ON THE COVER
Kristin Deasy (’07) crosses the Andes Mountains on horseback. Story on page 24. Illustration by Tracy Martin

ON THIS PAGE
Can you smell the incense? This moment of ritual is from the 2022 Commencement Mass.

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SACRAMENT OF LOVE

It was beautiful to see the Word of God (the Torah) in the Spring 2022 issue, upheld with great respect as it was transported across the Gonzaga campus in a reverent procession. I couldn’t help but think the source and summit of our Catholic faith, the Holy Eucharist, be given similar attention. So many students aren’t even aware that Jesus is physically present 24/7, just a few steps away in the tabernacles of St. Al’s Church and Ignatian chapel, waiting to lay His loving gaze upon anyone who visits Him there. In these challenging times it would be a tremendous gift for a Eucharistic reawakening on behalf of the Gonzaga community to find God’s presence, power and peace in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

In the article “A Constellation of Stressors,” yoga, meditation and cooking were some of the activities promoted for helping the Gonzaga community de-stress. There was no mention of prayer, attending Mass, receiving Holy Communion and spending time before Jesus in the tabernacle. We have been given a great gift in the Catholic Church. It is my hope Gonzaga will turn toward Him, the Divine Physician, in this most sublime sacrament of love.

Jeannie Richard
Trabuco Canyon, Calif.

BASKETBALL COURTS OF THE PAST

The article on the old gym (Spring ’22) brought back some great memories. As a high-schooler (1942-43), I played basketball in the cave for G-Prep, and it also served as our assembly spot/theater during my days at G-Prep. My grandfather, Joe Ulowetz, was featured in The Spokesman-Review as Mr. Basketball as he never missed his front-row seat at Zag games in the cave. Last, but not least, Dorothy and I met in the cave at a Harvest Ball in 1948. We married a year later and then spent over 70 beautiful married years together. The cave was a special place for me.

Bob Redinger (’50)
Kalispell, Mont.

The article about the basketball venues was well-written, and a great story. I had the honor of being recruited to play basketball at Gonzaga by Fr. Leary himself (the University president) and then by Coach Hank Anderson. I joined the freshman team in 1965 and played the very first game on the floor of the brand-new Kennedy Pavilion. Freshman games always preceded the varsity games, so we freshmen were the first ones to take the court and break in the new floor.

Robert Becker (’69)
Ellisville, Mo.

HONORING THE DEPARTED

I was disheartened by the brevity of the In Memoriam section being reduced to a list. I always found the biographies honorable and even inspiring to learn how far fellow Zags go and what they did. Please reconsider honoring them by returning to having biographical information; often it makes us pause and reflect even if we never knew them.

Michael Whitney (’06)
Monroe, Wash.

We agree it’s important to honor those who have passed. Alumni Relations plans to celebrate and recognize our grads; watch for details. - Editor

FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS

These readers responded to our Ignatian challenge to share an unexpected way they experienced God at work in their lives.

Rumi’s poem, “The Guest House,” showed up when I needed it; wonderful encouragement to find God in all things. An excerpt: “This being human is a guest house. Every morning a new arrival. Welcome them all! Even if they are a crowd of sorrows, who violently sweep your house empty of your furniture, still, treat each guest honorably. He may be clearing you out for some new delight.”

Lesley Beatson (’07 Ph.D.)
Rossland, B.C.

This photograph was taken in a run-down alley near the Colosseum in Rome. I was expecting to see the grandeur of Ancient Rome and instead was confronted with the Eternal City in decay. This graffiti art, which I entitled “Share some love,” expressed to me the profound love of God so often found in the midst of depravity. These two skeletal lovers are painted in black over a background of hate and profanity. In one timeless gesture, their act of giving overcomes that which has been taken away. Like St. Ignatius, I was reminded there are many opportunities in life to seek God, even in the alley.

Stan Eisele, M.D.
Eagle, Idaho
To Those Who Read Letters

I thought it was just me – excitedly opening up my favorite magazines and poring over the letters to the editor as if they were the main entrée at the buffet of stories, illustrations and photos. I thought it was me, being an editor, wanting to support my comrades in the print communications world. Patting them on the back when they handle criticism with grace, saying, to all who linger at the editor’s desk before moving along to the main liner: “You do great work.” I love ALL of them.

But I’m not the only one. My brother Andy shares the same compulsion for letters to the editor. He tells me this all the time – sends pictures of opening up his latest publication to devour the humanity that lives in these pages. He recently texted me: “I have been reading threatening letters to editors ever since I picked up my first motorcycle magazine.” (I pause: What could possibly be so entertaining or provocative in such a thing?) “So I have over four decades of exposure to the rants of ‘cancel my subscription’ warriors spewing their disgust from living room armchairs.” He attached a photo of the letters page in that month’s Car & Driver magazine, where one sarcastic reader wrote: “I’m tired of reading about people cancelling their subscription. Cancel my subscription.” I laughed out loud.

Other letters aren’t so funny. Take this comment inside an issue of Notre Dame’s magazine: “Were there any adults in the room when the decision was made to turn a universally respected alumni magazine into something that belongs at the supermarket checkout alongside Us magazine? I must have missed the notice that the inmates would now be running the asylum.”

Sometimes, editors remain silent in the background; sometimes they come forward with a bold reply, as I recently saw in Sierra magazine, to a reader who needed clarity on why Black is capitalized but white is not.

Other times, publications stop running letters altogether, and that’s sad to me. It’s like going to the mailbox on your birthday and finding no cards.

I’ve enjoyed some great exchanges with Gonzaga Magazine readers over the last seven years. I learned that some of you “grade” my own letters. Pat Henry (’57) said he and his friends gave me a B- on my note in the spring issue, and let’s be honest, I was glad just to have received a passing grade on that one!

Some of you write in to share fabulous recollections that arise when you read one of Dale Goodwin’s pieces (he has a knack for taking us down memory lane), others pen questions about our treatment of a certain topic, and every now and then there’s the simple one-liner: “You do great work.” I love ALL of them.

So here’s a shout-out to everyone who reads what the other readers are saying, to all who linger at the editor’s desk before moving along to the main course, and to Andy who’s reading this even though there are no shiny pictures of motorcycles and sports cars.

Write in, friends. Keep the letters coming.

Joyfully yours,

Kate

Kate Vanskike
Editor
COG cookies are a staple of the Gonzaga experience, at least since the early 1980s.

Sodexo’s Pat Clelland calls them cura perso-cookie, a cookie made with love by the Zag Dining team.

They have been passed down through generations of Zags. Clelland says Zag Dining even receives requests from alumni to package them up and ship them to other lands.

“When, for whatever reason, the bakers don’t bake them, it’s a serious bone of contention with students. It’s their comfort food,” Clelland says.

“Every dining hall around the country has something the students remember. For Gonzaga students, it’s the COG cookies.”

In 1987, Wally “Famous” Amos delivered a lecture on campus. He is credited with being the instigator of a multibillion-dollar cookie industry. But according to news reports, his cookies didn’t match COG cookies, at least in the minds of Gonzaga students.

In 2012, COG cookies were named among the 32 “Best Campus Eats” by The Food Network. A sweet distinction.

In the years since, COG cookie distribution sites have included Welch Hall’s lower level, Kennedy Apartments, and in the actual COG for Wednesday cookie nights.

“Warm cookies just out of the oven served with a cold glass of milk,” Clelland says. “It brings me back to a time in my childhood when that was the thing. I think Cookie Night helps people feel connected to their homes.”

Some would argue they have medicinal powers, as well. Whether you’re suffering through a tough breakup, pouting over a bad test or celebrating a Zag win, COG cookies always seem to hit the spot. Isn’t it hard to be down when you’re eating a cookie?

Barbara Johnson once said, “A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand,” and Gonzaga alums shared their agreement in comments about COG cookies on Gonzaga’s Instagram channel:

“These were their own food group,” said Sarah (Taylor) Schwerding (’04, ’07 M.B.A.). Vicki Le Garde (’08) admitted to using her card punches just to get cookies.

“I’ve inserted an illegal amount of these cookies into my oral cavity,” another noted, and someone else said the cookies “make you a true-blue GU bulldog!” Chris Shogun recalled putting the cookies in the bread toaster and topping them with vanilla ice cream.

Danielle Cendejas (’04) said she took a to-go box filled with cookies back to the dorm – more than once. Another grad claims she ate COG cookies straight out of the freezer at Waikiki Retreat Center around 1980. Johnny Palmer (’13) always tried to mention COG cookies to prospective students on his campus tours. Katie Galassi (’13) found them particularly tasty, perhaps even spiritual, following Mass.

“Life is short. Eat cookies for breakfast.”

Or as the Cookie Monster says, “Today me will live in the moment, unless it’s unpleasant, in which case me will eat a cookie.”

There’s some wisdom there, shared through the years.

COG cookies: What began as a treat has become a legend.
Tomorrow is taking shape inside the John and Joan Bollier Family Center for Integrated Science & Engineering.

