and operated Mathis Law Office as a family law and Social Security attorney.

'89 Randy Hendrickson, Jan. 27, Kirkland, Wash. Enjoyed a career at Microsoft and other firms in electrical engineering, computer science and data science.

'90 Tanya (Taylor) Becker, Jan. 25, Colfax, Wash. Dedicated mother, wife and lifelong member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

'90 M.A. Stanley Davis, April 25, Spokane. A Marine, he served as a longtime middle school teacher for East Valley School District.

'91 Neil Liljenberg, March 2, Liberty Lake, Wash. A math and Bible studies teacher who loved the outdoors.

'91 **M.Couns. Susan Warren Houser**, Feb. 18, Spokane Valley. Family always came first.

'92 **M.A. Grace DeBiasio**, May 5, Kelowna, B.C. Started teaching at age 16 in Manitoba, later earned her master's in administration and curriculum, finished her career in Trail, B.C.

'92 **Glenn Dorsey**, Feb. 28, Post Falls, Idaho. Enjoyed a career in accounting in the automotive industry and operated an accounting firm in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

'92 **Clyde "Tom" Holbert**, Feb. 24, Cheney, Wash. Teacher of nearly 30 years, football and baseball coach who loved spending family time at Priest River, Idaho.

'92 **J.D. James McNally**, April 1, Seattle. Attorney and outdoorsman.

'92 **Teresa Miller**, Feb. 14, Spokane. Art teacher for 25 years at Garry Middle School.

'93 **J.D. Della Moore**, Feb. 28, Lake Havasu City, Ariz. Lost her husband, cared for her mother-in-law, met her new life partner through VFW.

'93 **Paul Brian Arnold**, March 9, San Diego. Skilled carpenter and outdoorsman.

'94 **Thomas Shaw**, March 30, Spokane. Former Spokane County Sheriff's deputy and later an elementary school teacher for 20 years.

'97 **Lois (Moore) Felkar**, March 6, St. Mary's, Ontario. Worked as an emergency room nurse, nursing instructor, committee chair and hospital administrator.

'97 **Lois Lafromboise Slater**, Jan. 11, Flathead Indian Reservation. Served Salish Kootenai College as director of career services and development, raising money for scholarships.

'97 **M.Ed. Lonnie Rickey**, Jan. 20, Deer Park, Wash. Special education teacher at Springdale's Mary Walker High School for 26 years.

'00 **Susan Hedley**, Jan. 23, Spokane. Elementary school teacher.

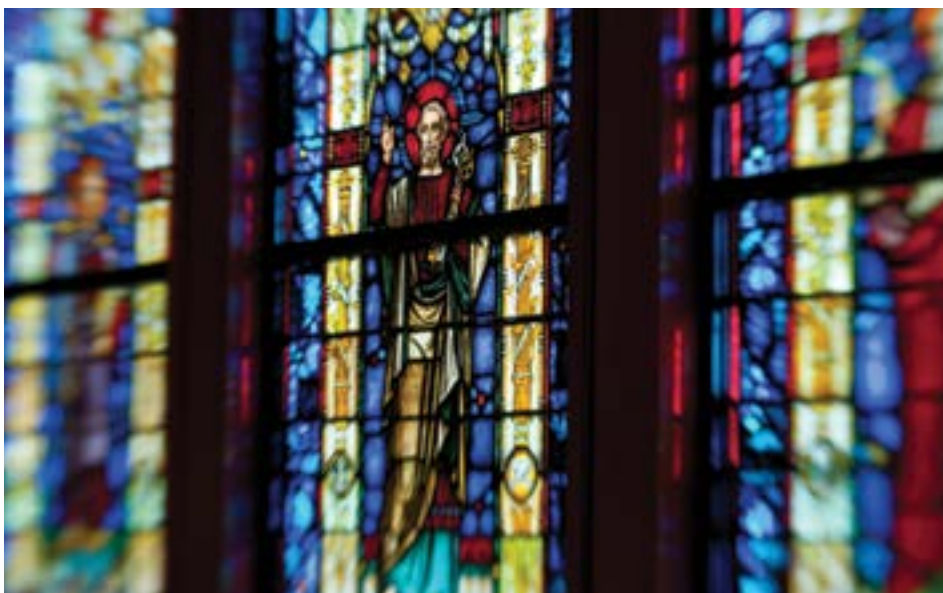
'01 **Elizabeth Pluhta**, April 26, Seattle. Earned a master's at University of Washington and her Ph.D. at Seattle U, and served as vice president at South Seattle College.

'06 **Joan Swearingen Richardson**, March 15, Lewiston, Idaho. Found her calling as an oncology nurse, clinical care coordinator, nursing supervisor and family nurse practitioner.

'08 **Jessie Cain**. April 2, New York. Was director of operations at Home Vision Realty.

'09 **Stephen Yewcic**, Jan. 26, Spokane. Retired Air Force master sergeant, he worked for the Federal Protective Service as a lieutenant and inspector.

'10 **Lauren Chamberlain Miller**, March 17, Beaverton, Ore. A wife, daughter, sister and aunt who truly loved life.



Don Jans ('56)

Don Jans ('56), instilled with the values he learned from his hard work on the farm in Sprague, Washington, and through his Jesuit education here, lived a life of gratitude, and he gave back freely. The 2009 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Merit Award died April 10.

Jans always sought to do more. After graduating from Gonzaga with a degree in electrical engineering, he earned a certificate in business management from the University of Utah, and completed the advanced management program at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He worked for ABB Power T&D and Westinghouse, and later as president of Customer Focus Consultants Inc.

