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GONZAGA FACULTY AND STAFF NEWSLETTER

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COLLABORATING FOR A BETTER WORLD

One of Dean **Steve Silliman**'s former students spent multiple weeks in Benin, West Africa, over several summers while working on Silliman's water project. These residents did not generally use latrines and gastrointestinal disease was endemic. During student Pam's stay in village, the locals began paying attention to her habits. She always used the outhouse and always washed her hands. Several years later, another of Silliman's protégés went to the same village, and through research and surveys, found that gastrointestinal disease had been virtually eliminated.

"The locals had learned from observing Pam, and began encouraging their children to use the outhouse and wash their hands," Silliman says. "This was not the intended outcome of our work there, but it proved to be a lovely collaboration between our field group and the villagers that helped them stop the disease for themselves."

"You hear so much about the people in third-world countries who can't do anything for themselves," Silliman says. "But the reality is just the opposite. Over my years working in Benin, I have grown to love the ingenuity of these people as they come up with solutions under very tough conditions. I learn more from them every trip than they probably learn from me."

It is this kind of collaborative effort between Silliman, his students, Benin students and Benin colleagues that undoubtedly was instrumental in Silliman's appointment as a Jefferson Science Fellow with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

This prestigious year-long appointment begins in mid-August. Silliman joins the Global Development Lab at USAID, which will be exploring technologies focused on helping individual communities throughout the world as they explore new development initiatives. "Bottom line is not only identifying new technology, but more importantly, new strategies to apply the technology to help the world's poor," Silliman says. The Fellowship is run through the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, which is a group of private, nonprofit institutions that provide expert advice on some of the most pressing challenges facing the nation and the world.



Silliman's work philosophy in Benin revolves around collaboration with his own students, colleagues from the national university, the national water agency and local villagers. Shown here (second from left), Silliman very much enjoys working within the village setting where he can work with, and learn from, the local Beninese people.

Where it All Began

In the early 1990's, Silliman led a number of service-learning trips to Haiti. These trips focused on student-learning through students helping locals learn to repair hand-operated water pumps. Later, Silliman attended an international development conference that addressed projects in Africa.

His wife Julie and he talked about possibilities, and came to the conclusion that they simply did not feel called to work in Africa. "Then, about a month later, God stepped in and cleared a path for me to go to Benin, West Africa." For nearly two decades he has collaborated with Benin colleagues and students who have become friends, along with his own students and financial supporters, to help villagers achieve the improved living conditions, particularly through clean water and waste disposal.

His Return

Silliman, who has served Gonzaga as dean for six years, is not leaving for good. While he is giving up his deanship, he plans to return to Gonzaga in fall 2019 to begin work with

Joe Kinsella, assistant vice president for global engagement, in creating a center for international development. "My dream is to use the contacts and knowledge gained over the coming year to help Gonzaga to develop a new center, marry select universities in Africa and Central America, to ultimately aid the world's poor," Silliman says. "Collaboration is the critical underpinning of my vision for the new center."

"Dean Silliman has led the School of Engineering and Applied Science through a period of great transition with steadfast vision for the future and belief in the power of a well-rounded, Jesuit education," says Interim AVP **Elisabeth Mermann-Jozwiak**. "In the words of one of his Advisory Council members, Joe Lincoln, his impact has been enormous."

During Silliman's tenure as dean, the number and quality of engineering students have risen, 11 new tenure-stream faculty who bring new energy and expertise have been hired, and plans have come together for a new Integrated Science and Engineering facility, "thanks to the collaboration of our faculty, staff and students across disciplines," Silliman says.

