

GONZAGA



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Health Sciences

OUT THERE
Zags in Space

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Living into the Mission

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2022-23 Report of the President

Reaching New Heights



Online: gonzaga.edu/magazine





On the Cover:

Richard Koelsch ('04) is an engineer with Johnson Space Center. Photo: Tania Deason Photography

This Page:

Students and faculty orchestrated Gonzaga's first ever Mid-Autumn Festival, a traditional Chinese celebration now shared by many cultures to observe the full moon and harvest season. Photo: Janna Price ('24)

Reaching New Heights

Inside this issue of Gonzaga Magazine is a portion of Gonzaga University's 2022-23 Report of the President. Together with features on the mission-driven work of Tribal Relations and the exciting work Zags are doing to advance space exploration, I hope these stories inspire you, and affirm for you what an exceptional place Gonzaga truly is.

Setting the context for this year's theme of Reaching New Heights, I would like to share a story about an alum from many years ago who – just like every one of our current students – arrived at Gonzaga full of hope and excitement. Following their first year on campus, they were involved in a horrific auto accident which left them paralyzed. While this accident forever changed the course of the student's life, Gonzaga faculty, staff and Jesuits continued to reach out in the ensuing years, to provide encouragement and hope to this individual and their family.

This former student recently passed away and chose to leave behind a significant financial gift for Gonzaga in their estate. While each year our University is the proud beneficiary of tremendous generosity from many alumni, it is important to realize that this individual had been at GU for just one year. The impact of their experience that year, coupled with the care they received from our community, made a lifelong difference. We are a place that believes each individual is worthy of honor and respect, made in the image and likeness

of the Creator. This is just one of the many ways I know us to be living out the meaning of our mission.

Those experiences are at the heart of how we move forward as well. The newly approved institutional Strategic Plan – a roadmap that will continue to set Gonzaga up for success, growth, and the opportunity to develop creative solutions to pressing issues – is entirely about developing opportunities for students and maintaining the profile of Gonzaga as a healthy, vibrant, creative community – because both things matter. Here are a few of the priorities set for the University to reach new heights:

- *School of Health Sciences*
- *Institute for Informatics and Applied Technology*
- *Reimagining the Learning Environment*
- *Center for Ignatian Dialogue and Discernment*

As a higher education institution, it is imperative that we continuously evolve, respond to contemporary needs and challenges, preserve the things that we do well, and change what needs to be changed.

As a Catholic, Jesuit university, we are, in fact, about a hope-filled future. Every student who comes to us is a talented individual, filled with dreams and tremendous potential. Meeting them where they



Rocks of Sharon, a popular location south of Spokane for activities with Gonzaga Outdoors.

are and challenging them to become even more hopeful, more competent and capable, comes through thousands of individual interactions with faculty, staff, peers, and community members across time – in and outside of the formal learning environment. Our students leave prepared to make a meaningful, positive impact on the world in large part because we believe in them and their potential, and because of the support they receive, much of which comes from you, our benefactors and supporters.

I look forward to the work to come, and the possibilities that will emerge for Gonzaga University as a result. Together, we truly are

Reaching New Heights!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thayne M. McCulloh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "M".

Thayne M. McCulloh, D. Phil.
President

» View highlights from the Report on page 32, or view the entire publication at gonzaga.edu/ROP.

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gonzaga.edu/magazine

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/givenow.

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.

Have a response to a story? We welcome your feedback.
gonzaga.edu/editor

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GETTING SOCIAL

We went viral!

Did anyone else struggle in making it up all four floors in College Hall (previously the Admin Building)?

▶ 8.5M

Ha ha! Back in the day, history majors had ALL their classes on the 4th floor of the Ad Building.
[#BestShapeOfMyLife](#)



Scan the QR code to see our viral video on Instagram.

Follow us: [@gonzagau](#)

CONNECT WITH US

Is it time to update your records?

Have you moved, changed names or marital status, or prefer to receive GU publications differently? Please let us know!

gonzaga.edu/update

Phone: 800-463-6925, option 4

Want to share your family or career updates?

Submit weddings, births/adoptions, promotions and accolades here.

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Have you published a book?

Submit info to gonzaga.edu/alumninews and mail a copy: Editor, Gonzaga Magazine AD 70, 502 E. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA 99258



Crossroads: Looking Back and Moving Forward

“Hindsight is 20/20,” they say.

It’s true that, in reviewing the past, we can progress. Sometimes the direction of “progress” is more like Chevy Chase circling the roundabout at Big Ben than like cruising Route 66, but either way, there are lessons and moments for reflection.

Taking a look at where we’ve come from and where we’re moving can be hard. That’s certainly true in exploring the historical context of how colonial settlers impacted Indigenous communities, and in the journey toward dignity and equity for members of the LGBTQ+ community – both of which we explore in this issue of Gonzaga Magazine.

But this expedition can also be cause for celebration. In both of the stories mentioned, we see hope. In our Report of the President for 2023 and pieces on the advancement of health sciences, the Gonzaga community bears witness

to the movement of this University toward greater innovation and a sharper competitive edge. And talk about an exciting moment in time for Zags in space, up close and personal with reaching the outer limits. What a collection of progress to consider!

Being at a crossroads ultimately means making a choice. Move forward, head east or west, turn around, or pause and check the map. In the stories ahead, you might find examples of all of those options. As always, I’m curious to know your thoughts. Send me a line and tell me what you see in the rearview mirror or the road ahead on this collective journey.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate".

Kate Vanskike ('22 M.A.)
Editor

gonzaga.edu/editor

Alumni Relations Launches New Affinity Groups

Connecting alumni and students through educational, social and professional development, and philanthropic programming

Native Alumni Community

Alumni and students, the Offices of Tribal Relations and Alumni Relations and honored guests gathered on Sept. 15 to launch the Native Alumni Community. The date was chosen near to Gonzaga's Historic First Day of Classes (Sept. 17, 1887), when Native students were refused entry.

At the time Gonzaga opened, the Jesuits were working with Inland Northwest Native communities, but the expectation of tribal members that they would get to be a part of a college experience was not met.

"Our hope, ever and always, is to find ways of building trust and relationships so that we can fully live out the spirit of our Mission," GU President Thayne McCulloh said.

Martin Charlo, a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council and the Bitterroot Salish tribe that originally invited the Jesuits to the West, shared the history of that relationship before the Tribes were forced from their land onto Montana's Flathead Reservation.



Raymond Reyes, Leah Simeon ('15, '18 M.I.T.)

Tribal elders of late have told members to move on from betrayals of the past, Charlo added, saying the launch of a Native Alumni Community is another step in that healing.

"This is something I think can contribute to Native students' success long-term,"

Charlo said. "And I'm hopeful this is just a small drop of rain that will grow seeds of many great students to come."

» [Read more about the work of Tribal Relations. See p. 26.](#)

Fastest Growing MAJORS

While Gonzaga University boasts strong academic programs in the College of Arts & Sciences and six individual schools (business, education, engineering, health sciences, law and leadership), data shows increased interest from students in these specific majors since 2019:

- Computer Science
- Kinesiology (including former physical education)
- Sport Management
- Human Physiology

Institutional Research, which houses all data for Gonzaga, reviewed student head counts in spring terms from 2019 to 2023, looking at areas of study that have been available a minimum of five years and have had at least 50 students. These majors had the highest average number of students added each year and the highest percentage increase over the five-year period.



'87 Joe Lincoln, lead benefactor to the LGBTQ+ Resource Center and Law Clinic

Did you know? There are also affinity groups for Alumni of Color and graduates who pride themselves in their Military Service as well!

Learn more: gonzaga.edu/alumni.

Lavender Community

The Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center and Alumni Relations launched the Gonzaga Lavender Alumni and Friends Community on Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day.

“Having an official alumni community is not just a beacon of inclusion; it’s a testament to Gonzaga’s commitment to fostering a diverse academic community,” said Jamie Bartlett, director of the Lincoln Center. “By nurturing a space where LGBTQ+ graduates can connect, share their experiences, and rally around important issues of the day, the Lavender Community honors their history and paves the way for a more equitable and accepting future for all Zags.”

Nurturing inclusive and welcoming communities is a tenet of the Jesuit tradition, said Drew Rieder ('96), senior director of Regional Chapters and Affinity Communities. “We’re very grateful for the good work our LGBTQ+ community is doing on campus and in the world. “Lavender Alumni and Friends is yet another way to cultivate social and professional ties within our diverse family of GU alumni and share the special spirit of Zag Nation.”

» [Read the celebration’s keynote message from Joe McDermott \('89\) in To Be Continued, p. 48.](#)



Since Emily Bare ('23 J.D.) was a little girl, she dreamed of doing her part to change the world for the better. Interests in public service, helping people and learning about different cultures led her to the Center for Civil & Human Rights at Gonzaga Law School.

Bare landed an internship with a nongovernmental organization, the Geneva International Centre for Justice, a nonprofit dedicated to the principles of human rights. At the time of her application, she was one of just two people from the United States selected to intern with the organization.



In Switzerland, Bare focused her research on enforced disappearances occurring in Iraq, and later was invited to share her findings in an oral statement at the 51st Session of the Human Rights Council hosted by the United Nations.

Hear the rest of her experience in our “Stories of Courage” video collection produced by Zack Bagdon ('16).

» gonzaga.edu/courage



» [Watch Video](#)



Twenty years ago, “high tech” described products like Blu-Ray discs, Myspace, iTunes and video games. At the same time, a new term was gaining big momentum in education. STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) was dramatically expanding the horizons of higher learning.

At Gonzaga University, those horizons have never looked brighter. Innovation has dramatically driven opportunities for graduates to tackle the technology so much in demand today. No wonder, then, that the number of GU students majoring in STEM fields has nearly doubled in the last 20 years, with as many as 40 percent of the student body declaring STEM-related majors.

“Technology shapes and impacts nearly every aspect of human life, enhancing our ability to connect with the world, our knowledge of phenomena, our ability to explore, even extending life itself,” said Gonzaga President Thayne

McCulloh. “Industries like aerospace manufacturing, health care and computer engineering are all central elements of the Inland Northwest economy, and Gonzaga is dedicated to creating new opportunities for our students to be leaders in high-tech industries for years to come.”

Gonzaga recognizes the ever-increasing demand for education in tech-heavy fields like cybersecurity, data science, biomedical engineering and software development. At the same time, GU continues to evolve as an institution on the leading edge of higher education and technological innovation. Between adding to existing programs and creating new ones, Gonzaga continuously evaluates students’ wants and society’s needs to make sure its Catholic, Jesuit and humanistic approach to a liberal arts education remains intact even as it delves into areas that were unimaginable just two decades ago.

Gonzaga codified its relentless pursuit of advanced learning in its 2023 updated Strategic Plan, which included the launch of a new Institute for Informatics and Applied Science, complete with a slew of new undergraduate and graduate programs. Gonzaga also led the pursuit of an Inland Northwest “Tech Hub” to create a center to develop and manufacture materials vital to the future of the aerospace and aviation industries. The center would serve as a valuable opportunity to merge advanced technology study and research with real-world applications.

At GU, technological advancement has a heartbeat as students find innovative and value-driven solutions for a complex world.

“The Ignatian perspective is hard-wired into GU’s learning environment,” said Gonzaga Provost Sacha Kopp. “The campus is built on Jesuit tradition that teaches critical, humanistic thinking. We’re not just innovating; we’re carefully considering the implications for society.”

Here are a few of the latest developments paving the way to a bright horizon:

“We’re not just innovating; we’re carefully considering the implications for society.”