The Gonzaga community celebrated its grand opening and dedication in April, with glimpses into the labs and classrooms where students and faculty from across campus will research and innovate to meet the complex challenges of today and tomorrow.

Here, students of all majors will experience the impact of the Bollier Center through core curriculum classes to solve problems, create commerce and explore innovation and entrepreneurship to serve the common good.

Be part of the future!  
» gonzaga.edu/giveISE
At Gonzaga, students often talk about experiencing a strong sense of community. Closely related to the word “community” is the word “home” – which also can mean different things to different people. Home commonly refers to the physical place in which one lives, but it can also refer to “the place you feel safe, where you belong” and carries with it powerful emotional and sometimes spiritual connotations. In popular culture, the symbolism of home has inspired many songs and numerous poems. I often tell our graduates that I hope Gonzaga has been a second home for them.

“Home” is a theme that winds through many of the stories in this edition of Gonzaga Magazine. At the end of March, we said “Welcome Home!” to the families who would transition out of homelessness and into brand new apartments at Gonzaga Family Haven, a new housing initiative born from a multi-apostolic partnership between Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, Gonzaga Preparatory School, St. Aloysius Parish and Gonzaga U. It has been an honor to be part of this effort – to walk alongside these families and continue to learn from them lessons of love, perseverance, justice and healing. More than mere apartments, this haven is a community of people with needs but also important lessons to teach: opportunities where both residents and students can benefit from each other’s goodwill and life experiences.

This spring, we said “welcome home” in other ways, too. Faculty and students made themselves at home in the John and Joan Bollier Family Center for Integrated Science and Engineering, which we formally dedicated in April. The Ignatian Gala – a Gonzaga tradition – invited back to Spokane many faithful friends after a two-year break due
to the pandemic. This year’s Gala celebrated the centennial of the School of Business Administration and bestowed honors on several inspiring alumni and community leaders.

Possibly the best welcome of the year were the 2022 Commencement ceremonies, which we were so grateful to host in a more traditional format without the constraints COVID impressed upon us. There is nothing quite like seeing our graduates cross the stage and celebrating their achievements with family members and friends (many who themselves are Zag alums). Among those celebrated were longtime Spokane residents Walt and Karen Worthy, whose celebrated renovation of the historic Davenport Hotel sparked a renaissance in downtown Spokane and created a home-like atmosphere for many visiting Gonzaga parents. Because Commencement is such an important ritual and tradition, we also held ceremonies for many of those who graduated in 2020 but were unable to celebrate in person that year. We were very happy to welcome these Zags home, as well.

But the homecomings don’t stop at Commencement. In June, many alumni greeted one another at the 40th anniversary alumni scholarship fundraiser, a gathering at Bozarth Retreat Center (formerly Waikiki) and a tradition that continues to support the next generation of Zags. During the summer, we also host a number of students who choose to stay on campus, continue their learning and conduct impressive research alongside faculty members, expanding their horizons and our understanding of how the world works. And this summer, we welcome our new Provost, Sacha E. Kopp, former vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska in Omaha, to his new home at Gonzaga.

I once asked a parent of one of our graduates a question, the answer to which has remained powerfully with me over the past decade: “If there is one thing Gonzaga should work hard to hang onto, what is it?” The response: “Your Jesuit-inspired model of community. Through inviting students into this powerful experience, they not only benefit from it directly, they also learn how to create and re-create community out in the world after they leave.”

As I engage throughout the year with alumni, parents and friends of Gonzaga, it is obvious that the spirit of community that is at the heart of our university is alive and well in communities across the nation and around the world. I am incredibly grateful for all of you who play a role in sustaining this amazing community, and thank you for the many ways you enable us – each and every year – to say to a new generation of Zags, “Welcome home!” where both university and high-school students can learn firsthand the importance of being people with and for others.

Thayne M. McCulloh, D.Phil
President

Sacha Kopp Named Provost

Sacha E. Kopp joined Gonzaga this summer as provost, following Deena González’s return to full-time teaching. Kopp was most recently senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and has served in administrative positions at Syracuse University, the University of Texas at Austin, and the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Kopp holds bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Chicago, and in collaboration with faculty, his research has concentrated on the science of teaching and learning.

Having served in positions of leadership that involve work with both academic affairs and student affairs, Kopp is committed to working to maintain and create opportunities for integrative learning and development at GU. His record of achievement underscores a deep commitment to collaborative leadership, shared governance and increasing diversity in, and inclusive practices for, faculty, staff and student populations.

A native of Dubuque, Iowa, Kopp attended Catholic elementary and secondary schools and was inspired by his father, who served on the faculty of a Catholic college for 40 years.
Housing and homelessness continue at crisis levels in many cities throughout the U.S., including Spokane. The newest and most comprehensive option for families experiencing homelessness is the result of a fruitful conversation among three Gonzaga friends.

When Rob McCann (’95 M.A., ’06 Ph.D.), president/CEO of Catholic Charities Eastern Washington, first shared the idea of such a project with Gonzaga advancement leaders Joe Poss (’97) and Shane Hatcher (’92), they answered, “We’re all in.”

This spring, Gonzaga Family Haven opened along North Foothills Drive and Hamilton Street, providing 73 apartments and a cadre of wraparound services such as tutoring for children and job preparation for parents.

The Haven brings together the support of four of Spokane’s most prominent Catholic organizations — Catholic Charities, Gonzaga University, Gonzaga Prep and St. Aloysius Parish — to provide valuable, long-term support for families in need. More than just a place to sleep at night, the Haven provides its residents with what McCann anticipates are “forever homes.”

Catholic Charities has a long history of serving both the Spokane community and Eastern Washington, and the Haven is its 17th housing project in the region. But this unique combination adds well-established family support programs with a large focus on education.

Peggy Haun-McEwen (’86, ’90 M.A.), director of community for Gonzaga Family Haven, says breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty happens through education, health care and counseling “to make the experience transformative for the whole family.”

Service opportunities for students at Gonzaga University and Gonzaga Prep come naturally, as both schools encourage community engagement as part of students’ formation experiences.
Students from the Spokane Salish School performed at the dedication in March. Early conversations with leaders of the Spokane Tribe community led to design, art and use of the Salish language around the campus and on the buildings, says Peggy Haun-McEwen. In the works is a mural by local Native artist Randall Schleufer.
“Love is shown more in deeds than in words.” — St. Ignatius

Molly Ayers (’00, ’09 M.A.) directs GU’s Center for Community Engagement, which connects Zags to volunteer opportunities, like mentoring, tutoring, meal planning and workforce development. “Gonzaga students can help to provide services that wrap around the family, living out our mission,” she says. She believes the siting of Gonzaga Family Haven – located near both Gonzaga Prep and the University – has increased awareness of generational homelessness that can foster greater community involvement and better outcomes.

Liz Slamkowski (’12), Prep’s Christian Service director, believes that having the Haven as next-door neighbor will be a natural choice for Prep students to be people for others.

The missions of Catholic Charities Eastern Washington, Gonzaga University, Gonzaga Prep and St. Aloysius Parish are intimately linked, each based on the holistic development of every person. Gonzaga Family Haven adds synergy to those commitments. From justice, service and caring for the whole person, to being a person for others, the Haven helps to create a better world.

Perhaps this project was inspired by St. Ignatius himself, who said, “Love is shown more in deeds than in words.”

Learn More
Visit gonzaga.edu/ReadersCare for further details and opportunities to support this work.
Inside the Mind of a Child

BY DALE GOODWIN ('86 M.A.T.)
One young student has a fight or flight mentality. He is breaking all the school rules, even threatening his teachers. Another likes it when his teacher is angry at him and sends him out into the hall to get away from his classroom ritual. In these cases school psychologist Sandi Douville (’21) is examining ways to give both the students and the teachers a better way to work together.

Finding calm amid the chaos is what school psychologists do, all with the education of each student at the heart of the effort.

In 2018, Gonzaga’s School of Education created the education specialist degree in school psychology (Ed.S.). Spearheaded by then-Dean Vincent Alfonso and longtime special education faculty member Mark Derby, the three-year program has now graduated two classes of school psychologists, including Douville. Graduates are more in demand now than perhaps ever before.

With the increased mental and behavioral stresses placed on school personnel, students and teachers by the devastation of COVID-19, it is nothing short of a serendipitous blessing that Gonzaga saw a need for these support structures before the pandemic struck, and now is equipping Ed.S. candidates with tools to deal with the pandemic’s aftermath.

Associate Professor Joe Engler directs the program and Professors Alfonso and Derby, along with Assistant Professor Dennis Sisco-Taylor, impart their wisdom to about three dozen candidates every year, while helping candidates find practicum and internship placements that help prepare them for the rigors of their profession.

The National Association of School Psychologists sets a standard for every school to have one school psychologist for every 500 students.
“Gonzaga saw the importance of meeting a need in our community and nationwide, often working with kids with suspected disabilities and those who are on the margins,” says Engler. In the end, “School psychologists advocate for the well-being of students, their families, teachers and administrators in a way that is aligned with Gonzaga’s mission.”