AROUND CAMPUS

- >>GU's baseball field will be renamed for longtime coach and athletic administrator **Steve Hertz** in a pregame ceremony prior to the start of the May 11, 6 p.m. game versus New Mexico State. Hertz retires July 31. He is the winningest coach in GU history.
- >>Providence Health Care Community Benefit program provided \$50,000 to support the Law School's Health & Justice Clinic, an initiative of the Legal Assistance program. The Clinic works with vulnerable individuals and families.
- >>Fr. **Bernard J. Coughlin, S.J.**, for 42 years the president, then chancellor of Gonzaga, was inducted in the Spokane Citizens Hall of Fame May 1. He served as the only Jesuit president of a region's chamber of commerce in 1988-89 and was co-founder of the Community Congress on Race Relations.
- >>Commencement schedule, speakers and honorees: Law Ceremony, May 12, 9 a.m., McCarthy, speaker **Catherine Cortez Masto** ('91 J.D.), first Latina U.S. Senator, Law Medal to U.S. District Court Judge and former faculty member **Rosanna Peterson**; Graduate Ceremony, May 12, noon, McCarthy, speaker/DeSmet Medal recipient Fr. **Leo O'Donovan, S.J.**, director of mission for Jesuit Relief Services, the first 10 students in the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice will receive diplomas; Undergraduate Ceremony, May 13, 9:30 a.m., Spokane Arena, speaker and Honorary Doctor of Laws recipient **Andrew Dwonch** ('99), Mercy Corps mission director. Commencement Mass, May 12, 3:30 p.m., McCarthy, Fr. **Brad Reynolds, S.J.**, homilist.
- >>Seven Law students will spend two weeks in June at The Hague, Netherlands, conducting evidence and document review for prosecutors in pending cases at the International Criminal Court. GU is the first law school in the U.S. invited to participate in this ICC fellowship.
- >>GU has a new Visual Literacy minor, co-directed by Integrated Media and Art departments. Students will experiment in emerging applications that represent the mash-up of media, design and art at the leading edges of the creative fields. In addition to photojournalism and photo art courses, the curriculum for the new minor will include design, documentary film and digital video art and visual literacy courses.

FACULTY, STAFF LEADERS OUTLINE PLANS

Tom McKenzie Faculty Assembly President

Incoming Faculty Assembly President **Tom McKenzie** has been sitting in on Faculty Senate meetings since January, and has a pretty good lay of the land. But he comes into his post with open ears. He has been meeting with past faculty presidents, student life staff, chairs of various departments and senators to find out their concerns. "We'll find out which ones rise to the top and work on those first," says McKenzie, Mathematics professor.

"I'm not coming in with a strong agenda, but with a promise to listen to faculty and then work on their concerns. I feel blessed to be here. I remember my first walk from my office in Herak to my class in Schoenberg in 2002, looking up at



Tom McKenzie



Jim Simon

the majestic church on the South Hill and thinking, 'I am the luckiest guy on earth.' I still feel that way."

The Faculty Handbook revision remains a top priority in the next academic year.

Jim Simon Staff Assembly President

New Staff Assembly President **Jim Simon**, director of Sustainability, can picture himself in Professor Keating's

shoes, standing on his desk in "Dead Poet's Society," declaring, "Just when you think you know something, you have to look at it in another way."

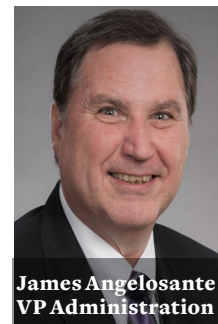
That's how he views his new role. "Staff Assembly's greatest impact on staff is creating a sense of community. I plan on listening and observing, and perhaps looking at things in new ways. We've done a good job implementing the Kudos program, organizing the Parental Leave Task Force, and expanding our Professional Development Program. We'll continue to strengthen how we communicate with and inform staff of current projects and announcements – consider things like a newsletter, social media and other ways to make sure we are reaching all staff."

Simon and his new Staff Assembly Executive Council take office June 1.

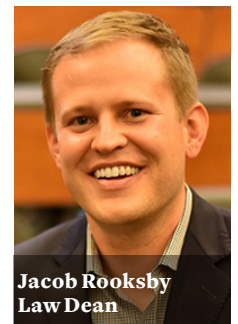
VP, Dean Bring New Perspectives

Gonzaga's new administrators bring knowledge from both sides of the country. Vice President for Administration **James Angelosante** is executive director and chief financial officer for University of Washington's Facilities Services, comprised of 1,000 employees. He sees GU's mission as its strength, and looks forward to meeting as many faculty and staff as possible to gain better understanding of opportunities within all departments. He is a graduate of the

U.S. Military Academy with an M.B.A. from Syracuse. **Jacob Rooksby, J.D., Ph.D.**, succeeds **Jane Korn** as Law School dean, beginning June 1. He is associate dean of administration and associate professor of law at Duquesne School of Law in Pittsburgh, and a renowned expert in Intellectual Property Law. Rooksby brings a love for legal scholarship, administrative expertise and a



James Angelosante
VP Administration



Jacob Rooksby
Law Dean

passion for higher education to the job. Korn will remain on as a law professor.