(Sacha Kopp, Provost)

THE INSTITUTE FOR INFORMATICS AND APPLIED SCIENCE

A generous \$5 million lead gift from the David and Cathleen Reisenauer family allows Gonzaga to hire its first director of the Institute for Informatics and Applied Science. This new institute will act as the focal point for technology and information science at Gonzaga. Augmenting current faculty expertise with new hires will facilitate new partnerships with local industries, health care providers and government agencies.

“We seek to understand how big data and artificial intelligence can extract powerful insights in technology development, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and healthcare,” Kopp says. “And we seek to understand the threats posed to national, individual and private-sector security due to information and resource theft or attacks in cyberspace.”



NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS

Several new undergraduate and graduate degree programs are slated to come online in the next couple of years, some as early as Fall 2024, that will put GU students at the forefront of technological innovation to better serve society after graduation. Among them are undergraduate and graduate degrees in data science, graduate degrees in engineering management, cybersecurity and business analytics, and an undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering.

TECH HUB

GU is partnering with Lakeside Companies in leading a consortium of more than 50 entities, including aerospace companies, higher education institutions, and local, regional and tribal governments in creating an Inland Northwest Tech Hub, a designation created by the federal CHIPS and Science Act that would spark the establishment of a manufacturing center dedicated to the production of advanced aerospace materials. The hub will combine education research, workforce training and the production of advanced composite materials much in demand in the aerospace industry, and predominantly manufactured outside the U.S. currently.

“This represents a dynamic partnership of leaders in industry, research, education, government and workforce, all collaborating to achieve high-rate production goals for the next generation of aerospace manufacturing,” McCulloh says.

» Stay updated with the latest from GU! Subscribe to a monthly newsletter: gonzaga.edu/news.

The Evolution of Health Sciences

BY DALE GOODWIN ('86 M.A.T.)

Colleen Shannon recalls standing in front of the TV at her ironing board, with iron on one end and notepad and pen on the other.

She was watching a videotaped lecture sent to her by the Department of Nursing while earning a Master of Science in Nursing in 1997.

The program sought to reach practicing nurses in underserved areas of the country and the world – her class of 17 had folks from China, Mexico, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and western Washington – where they might be the only health care providers and unable to leave their small communities to complete advanced degrees.

While Shannon offers high praise for the program and its accommodating delivery, she found herself wanting to raise her hand and ask questions, yelling at the TV.

The delivery system has upgraded from VHS tapes and CD exchanges to Blackboard and Canvas learning systems, but the heart of the program remains rooted in the Jesuit trademark *cura personalis*, care for the whole person, says Julie Wolter, dean of the School of Health Sciences.

“Providing access for individuals wanting to further their education has been a cornerstone of this nursing program,”



she says. “I am truly in awe of the pioneers who brought this enterprise to life.”

Today, health science education continues to increase enrollment across the board, from the School of Education’s physical education tracks in kinesiology and fitness to the College of Arts and Sciences’ pre-health career curriculums. Multiple tracks in the newly named School of Health Sciences, replacing the former School of Nursing and Human Physiology, include broader opportunities, including public health, and a stronger presence in the University of Washington School of Medicine-Gonzaga University Health Partnership, where possibilities continue to grow for students to conduct research and study alongside UW medical students.

CHANGING WITH THE TIMES

While no official records chronicle the evolution of health sciences at Gonzaga, here’s a brief overview:

1930s and '40s – A few doctors and dentists, who likely majored in sciences, make it to their career destinations

1940s – Students at St. Luke’s and Sacred Heart nursing schools come to Gonzaga to earn their bachelor’s degrees

Late 1970s, early '80s – Chemistry Professor Kay Nakamaye and Biology Professor Robert Prusch push for advanced curriculum updates and form the Committee on Health Science Careers, yielding a boost in enrollment

1978 – Department of Nursing founded under the College of Arts and Sciences, then moves to the School of Professional Studies

Late 1970s – School of Education partners with biology to create exercise science/pre-physical therapy track

2009 – Human Physiology degree evolves from exercise program

2013 – Nursing and Human Physiology become a school

2016 – UW School of Medicine-Gonzaga University Health Partnership forms

2023 – School of Nursing and Human Physiology expands to include public health; renamed School of Health Sciences

In addition, in 2020, pre-health advising moved from professors in biology and chemistry to the Career and Professional Development's fairly new Health Professions Pathways Program (H3P).

Pre-med/pre-health advising previously focused on faculty providing letters of recommendation for candidates applying primarily to medical and dental school, says H3P's Katherine Brackmann, co-chair of the endeavor with Kevin Measor, who teaches for Gonzaga and the UW medical school. Now, H3P supports students on career discernment, understanding admission requirements and application processes for degrees in medical, dental, pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, accelerated nursing, optometry, physician assistant and more.

LOOKING AHEAD

A bachelor's degree in public health will launch in Fall 2024, with a master's expected to unfold in Fall 2025, Wolter says. The University is studying the feasibility of other programs as well, relying on input from stakeholders during the coming year to help set a direction.

"We see great need for advancements in rural communities with health care shortages in nursing, rehabilitation and mental health," Wolter says. "We are assessing the most immediate needs and looking at longer-term goals to expand what we do to serve our region."

A far reach from those early days exchanging VHS tapes.

ENROLLMENT TODAY

- 455 biology, chemistry or biochemistry majors
- 876 students declaring an interest in pre-health sciences
- 220 human physiology majors
- 370 undergraduates, 414 graduate students and 51 doctoral students in nursing

Susan Boysen, Jon Sunderland, Diane Tunnell, David Thorp, Shannon Zaranski and Mia Bertagnolli also contributed to this story.

CARE GOES BOTH WAYS

Amy Moran ('01) always thought she wanted to be a medical doctor, and took a pre-med curriculum, graduating in biology. But a Murdock summer research scholarship and subsequent work in Professor Mia Bertagnolli's biology lab as a Murdock Fellow introduced her to medical research as a possible career.



Four years as a technician in Bertagnolli's sister-in-law's lab at Harvard's Brigham and Women Hospital in Boston, and a doctorate in immunology and cancer biology from the University of Minnesota, were steps in landing at Oregon Health and Sciences University, where today she is associate professor, runs a cancer research lab and hosts GU undergraduate students in her summer internship program. Her husband, Ryan Chaquette ('00), also pre-med at GU, married his love of medicine and his passion for business following an M.B.A. and master's in health administration and is a hospital administrator at OHSU's Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland.

Meanwhile, David Dowd was a hospital nurse manager earning his Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from GU when COVID-19 hit in 2020, and he had 115 caregivers seeking his direction.

"I was overwhelmed," Dowd says. "But I was blessed with an amazing interim dean, Lin Murphy, who called and asked how she could help. She shared her own leadership experiences with me, offered encouragement and bought Starbucks coffee and treats for my hospital team.


"Not only did the D.N.P. program teach me how to be an effective change agent in health care, it taught me how to be a servant leader. I witnessed the Jesuit values being actively demonstrated by my professors," Dowd recalls.





Side By Side

BY MARY JOAN HAHN



New research and teaching labs advance learning for health care solutions

At the south edge of Gonzaga's campus is a gleaming white building bearing the names of two renowned schools. Side by side, Gonzaga undergrads and University of Washington School of Medicine students are preparing to help advance best practices in modern health care.

The 18-month-old UW-GU Health Partnership building contains eight cutting-edge labs for novel aspects of physiology, and for students and faculty alike, to delve into myriad conditions.

CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR RESEARCH & TEACHING LABS

When the facility opened in Fall 2022, GU's Human Physiology program launched new courses and experiences for Zags. The new cellular and molecular teaching lab accommodates up to 16 students, providing opportunities to develop their bench research skills, while also exposing them to standard biomedical techniques. Immediately adjacent is a research lab with a cell culture room for working with human or tissue cell lines, fluorescent microscope capabilities and cryostorage. Faculty work closely with students to investigate cellular or molecular mechanisms that underly human health and function.

APPLIED BIOMECHANICS RESEARCH AND TEACHING LABS

Imagine the possibilities for improving the quality of life for people with Parkinson's disease, individuals with amputations and individuals who have experienced strokes.

The Applied Biomechanics Lab enables that kind of research.

Here, students and faculty investigate the fields of biomechanics and neuromuscular control. Six embedded force plates can record detailed information about how humans interact with the ground as they move, measure forces in three directions, evaluate the center of pressure and more. The added feature of recording motion in three dimensions provides a more comprehensive assessment of movement. Expand the runway through two adjacent lab spaces and – voila! – full-speed sprinting evaluation ensues.

An additional teaching lab provides space specifically for students to learn the fundamentals of human movement including the kinematics and kinetics associated with movement.



INTEGRATIVE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PHYSIOLOGY LAB

How do environmental stimuli impact the human body?

An environmental chamber allows manipulation of temperature (0°F to 111°F), humidity (30-95%) and altitude (from sea level to 18,000 feet), providing the chance to evaluate exercise capacity in different environments, task performance in various climates and even how certain garments impact human function.



ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY TEACHING LAB

This custom-built space provides excellent teaching/learning opportunities for anatomy and physiology students. Two rooms share a large dividing wall that doubles as a whiteboard or can be opened to create one large lab. Adaptable workstations allow everything from microscopy to dissections to data studies. Students learn through digital tools, virtual reality, specimen dissection and physical models.

BIOMATERIALS LAB

With a specialized testing system for evaluating the mechanical properties of materials, students gain insights into the modulus of bone, the fracture strength of implant material, or the fatigue resistance of a prosthetic device. Both teaching and research happen here.

JUST THE BEGINNING

Human Physiology is just the beginning of the expansion of Gonzaga departments in this modern space. Next up is a public health program and the potential for additional collaborations among science, engineering, medicine and more. Stay tuned!

Consider the life-changing potential of more effective protective clothing for wildland firefighters. The possibilities are endless.

EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY TEACHING LAB

This space allows for a large amount of equipment, with ample space for student instruction. Here students evaluate many aspects of exercise physiology such as metabolism and measurements of blood flow, muscle oxygenation, continuous blood pressure and cardiac output possible with specific equipment.



Scan the QR code to sign up to receive the Partners in Medical Education newsletter featuring the latest from the UW-GU Health Partnership.

This "Zagstronaut" was 3D printed by Koelsch's older sister Angela ('98).



A photograph of an astronaut in a white space suit floating in space. The astronaut's arm and hand are visible on the left side of the frame. The background is a vast field of stars and a bright blue horizon line, likely representing Earth's atmosphere. In the lower center, a small spacecraft is visible in the distance.