School psychologists collaborate with, but are different from school counselors. Psychologists may use a variety of assessment tools and techniques to evaluate whether a student has a potential learning disability, emotional and/or behavioral disorder, autism or other disability as defined by federal and state regulations. They use evaluation data to determine the best approach to re-engage students in their educational process.

“I spend my days with students, families, staff and community partners,” says Medical Lake (Wash.) school psychologist Jenna Finnerty (’21 Ed.S.). “Working with such a range of people keeps my job interesting and purposeful, and no two days are the same! My role includes psychoeducational evaluation, individual and group counseling, crisis response/intervention, behavioral/academic support, consultation and collaboration, threat assessment, and system-level initiatives addressing equity, inclusion, wellness and mental health.”

“I enjoy thinking outside the box, as something that works for one student may not work for another. We’re always looking for the best ways to motivate them,” says Calley Ekberg (’05), president of the Oregon School Psychologists Association who works for Portland Public Schools. She received her bachelor’s degree from Gonzaga in sociology and criminal justice and her Ed.S. from Lewis and Clark College in Portland. “I’m jealous of those students going through the Gonzaga program now. I love Gonzaga, and I’m excited to see the University developing such a needed program.”

“School psychology is growing in response to the unique challenges kids are facing today at their schools, and there is a critical shortage nationwide,” Engler says.

“To be able to walk alongside other people and facilitate them finding their own strength, identifying their own solutions and witnessing their own resilience is a gift I do not take for granted,” Finnerty adds.

Following graduation in spring 2021 — at a time when the impact of COVID-19 contributed to a skyrocketing need for mental health professionals in the schools — Douville landed a job in a Tucson, Arizona, elementary school.

“When stretched, the quality and accuracy of the evaluation can suffer,” she notes.

Ekberg is finding many more parents are speaking out in support of their children because they were able to observe them more closely during recent periods of remote learning. “Parents have developed more concerns, and now that students have returned to school buildings, providing resources and support for their students is part of what we do,” Ekberg says.

This showcases another aspect of a school psychologist’s work, Douville adds. “Communication is a critical part of our job. It is very important to be clear and technical when speaking to parents, using terms they know so that they understand the results of our evaluation, as well as being available later to answer additional questions,” she says.

And sometimes the issues are not with the students. Evaluations could lead to a conversation with teachers about how they might approach a student in a different way, Douville reminds.
The first year of Gonzaga’s program includes foundational classroom instruction.

The second year also includes class instruction and introduces a one-day practicum in a school each week for candidates to observe, support and provide services under the supervision of a certified school psychologist.

The third year is devoted to a 1,200-hour internship, most of them paid, completed in a school system anywhere across the country.

“We support candidates in finding those placements,” Engler says. “It begins with a process of identifying a list of goals and priorities for each candidate. Some may need a geographical location to accommodate a family situation. Some might be looking for an experience in a state that does things differently.”

One recent internship focused on family-school partnerships. The GU intern identified a gap in communications between school and families and created a monthly newsletter to help families understand typical reactions the school might find in students due to COVID-19 fears, or how the school might support students who feel anxious about being back in a school building, or help build bridges between the school and families to work on common initiatives.

In another example, a GU intern’s work centered on identifying different levels of need and support in each student. Those who had less need would receive less support; those students with greater need, more support.

Engler says as society changes, so too does the preparation of school psychology candidates. “We need to prepare candidates to be adaptable and flexible because the challenges students experience change over time.”

The cadre of school psychology candidates is quite diverse, both ethnically and socially. Currently, Gonzaga has five continents and several countries represented within the program. Additionally, it serves several nontraditional candidates. The range of backgrounds is quite large. Some have families, some are on their second or third careers. Some were educators, special education teachers, behavioral technicians.

Engler says, “What this community of candidates has in common is their genuine interest in working with and serving children.”

Douville is especially grateful that these four educators who have created and sustain this school psychology program are always available to answer questions that may arise during the graduates’ professional encounters.

Sound like Gonzaga?

» See if the school psychology program is right for you: gonzaga.edu/edpsychology
Turning the Tables

Interviewing the Interviewers of The Bulletin

BY TOM MILLER (’72)

Kendra Andrews (’19): After graduating, she spent a year and a half covering the Denver Nuggets and NBA for The Athletic. In January 2021, she moved back home to the Bay Area to cover the Golden State Warriors for NBC Sports Bay Area, and now ESPN.

Mark Bieter (’90): He worked for a Catholic news agency, then based in Hong Kong, served as assistant press secretary for a member of Congress and published “An Enduring Legacy: The Story of Basques in Idaho.” Since graduating from Duke University Law School he has worked as a litigator for several Washington, D.C., law firms.

Gonzaga journalism graduates are used to telling other people’s stories, but we asked some to tell us about themselves. Several still toil in the news media, but not surprisingly some have transitioned to new arenas. Yet they all looked back on their undergraduate roots, their choice of journalism, and especially their hours and late nights at The Gonzaga Bulletin, a student publication that began in 1921. It continues today with guidance and mentorship from John Kafentzis and Joanne Shiosaki.

A sampling of answers to four questions follows. Read their full responses at gonzaga.edu/magazine, but first: Who are they?
Interviewers of The Bulletin

**Mark Briggs (’91):** He's a consultant who helps media companies modernize operations and culture. The author of three books on journalism, he earned a master's degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he's been an adjunct professor since 2015. Read about his latest book, “The Butterfly Impact: Resilience, Resets and Ripples,” on page 35.

**Andy Buhler (’17):** He landed an Associated Press internship in Atlanta, serving as the sports intern in AP's global news internship program, then served as a sports reporter at The (Vancouver, Wash.) Columbian, 2017-19. Since then he's been covering high school sports across the state at SBLive Sports / Scorebook Live as the company, which partnered with Sports Illustrated last year, expands nationally.

**Sam Lungren (’11):** After commercial salmon fishing in Alaska, he entered the University of Montana’s Master of Environmental Journalism and Natural Resource Science program, interned at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation’s Bugle magazine and defended a thesis about the effects of hatcheries on struggling native salmon and steelhead populations. That led to a job as editor of Backcountry Journal, and now a position at MeatEater, an outdoors media company.

**Robin Moody (’99):** She spent a decade as reporter and editor at Northwest newspapers, including six years as health care, sports apparel and agriculture reporter at the Portland Business Journal. Next came nearly a decade as a health care policy lead for Oregon’s 64 acute-care hospitals and four years with Caravan Health. She’s executive director of Dental3, a nonprofit serving scores of schools in the Portland area.

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Working at the Bulletin was undoubtedly the most influential and best part of my university experience and I remain proud of having been the editor and managing editor.

Robin Moody (’99)
Steven Sandberg ('09): He was a reporter/anchor for KDRV Newswatch 12 in Medford, Ore., also serving as a producer, sports anchor, play-by-play announcer and investigative reporter. In 2014, he joined Orange Media Network, the student media department at Oregon State University, and is assistant director of student media, where he oversees TV and radio stations, the newspaper and three magazines. In 2021, he won the Distinguished Multimedia Adviser Award from the College Media Association.

Leah Sottile ('03): She is a freelancer whose features, profiles, investigations and essays have been featured by The Washington Post, The New York Times Magazine, Playboy, Rolling Stone, The Atlantic and High Country News, among others. She has been nominated twice for the National Magazine Award for her podcast and story series, “Bundyville,” which chronicled the rise of far-right extremism in American politics. Her first book, “When the Moon Turns to Blood,” was published in June.

Michael Whitney ('06): He is the editor of the Snohomish County (Wash.) Tribune, a weekly 12,000-circulation newspaper serving Snohomish, Monroe and Everett. He joined the Tribune as a reporter in 2008 and became the paper’s editor in 2014. He is a board member of the Society of Professional Journalists’ Western Washington Pro chapter.

Peter Zysk ('09): Building on his second major, international studies, he completed a master’s degree at American University’s School of International Service. After positions at a nonpartisan think tank and a strategic communications consultancy in Washington, D.C., he joined Brunswick Group in 2012 as a founder of its opinion research and analytics division. He transferred to the Beijing office in 2016 and is a director of Insight Asia, overseeing teams in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore that advise clients on geopolitical risk, expansion strategy, social impact, corporate messaging and crisis response. He’s now a partner at Brunswick.

Leah Sottile ('03)
How did working on the Bulletin impact your Gonzaga experience?

Andrews: Covering the men’s basketball team taught me how to find different storylines within the same organization, how to cultivate sources and understand the daily grind of a beat. Serving as editor-in-chief my senior year allowed me to think about journalism in the bigger picture, as well as how to be a good leader.

Bieter: Working on the Bulletin was the best part of my journalism education ... For a semester I was editor of the opinion page and I managed to get under the skin of practically everyone at some point. It was a good lesson in developing thick skin.

Briggs: I learned the basics of journalism, of course, but the lessons on teamwork and collaboration on those late nights on the fourth floor of the Ad Building were the most valuable. Looking back, the added social stress of wanting to finish up the paper so we could join our friends at Jack and Dan’s was a precursor to the challenges of work-life balance, even if later in life the goal was to get to your kid’s soccer game.