Faculty Honored for Exemplary Work



Twenty-three GU faculty members were honored April 24 at the Academic Honors Convocation, including 11 designated as Emeritus (E) for long-term contributions: Front row (L to R): **Rob Donnelly**, Academic Citizenship; **Gail Nord** (E); **Monica Bartlett**, Community Engaged Learning; **Rose Mary Volbrecht** (E); **Sr. Joy Milos, CSJ** (E); **Kathy Nitta**, Teaching Excellence; **Melody Alsaker**, Professional Contribution; **Tim McLaughlin** (E).

Back row (L to R): **Chuck Salina** (E); **Dan Stewart**, Diversity Leadership; **Tim Olsen**, Collaborative Work; **Danielle Xu**, Collaborative Work; **Brian Cooney**, Open; **Katey Roden**, Open; **Matt Rindge**, Professional Contribution; **Sara Diaz**, Teaching Excellence; **Ted Nitz** (E); **Dan Bradley**, Teaching Excellence; **Eddy Birrer** (E); **Steve Balzarini** (E). *Not pictured:* **Kent Hickman** (E); **Scott Burnham** (E); **Mary McFarland** (E). **Bonni Dichone** delivered the keynote address.

NOTEWORTHY

New Hires

Stephanie Schut, director of IT Project Management Office; **Sherry Steinway**, associate director for organizational development, Human Resources; **Jeff Nelson**, information security officer, ITS; **Chris Combo**, assistant ticket manager, Athletics; **Jamie Cartwright**, custodian, Plant; **Ben Czapl**, HVAC technician, Plant

New Positions/Promotions

Rachelle Strawther, director, Leadership Training and Development, Leadership Studies; **Kristin Telin**, admission and advising specialist, Leadership Studies; **Sherri Lynch**, assistant director, Leadership Training and Development, Leadership Studies

Goodbyes

Kirk Wood-Gaines, assistant VP, Human Resources; **Heather Minnick**, registered dietician, Health Center; **Heather Bauer**, academic adviser/analyst, Graduate School of Business; **Carol Selcho**, admission operations specialist I, Admission; **Hannah Bachman**, assistant, Engineering Design and Entrepreneurship; **Crisco Moua**, custodian, Plant; **Kevin DeLaune**, web specialist, Education

Anniversaries

30 **Laura Hanlon**, budget and vendor manager, ITS

20 **Jason Gilman**, asset and application release admin, ITS

15 **Karen Franks-Harding**, manager, Career & Professional Development; **Rian Oliver**, associate director of athletics

10 **Jennifer Gellner**, director low income tax payer clinic, Law; **Lisa Meyer**, senior faculty assistant, Modern Languages; **John Sklut**, chief of staff to the president/interim VP for Policy, Planning & Administration; **Scott Wittel**, lead security officer, Security

5 **Lisa Blankinship**, admission specialist, Virtual Campus; **Bryn Boorman**, program coordinator, Law; **Matthew Davis**, enterprise application developer II, ITS; **Steffany Galbraith**, director of academic support services, Athletics

Cradle Call

Lacey Olson, receptionist, Health and Counseling Services, and husband David had a baby girl, Lorelei.

FOCUS ON... CUSTOMER SERVICE

Campus scheduler **Katie Burrow** remembers her early days almost 26 years ago when room scheduling was done on paper. Thank goodness times have changed. Today Burrow and her fellow project coordinator **Addison Cavanaugh** schedule more than 31,000 rooms for non-academic events annually, a number that grows as GU increases facilities. Technology has made scheduling much easier.