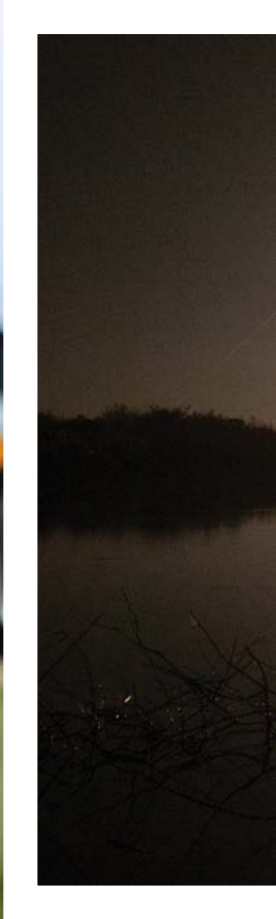
OUT THERE

Gonzaga alum Richard Koelsch is working on a NASA project to take humankind where it's never been

STORY BY DAN NAILEN

Photos by Tania Deason Photography

Design by Tracy Martin, Reanne Hoblin
and Makayla Zayic





Artemis Lift Off (courtesy of NASA)

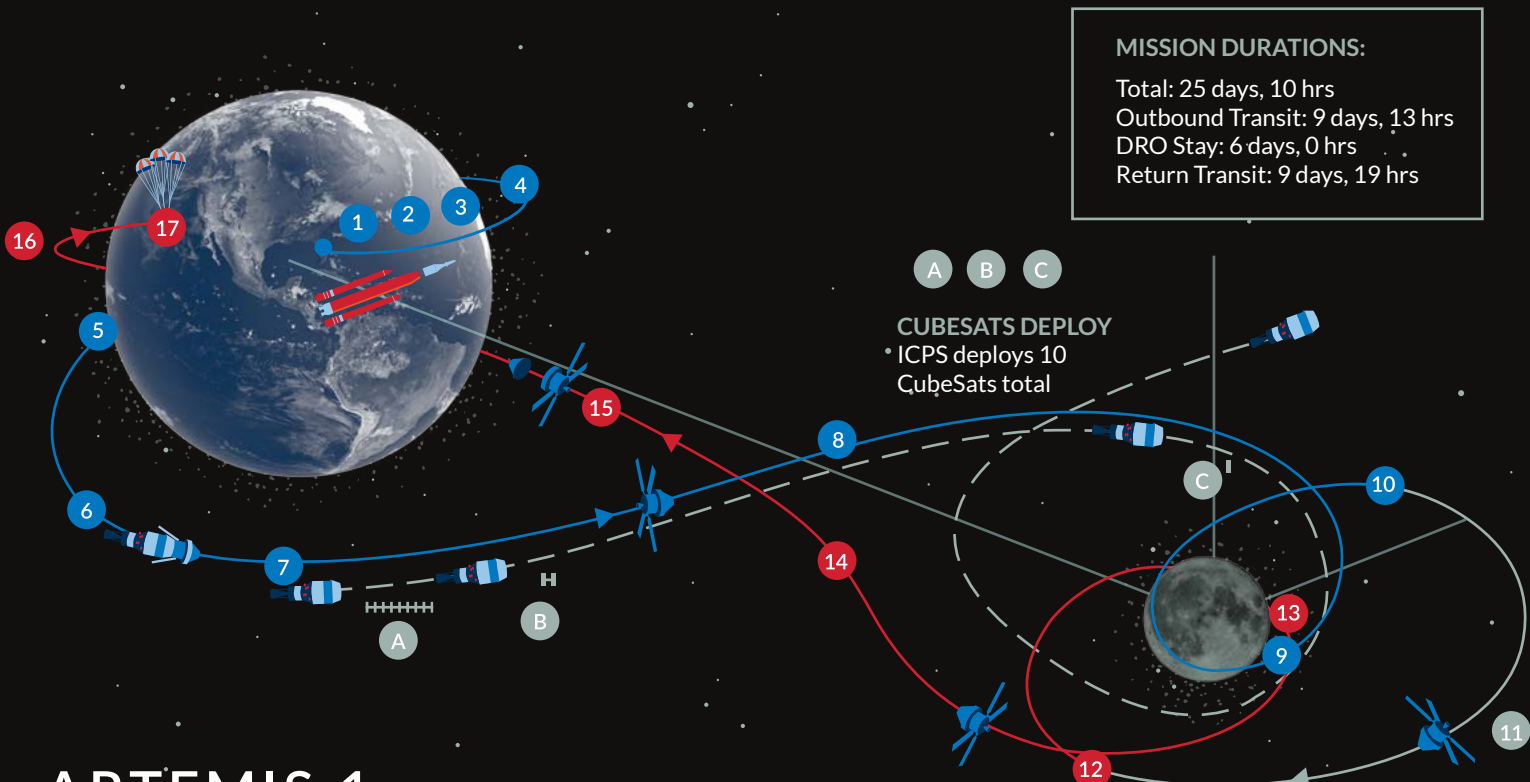
Richard Koelsch wouldn't necessarily claim that "Star Wars" directly led him to his current job at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). But his childhood obsession with all things Jedi-related sure didn't hurt in pushing Koelsch to explore worlds beyond his small southern Idaho hometown. He eventually landed at Gonzaga, earning a mechanical engineering degree in 2004.

Now he's working on NASA's most ambitious project in decades, building a small space station called Gateway that will orbit the moon and offer support for missions to push humanity farther into space than it's ever gone — first on a mission called Artemis II taking astronauts on a loop out beyond the moon and back. Eventually, Gateway will help with deeper space exploration. Mars, anyone?

"I'm a huge 'Star Wars' fan, sci-fi in general, so I've always been attracted to space exploration," the 43-year-old Koelsch says from Houston, home to NASA's Johnson Space Center. And the idea of combining his love of space exploration and his passion for building and designing things, he says, was hometown. "I was influenced by my dad who was always making something in his shop.

"I grew up in an Air Force base town (Mountain Home, Idaho), around airplanes and jets. My dad introduced me to astronomy, and that kind of got me wondering about the solar system, all the planets. I've always been a bit of a dreamer. And I probably watched 'Star Wars' a few too many times."

As any fan will tell you, there's no such thing as watching it "too many times," but while most sated their interest at repeated viewings and investing in collectibles, Koelsch turned his interstellar curiosity into a rewarding career, starting with his work at Gonzaga.



MISSION DURATIONS:
 Total: 25 days, 10 hrs
 Outbound Transit: 9 days, 13 hrs
 DRO Stay: 6 days, 0 hrs
 Return Transit: 9 days, 19 hrs

ARTEMIS 1

The first uncrewed integrated flight test of NASA's Orion Spacecraft and space launch system rocket

- 1 LAUNCH (11/16/22)**
SLS and Orion lift off from pad 39B at Kennedy Space Center.
- 2 JETTISON ROCKET BOOSTERS, FAIRINGS, AND LAUNCH ABORT SYSTEM**
- 3 CORE STAGE MAIN ENGINE CUT OFF**
With separation.
- 4 PERIGEE RAISE MANEUVER**
- 5 EARTH ORBIT**
Systems check with solar panel adjustments.
- 6 TRANS LUNAR INJECTION (TLI) BURN**
Maneuver lasts from approximately 20 minutes.
- 7 INTERIM CRYOGENIC PROPULSION STAGE (ICPS) SEPARATION AND DISPOSAL**
ICPS commits Orion to moon at TLI.
- 8 OUTBOUND TRAJECTORY CORRECTION BURNS**
As necessary adjust trajectory for lunar flyby to Distant Retrograde Orbit (DRO).
- 9 OUTBOUND POWERED FLYBY**
105.5 miles from the Moon; targets DRO insertion.
- 10 LUNAR ORBIT INSERTION**
Enter Distant Retrograde Orbit.
- 11 DISTANT RETROGRADE ORBIT**
Perform a half revolution (6 day duration) in the orbit 43,730 miles from the surface of the Moon.
- 12 DRO DEPARTURE**
Leave DRO and start return to Earth.
- 13 RETURN POWERED FLYBY**
RPF burn prep and return coast to Earth initiated. Closest approach in middle of burn, 81 miles.
- 14 RETURN TRANSIT**
Return Trajectory Correction burns as necessary to aim for Earth's atmosphere.
- 15 CREW MODULE SEPARATION FROM SERVICE MODULE**
- 16 ENTRY INTERFACE**
Enter Earth's atmosphere.
- 17 SPLASHDOWN (12/11/22)**
Pacific Ocean landing within view of the U.S. Navy recovery ship.

Chart credit: NASA and Artemis

MAKING SPACE FEEL LIKE HOME

Koelsch's official title at NASA is deputy system manager for the Environmental Control & Life Support Systems for the lunar space station Gateway. Prior to joining NASA and the Gateway project, he spent much of his career working on Orion, or the Multi Purpose Crew Vehicle that takes astronauts into deep space and returns them safely to Earth, and he's continued working on Orion even as the Gateway project proceeds.

"My job is essentially to create a mini-Earth inside a space craft," Koelsch explains. "Think about all the things we take for granted on a daily basis, as far as just breathing in oxygen — we have air in the atmosphere, and we have plants that scrub carbon dioxide we exhale. We can typically control the temperature around us. We have drinking water, facilities to use the bathroom. My job is to put all that minutiae into a spacecraft and make it habitable for the crew."

Last fall, Koelsch was part of the team in Mission Control supporting the Artemis I mission, basically an unmanned test run that sent Orion out beyond the moon farther than any manned spacecraft has ever gone. NASA had to see if Orion could return safely with its humanity-supporting systems still functioning, and test if it could withstand the incredible speed and heat as it reentered Earth's atmosphere from such a distance. And while NASA is still sifting through the data of the trip, Koelsch says Artemis I largely exceeded expectations, setting up Artemis II to take astronauts along perhaps as soon as 2024.

"It's just something I'll never forget," Koelsch says of working on last year's mission. "I spent roughly a third of my life working on Orion, and I was one of the last people to leave Mission Control the day we landed. Looking back,

"Gonzaga taught me how to think critically, and in my daily work, that's something we have to do, because the solution to a lot of problems isn't always textbook. You have to have some critical-thinking ability and form logical arguments to back up your opinions with sound engineering. Gonzaga, in the way the liberal arts courses were set up, really helped me in that regard."

part of me was reflecting on the accomplishment, and the other part of me didn't want the mission to end — it was a significant milestone for me and my team."

During a brief stop as a student-athlete at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Koelsch realized he wanted to pursue engineering and transferred to Gonzaga, where his older sister had gone and where his girlfriend (and eventual wife) Tammy Kerr ('03, nursing) was attending.

"When I came to Gonzaga, I wanted a career where I could basically design and build something," Koelsch says. "As I got further along, I realized that, hey, I've always loved aerospace. Why not combine my love for building things with my love of space exploration?"

CRITICAL THINKING FOR CRITICAL PROJECTS

Koelsch recalls late nights in the computer lab as he juggled a demanding major and playing tennis for the Zags, although he credits the intense time-management he had to learn on campus with helping him later in his career. He remembers watching friends play frisbee outside while he was holed up with his classmates "hammering away at various projects." But the work paid off, leading him through graduate school at the University of Southern California, while working at Boeing and Lockheed Martin before landing at NASA.

Koelsch credits his Gonzaga professors and the small class sizes for giving him a leg up as he entered the competitive field of aerospace employment. But he reserves particular credit for the "liberal arts nature of Gonzaga" for giving him tools that he doesn't necessarily see from his peers who graduated from much larger institutions.

"We had to take a religion and a philosophy course each year, and I really embraced that," Koelsch says. "It taught me how to think critically, and in my daily work, that's something we have to do, because the solution to a lot of problems isn't always textbook. You have to have some critical-thinking ability and form logical arguments to back up your opinions with sound engineering. Gonzaga, in the way the liberal arts courses were set up, really helped me in that regard."

The opportunities available to students at Gonzaga, such as engineering competitions, senior design projects and capstone projects, all proved valuable later on, Koelsch says, teaching him how to work as part of a team and with people offering different, if equally vital, skillsets.

"On a daily basis, I deal with multiple disciplines of engineers, sometimes scientists, sometimes physicians, and we talk about life support and keeping the crew healthy and alive,"

Koelsch says. “Opportunities at Gonzaga prepared me for what it’s like in the real world, in terms of industry, where you have to be part of a team.”