Buhler: Three weeks into my freshman year, an older alum of my high school shepherded me into the Bulletin office for a meeting. I left with my first story assignment. Over the next four years, I gained a direction, purpose and a home. Ultimately, the Bulletin gave me the first sniff at what has now become a career I once considered a childhood dream.

Lungren: My time as managing editor provided me an invaluable head start on the business of editing and publishing. It took proofreading and reporting from theory to the real world. I’m still doing functionally the same job a decade later and have
always felt better prepared than most of my colleagues because of my intensive education in the journalism school building and The Bulletin office.

**Moody:** Breaking important and controversial stories helped build my courage and confidence to pursue bigger stories later. It helped me understand that people in power often use interviews to manage reputational risk and are not always honest – so be skeptical! Working at the Bulletin was undoubtedly the most influential and best part of my university experience and I remain proud of having been the editor and managing editor.

**Sandberg:** Working on The Gonzaga Bulletin and GUTV helped me become the person I am today and were the most important parts of my time at Gonzaga. Today, I carry the lessons I learned into my role advising student media at Oregon State University (and occasionally stealing catchphrases from Tom Miller and Dan Garrity along the way).

**Sottile:** The Bulletin was such a haven for me – a place where I could learn what journalism was, what it wasn’t, where I could find my voice and get used to being published. I still remember seeing the stacks of papers every Friday on my way to class and feeling a sense of pride that I had
something to do with keeping the campus informed.

**Whitney:** Writing for the Bulletin gave me a huge outlet to pursue journalism, while teaching me practical skills about gathering story material and being quick-thinking with questions.

**Please offer a short reflection or two about your time at GU.**

**Andrews:** Whether it was applying for (and getting) an internship at The Washington Post or pitching my ideas for editor-in-chief to the Publications Board, Gonzaga gave me the skills to be a go-getter. The professors I had lifted me up and made sure I had the confidence needed as I worked my way into a difficult and competitive industry. Gonzaga will always have a piece of my heart.

**Bieter:** My time at Gonzaga was magical. I still have so many friends from my time there, and we can talk as if no time has gone by. Studying journalism was one of the best writing educations I could have had. When it came to writing in the legal profession, I could hold my own against some Ivy League lawyers.

**Briggs:** I returned recently to speak to journalism classes. Walking through campus I was reminded how great it was to feel that community of support. It’s just this intangible strength and assurance that comes from knowing your Zag family has your back, even if you don’t know exactly where you are going with life. I was surprised how that feeling came back to me 30 years later.

**Zysk:** When I enrolled at Gonzaga I did not understand, nor appreciate, what “educating the whole person” really meant. As a graduate, that philosophy continues to shape who I am. Gonzaga provided me with an environment that accelerated the development of my critical thinking, sense of responsibility for self and others, curiosity, and ethical self-reflection.

**More in Store**

How did journalism impact other career choices? What are these Zags’ career-defining moments? See their answers and full profiles at gonzaga.edu/magazine.

**Chime In**

Tom would love to hear from other journalism grads, too. Submit your note at gonzaga.edu/editor.
Shedding the Same Tears
BY ELI FRANCOVICH ('15)

In late March, I spent several nights on the border of Ukraine and Poland at a refugee intake center covering the spiraling impacts of Russia’s invasion. Plum to the Polish border crossing, the center had the air of a particularly grimy festival or county fair: booths lined the entryway offering soup, coffee, food, diapers, pet food, cat carriers, clothing, medical services and more. Volunteers came from all over the world, hoping to help.

I was there for The Spokesman-Review, my employer, following a doctor from Spokane who’d volunteered to treat refugees. The women and children (mostly) crossing into Poland were fleeing the destruction of their homes and lives.

They were met with open arms. At all hours of the day and night they walked carrying their few possessions, the rumble of rolling suitcases a metronome of flight. Most had left a father, or son, behind in Ukraine. Under the country’s military law, no man between the age of 18 and 60 is allowed to leave. As they passed into Poland, volunteers ladled soup and treated injuries and the national government waived all entry requirements. Once in Poland refugees received transportation, schooling, money and housing.

Journalists from around the globe documented this historic outpouring of goodwill. Photographers from news agencies were positioned near the border 24 hours a day, spending an eight-hour shift glued to that spot just in case something important happened. While traveling in Ukraine, I met a journalist from San Francisco who’d been in Lviv for more than a month already. He had no return ticket. Other journalists were closer to the fighting, telling stories of horror and destruction. As of mid-May, seven journalists had been killed while on assignment in Ukraine.

The goodwill of the Poles and foreign volunteers was inspiring. The dedication and bravery of the journalists was tremendous; and yet I couldn’t help but think, where is the consistency?

A year before Russia invaded Ukraine, Syrian, Iraqi and Afghani refugees bunched up near the same border crossing. Instead of a warm welcome they were beaten by Polish border guards and forced back into neighboring Belarus. Reports from that time tell of families huddled together in the woods, trying to survive freezing nights, while guards and their dogs harried them.

These refugees had traveled across eastern Europe seeking asylum from wars no less vicious and evil than the current one in Ukraine. It’s similar on the United States’ southern border. Migrants and refugees are herded into cages, children pulled from families, fathers and mothers deported and dropped back into the violence they risked everything to escape.

And while there are journalists documenting these abuses, and aid workers trying to salve the sting, the scale is smaller and international concern muted, at best.

What’s the difference?

Certainly, there is the obvious one, skin color. The montage of Western writers and TV personalities wondering how bad things could happen to people that looked like them was cringey.

For example: A British writer at the Telegraph: “They seem so like us. That is what makes it so shocking. War is no longer something visited upon impoverished and remote populations. It can happen to anyone.”
Or: “We’re not talking here about Syrians fleeing the bombing of the Syrian regime backed by Putin, we’re talking about Europeans leaving in cars that look like ours to save their lives,” said a French television journalist.

Beyond simple racism, there is an ideological reality to consider. Russia’s invasion has been framed as an assault on liberalism. The resurgence of totalitarianism. A battle for freedom. The Russians are called Orcs, a dehumanizing reference to the Lord of The Rings, and the fight has been framed as one of good versus evil. Light versus dark. Then there is the fact of nuclear weapons. A fact that means this war could quite easily end up killing us all.

These simple, easy to understand dichotomies provided us with some much-needed certainty. The war in Ukraine was, for two months, a hot topic. Everyone was thinking and talking about it. It was sexy, in the sense that it felt simple. Finally, after years of complicated and depressing headlines, this was a narrative that united the right and left. Putin is evil and his armies of “Orcs” are threatening the Western world order. A new Hitler, a buildup to another World War. Congress joined hands in shoveling money to Ukraine ($40 billion and counting), even as American families struggled to buy baby food and cash-strapped media outlets poured resources into covering the war.

Refugees’ stories were told with the empathy and compassion that anyone who is driven from their home by greed and egomania deserve. Countries opened their doors. Questions of cost and long-term impact were ignored or deferred.

I benefited from this glut of interest. When I pitched my editors, asking them to send me to Eastern Europe, I expected a polite laugh. Next thing I knew I was on a plane to Poland.

Would this have happened if I’d pitched a story about the roughly 90,000 refugees still living in camps in Greece, or the 4 million Yemenis forced from their homes, or the thousands who trek through Central and South America hoping for a new life in the United States?

I don’t know because I’ve never thought to pitch these stories. I too was caught up in the drama of the Ukrainian conflict. To be clear, much of the drama is justified. The suffering is real and intense. And yet, that doesn’t change the fact that at 2 a.m. after traveling for two days through a war-torn land, a Ukrainian mother and a Yemenis father shed the same tears.

We populate our world with worthy and unworthy victims. A foible of humanity, perhaps, but one that I know can be curbed. After spending two months covering the war in Ukraine, I pray for two things: that this war ends, quickly; and that the outpouring of goodwill and kindness toward Ukrainian refugees’ balloons to encompass all those who suffer at the hands of madmen.
CROSSING THE ANDES ON HORSEBACK, FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF JOSÉ FRANCISCO DE SAN MARTÍN WHO LED AN EFFORT TO LIBERATE CHILE FROM SPANISH COLONIAL RULE IN 1817
Spokane, Washington
Gonzaga graduate

Having done the rounds as student senator, yearbook editor, church cantor, editor-in-chief and designer of an alternative campus student magazine, founder of a campus-based support group for the local women's homeless shelter, and vocalist in the Coeur d'Alene production of Verdi’s “La Traviata,” I had major senioritis. I was ready to fly the nest, with journalism, philosophy and music – my major and minors, respectively – the cornerstones of my adult life.

Washington, D.C.
Intern, USA Today

Inside USA Today’s looming, multistory main headquarters, I completed a yearlong fellowship in the opinion section. My job? Fact-check every famous person who submitted a column considered potentially worthy of publication. I began to see how information is used, both in media and in argument. I started to notice not just when a fact was wrong, but when it was taken out of context or cherry-picked. I learned to deal with big egos that didn’t like being confronted by a 22-year-old fact-checker. I also voted in editorial meetings on controversial political issues of the day.