“When I started, the scheduling was done out of Campus Services. People didn’t understand exactly what that was. So it wasn’t unusual to get calls to fix toilets or sweep up messes,” Burrow recalls. “I started out in Schoenberg Center, moved to the house next to Hopkins House for honors, then to the basement of the Health Center, before we moved into Hemmington in 2015.”

She couldn’t be happier to be a part of GUEST, an acronym for Gonzaga University Event Service Team, coined by fellow staffer **Greg McGuire**. “I started out as a concierge, and after one semester, realized that was not my cup of tea. So now I’m back to scheduling because there’s enough work to keep us both busy. It’s been unbelievable working for GUEST, and my supervisor, **Suzie Mize**, is the best. As a staff, we divided into teams during the Winter Olympics, and each had to pick a country. We came up with fun facts about our country to share with the others. It was a great team-building exercise. **Chuck (Faulkinberry)**, GUEST director) is great with this stuff. We play Jeopardy at team meetings, go on scavenger hunts inside the building, have an annual bowling tournament, and an etiquette dinner. The six-course meal included an explanation by Chuck of eating etiquette. The meal was crazy good,” Burrow says.

Her workmates had heard Burrow talking about how much she enjoyed watching *Dancing with the Stars*. So on her 25th work anniversary, they laid a card on her desk with two tickets to the show. “Made me cry,” Burrow says. “I’m still amazed they’d do that for me.”



Katie Burrow always playing musical chairs.

Truth be told, Burrow is one of the most appreciated people on this campus. Listen to Engineering’s **Toni Boggan**: “We often have 10 or more rooms needed for presentations occurring simultaneously. Katie goes the extra mile to find space for everyone. We owe her many thanks and appreciate her as a Gonzaga team member that can be counted on!”

A big part of Burrow’s work is maintaining the back side of scheduling, updating the data base and making sure rooms and capacities are accurate. “Ultimately, I go out of my way to make sure people get what they need and want.”

SAVING ENERGY

In 2013, Gonzaga released its first Climate Action Plan (CAP) as a roadmap to becoming climate neutral by 2050. The CAP has led to many projects and initiatives, including a sustainable business minor and free STA bus passes for students and employees. CAP 2.0, revised by a working group over the past year, will be released this summer to give a clearer picture of costs, savings and benefits of our missioned goal to care for creation and reduce our carbon footprint, says **Jim Simon**, director of sustainability.

Here are some major campus improvements aimed at sustainability: Nearly all conventional lighting on campus has been replaced with low-energy LED

lighting; high-efficiency windows have replaced less-efficient ones in 13 residence halls, three apartment complexes, Music Hall and several university owned houses. High efficiency boilers were installed in six campus buildings, and the high-efficiency boiler in Martin Centre is enough to heat and cool the new Volkar Center. “As a result of these lighting and heating upgrades, we are using no more electricity, and, on average, 20-percent less natural gas now than we did in 2009, despite having built 500,000 square feet of new space,” says **Ken Sammons**, director of Plant and Construction Services.

Gonzaga is striking a partnership with Avista Utilities to garner up to 1.2 million kilowatts of electrical power per year through a Solar Select Program in Lind, Washington, which will bring Gonzaga’s electrical consumption to 100 percent from green sources, beginning in the near future.

HOUSING HUMANITIES

The former Jesuit House is taking on new boarders without collars, beginning mid-May. The Religious Studies (3rd floor) and English (2nd floor) departments are scheduled to move later this month into what we are now calling the Humanities building. The College of Arts and Sciences dean/administrative offices, the centers for Undergraduate Research and Public Humanities, and the Digital Humanities Initiative will move in July. Women’s and Gender Studies and the Honors administrative offices will also occupy the first floor.

The Science in Action! outreach program, Campus Kitchen and a flexible-learning and collaborative space used for a variety of teaching needs including digital humanities, also will occupy the first floor. Each floor has a conference room and open areas on the south side of the building.