WHITHER SPACE

It can be easy to look around at the challenges here on Earth — rampant poverty, housing deficits, a global climate crisis — and question why America and other countries make the investment to go to space. Koelsch understands the debate, but he also believes it’s part of human nature to explore the unknown. He recalls how when Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon in 1969, “something like 600 million people watched that all over the world.” That incredible feat of scientific ingenuity captured the imagination of the world, and it still has a hold on many. “I work in a building at the Johnson Space Center that people tour on a daily basis. How many people can say they work in a building where tour groups are coming?”

Beyond humanity’s innate curiosity, though, Koelsch sees more practical reasons for all the scientific research and hard work that goes into sending people into space.

“We want to know our place in the universe, and unless we go out and explore, we will never know that,” Koelsch says. “There are discoveries yet to be made. We are continuing to explore microgravity research at the International Space Station, and beyond that, space offers a lot of untapped resources that, if they’re used appropriately, could help life here on Earth.”

Koelsch hopes that a career that began with perhaps too many “Star Wars” viewings will end with him seeing a mission to Mars. It’s a trip considerably farther than the one Artemis II will make, but it’s getting closer all the time as the science advances. He knows that space exploration is a marathon, and new obstacles between Earth and Mars can arise. But his sci-fi dreams won’t allow him to give up on the idea any time soon.

“Just imagine when somebody sets foot on Mars,” Koelsch says. “Just like when they set foot on the moon, it’ll capture the world for a moment. And just think if, exploring Mars, they found life from a while ago, or evidence of life there today?”

“That would be a monumental moment in the course of human history.”

story continues, next page



ZAGS SOAR

IN AERONAUTIC CAREERS

Following are alumni with engineering degrees who are known to have worked in aerospace industries.

Patrick Lettenmaier ('49, mechanical)
a long career at Boeing and NASA

Richard Koelsch ('04, mechanical)
lead engineer at NASA's Johnson Space Center

Thomas Whitt ('13, mechanical)
lead tooling engineer

Ryan Kellogg ('14, mechanical)
worked for SpaceX, first on the Dragon 2 capsule and Starship

John Sousa ('14 mechanical)
thermal hardware engineer

Charlie Rogers ('15, mechanical)
avionics systems and integration engineer, SpaceX

Arthur Lane ('19, electrical)
lead printed circuit board designer at SpaceX

Simon Derrer ('20, mechanical)
test engineer at SpaceX

Sarah Jones ('23, mechanical)
joined SpaceX in 2023 as a supply chain engineer

*Are you missing? If your name should be on this list,
let us know! gonzaga.edu/editor*

SETTING SIGHTS HIGH

Ninety-nine-year-old Spokane Valley native Patrick Lettenmaier ('49) has nearly a century's worth of captivating stories. Like how he was playing football on Dec. 7, 1941, when he heard the news of the Pearl Harbor attack, and how he came to work on B-29s after serving in World War II.

In 2020 Lettenmaier started telling those stories in the form of correspondence with Gonzaga's University Advancement team after making a donation to support students in the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

He shared about receiving a C in chemistry after his textbook burned in a fire in GU's administration building, and taking a four-year pause in his education due to the war. He recalled the impact of being around airplanes, choosing to study mechanical engineering as a result. He told of receiving his degree from Father Francis Corkery and walking across the stage in the rain.

Lettenmaier's detailed account of a rich career in aerospace engineering – with Boeing, NASA's Jet Propulsion Labs (and its Mariner 10 spacecraft, which Patrick believes could still be orbiting the sun to this day) – is an exciting tale that every Zag should hear. His written account is available as an audio story on the Gonzaga Podcast Network. Don't miss it!

» gonzaga.edu/chat

Rocket Man

BY DALE GOODWIN ('86 M.A.T.)

Ryan Kellogg had a hand in the design, test and manufacturing of the propulsion systems for SpaceX's Dragon 2 spacecraft and Starship rocket.

Dragon 2 is the spacecraft most often used by NASA to take people and cargo to the International Space Station on top of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.

Starship is the largest rocket ever created, and SpaceX's answer to interplanetary and solar system travel.

Kellogg feels both appreciation for the engineering behind the project and paranoia over the hardware he's worked on as he watches "his" hardware take off, reminding himself of the gravity of the mission. He can't help but talk to himself as each rocket leaves the launchpad: "Push. Let us have done our work correctly," he says under his breath. The caution and fear remain even though he has high confidence in the work he and his SpaceX colleagues have done to get the vehicles to flight.

Kellogg worked five-and-a-half years in Los Angeles on the Dragon 2 spacecraft following his graduation from Gonzaga in 2014 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He spent his last two years working on Starship in a secluded part of Texas near Boca Chica, which bears resemblance in its isolation and furious pace to the village in New Mexico where Robert Oppenheimer and his associates built the atomic bomb as outlined in the 2023 movie.

"When I arrived there in early 2020, there were a few hundred of us working at a facility resembling a temporary military outpost. When I left in December 2021, there were probably a couple of thousand people regularly working on site that was beginning to resemble a full town," he says.

No doubt, rocket science has taken off in the last several years.



Kellogg says the space manufacturing industry has received a significant resurgence due to vertical integration. That means a lot of launch companies have brought manufacturing in-house, shortening the duration from designing to manufacturing to flying.



Ryan Kellogg

Rocket Launch at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station by SpaceX

Since summer 2022, Kellogg has served Gonzaga as academic director for the Center for Engineering Design and Entrepreneurship, spending a substantial portion of his time lining up industry and government sponsors for senior design projects, and serving as the administrator connecting student teams with their faculty advisers and project sponsors.

Kellogg says the space manufacturing industry has received a significant resurgence due to vertical integration. That means a lot of launch companies have brought manufacturing in-house, shortening the duration from designing to manufacturing to flying. The cost of labor and supplies has increased, but by bringing production in-house they aren't waiting for long shipments or lead times to begin the next stages of manufacturing. By the time one phase is completed, the next phase is already underway.

This has reduced costs and made space innovation more readily available. Efficiency achieved.

A sizable portion of Kellogg's work at SpaceX was on anomaly investigations, how to fix designs that occasionally fail. Kellogg explains: "Rocketry can be quite explosive, and especially challenging to investigate when they fail a long way from home.

"I loved the work despite the insane hours and extreme challenges. We worked hard for good reasons.

"We've seen a significant uptick in space travel recently, and the Dragon 2 is flying quite often.

"I would not be surprised to see a future with multiple crewed flights into space per day, if not per hour in my lifetime," Kellogg says. "Plausibly in the next two decades."



BY KATE VANSKIKE ('22 M.A.)

TRIBAL RELATIONS:

Living into the Mission



More connections with Native students, their families and the tribes they represent. Greater efforts to recruit students from tribal communities. Deeper exploration across campus of how Natives and non-Natives can engage meaningfully in the shared work of living Gonzaga's Mission. These are the heart of the Office of Tribal Relations and its vision for the future.

But moving forward in this work necessitates looking back as well.

GREATER HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In 2021, when Tribal Relations moved under the leadership of the Office of Mission and Ministry, then-Vice President Michelle Wheatley said the two departments had a "shared commitment to accompanying the University in better understanding how and why Gonzaga came into being as an institution and how that story shapes the ways we might live into our Mission today."

The founding story of Gonzaga comes from the work of the Jesuits to develop missions among many tribes of the Northwest – missions that included boarding schools and other practices that today we recognize as assimilation of Native peoples into Western culture, acts that contributed to the loss of their traditional languages, spiritual practices and ways of being.

"We are beginning to live into that context," says Wendy Thompson, director of Tribal Relations and member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Doing just that – living into the context of our history – is an essential component of Jesuit education, says Beth Barsotti, senior specialist for faculty and staff formation in the Office of Mission Engagement.

"This very place ought to inform the way our Mission is expressed; there's something essential about being on the unceded homelands of the Spokane Tribe and understanding the role Christianity played in colonization," Barsotti says. "In mission formation, we enter into these tensions without necessarily solving them. But we do have to change how we tell our founding story. We don't have an option: We either perpetuate the incomplete narratives or we change them."



Wendy Thompson

For non-Native members of the Gonzaga community, the Office of Tribal Relations helps guide critical cultural engagement and understanding so that the University can experience, reflect, discern and act toward healthy and constructive relationships with Native American tribes.

One part of Gonzaga's historical story centers on knowing that the Jesuits intended to build a school in Spokane for Native students, and that this didn't come to fruition. According to stories passed down from Jesuit and tribal communities alike, seven Native students came to the college during its first weeks and were turned away. Given what we now understand about the impact of Western schools on Indigenous students, Thompson says maybe it's not an entirely bad thing that they were denied admittance.

GOING DEEPER

Emerging from a "Faith Doing Justice" discernment series facilitated by Jesuits West, Thompson envisioned a mission immersion that would take a faculty and staff cohort to the Jesuit missions of the West that ultimately led to the founding of Gonzaga University. In 2022, a group of 16 visited sites in Montana and Idaho for such an experience.

Participants hungered for more, so for the following year (and continuing), they've gathered to discuss the ways organizations try to bring Indigenous voices or perspectives into their work, and the natural challenge that ensues based on different ways of knowing, being and communicating.

Conversations naturally turn toward Native concerns in national news or occurrences on Gonzaga's own campus – such as the fall 2022 graffiti brazenly asserting whites have conquered the territories once occupied by Indigenous communities. Also discussed are the ways Native Americans have felt misunderstood and misrepresented, invisible and even erased – especially in places and spaces designed with a Western ideology, including higher education.

Outside the context of this small group, Tribal Relations staffers Thompson and Jeremy Rouse, assistant director for Native student recruitment and initiatives, are



Martin Charlo, Tribal Council, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

engaging in those opportunities for deeper learning with departments across campus. Although their primary charge is to accompany Native students and honor the tribes they represent, they share a broader purpose.

"A lot of our work is with non-Native people on campus," Rouse explains, "reinforcing the idea that this is part of Gonzaga's Mission and identity."

“We want to educate the greater GU community in the hopes of it becoming a more welcoming space for Native – and ultimately all – students,” Thompson adds.

Rouse says their work takes a strengths-based approach. “There are beautiful things our Native students bring – let’s cultivate that.”

EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS

In 2015, the Washington Legislature passed a bill requiring all K-12 schools to teach “Since Time Immemorial” or other tribally developed curriculum so students learn about tribal sovereignty. Importantly, GU’s School of Education embarked on its own journey to determine how to teach future teachers proper ways to use this curriculum, which also requires consultation with the tribes.

James Hunter, professor of education, reached out to Thompson, who responded with questions that required close consideration of motives. “Is it just to check a box? Or to make a difference in how your teachers respond to Indigenous students or talk about them in their absence? That’s the perspective Wendy always brought, and it’s so critical,” says Hunter.

“ We want to educate the greater GU community in the hopes of it becoming a more welcoming space for Native – and ultimately all – students.”

Wendy Thompson



Students enjoy a comfortable setting for studying and socializing at the Native American Cultural Center. Shown here are Morgan Yazzie ('25) and Sydney Abrahamson-Fernandez ('27).

He and fellow educator Anny Case, alongside Thompson, more recently applied for a grant to help fund a course to guide teacher candidates in understanding a different worldview using Indigenous perspectives and languages. With those funds, they brought Joseph Marks ('17), an Indigenous Gonzaga grad and Fulbright scholar in languages, to co-teach a course with Hunter, a fellow linguist.

With Thompson's perennial question – “How does the tribe benefit?” – in mind, she made sure funding also enabled local Salish language teachers to benefit from Marks' expertise in language revitalization through a workshop at GU.

“None of this would have happened without Wendy,” Hunter adds. “She’s helping us embrace a form of education that gets to the heart of the questions we need to be asking.”