Joe Biden, then a mere senator, came into the office to try and gain editorial support on an issue. One thing he said has stuck with me through the years: Geopolitics, he remarked, is like family. Once you understand that basic mechanism, you understand everything. Little did I know, I was about to experience that firsthand.
Prague, Czech Republic
Journalism fellow, Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty

Prague is charming and dainty; it’s so exquisite and so old. To live in it is more akin to being hit with a dead weight. The ex-Communist headquarters – an imposing, black mass – housed my new workplace, the newsroom of a U.S.-funded organization dedicated to supporting a free press around the world. Gleaning information from one of the many bureaus (Kazakhstan, Iran, Georgia, Turkey, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Pakistan and more), my formation as a journalist began here, condensing news items into short, easily translatable paragraphs for radio broadcasts in multiple languages.

As Prague is the party capital of Europe, I ran with a crowd that loved art, film and a serious nightlife. Philosophically, I was immersed in nihilistic Europe and questioning everything. Musically, I was still cantoring in churches, because I knew, in my heart, that losing music would mean losing a part of my soul.

I worked and traveled throughout Europe, visiting Italy, France, Spain, Lithuania, Poland, Turkey, the Balkans and even Iceland. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty hired me, and I became a junior correspondent.
Cairo, Egypt
Visiting journalist

My first visit to this great land was a 10-day stint as an invited fellow for the "Covering a Revolution" event that brought together 17 young journalists to report on aspects of the Egyptian uprising. Having come from a deeply religious home, I immediately understood young Muslims. I knew where they were coming from. I felt right at home in Egypt.

I loved everything about the country: the inscrutability of the people, their easy laughter, their satiric approach to society. You can still sense a thin, golden thread binding this ancient land to a time of deep wisdom and wonder even as it faces the stark poverty of a modern-day nation struggling to understand itself and its role in a changing world. I rode a camel around the Pyramids, and said goodbye reluctantly.

In the U.S.
Heal thyself

I purposefully sabotaged my future at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty by informing my boss I wanted to become a professional singer. But the nihilism I’d carelessly adopted in Europe, combined with serious questioning about the purposefulness of my career and my inability to pursue music more seriously, began to eat away at me. Anorexia took center stage. I flew home for Christmas and was unable to leave when a doctor informed me flying would endanger my life due to my extremely low weight. I was told to check into a treatment center; I didn’t. But I did start working with a therapist, and in a stroke of luck – or grace – I received a scholarship from my hometown’s eating disorder fund*. 

I have spent the last 10 years unraveling this long dark night of a soul. Squeezing out from under the tight grip of anorexia was slow; I was afraid to let go. I fiercely believed the thoughts in my head and the emotions those thoughts created were strong. When I eventually realized that being able to observe my thoughts meant I wasn’t them, I saw a light at the end of the tunnel. That point was a long time in coming, however. Until then, I threw myself into work. And how does an international journalist throw herself into work in the most serious manner possible? By entering a war zone, of course.

* If you’d like to support those who struggle, Deasy recommends NationalEatingDisorders.org.
Reyhanli, Turkey, entered Syria
Undercover refugee reporter

The hardest thing I’ve done in my life was not cross into a part of Syria recently taken over by ISIS and under imminent threat of U.S. bombardment. I was getting on a plane in San Francisco, still thin but medically stable, leaving my comfort zone, the economic security of living with my parents, my therapists. It terrified me. I also needed to say goodbye to journalism and dedicate my life to music. However, I knew what was going on in Syria, and I had the tools to bring more awareness to what was happening.

U.S. freelancers were strictly prohibited from entering Syria over fears of kidnapping – White House orders. Undeterred, I donned an Arabic disguise and convinced a humanitarian group to take me with them to the nearby refugee camp in Syria. I met and spoke with Syrians of all ages and heard countless gory, utterly dehumanizing, heart-wrenching stories. USA Today published my story on page one. When leaving Atmeh, children ran behind us, begging us to take them with us. I looked at one of the little girls and, impulsively, I ran to her and hugged her to me fiercely. I lost all concept of where I was while in the embrace of this small child. I was unable to take her with me that day, but I have carried her in my heart ever since.
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Music student

I bought a ticket to Buenos Aires, thinking I’d just visit Argentina on my way back to California. That first visit left me in a daze. I had become so used to the reserve and distance of Eastern Europe and Germany that the loquacious amiability of Argentinians’ constant hugging, smiling and helping quite literally gave me culture shock.

Argentina was immediately understandable to me. It is a heart-based culture, one of the few left in the world. The society is fundamentally inclusive and family-based, with all the intricacies and paradoxes of a real family: it’s warm, funny, often insincere, sardonic, kinda weird, tolerant, corrupt, kind, dysfunctional, nostalgic, occasionally passive-aggressive, fatalistic yet unfailingly loving. It was here that I recovered the voice I’d lost to illness, here that I discovered the depths of my own heart, here that I healed my body and experienced the joy of movement and dance, here that I formed myself as a musician. It was in Argentina that I found true love. This country has become my home.

The streets were filled with tango music and the fragrance of blooming purple jacaranda trees. The city was beautiful and filled with parks. I told the family friend I was visiting about my desire to study music. Why not study here? he asked, and the pieces began to fall into place. I managed to audition for the country’s largest music conservatory with half-remembered bits of high school Spanish, and felt my whole world shift when I opened their acceptance letter on Christmas Eve.
Patagonia, living in a tent
Volunteer

My third year into music conservatory, I left the city for the summer to volunteer at a farm in Patagonia. I knew next to nothing about farming, but I told the woman seeking volunteers that I was a quick learner. I soon installed myself in a tent on the top of a little mountain in a rural area just outside a popular mountaineering town. I weeded the garden and became the farm chef, learning how to cook with fire in extremely rustic conditions.

As time passed, my body started to experience living close to nature as a veritable way of life rather than a temporary affair. I settled in. I began to notice how happy I was. I started singing in nature, improvising, opening to a conversation between music, nature and the voice. Patagonia became my muse. By the end of that first summer, I knew I’d come back for more.

By the end of the second summer at the same farm, punctuated by a trip across the Andes on horseback, I knew I needed to live in nature. And not just any nature: this nature, these mountains. My recovery from anorexia was coming full circle and I was finally feeling open to a relationship again after nearly seven years single. I started to let myself dream a little about the ideal partner for me, and then one day at the farm, there he was, standing at the door. “I was told I could come by and look around for some wood,” he said shyly. His search turned into the find of our lives: one another.
Mallin Ahogado, Rio Negro, Patagonia

Life in the mountains

Today we live in a little cabin nestled in the foothills of the Andes accompanied by two gray cats. We’re slowly saving money to buy our own little piece of land, build a house, and have a modest homestead. I launched an Etsy store to support my partner’s amazing craftsmanship. After spending my days singing and composing, I am releasing my first single soon. In my free time, I play the lyre, cook, garden, make flower wine and teach my neighbors’ kids English. I’ve learned how to chop wood, purify water, cook and heat a home with only a wood-burning stove, store for the winter, gather local medicinal plants and adjust to the many (different) social mores that come with rural life in Argentina. I finally have a handle on the basics.

Sometimes I still do crazy things no one would do around here, like take a lamb with a broken leg to sleep with me in bed to make sure she stayed warm and healed well, which she did. After all, one thing Argentina has taught me is this: If you can help, do so. We’re all in this together.
129th Commencement celebrates grads in person after two years with nontraditional ceremonies.

Congrats also to the Class of 2020, which enjoyed a special belated in-person ceremony after the COVID pandemic prevented such events during the actual year of their graduation.

Congrats to our 1,235 undergraduates and 786 graduate and doctoral candidates from the Class of 2022.
Honorary Degrees Awarded

- (pictured at left) Carla Peperzak, Holocaust survivor and Spokane resident – Doctor of Humane Letters
- Christine Gregoire ('77 J.D.), former Washington governor and attorney general – Gonzaga Law Medal
- Angela Jones ('16 J.D.), Gates Foundation – Doctor of Humane Letters
- Gloria Nevarez, West Coast Conference commissioner – Doctor of Laws
- Terry Payne, owner of PayneWest Insurance, Inc. – Doctor of Laws
- Walt and Karen Worthy, owners of Worthy Enterprises, LLC – Doctor of Humane Letters

Visit our photo galleries for more: » gonzaga.edu/photos
This exhibition was made possible by the generous support of lead sponsor Jeannie & Jonathan Lavine. Additional major funding was provided by the Bildners—Joan & Allen z”l, Elisa Spungen & Rob, Nancy & Jim; and Jane and Daniel Och. The Museum’s exhibitions are also supported by the Lester Robbins and Sheila Johnson Robbins Traveling and Special Exhibitions Fund, established in 1990.

AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST

DON’T MISS

gonzaga.edu/holocaustexhibit

WHAT DID AMERICANS KNOW? WHAT MORE COULD HAVE BEEN DONE?