BECAUSE OF YOU, THEY WILL Campaign Raises \$343 Million

Gonzaga Will: The Campaign for Our Future, the largest in University history, will conclude the end of May, surpassing the goal of \$250 million by more than \$90 million, reports **Joe Poss**, vice president for University Advancement. “The extraordinary generosity we have seen allows our institution to do more to stay competitive and thriving. We are obliged to look forward at both the opportunity and challenges of educating future students, bolstered by the incredible belief and investment so many have in Gonzaga. Because of you – faculty and staff – and the work you do every day, our students will go on to do amazing things,” Poss says.

The Campaign enabled GU to achieve the following milestones:

- Engage with 40,000 donors
- Establish 284 new scholarships for our students
- Create 6 new endowed chairs/professorships
- Open 5 facilities: John J. Hemmingson Center, Della Strada Jesuit Community, Volkar Center for Athletic Achievement, Stevens/Power Tennis and Golf Center, BARC
- ...And two more to come: Integrated Science and Engineering building, and Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

“Moving ahead, our focus will continue to be on growing the endowment to provide more scholarship support for our students, and complete fundraising on the ISE project,” Poss says. For more info, visit gonzagawill.com.

The Campaign for Our Future.

Gonzaga Will.

Besmer Named Arnold Professor

Philosophy’s Kirk Besmer is GU’s new Alphonse A. & Geraldine F. Arnold Distinguished Professor. His theme for the annual lecture series over the next three years is “Technology and the Human Condition.” Besmer is a staunch supporter of the liberal arts and humanities, and has been instrumental in bringing speakers to campus over the past several years. He succeeds History Professor Andy Goldman.



Kirk Besmer, recently promoted to Professor of Philosophy

First Post-Doc Fellows Reflect on Experience, Offer Counsel

When the University of Washington Diversity Post-Doctorate Fellowship began two years ago for **Noralis Rodriguez-Coss** and **Tony Abeyta**, neither they nor Gonzaga program organizers were sure how it would all work out – these scholars coming from a research university with enrollment exceeding 40,000 in a big city, to GU, undergraduate enrollment around 5,000 where teaching is the top faculty priority.



Noralis Rodriguez-Coss



Tony Abeyta

But as both complete their two-year appointments here, they reflect positively on their experience. And certainly Gonzaga program directors **Ann Ostendorf** and **Jessica Maucione** sing its praises.

“What I have found most valuable is to be part of a community that is committed to learn and become better,” Rodriguez-Coss says. “The GU community has challenged me to work hard in becoming a better instructor and scholar every day. I found great collaborative spaces, and being able to contribute to those spaces has made this one

of the best academic and professional experiences of my life.”

Abeyta concurs. “The biggest honor that I received here was having students confide in me, seek advice, and ultimately ask me for letters of recommendation as they progress toward graduate and medical school,” says Abeyta, a biology

instructor. “This experience provided me with valuable insight and opened my eyes to what a tenure-track faculty career would entail.”

One of the goals of this program, first imagined by former Gonzaga AVP Patricia Killen, was to receive feedback from the diversity post-doc fellows on how we as a university can do better to unify the GU community through differences.

“Great strides have been made to that end: The administration is taking great steps in advancing a minor in Ethnic Studies. The Center for Teaching and Advising is providing great tools for faculty

members. The Unity Multicultural Education Center and the Lincoln LGBTQ+ Center, among other programs, are doing an excellent job to support our students,” says Rodriguez-Coss. “Nevertheless, our students still lack exposure to a variety of perspectives and life experiences that can enrich the way they understand society and the world. The presence of faculty of color is fundamental to providing our students with such intellectual and multicultural enrichment. A wide representation of scholars from different backgrounds and racial diversity can help to advance institutional excellence and make our mission a stronger example of praxis.”

Rodriguez-Coss will continue teaching at GU in Women’s and Gender Studies and Abeyta will serve as STEM instructor for a student support team at UW. GU’s two first-year fellows Shruti Patel and Eunice Kim have accepted tenure-track positions at Salisbury University in Maryland and Furman University in Greenville, S.C., respectively.

“Though we’d love to have all of them around for the two years, the point of the post doc is for them to get enough experience so they find success on the job market. Thus far, this seems to be working well,” says Ostendorf.