It’s one effort to address past harms. After all, he says, “the Tribe’s rich language and culture was horrifically removed from them by our stealing their land.”

ALLYSHIP WITH NATIVE STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Aside from helping non-Natives gain better understanding, Tribal Relations staff centers the voices and needs of Native students, providing space for community building, celebrations, study nights and more. A comfortable gathering spot is aptly named in Salish: *sčintxw* meaning “a place to be.”

This year, the Office of Tribal Relations is opening the doors of its gathering place more frequently to families of Native students to broaden its sense of community, from celebratory meals after graduation to hosting students and families over Welcome Weekend.

This fall, staff launched the Native Alumni Affinity Community with Alumni Relations and, in partnership with Admissions, hosted the first Native American Student Preview Day, a regular Admissions preview day but with programming for Native students. In other efforts to support recruitment, Rouse has been hitting the road to visit tribal high schools and hosting Native high schoolers on campus.

The momentum for growth of Tribal Relations work across campus is unprecedented ... and unlimited.



Jeremy Rouse, staff member of Tribal Relations (above); M.B.A. AIE students Anthony Finley ('24) and Shane Moses ('24)



Did you know?

Gonzaga Law School's Community Justice Project includes an Indian Law Clinic, which contracts with the Kalispel Tribe to provide civil and misdemeanor criminal services to Kalispel members.



The School of Business Administration's MBA in American Indian Entrepreneurship (MBA-AIE) has 50 graduates — most of whom received funding from the Johnson Scholarship Foundation. The two-year program connects students from a wide region through online courses and three in-person sessions each year.

Supplementing coursework, students visit different organizations to see how concepts apply to Native-forward businesses. M.B.A. Director Rebecca Bull-Schaefer says: "Students learn from both Native and non-Native instructors concerning theory, content, history, perspective and applications. Our program is designed to help guide students to think how they can continue to lead and develop their reservations, governments and businesses."

That aspiration is evident for students like Alaina Capoeman-Davis, Quinault Nation citizen and descendant of the Gros-Ventre Tribe and Hoopa Tribe. Her entrepreneurial spirit — which includes making regalia to help pay for her undergraduate tuition — was a natural fit for the program.

Seeing the challenges of other Native artisans propelled her.

"I have a friend who's a Coast Salish artist, and every year he has trouble with the taxes as a tribal artist," Capoeman-Davis says. "There are all these interesting hurdles in being Indigenous entrepreneurs, and I want to help legitimize those business efforts."

She received funding to attend a conference of the Native American Finance Officers Association, where she learned about the goals of many Tribal enterprises to diversify the ways they generate income. With her M.B.A., she hopes to further those efforts by helping to establish an Indigenous Chamber of Commerce in Washington to provide resources.

"Keeping our money in Indian country is important," Capoeman-Davis says.

Brandon Haugen (Kalispel Tribe), a 2011 graduate of the AIE program and a current doctoral student in Gonzaga's School of Leadership Studies, is the executive director of real estate development for his tribe. As with many tribes, a casino can be a significant source of revenue, but Haugen is helping to diversify the economy with housing, retail and industrial development.

"The M.B.A. gave me the traditional business background, but the AIE part allowed me to apply it through a Native lens," Haugen says. "That's what this program excels at."

His working experience helped him recognize the importance of leadership, which led him back to GU for another degree. "I'm interested in learning how leadership influences place. What makes people go to certain places?" he says.

Both Haugen and Capoeman-Davis agree the sense of community at Gonzaga is a rewarding part of their education.

From western Washington, Capoeman-Davis has come to campus for three immersions thus far, and each opportunity gave her the chance to build relationships with students and faculty. From dinners to rounds of poker, they celebrate together, and that's something she wants to foster. She has already shared her gift of making regalia by crafting ribbon shirts and skirts for her classmates.

Haugen says he came to Gonzaga with a bit of uncertainty, but "once I got into the community, I felt comfortable.

"At GU, there's really a community, and you quickly feel at home."

EXPLORE MORE

» Visit gonzaga.edu/TribalRelations for more information and stories of alumni.

Reaching New Heights

Gonzaga students summit Rocks of Sharon



2022-23 Report of the President Highlights

Included here is an abbreviated list of highlights from the Report of the President. View the complete report: gonzaga.edu/ROP

Prestigious Learning

Center for Lifelong Learning

A principal academic accomplishment of the 2022-23 academic year at Gonzaga University was the launch of the Center for Lifelong Learning, offering continuing education, professional development and personal enrichment programs to the public.

Programs and certificates are designed to meet the needs of professionals seeking to advance into leadership roles, start a new career, and desiring to grow and learn, no matter their stage in life.

“We want to bring the expertise and opportunities of this world-class university to our community,” said Rachelle Strawther, director of the GU Center for Lifelong Learning. “Our mission is to create pathways for people from all backgrounds and educational levels to learn and grow at Gonzaga.”

The Center for Lifelong Learning partners with departments across campus to offer a wide range of non-degree programs, including, but not limited to:

- Webinars
- Workshops
- Professional certificates
- Consulting services

The first major offerings were Certificates in Cybersecurity and Software Development and Certificate in Climate Action Planning.



Institute for Climate, Water, and the Environment

One year after the Northwest’s deadly heat dome, GU’s Climate Institute launched “Spokane Beat the Heat” to help residents understand the impacts of extreme summer heat and help prevent future heat-related deaths. The initiative included urban heat island mapping, a community survey and a correlation data study, which resulted in a heat health education campaign developed in partnership with the Spokane Regional Health District with presentations to Spokane’s mayor and City Council.

2022-23 University Highlights

Milestone Celebrations

Gonzaga's ROTC battalion celebrated its 75th anniversary. The United States Army Cadet Command consistently ranks Gonzaga in the top 15% of the nation's ROTC programs and the Bulldog Battalion has qualified for competition at West Point Sandhurst four times since 2016.

Observing Title IX's 50th year, Gonzaga recognized the ways the 1972 civil rights legislation addressing sexual assault, employment discrimination and gender bias among other issues changed athletics operations to support women in sports.

Unity Multicultural Education Center (UMEC) celebrated 25 years since the establishment of the Unity House, which seeks to provide support to students of color at a predominantly white institution. In addition to expanding the popular annual Diversity Monologues, UMEC honored its heritage with a mural in the John J. Hemmingson Center (student center).



ROTC cadets at Veterans' luncheon



Juliette Aguilar-Gomez, student performer, Diversity Monologues



Mural by Daniel Lopez inside the Hemmingson Center



Bancroft



Shlossberg

FACULTY FOCUS

Academic Endeavors

Erik Aver, professor of physics, earned a three-year, nearly \$800,000 National Science Foundation grant in collaboration with the University of Minnesota and Ohio State University to analyze data collected at the Large Binocular Telescope in southern Arizona, determining how much helium was produced in the minutes after the Big Bang.

Betsy Bancroft, associate professor of biology and environmental studies, earned a five-year, \$858,000 grant from the National

Science Foundation to explore the effects of climate change on freshwater bodies in the Northwest.

Todd Finkle, Pigott Professor of Entrepreneurship in the School of Business Administration, published "Warren Buffett: Investor and Entrepreneur" with Columbia Business School Publishing.

Pavel Shlossberg, associate professor of communication and leadership, curated an exhibit called "Dancing with Life" with the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture.

Nine student Climate Literacy Fellows created seven new hands-on climate literacy lessons and engaged with more than 2,000 area students in grades 2-8.

LOOKING FORWARD

While there were many accomplishments in the previous year, we are enthusiastic about many priorities for the future:

Mission Development

Mission Engagement leads faculty and staff in the practice of Ignatian discernment, exploring the topics of cura personalis and justice, and other spirituality programming. This year, the first mission formation cohorts will complete the multiyear program, applying their learning through mission integration projects across the university.

Academic Excellence

New Degree Programs: With many professions becoming increasingly data-driven, and the challenges of finding strong, service-oriented leaders common across industries, GU is offering three new opportunities: a Master of Science in Business Analytics, an online Master of Business Administration and an online Master of Education in Educational Leadership with Principal Certification.

Degrees on the Horizon: Other programs are under review: Bachelor of Science in Data Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience, Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering, Bachelor in Public Health and an Accelerated 3+3 Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science and Juris Doctor (in partnership with the School of Law), Master of Science in Cybersecurity, Master of Science in Data Science, Master of Public Health and Master of Engineering Management.



Yanping Zhang teaches a computer science course

Centers and Institutes: The Board of Trustee's approval of the Strategic Plan allows the Provost's office to move forward in developing a Humanities Institute and the Center for Ignatian Dialogue and Discernment. Through an Institute for Informatics & Applied Technology, funded by a \$5 million gift from the family of David and Cathleen Reisenauer to establish a directorship, GU will partner with local industries, government agencies and health providers.

School of Health Sciences: Comprehensive health education and access to care in rural areas remain high needs for our region. Building on Gonzaga's existing programs in nursing and human physiology, what was once the School of Nursing and Human Physiology is now the School of Health Sciences. This School looks forward to strengthening the University's ongoing partnership with the University of Washington School of Medicine.

Enhancing The Student Experience

Student Wellness: Changes in society, the isolation of technology, and global, economic and public health crises are definitely impacting students' mental health. To address growing needs, Gonzaga's counseling, health and wellness services are realigning to put resources where they're most impactful.

Village Living: It has been 13 years since new housing became available on Gonzaga's campus, and in that time enrollment has grown, retention rates have increased and some residential spaces have been repurposed for other uses. An ambitious expansion of our residence halls is underway, with a focus on accommodating more of our first-year and sophomore students in living-learning communities. This summer, construction began on a new 90+ bed residence hall at the corner of Sharp Avenue and Cincinnati Street. This is the first step in a larger endeavor to develop a residential village designed primarily for second-year students, but versatile enough to accommodate other student populations if needed. The proposed site for the new village is in the area south of Sharp and between Cincinnati and Standard.

This summer, construction began on a new 90+ bed residence hall at the corner of Sharp Avenue and Cincinnati Street.

The Future of Foley: Gonzaga's residential learning experience prizes the way students learn best: through collaboration, dialogue, reflection, debate and community. Evaluating how infrastructure fosters this learning environment, Foley Library will be reimagined as an academic learning commons with more spaces for peer collaboration, advising and mentoring support and a Center for Faculty Development and Formation. Finally, investments in technology will benefit students through digital learning tools and systems care, assessing their progress to completion.

Supporting Student Athletes: Providing strong programs in sports contributes significantly to the experience of student athletes. In July, construction began on a 17,000-square-foot indoor practice baseball facility. The new complex, funded entirely by donations, will sport four batting cages and two pitching mounds for practice time unhindered by weather. The project is due for completion in time for the start of the spring 2024 season.