EXHIBIT DATES AUGUST 23 – OCTOBER 7 Foley Library

PUBLIC EVENT SEPTEMBER 8 Hemmingson Ballroom

6-7:30 p.m.

Americans and the Holocaust: Remembering Our Past to Inform Our Future

Free & Open to the Public

Americans and the Holocaust: A Traveling Exhibition for Libraries is made possible by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association. Americans and the Holocaust will be on display in the Rare Reading Room on the 3rd floor of Foley Library, along with a series of related special events presented by the Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies and supported by the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force, from March 19th - April 27th, 2020.
RECOMMENDED READING

THE BUTTERFLY IMPACT

Journalism major Mark Briggs (’91) includes relatable stories from real people – including a few Gonzaga folks – on how to create work-life balance through small, meaningful actions.

Review by Sherri Lynch
Gonzaga School of Leadership Studies

One of the most obvious outcomes of the past two years and our pandemic-laden world is the blending of personal and professional life. Now that the two are so intertwined, how do we create balance or integration that feels harmonious? Gonzaga alum, author Mark Briggs, attempts to answer that question, among others, in his new book, “The Butterfly Impact,” released last year.

I read the book while on a personal vacation with three of my work colleagues ... talk about a blended life! The premise of the book, which reads less like a novel and more like a workbook of sorts with lots of stories intertwined, is that “... relationships and the interactions we have with people at work are critical components to finding meaning and fulfillment throughout life. As we develop more positive connections with others, The Butterfly Impact will ripple throughout our world.”

The author encourages small changes, micromoves, as he refers to them, which bring about great change over time. Like most books in the self-help and personal development genre, this one highlights the power of positivity and encourages authenticity, logic and empathy as foundations to improving relationships, both personal and professional. I thoroughly enjoyed the frequent callouts with important points, suggestions of books and podcasts to follow, and frequent references to an all-star cast of Zags (including Rob Acker, Jennifer Deger and Chris Standiford). So many of Briggs’ references are already on my list of personal faves, leading me to believe those who are not really should be.

We’ve all been forced to adapt to the frequent challenges of the past two years, and this book is a fresh start and new way of thinking about relationships, productivity and fulfillment. “It means becoming more valuable to our organizations, communities and culture while enjoying our own lives even more.” I look forward to the ripples of this new approach.

More from Gonzaga authors


Jim Sheehan (’73) authored a chapter in a special collection of stories in “One-Block Revolution: 20 Years of Community Building,” which explores how renovation of a dilapidated corner of buildings in Spokane created an interdisciplinary hub for grassroots campaigns, coalitions and training.

Virginia Pickett (’76 J.D.) wrote “A Long Road There,” a novel inspired by her great-grandmother’s solo trek from Germany to America.


Sarah Carter Jones (’17) introduces “All About Change: How to Successfully Make Personal Life Changes.”

Who better to tell of Boeing’s jetliner endeavors in the 1960s than John Andrew (’54), who took his engineering degree to the aerospace company and built a career there? “Boeing Metamorphosis” details the changes in production that took place with the country’s newfound love for air transportation. Read a review by Gary Weber, engineering faculty, at gonzaga.edu/magazine.
Gala Honorees

The 2022 Ignatian Gala celebrated the School of Business Administration's centennial by presenting awards to four alumni and a retired staff member of the school. Congrats to these honorees.
**Faculty-Staff Award: Terry Coombes**

In 2004, Terry retired from the business school as assistant to the dean but returned in 2008 for another six years to complete her service extending across four decades. Today, an endowed scholarship honors her name, as recognition of her service to others.

**Recent Alumni Award: Callie Johnson (’15)**

The owner of Made With Love Bakery in Spokane’s West Central neighborhood, Callie embodies Gonzaga’s traditions of service, leadership and the celebration of all people in pursuit of the common good. She mapped out plans for the bakery’s future while a student balancing a full class load, multiple part-time jobs and campus community life.

**Service to the Community Award: Xochitl Velazquez (’12, ’13 M.B.A.)**

An assistant director of the Washington Apple Educational Foundation, Xochitl exemplifies servant leadership. In 2021, she was named among 30 under 35 outstanding young business leaders of the Wenatchee Valley community.

**Service to Gonzaga Award: Kevin McQuilkin (’83)**

Throughout a career in mergers and acquisitions for Wells Fargo, Deutsche Bank and JP Morgan, Kevin has served as a Gonzaga trustee for over a decade, was instrumental in making the New York Trek a success, and is now the first executive in residence in the business school.

**Professional Achievement Award: Kevin Daniels (’79)**

Daniels Real Estate has won three National Preservation Awards as well as many local and state awards.

Kevin is known for his amazing tenacity and vision for saving some of Seattle’s most iconic and historic buildings such as The Sanctuary, Seattle Plumbing Building (Gridiron Condominiums), Sears Roebuck (Starbucks Center), Union Station and Frye Art Museum.

**Faculty-Staff Award: Terry Coombes**

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» gonzaga.edu/SBAawards
Charvet Comes Home
Family receives remains of Gonzaga graduate, Navy pilot missing since 1967
BY TOM MILLER ('72)

The remains of a Gonzaga University graduate and Navy pilot who went missing during the Vietnam War were brought home to his family, including his 101-year-old mother, after 50-plus years.

The single-seat A-1H Skyraider piloted by U.S. Naval Reserve Cmdr. Paul Charvet, 26, of Grandview, Washington, then a lieutenant, was part of a three-plane flight supporting a naval mission on March 21, 1967. It apparently was shot down northeast of Hon Me Island.

Charvet was the oldest of three children and graduated from Gonzaga with an English major in 1962. Both of his sisters were at the Navy ceremony this January in Anchorage, Alaska, where the pilot’s flag-draped coffin received due respect. Afterward, they shared video and photos with their mother, Blanche Charvet, who lives in an assisted-living setting not far from her daughter Lorraine Charvet and a granddaughter.

FAMILY TIES AT GONZAGA

Dona Re’ Shute, four years younger than Paul, remembered how much he enjoyed his years at Gonzaga, and that he married fellow Zag Christina Johnson, of Selah, Washington.

“He loved it,” she said. “He and Chris were in the play ‘Oklahoma’ together. He was very outgoing and loved every minute of his college career.”

Dona Re’ knew that firsthand because she began high school at Holy Names Academy, down the street from GU, in 1959. All three children went to boarding school starting with high school. Paul graduated from the Benedictines’ now-closed St. Martin’s High School in Olympia, Washington.

The Charvets stayed in touch with Chris Johnson and visited in California after she remarried. As time went by, cards and letters were returned by the postal service. The Navy has not been able to locate her, according to the family.

Jeff Colliton, who had a baseball scholarship at GU, remembers his days as a teammate of Paul’s on the varsity baseball team. Paul was a left-handed pitcher.

“He was pretty good,” said Colliton, a former Spokane City Council member. “I was his catcher for most of his early games.”

Pictures of the team can be seen in the Rogues Gallery that lines the first-floor hallway of what is now College Hall, formerly the Administration Building.
ALWAYS REMEMBERED, NEVER FORGOTTEN

Charvet was considered missing in action until Dec. 2, 1977, when his status was changed to “Presumed Killed in Action.” Remains and evidence turned over by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 2020 were sent to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, run by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Final identification was in May 2021.

A tree at the northwest corner of the Crosby Center on Gonzaga’s campus was designated “The Freedom Tree” in Charvet’s honor in 1975 with this inscription: “The Freedom Tree. With the vision of universal freedom for all mankind, this tree is dedicated to LCDR Paul C. Charvet and all prisoners of war and missing in action, 1974.”

The idea originated with members of his GU class of 1962. A wreath with explanation was placed there the day of the ceremony in Anchorage.

Charvet was promoted to lieutenant commander (LCDR) during the time he was MIA. After his status was changed to “Presumed Killed in Action” he was posthumously promoted to the rank of commander.

The national Wall of Faces project features a page dedicated to every person whose name is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. A review of notes on the website shows Paul was never forgotten. Here are two recent posts:

“When I was in high school, students could mail in for POW/MIA bracelets. They were a silver metal and engraved with the name & rank of the soldier. I wore mine for 4 years, until I went off to college. I am now 65 and will never forget his name, LCDR Paul Charvet. I have been to D.C. several times, and always stopped to look at his name on The Wall.” (Nov. 18, 2020)

“Our dear friend, the late Dorance Anderson, DDS, wore LCDR Charvet’s MIA bracelet for about 30 years. That bracelet has been passed to me by Dr. Anderson’s son asking that I place it at the Wall’s Panel 17E. I intend to do just that. We honor your service, LCDR Paul C. Charvet, and the sacrifice of your family.” (April 15, 2019)

A NEW SENSE OF CLOSURE

The Charvet family has been touched.

“We weren’t even looking for closure,” Dona Re’ said. “After 10 years they declared him ‘presumed killed’ and we had a funeral Mass. Knowing that he died suddenly was a comfort to us.