He was also generous with his time, serving on numerous volunteer boards, as a Eucharistic minister, and a supporter of agriculture and farming. At Gonzaga, he served on the Board of Regents, Engineering and Applied Science Advisory Council, and was a member of Spokane's Alumni Chapter.

He and his wife, Marilyn, were prolific donors to Gonzaga. Over the course of 56 years, they supported several engineering scholarships, Gonzaga-in-Florence, the Electrical Transmission and Distribution Engineering Program, business scholarships and buildings, nursing and many other causes.

Before arriving on campus, he attended Gonzaga Prep, and enjoyed playing the trumpet. He created his own band, The Stardusters, which played at area high schools and various venues around town, including the COG.

In a 2009 interview, Jans said: "I'm a long-term supporter to the University. People like Fr. Coughlin always stayed in touch. It is relationships such as these that have encouraged me to continue working with the faculty and students in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. It's my turn to be a mentor."

bite not one another

BY JEFF DODD
Assistant Professor of
English; faculty adviser
for Mission: Possible



Well before dawn, bleary eyes from all corners of campus and the Logan Neighborhood slowly emerge from the darkness and congregate in the dim light of DeSmet Circle.

While some Zags spend the first Saturday of Spring Break preparing for WCC games and others reunite with loved ones, this has become a ritual for me over the last 10 years: Wake at 3 a.m., grab a bag with the bare essentials for a week in uncertain housing accommodations, and make my way to DeSmet Circle to meet others for a journey to one of several destinations around the country.

Mission: Possible, an alternative Spring Break immersion trip led by Gonzaga's Center for Community Engagement, sends students to experience a variety of social justice programs in other cities. I have had the privilege of accompanying students to Denver; Neah Bay, Washington; St. Louis; and, most recently, Chicago. While the work is characterized by the shorthanded "service," and while most Mission: Possible groups do provide some direct service, these trips are best understood as co-curricular immersive learning experiences.

One way to know what I and the students gain from these trips is summarized in a passage from Frederick Buechner's "The Sacred Journey": "The story of any one of us is in some measure the story of us all." I return to that passage often as I reflect on the many experiences I've had on Mission: Possible trips.

Working with Mei, a Burmese mother resettled in Denver, who in one moment role-plays tentatively how she might use English to tell a supervisor that she is sick, and in another proudly reels off the months of the year for the first time, we see a necessary, if imperfect, refugee resettlement system as part of the story of who we are as nation. And we are able to develop the empathy and intellect to explore how our contributions to, and advocacy for, such systems are instrumental to a just and equitable world.

In Neah Bay, at the Makah Cultural and Research Center, a local college student passionate about maintaining his culture's history and language helps us understand more about our own complicity in the many made and broken treaties that have allowed our federal government to exploit the knowledge and natural resources of our Native communities while constraining their rights to self-determination. And that story becomes more personal when we examine the history of our own campus, built on the ancestral lands of the Spokane Tribe. We share that story more deeply when, a week after we return to Spokane, we receive news that the inspiring young Makah leader we had begun to know had been swept away by a wave, and with him one more beacon of hope for his community.

In a garden in St. Louis, Rosie tells us about her life in a north side neighborhood cut off from white prosperity and wealth by four lanes of asphalt. On her side of the Delmar divide, homes are burned out and then scavenged for bricks that can be resold; on Rosie's side of Delmar, no family is immune from the effects of gun violence; Rosie's side knows too well that federal housing policies and redlining have led to generations

of white flight and seemingly insurmountable poverty. Her story becomes a bit of our story when we invite her to join us for dinner and she describes her passion for storytelling. She shares a kind of allegory about humility and unseen gifts, and relays the plot of the children's book she has written. Our stories weave a bit more tightly when we are invited to consider the legacy of federally sanctioned housing segregation and restrictive covenants that are still on the books in many communities, including Spokane.

In Chicago, students and I learned stories of gun violence and the trauma imposed by constant threat from gangs and from military-style policing of largely black and brown neighborhoods. We learned about the work of community leaders invested in, and investing in, rebuilding the relationships in their city. At Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation we participated in a peace circle with a young man who spent two decades in prison. From mothers whose sons were killed and mothers whose sons were taken away, we learned how our carceral system rooted in slavery disproportionately penalizes people of color. And, we learned firsthand the power of trauma-informed care to heal relationships and restore young people to communities.

As we sat in the organization's bustling south side headquarters, we passed our talking piece to the left after sharing some bit of our story. I instantly recognized the talking piece as a wooden carving of a Ghanaian adinkra symbol called *bi nka bi*, a symbol of two fish biting one another's tails, which roughly translates as "bite not one another." Adinkra trace back at least to the 17th century, and have been used to mourn and commemorate the values most fundamental to the ancestors who have passed on. *Bi nka bi* reminds us of the importance of peace and harmony. It also reminds us that the stories we learn, and the stories we share, are in some measure the stories that will bind us together in a mutual embrace of healing, justice, and care for one another.

Each year, I return from Mission: Possible exhausted from seven straight days of constant emotional and intellectual stimulation, to say nothing of the energy that a week with a dozen 18- to 22-year-olds demand. My spouse hands off our two small kids she's cared for all week. I begin almost immediately to think about Monday morning classes and the grading I didn't get done over the break. And then, some small bit of story comes to mind, and I wonder what the next pre-dawn trip to DeSmet Circle will hold.

MORE TO EXPLORE

Find more reflections like this at
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