Architectural rendering of new student housing, directly north of Twohy Hall

Financial Highlights

AS OF MAY 31, IN MILLIONS

(Amounts derived from audited financial statements)

GROSS OPERATING REVENUES

\$415.6M

2023

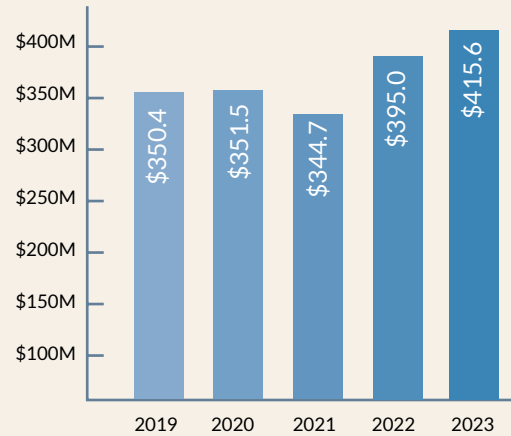
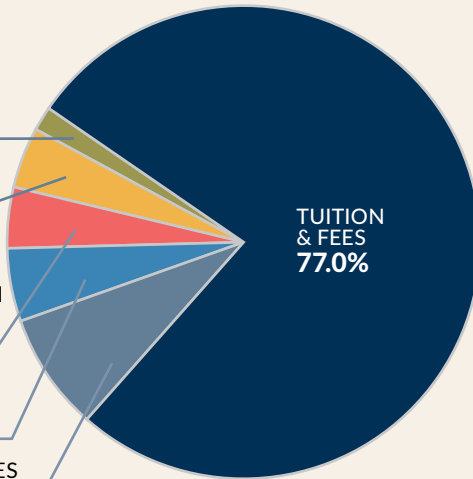
GRANTS & CONTRACTS
1.5%

CONTRIBUTIONS
4.3%

RETURN ON INVESTMENTS
designated or distributed
for operating activities
4.1%

OTHER SOURCES
5.0%

AUXILIARY ENTERPRISES
8.1%



GROSS OPERATING EXPENSES

\$418.6M

2023

OTHER EXPENSES
1.4%

INTEREST
2.3%

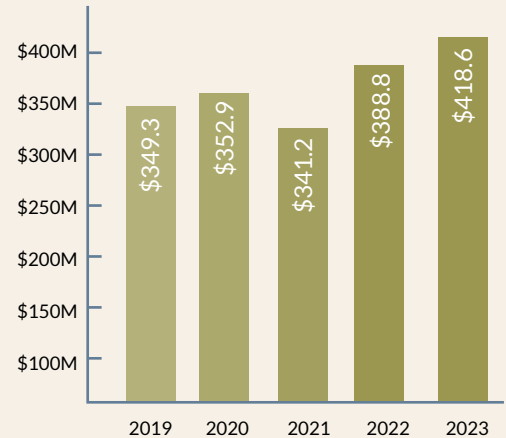
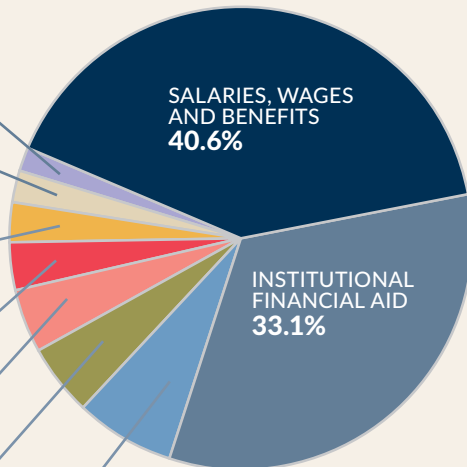
MATERIALS, SUPPLIES,
PRINTING & POSTAGE
2.8%

MEETINGS, TRAVEL
& MEMBERSHIPS
3.4%

OCCUPANCY, UTILITIES
& MAINTENANCE
4.5%

DEPRECIATION
& AMORTIZATION
4.8%

PROFESSIONAL FEES &
CONTRACTED SERVICES
7.1%



For our complete honor rolls – including the Spires Society, 50 or More Years of Giving, Leadership Circle and Heritage Society – visit gonzaga.edu/HonorRolls

Abundant Support

A Community of Giving

The generosity of the Gonzaga community of alumni, families, friends, faculty and staff during the 2022-2023 academic and fiscal year demonstrated remarkable commitment to the future of Jesuit education. The University is truly grateful for the overall effects empowered by these gifts of time, talent and financial donations. Since nine out of 10 undergraduates rely on scholarships and grants to make their Jesuit education possible, Gonzaga students are especially thankful for this support.

In total, Gonzaga received **\$51,124,259** in 2022-2023 including both gifts and pledges (as well as expectancies, which are commitments of future estate gifts).

- Of the gifts received, \$2,592,752 supported the University's mission-critical unrestricted funds, which provide necessary financial aid for students and academic resources.
- That total came through more than 21,000 individual gifts throughout the year.
- 23 gifts established new endowed funds (13 of which are scholarships).
- More than \$3,530,470 came from estate gifts as dedicated members of the Gonzaga family provide a legacy of support for the University and its students.

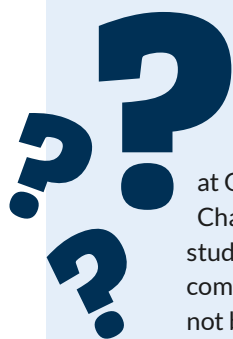
- On Zags Give Day – Gonzaga's one-day fundraising blitz held each spring – more than 2,170 people made gifts totaling \$1,106,355. That total includes donations that were doubled dollar-for-dollar by several generous Zag families and matching challenges from Gonzaga champions whose donations helped inspire even more support for students from others.
- Gifts helped animate academic excellence across campus as more than \$555,950 supported the College/School Dean's Excellence Funds, which allow each area's leadership with flexible funding to respond quickly to the needs of students and faculty in their disciplines.
- Gonzaga Athletics also received \$10,898,520 in annual fund and programmatic enhancement support from donors to ensure student athletes' success in the classroom, in competition, and in the community.

The University is honored to be the beneficiaries of this community's dedication to Jesuit, Catholic and humanistic education as we work together to ensure the next generation of leaders are prepared to serve communities and professions around the world.



"I love how Gonzaga has included classes about sociology and ethics in my nursing degree. I am fascinated by how health care reaches different populations and the injustices in health care motivate me to provide the best quality of care for everyone I take care of in the future. Thank you for your help. You have made it possible for me to go to college. I am very proud to be a nurse one day and to be the first person in my family to graduate!"

– Grace Hamburg ('23), Nursing



Who's this Zag?

This gentleman served his country for 21 years, and upon retirement from active duty, spent the next 23 here at Gonzaga – coaching the highly decorated ROTC Ranger Challenge teams, teaching military science, recruiting new students and providing support to 427 of them who were commissioned second lieutenants in the U.S. Army. There may not be anyone who has stayed more connected with former students than this retired lieutenant colonel. A West Point graduate, he retires from the University later this year. Who is this beloved Zag?

» **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.



Our Mystery Zag from Fall 2023 is . . . Sister Joy Milos, CSJ

Professor, Religious Studies, 1987-2018



Sister Milos dresses to a T and her bubbly enthusiasm for students and colleagues is well-known and appreciated. Her spirituality was based on that of the Society of Jesus.

She is professor emerita of Religious Studies, where she taught a wide range of courses during her 31 years at Gonzaga. Colleagues lauded Milos for creating courses that transformed student lives. She especially loved sharing stories of women and their faith journeys. She directed retreats and workshops, taught abroad and helped create “Spirituality and the Arts of England.” Sr. Milos helped design and then directed a two-year training program for spiritual directors called “Hearing God’s Voice.” She was committed to an integration of spirituality and social justice in responding to our mission and took numerous groups of Gonzaga students on Habitat for Humanity Global Village experiences.

Readers Respond

I’m not a Gonzaga graduate but I do know Sister Joy Milos. We served on the Transitions for Women board of directors for a number of years. I remember her deep commitment to the marginalized people of Spokane, especially women and children. She’s an amazing woman.

Sister Pat Millen, OSF, Spokane

I would recognize Sr. Joy’s smile anywhere! Her laughter was infectious. During my years as program director of Transitions’ Women’s Hearth, I had the pleasure of getting to see Sr. Joy Milos in action as a dedicated volunteer who would breeze in and cook up a storm. She could make a casserole out of almost anything we happened to have in our pantry and would purchase any missing ingredients. She always had to get back to campus before the food was ready and didn’t get to witness how much the women at the Hearth loved her cooking. She was also especially welcoming to women who wanted to help her in the kitchen. Her cooking knowledge, patience and joyful attitude gave many women over the years the great gift of feeling seen and useful. They developed such pride in being able to help her provide a lovingly prepared hot meal. I feel very fortunate to know Sr. Joy and to have had the chance to witness one of the many ways she helps our community.

Susan Tyler-Babkirk (’16 M.A.), Spokane

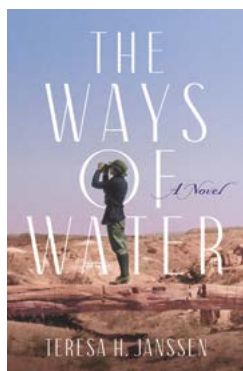
I was in the inaugural (I believe) London study abroad program that Sr. Joy Milos started in the summer of 2009. I remember her being an absolute source of delight to learn from and travel with. She had the right amount of passion and enthusiasm for the material, and her attitude was infectious while abroad. I have great memories of her, the late Terry Gieber, and the students on that London trip sharing many laughs (and a couple of pints, too!) in English pubs after class and excursions.

Taylor Viydo (’11), Spokane

I have known Professor Joy Milos since 1996 when we were members of the Spokane Habitat for Humanity board of directors. She was committed to the mission of Habitat to build decent affordable housing for God’s people in need. In 2000, Sister Joy and I traveled with several others to Peru where we built concrete block houses at 7,000 ft. elevation in Arequipa. The days were hot and the nights frigid, but Sister Joy never complained and shared a consciousness of JOY and GREAT SPIRIT with all of us and the local people for whom we were working together to make this mission possible. I admire her greatly.

Christi Smith (audit student), Spokane

IN PRINT



'81 **Teresa Janssen** released a novel, "The Ways of Water." This historical fiction piece tells of a young woman's coming-of-age in the American Southwest in the early 20th Century.

'82 **M.H.R. retired Col. Gene Cunneely**, an Air Force fighter pilot for 26 years including action during the Korean War, has written "My Story: A Memoir." It details his life as a pilot and commander, with stories about his military family. Cunneely served Gonzaga as director of annual giving for 17 years following his military service.

'84 **Tim Howard** published "The Mirror: 7 Steps to Reflect the Life You Want," a book about self-discovery and forging one's desired path.

'08 **Ph.D. Philip Mathew** has published a book on servant leadership, "Finding Leo," with forewords by GU's Shann Ferch and Larry Spears.

'10 **Katie Herritage** authored "Charting Your Path to a Brighter Future," aimed at those seeking to enter the professional world or to transform their career path. She also released a second edition of "Special Events for Less," which includes low-budget event planning tips.

CAREER UPDATES & ACCOLADES

'96 **Brian Loos** was selected to the board of directors of iQ Credit Union, hired as the Public Works director for the City of Long Beach, Wash., and elected president of the Executive Committee for the Washington Cities Insurance Authority.

'97, '00 **John Cooney** was appointed to the Washington State Court of Appeals, Division III by Gov. Jay Inslee. Prior to his appointment, he served six years as a judge with Spokane County District Court and more than a decade with the Spokane County Superior Court.

'00 **Gaetano Testini** is director of the Industrial Commission of Arizona by the governor of Arizona.



'00 **J.D. Joey (Orduna) Hastings** is CEO of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges due

to her expertise in family law and work done with Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval, Washoe County and the Family Justice Advisory Committee.



'21 **Ph.D. Eileen Griffin**



'09 **Becky (Tomcho) Gupta** is the Development & Marketing director at the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center in Spokane.

'12 **Johnathon Ahler** joined the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) as a research staff member in the System Evaluation Division of IDA's Systems and Analyses Center.

'17 **Cameron Healy** joined the Institute for Defense Analyses as a summer associate in 2023 and is currently pursuing his doctoral degree in economics at Georgetown University.

'18 **M.A. Michael Glasheen** is director of the Terrorist Screening Center by Attorney General Merrick Garland.