“His coming home – we didn’t realize we needed it.”

Paul’s father is buried in a Mabton, Washington, cemetery where there is a marker with Paul’s name on it, placed years ago by the family. His remains eventually will rest there, with a headstone provided by the Navy. Paul’s mother also will be buried there when the time comes, Dona Re’ said.
Our Mystery Zag
from the spring 2022 issue

Father Pat Ford, S.J.
Academic Vice President, twice Dean and Professor 1974-2001

Stanford- and Gonzaga-educated, Fr. Ford was an extremely intelligent scholar. He served as professor of doctoral studies, dean of Arts & Sciences, Graduate School dean, and academic vice president during his 27-year love affair with Gonzaga. What he liked best about his vocation was “working with people at close range,” he said. But perhaps what most distinguished him was his priestly ministry. “The celebration of the sacraments was his great passion,” said his longtime friend Father Frank Costello, S.J. In 2005, Fr. Ford passed at age 63 after serving his last four years as socius for the Oregon Provincial. Gonzaga bestowed upon Fr. Ford its highest honor, the DeSmet Medal.

Reader Responses

That Zag is a very young Father Pat Ford, for whom I served as graduate assistant the first year of the doctoral education program. He was a fine man who taught me much, including, “Where you stand depends on where you sit.” I’ve used that portion of wisdom throughout my life. Thanks for the fond memory.

— Michael P. Aleman (’73)
Spokane

My religion professor as I worked on my doctorate, Father Ford was kind, a very good listener, and had a way of sharing conversations without judgment. As an adult convert to Catholicism, my interpretation of religious views had some unusual slants. For one example, I felt that missing Mass was a sad thing; I missed out on the message, the music and getting together with others. I felt a personal loss for not being there. He kindly responded, “I like your thinking and you are right. A person misses out in many ways. I am glad that you enjoy Mass and want to be there. Just add to that thinking a higher level of responsibility and know that God really wants you there.”

He could have humiliated me for my ignorance in a class full of Catholics who all knew I was wrong. He didn’t humiliate me. Nor did he set a tone in class for anyone to humiliate others – ever. He helped me find my way to a Ph.D. in a timely manner. He was a spiritual guide, my teacher and my friend.

— Marie Phillips (’98)
Spokane

He may not have been “God,” but he was bigger than life to me. Father Ford was on my husband’s doctoral committee. My husband went to his home for breakfast, and he came to ours for dinner. He was a generous, kind man. After my husband graduated from Gonzaga, we moved to a log cabin in the woods at Snoqualmie Pass. Father Pat called my husband, who was not at home. I took a message and Father Pat left a 1-800 number. I could not help replying, “You mean, I could have lived in the woods all these years and had 1-800 DIAL A PRIEST?” We shared a joyous laugh. He was a servant of the Lord who could be counted on.

— Cherie Crawford Park
Meridian, Idaho
Father Ford touched so many lives. We used to have Pat and Father (Frank) Costello over for dinner and we cherish those memories. One night they both went off on the pope when he wanted to disband the Jesuit order. We were all sort of shocked at their strong, negative, yet honest and understandable reaction to the pope. Pat invited my husband, Denny, and me to an Easter service at Jesuit House one year. It was lovely. Such an amazing individual. I am forever grateful our paths crossed.

— Kathy Canfield-Davis (’96 Ph.D.)
Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

Father Pat grew up in the Gonzaga/St. Al’s hood just two blocks from campus; I grew up two blocks farther. When Pat was a teenager, he threw the evening papers for The Spokane Daily Chronicle and hired younger kids like myself to help him. We picked up the bundles at the Phillips 66 (later One Hour Martinizing and David’s Pizza). He taught me how to fold the paper to make throwing easier and he was very fussy about getting it just right. Although they were good character-builders, newspaper routes weren’t exactly get-rich schemes and that may have had some influence on Pat’s later decision to further his education and take the vow of poverty.

— Patrick Burgess (’69)
Edmond, Oklahoma

I had the pleasure of meeting Father Ford long before I was a Gonzaga student. He was a student-teacher for my dad one term when dad taught summer school. He was a frequent visitor at our house and had quite a few dinners with us that summer and in subsequent years when home from school. We had a large family and he always fit in and joined the dinner conversation. Four of us later went to Gonzaga. When I was there, he would ask about my parents and my brothers. He always had a recollection or two about his visits to our house. While I know he was a great contributor on the Gonzaga faculty, my dad always maintained that he would have been one of the best high school teachers there ever was. Fr. Ford was a humble and thoughtful man who taught many of us by his wonderful example.

— Mike Ormsby (’79, ’81 JD)
Spokane

An incredible teacher, mentor, spiritual leader and friend, I had the good fortune to take classes from Father Ford as part of my doctoral studies. His humor was a delight. His commitment to quality learning was legendary. I thought I could write until I took my first class from Father Ford. My first returned paper looked like it had been bled upon. I learned so much from him. Prior to the graduation event we were invited to the beautiful cathedral for a ceremony. I went to Father Ford and said, “You know I am not a Catholic?” He acknowledged that he knew that. I asked, “Then is it appropriate for me to attend the ceremony at the cathedral?” He looked at me, smiled and took my hand, asking, “Shirley, do you believe in God?” I responded with “Absolutely!” With that boyish smile, he said, “Then plan to worship with us.” He had a tremendous impact on my life, and I am forever grateful to him and all the other professors who invested their time, intelligence and kindness in this woman from Alaska!

— Shirley J. Holloway (’85)
Anchorage, Alaska

If you know this Mystery Zag, please share a favorite memory: Visit gonzaga.edu/editor, or write Editor, Gonzaga Magazine, Gonzaga University, 502 E. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA 99258-0070.
Congratulations to all the Zags who celebrated their love and marriages.

'06, '09 Kelsey Parker and Matt Mundy  
'08 Hailey Thompson and Ian Tate  
'09 Shawna Ruff and Jeff Schafer  
'09 Steve Bugni and Victoria Bugni  
'11 Russell Craven and '13 Kate Stoltz  
'13 Brenn Donnelly and Nicholas Santomauro  
'13 RJ Liggins and '14 Jackie Lee  
'15 Bryce Dorrance and '16 Holly Arceneaux  
'15, '17 Natalie Hastings and '19 Luke Lenhardt  
'15 Libby Young and '15 Chris Birmingham  
'15 Richard Young and '17 Emma Turgeon  
'16 Alexandra Reiling and '16 Miguel Alvarez  
'16 Greg Lewis and '17 Samantha Hammes  
'16 Ian Ellis and '17 Eleanor Lyon  
'16 Joshua Harrison and Gabriela Portillo  
'16 Katherine Palmer and '16 Brandon Castaing  
'16 McKenzie Hollyoak and '16 Brian Merry  
'16 Victoria Miller and '16 Scott McLaren  
'17, '20 Allison Drescher and '17 Isaac Fleshman-Cooper  
'17 Kathy Le and Tyson Diep  
'17 Pablo Gabella and '18 Alison Bouche  
'18 Abigail Beck and '18 Sharon Maher  
'18 Natalie Hotchkiss and '18 Carson Hollyoak  
'19 Bailey Luoma and J.T. Tasker  
'19 Lilly Moyer and '19 Maxwell McKee

'Siniva Areta and '19 Simon Menso  
Simon started at GU with his twin brother and is currently attending Gonzaga School of Law. Siniva graduated with a mechanical engineering degree and works at Sedron Technologies.
We wish you love and happiness.

Fun-Sized Zags

'06 Paul Buxton and '08 Maddison (Hutchin) Buxton: a son, Teal Xavier

'06 Kristina (Grotts) Giscombe and Stephen Giscombe: a son, Dominick

'09 Brittany (Wilmes) Arthur and Ryan Arthur: a daughter, Maeve

'10 Anthony De Simone and '10 Julia (Scherzinger) De Simone: a son, Nicolo Christopher

'10 Joe Goelz and '10 Nicole (Raisch) Goelz: a daughter, Margot

'10 Siloé Perez and Charlotte Perez: a third son, Amato

'11 Danielle Scarsella-Gonia and '11 Rob Gonia: a son, Bennet

'11 Titus Szymanowski and Melissa Szymanowski: a daughter, Nora Jane

'12 Nicholas Parque and '13 Tara (Togstad) Parque: a son, Theo

'12, '18 Lauren (Mills) Cataldo and '12 Andrew Cataldo: a daughter, Quinn Lindsay

'14 Amanda Silva Roach and '14 Shane Roach: a daughter, Sophia

'14 Danielle and '14 Anthony Vecchiolla: a daughter, Ophelia

'15 Kristen Vierhaus and '17 Travis Carter: a daughter, Charlotte

'18 Jenny (Albrecht) Kiesewetter and '19 Jack Kiesewetter: a daughter, Annie

Congrats to all!

'13, '15 M.A. Philip Noyes and '15 Magenta Dumpit
Philip works for USA Beach Volleyball and Magenta is a special education teacher in the Everett (Wash.) School District.