'19 **Crystal Petry** created Crystal Petry Consulting, a company that specializes in training, coaching and consulting. The company strives to help clients succeed as well as focus on social responsibility and corporate impact.

'21 **Ph.D. Eileen Griffin** and husband Jonathan Ray created an aviation business named Rest on High that offers people the opportunity to scatter their loved one's burial ashes from an airplane.

» Share your news!
gonzaga.edu/alumninews.

Expanding Accessibility

Alum turned a personal challenge into a passion for helping others

BY SYDNEY FLUKER ('24)

Remember the popular fundraiser – the ice bucket challenge – that raised over \$220 million in 2014 for ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease?

A mere six months after that viral activity, Theresa Whitlock ('19 M.A.) sat next to her boyfriend of a few months, Matt Wild, as a doctor delivered a shocking diagnosis. Matt, a 41-year-old Marine veteran, had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord.

The next couple of months went by in a blur: The couple married, Theresa remodeled her house in Coeur d’Alene so Matt could move in with her and her three kids, and she earned her bachelor’s degree in communications from Lewis-Clark State College. Seven months after the diagnosis, Matt was fully wheelchair bound and Theresa became a full-time caretaker.

Despite the life-altering challenges they were navigating in their own lives, the couple had another goal: to build smarthomes for people with ALS and their families.

Medical research is extending the lives of ALS patients with medications, but, Whitlock-Wild says: “We should be pushing to increase quality of life, whatever that looks like, for that family. If we’re going to have patients live longer, then they’re going to need the resources for the whole family to have a high-quality life.”

Calling on the help of those around her, and selling \$1 bracelets at coffee shops, Whitlock-Wild gradually built what would become Matt’s Place Foundation, an organization that has provided more than \$3 million in financial assistance for those affected by ALS.

Matt’s Place Foundation also builds fully automated smarthomes to give people with ALS the independence to live alone. These 3-bed, 2.5-bath smarthomes are free for individuals or families, with hopes that removing the cost-of-living barrier will help the families be able to pay for other expenses, like caretakers, medical bills or vacations.

These homes use technology to ensure tenants with ALS can control their environment with whatever means they have, including a smart hub, voice assistant, and a variety of switches and environmental controls such as blinds, thermostat, lights, doors, security cameras, gates, televisions, tablets and PCs. No matter how the disease affects people, they can utilize technology to maintain independence, communicate, and hopefully adapt to the challenges until a cure is discovered.

Following her graduation from GU’s School of Leadership Studies, Whitlock-Wild joined the board for the Steve Gleason Institute for Neuroscience and began working



parttime reconstructing its Adaptive Technology Center at WSU’s Spokane medical campus. The goal is to serve the people and families adjusting to an ALS diagnosis by showing them the options

available as the disease progresses, including motorized wheelchairs, voice cloning and eye-gaze technology.

“My focus was always merely on what I could do for the patient, without looking at the larger situation of the burden that’s occurring on the individual or the family, or the choices they need to make,” says Ken Isaacs, director of the Gleason Institute for Neuroscience. “Theresa has been very insightful in the impact such a diagnosis has on the caregiver and the whole family.”

Recently, the foundation has begun making YouTube videos for families who need to make their homes more accessible. Using what she’s learned from her personal experiences, Whitlock-Wild’s videos include information on making renovations and working with contractors who aren’t as knowledgeable about what it means for a space to be fully accessible or the true needs of a person with ALS and their caregiver.

Since its formation in 2015, Matt’s Place Foundation has run on donations and volunteer efforts. Whitlock-Wild hopes to receive grant funding to hire two full-time employees to grow the nonprofit’s reach. Donations are welcomed and appreciated for funding the foundation’s mission at mattsplacefoundation.org.

Transforming Grief *into* Purpose

BY KATE VANSKIKE ('22 M.A.)

On a full-ride scholarship for Division I golf, Genavive Edman ('13) earned a degree in business administration with a focus on law and public policy and entrepreneurship. A minor in philosophy and experience with the Socratic Method drew her deeper into the realm of faith and reason, which she supplemented with experiences in various Christian and Catholic student groups.

Her love for all of those things came to fruition through involvement in Catholic/Christian communities in Idaho's Kootenai County, as well as "a university-style hybrid co-op that serves approximately 90 children with part-time, affordable, integrated education in support of family life."

But her deepest passion arose from the depths of grief after she gave birth to a son, Clark, whom she knew had a condition medical professionals called "incompatible with life." In a story by Edman chronicling her journey, she writes, "I was wheeled down the hallway of the postpartum wing, empty-handed and broken-hearted," unaware that the words of St. Therese of Lisieux would ring true for her one day: "Love can accomplish all things. Things that are most impossible become easy where love is at work."

"The loss of a child at any stage of life is no easy suffering," Edman wrote. "In fact, I would argue that if anything could break one's heart to the point of death it would be to experience life without your children; to continue to live while a most important part of your heart is buried in the ground."

Edman and her husband came to understand what psychologists call post-traumatic growth – the positive change that some can have after a life crisis. For them, that came in the form of bringing hope to the hopeless, bridging Clark's hopeless diagnosis with the lack of hope many people have in the next generation – a generation for whom suicide is the second-leading cause of death.

"As a mother with a heart pierced for our young people and a desire for their ultimate joy, I simply could no longer sit by and watch their demise," Edman wrote.



In 2022, she founded and became president of Coeur du Christ Academy, a mission she believes is all about nurturing high schoolers through "counteracting the cultural and educational norms which seem to be trending toward ever-growing depression, self-harm, suicide and crime rates."

This role garnered Edman recognition by the Kootenai County Young Professionals as a Top 30 under 40 in 2022.

Eight years after Clark's passing, the Edmans are raising five children, in addition to loving the teachers and youth of the classical academy.

"One thing is certain," says Edman. "We know that if we place our trust in Christ and rely on His love, 'impossible' no longer needs to be a part of our vocabulary."



“I Do!”

'17, '22 M.A. Alexa Salvador and '17 Ryan Gaske married in Ryan's hometown of Brisbane, Australia, with 12 other Zags who traveled across the ocean to attend. Alexa is the assistant director of Admission at Gonzaga and Ryan is a professional golf coach and center manager for GolfTec.

Best wishes to all!

'91 **Beth Herrell** married JB Hall surrounded by fellow Zags. She is the founder of Union Bay Communications and JB is the director of operations at Lease Crutcher Lewis.

'05 **Nicholas Puglisi** married Kristen Nemejc in Chandler, Arizona, with friends and family. Nick is a market development representative for the Sazerac Company.

'07 **Joseph Vargo** exchanged vows with Rachael Frantz at the Montecito Club in Santa Barbara, Calif. Joseph is an attorney at NGL Energy Partners.

'09 **Forrest Smith** married Catherine Reynolds – with just 72 hours' notice to be married at the bride's father's hospice facility in Alberta. Her father was able to see his eldest daughter marry before passing.

'13, '19 **M.B.A. Fernanda Maria Valencia** and Daniel Shannon married at the Church and Covenant of San Ignacio de Loyola de la Compañía de Jesús de Quito in Quito, Ecuador, following marriage counseling on campus at St. Al's.

'13 **Tiffany Arnold** and Ryan Fisher married in Elizabeth, Colorado. Tiffany is a system architect at Fast Enterprises and Ryan is a project manager for Shaw Construction.

'15 **Alexandra Tallas** and Andrew Cole married at Spokane's Kalispel Golf and Country Club. Alexandra is a former GU tennis player and now teaches first grade.

'16 **Matthew Winterle** married Julia Murphy at St. Andrew the Apostle Church and celebrated with a reception at Springfield Country Club near Philadelphia.

'16 **Kimberly Pavela** and '16 **Alessandro Bermudez** had their first date at Clinkerdagger during their freshman year at Gonzaga which is where they found themselves celebrating their engagement during alumni weekend in 2021. Seventeen other Zags celebrated as the couple married in Novato, Calif., close to where the couple grew up and currently reside.

'17, '20 **Christian Astran** married Christine Westhoff in a sacramental wedding at Loyola High School of Los Angeles and a destination wedding 10 days later on an Alaskan cruise. Both ceremonies were officiated by Billy Biegler, S.J. Christian is campus minister at Loyola High and Christine is vice-principal at St. Bede The Venerable School.

'17 **Grace Johnson** and '18 **Jorge da Silva** married in San Diego. Grace is a special events manager for Make-A-Wish San Diego and Jorge is a financial analyst for San Diego Gas & Electric.

'17, '20 **J.D. Holli Higgins** and '20 **J.D. Brad Lyman** met during their first year at Gonzaga Law and married in August at Ballyvolane House in County Cork, Ireland. Both are attorneys and are happy to call Spokane home.

'18 **Lindsey Johnstone** and '13 **Joshua Dube** married in Wyoming and both work at Sheridan (Wyo.) High School. Lindsey is an art teacher and Joshua is a social studies teacher and head girls' soccer coach.

'19, '22 **Kimberly May** and '18 **Sander Susee** met while involved in the Gonzaga Student Body Association and married at Alderbrook Resort and Spa in Union, Wash.



'20, '21 **M.A. Erin Johnson** and '20 **Cole de Silva** married in Hawaii. Erin is a social media specialist at GU and Cole is a software engineer.

'19 **Danielle Spellacy** and '19 **Keegan Banks** married in Santorini, Greece. Danielle is a resident physician at Providence Sacred Heart in Spokane and Keegan is a regional banking manager for Charles Schwab.

'20 **Alex Hagel** and '20 **Alex Korth** tied the knot in June in Liberty Lake, Wash. In true Zag fashion, the couple had a welcome party at Jack and Dan's and their late-night wedding snack was catered by Sed's Delicious Dogs.

'22, '23 **Taylor Takasugi** and Dylan Parrish tied the knot.

'16 **Monica Lyons** and '15 **Collin Walker** married with 18 other Zags celebrating with them. Monica is an occupational therapist and Collin is a computer engineer.

'13, '14 **Jacqie Evenson** and '16 **Lauren May** (shown below) were wed by Lauren's sister, '13 Brianna May, in Lake Chelan, Wash. Jacqie is a senior tax manager at Deloitte and Lauren is a lead mechanical engineer at McKinstry Co.



BLESSINGS & JOY

Congrats to the Zags adding to their families!

'10 **Clelia (Leopold) Tilford** and **Keith**: a daughter, **Elizabeth (Lily)**

'10 **Kelsey (Higley)** and '04 **Kevin O'Brien**: a son **Callum**

'11, '15 **Clara (Arcia)** and '16 **Joe Virden**: a son, **Javier (Javi) Judson**

'14 **Amanda (Silva)** and '14 **Shane**: a daughter, **Nora Clare**

'15 **Sasha (Olson)** and '15 **Nick Rhodes**: a son, **Hunter Alexander** who joins his big brother, **Oliver**

'16 **Olivia (Miess)** and '16 **Bryan Beaty**: a daughter, **Penelope Kathleen** who joins older brother **Dennis**

'17 **Bridget (Brady)** and '17 **Patrick O'Rourke**: a daughter, **Rosie**

'17 **Emma (Turgeon)** and '15 **Richard Young**: a daughter, **Layla Jean**



Twice the Fun

'22 **J.D. Aaron Winder** and **Jessica** are delighted by twin daughters **Navy Rose** and **Savannah Grace**. The Winder family resides in Las Vegas where Aaron is a personal injury attorney and Jessica is a human resources executive.

'17 **Kennedy (King)** and '17 **Nathan Foster**: a daughter, **Maggie Nora**

'17 **Samantha (Belleque)** and '17 **Trey Gianella**: a son, **Brody**

IN MEMORIAM

*"The Lord is near to the
brokenhearted and saves the crushed
in spirit."*

PSALM 34:18

'48 **Stanton Bennett**, Army Air Corps bomber commander during WWII and food lover. July 20 – Spokane

'51 **Albert Hacker**, life member of the Elks Club and avid Gonzaga basketball fan. July 1 – Spokane

'53, '54 **M.S. Ray Murphy**, Navy veteran, engineer, and accomplished GU alumni and faculty member. Enjoyed his faith, baking bread, taking writing classes and biking with his grandsons. July 13 – Edmonds, Wash.

'56 **Carl Petersen**, veteran and loving husband and father. July 31 – Troy, Mont.

'56 **Lawrence Connors**, engineer and traveler. July 25 – Irwin, Penn.

'56 **Lois Schulte**, beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Aug. 30 – Spokane Valley.

'56 **Paul Stroschein**, farmer, veteran and loved by his family. Aug. 5 – Boise, Idaho

'56 **Ronald Smith**, first-generation college student admired by his children, grandchildren and siblings. Sept. 7 – Spokane

'56 **William McCarthy**, Air Force veteran, doctor and lover of proper grammar. Aug. 19 – Milwaukie, Ore.

'58 **William Thornton**, veteran and former Pierce County Public Works Director. July 31

'59 **James Etter**, Zag and loved by family and friends. July 20 – Spokane

'60 **Joan Gagliardi**, active Gonzaga donor, first female president of GU Alumni Association. Forever Zag. June 22 – Spokane

'60 **Lina Brunner**, loved by her children, eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Aug. 19 – Spokane

'62 **Howard Herman**, lawyer and beloved human being. June 20 – Spokane Valley

'62 **Ron Caferro**, beloved family man who enjoyed cooking meals for family, friends and Gonzaga's basketball and baseball teams. Aug. 31 – Spokane

'63 **Anne Hendricks**, voracious reader with quick wit and collector of Nativity sets from around the world. Aug. 19 – Edmonds, Wash.

'63 **Phillip Herres**, veteran, engineer and GU basketball fan. July 7 – Portland, Ore.

'64 **Howard Platter**, Vietnam War Navy physician and lover of boating and fishing. Aug. 10 – Spokane

'64 **Jackson Mathews**, distinguished Air Force officer and passionate teacher. July 3 – Spokane Valley

'64 **Neil John O'Keefe**, adored father and grandfather. Sept. 4 – Spokane

'64 **Robert Scott**, pathology associate and GU basketball fan. Dec. 26

'65 **Rosellen Ring-Easton**, beloved wife, loving mother and dear sister. Sept. 14 – Amherst, NY

'66 **Dale McClare**, former priest, teacher and coach. Aug. 17 – Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

'66 **Thomas Harney**, FBI supervisory special agent and law review editor. May 30 – Great Falls, Mont.

'66 **Vance Mape III**, pioneer of industrial real estate and proud family man. Aug. 25 – Newport Beach, Calif.

'69 **Albert Hayek**, committed, compassionate and cherished husband, father and grandfather. Aug. 15 – Dublin, Ohio

'72 **Leslie Goff**, loved mother, grandmother and friend. Aug. 27 – Mount Vernon, Wash.

'73 **Rev. David Clark**, dedicated priest, scholar and archaeologist. April 21 – Cathedral City, Calif.

'73 **Richard Engel**, founder of Engel & Associates, GU alumni association board member and proud family man. Aug. 30 – Spokane

'73 **J.D. Ronald Wheatley**, accomplished communicator, veteran and writer. Sept. 2 – Scituate, Mass.

'78 **Mary Weigel**, compassionate nurse and person. Aug. 6 – Rochester, Minn.

'79 **Austin Raham**, dedicated teacher and loved by family. Aug. 6 – Kelowna, B.C.

'79 **Axel Benzon**, high school science teacher and Okanagan Valley farmer. Aug. 4 – Victoria, B.C.

'79 **M.Ed. Patricia Hanlon**, a loving and caring person who shared her love with her family and those around her. Sept. 1 – Kelowna, B.C.

'82 **M.A. Sanda Mackay**, the epitome of a big person in a small package. Sept. 23 – Calgary, Alberta

'83 **Larenas Ruth**, a forever Zag. May 10 – Dover, N.H.

'84 **Gail Reid-Gurian**, journalist and devoted therapist with a sweet sense of humor. Aug. 16 – Spokane

'85 **Laurel Erdoiza**, copywriter and passionate choreographer. July 7 – Fargo, N.D.

'86 **Ph.D. Larry Wise**, veteran and loved by his wife and family. Aug. 22 – Sunnyside, Wash.

'87 **Brian Collins**, judge and lover of nature and animals. July 13 – Lake Andes, S.D.

'87 **John Hurley**, a pillar of strength, intellect and love. Aug. 27 – Twin Falls, Idaho

'90 **Carol Kerley**, painter, sketcher and a loved mother. June 22 – Spokane

'91 **Patricia Morgan**, nurse, lawyer and traveler. Spokane

'92 **Anita Tschirgi**, huge fan of the Zags and her three sons, grandchildren and great-grandchild. Aug. 9 – Spokane

'93 **Ken Schiele**, engineer, loving husband and proud father. June 30 – Seattle

'93 **M.A. Joy Jackson**, artist, champion of children's education/well-being and loved by those around her. Aug. 10 – Calgary, Alberta

'95 **Amanda Nelson**, engineer, athlete and traveler. June 3 – Portland, Ore.

'99 **Jose Garcia III**, loved by his large and extensive family. Aug. 11 – Tacoma, Wash.

'00 **Margret Albo**, a mother, traveler and forever Zag. Aug. 2 – Spokane

'01 **Adam Burkemper**, lawyer and loved by family. June 20 – St. Louis

'01 **David Carty**, Navy veteran, traveler and golf lover. July 8 – Coeur d' Alene, Idaho

'03 **Robert Scott**, veteran, investor and career services officer at Gonzaga School of Law. June 17 – Spokane

'05 **J.D. Ryan McNeice**, loved father and Zag. April 20 – Spokane

'07 **M.A. Mary-Ann Gaschnitz**, steadfast principal, passionate golfer and remarkable friend. Sept. 3 – Nelson, B.C.

'08 **J.D. Ashley Walker**, lawyer, beloved teacher and community leader. July 6 – Island City, Ore.

'09 **Casey Wood**, veteran, reader and golf lover. June 30 – Alberta

'12 **M.A. Robert Colby**, born protector, lover of flying and happiest when with his family. Sept. 23 – Fort Worth, Texas

'17 **Rebecca Bentley-Mila**, loved mother, daughter and sister. Aug. 18 – Provo, Utah

FACULTY & STAFF

David James, former engineering physics adjunct faculty member and assistant in the development of a transmission and distribution course of study in a graduate certificate program at Gonzaga. July 25- Spokane

Marilyn Nelson, Vice President of Student Life Sue Weitz's right-hand administrative assistant and well-loved by students. Sept. 13 – Spokane



'11 **Shane Barnes**, distinguished ROTC graduate Army Chief Warrant Officer 2, and four other service members died in a helicopter crash over the Mediterranean Sea on Friday, Nov. 10, while conducting a routine air refueling mission.

Staying Busy: A Coping Mechanism

BY JOE MCDERMOTT ('89)

The following is adapted from a presentation Joe gave at the launch of the Gonzaga Lavender Alumni Community on National Coming Out Day.

At various times during and after high school I certainly wondered if I might be gay. I had a clue, but never considered the possibility for long, not wanting to deal with it.

My own stereotype of what being gay was, and my perceptions of society's impression of gays and lesbians, certainly deterred me from actively questioning my orientation. It was the 1980s: the AIDS epidemic was raging. I was active in the Roman Catholic Church. And I didn't really know any fellow students who were out.

When my parents dropped me off at Gonzaga University in Fall 1985, they made a point of introducing me to Father Frank Costello, who had become friends with my parents when they were dating and was on the altar when they married. Twenty-eight years later, Fr. Costello would have a small part of my own wedding day ... but I'm getting ahead of myself.

I immersed myself in campus life – I stayed busy. I double-majored in history and political science. I was active in campus ministry and retreats. I was elected to the student Senate. I founded a Young Democrats chapter on campus. In 1986, I interned in the Spokane office of a member of Congress, Speaker of the House Tom Foley and later volunteered on his re-election campaign.

After graduation, I continued to stay busy. I laid the groundwork for my career in public service, volunteering in

the community and getting involved in political organizations. I became active in the Young Democrats of Washington, eventually serving as the state's National Committeeman to the Young Democrats of America.

Through quarterly National Committee meetings, I met a man who was very much out and we became fast friends. He came to visit me in Seattle in 1992, and on National Coming Out Day, we joined the march and rally. When I ran into someone with whom I'd served on the Senate at GU, I made sure he knew I was there supporting a friend.

I continued to stay busy, working on a master's in public administration while working fulltime. I graduated in spring 1997 and soon turned 30. That fall I finally came out.

I dealt with my own stereotypes of what being gay was and came to realize that being gay was just one aspect of who I am. I remained the same person, though with a new and significant revelation about myself. And to be clear, I was fortunate to have the unconditional love of my family.

It's pretty clear to me that I kept myself so busy through my 20s as a way to avoid dealing with my orientation.

Eventually, I met Michael Culpepper, my husband. He has had my back and encouraged me in everything I have done – including running for the state House of Representatives in 2000 – where my election marked the first time there were two openly gay members serving in the Washington Legislature at the same time.

In the Legislature, I joined the efforts to add sexual orientation to our state's anti-discrimination statutes, which was finally signed into law in 2006 after 29 storied years of effort. I was appointed and later elected to the State Senate about the time we began working on domestic partnerships that led to marriage equality in 2012. In 2010, after a decade in the Legislature, I ran for an open seat on the King County Council, where I was the first openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer council member.

In 2013, Michael and I exchanged vows in our church surrounded by family and friends. Though Fr. Costello wasn't able to attend, he left a voicemail on our home phone during the time of our wedding, letting us know he was thinking of and praying for us at that moment and wished us well.

Once we received our wedding photos, I spent a Saturday morning sending wedding announcements to my Catholic high school (Blanchet), Gonzaga and the University of



Joe McDermott ('89) pictured

Washington. I honestly didn't expect Blanchet or Gonzaga to publish them, but it was important to me to send them.

In the spring 2021 issue of Gonzaga Magazine, I read a letter to the editor asserting Gonzaga was anti-LGBT. The editor responded suggesting the writer was mistaken and that Gonzaga was "inclusive and nondiscriminatory." I struggled with my reaction to the exchange in the magazine.

I ultimately decided to take the response at face value and resubmitted my wedding announcement, eight years later. I was elated to have it printed in the next issue – and it warms my heart to see same-sex couples sharing the joy of their weddings with fellow alumni in nearly every issue since.

Joining alumni and staff for National Coming Out Day at Gonzaga feels like coming full circle. Being here and speaking

as an out, gay alum, at an official event at GU's Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center wouldn't have happened 34 years ago. (Thank you, Joe Lincoln, for your leadership in making this a reality.)

I'm especially pleased that President McCulloh was present and vocal at the launch of this alumni group: It is a clear statement that he and the University value our community and the work of the Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center. And I am profoundly moved that Gonzaga has such a place to support the queer community here. That might have empowered me in immeasurable ways in the late 1980s. Maybe I wouldn't have had to stay busy as a means of avoiding coming out.

I am a proud Zag and Lavender Alum.



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