'15 M.A. Jordan Roskelley and Michael Jasperson
Jordan received her M.A. in sport and athletic administration. She is a marketing coordinator at The North Face in Denver.

» See them all online! gonzaga.edu/magazine
» Submit your news: gonzaga.edu/alumninews
1960s–1970s

1969  
Daniel Staples retired from the resort hospitality industry after 35 years, serving 70 hotels in seven states.

1980–1990s

1983  
Barbra Gores received the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine’s Distinguished Veterinary Alumni Award for dedicating her professional career to the exploration and development of new and improved techniques in small-animal veterinary surgery.

Sanjiv More recently joined GigSky as vice president of sales. GigSky is a leading provider of global mobile data solutions in 200 countries.

1990  
David Lancaster is CEO of Stavis Seafoods, following 30 years in the industry.

Mark Bieter joined Stoel Rives Litigation at Groom Law Group where he represents commercial clients.

1992  
Bob Kruse founded Revelstoke Security, a venture-capital-backed cybersecurity company. Revelstoke focuses on orchestrating various security tools to protect companies from hackers.

Tony Weber became chief data officer for the creative agency Wunderman Thompson.

2000s

2001  
Eric Pederson received the Outstanding Career Judge Advocate Award from the Armed Forces.

2004  
Jalene (Moffet) Carpenter is president and CEO of the Nebraska Health Care Association, overseeing a continuum of nursing, assisted living and health care learning facilities.

2005  
Leslie Heffernan was Washington State’s History Teacher of the Year 2021 and received the Governor’s Award for Teaching from the Washington State Historical Society.

Calley Ekberg serves as president of the Oregon School Psychologists Association. This is her ninth year working as a school psychologist.

2006  
David Arkoosh joined the Boise-based law firm Eberle Berlin as a shareholder. Arkoosh will continue to focus his business law practice on finance and corporate transactions.

Phil Brzytwa recently became a mergers and acquisitions adviser for his family business, Exit Equity, which specializes in helping Pacific Northwest business owners sell their companies and successfully retire.

2009  
Becky Gupta is a program manager at Interaction Center Agency.

Peter Zysk was promoted to partner at Brunswick Group, a global advisory firm.

Rebekah Clarke is entering her fourth year as chief learning strategist at Holman/Clarke Group, a learning and development firm.

Kyle Baltrusch joined Portland Plastic Surgery Group after graduating from Oregon Health and Science University with a degree in plastic and reconstructive surgery.

2010s

2010  
Nick Larson recently became a shareholder at the law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck.

Scott Pfefer is a senior software engineer at Olympus, where he does groundbreaking work on lung disease detection and diagnosis.

2013  
Todd J. Adolphson is principal attorney at Piskel Yahne Kovarik, PLLC. He previously served the firm as an associate attorney.

2014  
Gene Dawydiak completed an internship with BPM, LLP and joined as staff in August 2021.

2015  
Caitlyn Rosellini recently accepted a job with the mayor’s office administration in Seattle, supporting the senior deputy mayor on her portfolio, which includes policing.

Giovanni Midili completed a master’s degree from Montana Tech University and received two professional certifications: Certified Industrial Hygienist and Certified Safety Professional.

2016  
Jill Roels is nationally certified as a Certified Child Life Specialist in Oncology.

2017  
Eleanor Lyon works at Seattle law firm Ashbaugh Beal, focusing on plaintiff’s-side complex civil litigation.

Kerry Swenson joined San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in the Developmental Department.

» See photos and more online: gonzaga.edu/magazine
2018
Elizabeth Benz received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for the Interdisciplinary Studies Program, College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Valdosta State University (Georgia).

Kate Hagenbunch was named to the Billings Gazette’s “40 Under 40” list for her work with the Billings Clinic.

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’07 Ashley Fontaine Spending five years as executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Seattle and serving on the board of the Washington Trails Association, Fontaine’s specialty is nonprofits. Fontaine started her own consulting firm and is publishing her book, “A Practical Guide to Radical Change for Nonprofit Leaders,” this year.

» Follow us on social: GonzagaAlumni for timely news and celebrations
» Share your updates: gonzaga.edu/alumninews
Danny Evans held several important positions – player, coach, mentor, husband and friend – and none was more important to him than dad.

The affable 41-year-old associate head baseball coach always made sure his 9-year-old daughter Quinlyn and 6-year-old son Graham felt loved, even as his job required extensive travel.

“He left them notes, took them on dates and read them bedtime stories when he was on the road,” says wife and Gonzaga classmate Kellie Buller. “And he lifted me up during his final days.”

Evans succumbed to his 11-month battle with melanoma on April 22, but not without a valiant fight.

“He could have crumbled and given up,” says Gonzaga teammate (2000-2001) Phil Banta. “Cancer can suck the will out of your mind, body and soul. I didn’t understand what it meant to fight until Danny kept fighting on an empty tank until the end. He is the bravest person I ever knew.”

Former head Coach Steve Hertz, who recruited Evans in 1999 to play for GU, recalls telling his wife, “I just watched a kid who celebrates the game every time he steps on the field.” He continued with that spirit as a third base and infield coach and in the locker room. “He just had love stamped all over everything he did,” Hertz says.

Coach Mark Machtolf, who succeeded Hertz, offered Evans a job as volunteer assistant coach after four years as a player. “He wasn’t afraid of any job. What made him so special to me is that he didn’t care who got the credit. I try to live by his example every day,” Machtolf recalls.

Evans loved the role so much, despite the meager pay, that he worked two other jobs to make ends meet – providing private training to ballplayers and connecting from behind the bar with folks at Jack & Dan’s.

He became one of the best recruiters on the West Coast, evidenced by Gonzaga’s five WCC championships in the last 10 years. He promised parents that he’d take good care of their sons – a vow that came easily as someone who “really knew how to engage people in a way that made them feel important and loved because he honestly cared about them,” says Kellie.

She continues: “He never complained. He lived his dream job, surrounded by his best friends, the best student-athletes and the game he loves. He told me all you have to do is be honest (with recruits), and ‘If you come to this amazing school and this amazing community your life will never be the same,’ adding ‘but come for your campus visit in the summer,’ “ alluding to sketchy spring weather.

At Evans’ celebration of life on Hertz Field, Quinlyn said, “I miss when we would have daddy-daughter dates, and we’d play football and 500.” Her brother Graham said, “My favorite thing about you is that you are so nice. The other thing about you is that you listen and you are brave. I am going to miss you helping me play baseball and playing catch.”

Said Machtolf, “There will never be a team I coach at Gonzaga that doesn’t know Danny Evans and the kind of man he was, the impact he had on the program, me and all of us. But I’m even more impressed with the type of father and husband he was. It speaks to his tremendous character.”
What we once have enjoyed we can never lose.
All that we love deeply becomes part of us.
– Helen Keller

Angel Diaz (’67) died Jan. 26 after a long-fought battle with cancer. A native of Cuba and Florida, he played on the Gonzaga men’s soccer team and was involved in several student clubs and organizations. He married fellow Zag Kathy Bonck (’68), and together they were active in the Portland Alumni Chapter. Angel was a longtime University Regent and beloved ambassador for Gonzaga wherever he went.

» Coming soon: Alumni Relations will begin to recognize and celebrate the lives of our Zags who have passed away. Watch for details in the coming months.
Skulls & Crosses: St. Aloysius Gonzaga

Editor’s note: This spring, we received a lovely gift from Philip Kolin, a professor emeritus of English at the University of Southern Mississippi. He wrote: “Fond greetings. I had the honor of being trained by the Jesuits years ago and have never lost my affection for and debt to the order. I am sending along a new, unpublished poem of mine on your university’s namesake ... I give it to your university to spread devotion to this saintly soldier of Christ.” Kolin has published 12 collections of poems and had more than 300 poems published in a number of Catholic periodicals. We gratefully and gladly share his gift for the enjoyment of the Gonzaga community. As for the image, screened here and shown above: The skull is believed to be that of St. Aloysius himself, photographed by Gonzaga photographer Zack Berlat in Florence.
You called yourself a scrap of twisted iron,
You with your epicene face and doe-soft hands,
a lovely reflection of God in an unlovely world.
Like Father Ignatius, you learned the steel of discipline,
you, soldier and courtier and future prince. Each day

you scourged yourself and renounced the world’s comforts.
True to your name, you were a warrior. But in God’s army.
In one image, you hold a crucifix with transfixed,
heart-melting eyes. In another a skull. Both reminders
of what awaited you. And there you are, in a Jesuit

hospital in plague-stricken Rome, tending
the sick God sent you. Everywhere skulls. Still,
you washed their broken bodies riddled with coughs,
congestion, convulsions, and died ministering to them.
In one image you carry an old man, bandage-

strapped to your back, as if you were Christ
carrying his cross to the Hill of Skulls. Who does
nothing knows nothing, you said. In those plague-
ridden times you advanced on the timeless. Look
again. Skulls and crosses still call out to us today.

- Philip Kolin
Campus Capture

This baby marmot feels at home on the Gonzaga campus, along with several species of flora and fauna.