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GONZAGA FACULTY AND STAFF NEWSLETTER

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A VISION OF & FOR WOLDSON

Laura Sims was planning her path to medical school when a girl from her dorm at Auburn convinced her to audition for a part in their school production of “The Good Woman of Szechuan.” It was that small role and a stint in the costume shop that made her decide to change her major to theater. Long story short, she is planning the dedication of Gonzaga’s new Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center April 11 as its first director.

“Miss Woldson felt strongly that everyone should be able to use this space,” Sims says. “So we’ll accommodate a number of academic events, we’ll be presenting acts from all over the nation, and we are developing a vision for how our greater Spokane community can use this space, too.

“We envision the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center at Gonzaga as the hub of the arts in the Pacific Northwest region,” she says.

The Building – Three Distinct Parts

This 58,000-square-foot facility will showcase Gonzaga’s many choruses, bands, orchestra, theater and dance programs, in addition to touring acts and community events.

It is built in three sections, Sims explains. Each section is angled to respond to specific campus planning and emotional connections.

The western most section of the building will house a collection of Miss Woldson’s artifacts, both actual and digital, and tell her life story through an interactive interpretive center. Digital Humanities Visiting Scholar **Katey Roden** and Associate Professor Veta Schlimgen, History, worked with students to create the content for the interactive displays. During most of Miss Woldson’s adult life she lived in a house on Sumner Boulevard, overlooking downtown. From her sitting room, she could see the bronze steeple of the Jundt Art Center and Museum. That sitting room as well as her home’s entry foyer, living room and dining room, will be recreated in this part of the building for visitors to see. Hence, this western facade faces her house to the southwest up on the ridge in south Spokane.

The center section will house the **Fr. Bernard J. Coughlin, S.J., Theater**, a magnificent 750-seat auditorium with what appears to be tubular tree trunks growing out of the angled walls and metal



Fr. Bernard J. Coughlin, S.J. Theater will showcase campus, community and traveling performers in this beautifully attired Woldson Performing Arts Center opening in April.

mesh panels overhead, creating a canopy over the seating area, all designed to enhance acoustics in this state-of-the-art, multipurpose environment. This section also houses sound, lighting and projection booths and a 5,900-square-foot lobby area. The center section faces the river to the south and the Spokane community.

A Recital Hall comprises the east section of the facility. The open space includes telescopic seating for 168 audience members, and a sprung floor for ease on dancers’ legs. This space is designed for rehearsals and small theater/music/dance performances. Mirrored doors to the north can be folded out for practice and turned around for performances. This section of the building faces more toward campus, inviting the GU community to be a part of the events staged here.

“This three-angle construction is reminiscent of rock formations found in the area, shaped by water as it cascades over the rocks,” Sims says.

More About Coughlin Theater

The canopy of wire mesh and metal that form a forest-like cover over the seating area will provide a more intimate space and excellent acoustics. “An actor or singer on stage can be heard as well at the back of the balcony as they can in the front row,” Sims explains. “The angled walls will reflect sound, as well.”

There will be seating on two levels, including 586 seats in the orchestra section including lower boxes, and 164 upper level balcony seats, including upper boxes.

The orchestra pit in front of the stage allows for three levels: below audience for an orchestra to play during a theater performance, for example; audience level as part of the 586 available seats; or above audience level that allows the stage to extend out into the audience for a more intimate performance, when required.

A counter-weight rigging system ‘flies’ in lighting instruments, scenery and soft goods, which allows for scene changes literally on the fly. Sixteen trap doors on stage will allow for a Marley ghost coming up from the earth in “A Christmas Carol,” for example.

Director’s View

“We want to be able to provide an opportunity for the Gonzaga community to celebrate the arts and Miss Woldson’s life within this space,” says Sims. “To highlight the creative activity at Gonzaga and to serve the various communities on and off campus, our presenting events will serve multiple purposes. Some events will complement what the faculty are teaching in class. If a dance faculty member is teaching Latin dance, we may bring a flamenco group to provide a master class and a public performance. Other events will be unrelated to classroom topics so students and the community can experience something new.

“Most importantly, we want to make it affordable and accessible for everyone. Get off work or out of class, grab a bite, and then walk in as you are. I want the audience to feel at home coming into this space,” Sims says.

Flow of Communications Key in Revamping ITS processes

Borre Ulrichsen arrived at Gonzaga two years ago as the University's chief information officer, or the top tech guy.

He did an early assessment of what the Gonzaga community thought about ITS, or Information Technology Services, and "The issues I heard about were consistently focused on communications. People appreciated the hard work and good heart of the IT staff, but found communicating with us was not the easiest thing," Ulrichsen says.

"Furthermore, we found that we didn't communicate well enough among ourselves," he adds.

To correct those things, he created an Academic Technology Advisory Council to assist the CIO in improving the department's communications, particularly with the academic side of the house, and formed a Project Review Committee including representatives from academic and administrative offices around campus. All



CIO Borre Ulrichsen has involved campus constituents in revamping how ITS does business.

AROUND CAMPUS

>> The Candlelight Christmas Concert: Child of Light, is Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., at St. Aloysius Church. It features four choirs, brass choir and Spokane Brass Quintet. Brass preludes begin 30 minutes before the concert. Tickets range from \$10-\$25. Buy tickets online at <https://commerce.cashnet.com/cashneti/selfserve/storehome.aspx>.

>> Professor **Brian G. Henning**, Philosophy and Environmental Studies, has been selected to serve on Humanities Washington's Speakers Bureau. Humanities Washington is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Speakers Bureau is a statewide program bringing experts, scholars, authors and activists in various fields to address important issues. Henning will be traveling across the state for the next two years discussing climate change.

>> Gonzaga University once again has been named among the nation's most environmentally responsible colleges and is included in the 2018 edition of the "Princeton Review Guide to 399 Green Colleges."

>> The Center for Career and Professional Development, along with Global Engagement, has added London to its list of student Trek sites this year, running Jan. 3-4. The tentative schedule calls for visits with executives at Accenture, Salesforce, BP, the U.S. Embassy, Boeing and Splunk. Other Trek sites include Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Silicon Valley, Spokane, New York City, Denver and Los Angeles.

Cabinet members nominated people from their areas to serve on this team, and together they help Ulrichsen and his crew prioritize technology investments.

ITS is implementing a Constituent Relationship Management tool to help various departments communicate with all their constituencies – from alumni and donors to prospective students and partners. "This new system will be structured a lot like Zagweb, where in one place there are many tools to help you communicate with your particular audiences," he says.

Ulrichsen and his crew have spent a lot of time strengthening the Project Management Office, creating a process for anyone with a campus-wide technological need to present it through a newly established prioritization process. Upon review of the project request, the Project Review Committee gives it a score that takes into account the University's mission and strategic plan. Once approved,

funding is sought and the wheels are set in motion.

To increase transparency and improve communications, all ITS staff are now located in the basement of Foley Center. The open office concept is all about team collaboration and a joint focus on how ITS is serving the community, explains Ulrichsen, who himself has no office. Each employee has a desk and a cabinet, and several small and large conference rooms are available for individual meetings. There's even a nice break room/meeting space with a recliner and TV.

In addition, ITS has created satellite centers in several academic buildings to be close to faculty and students. Right now, these ITS-staffed support stations are located in Rosauer, Law, College Hall and Tilford, Ulrichsen says. "We also support information technology colleagues from the College, schools and other offices around campus – who don't report to us – as needed."

ZAG BASKETBALL: KEEPING THE CUPBOARD STOCKED

With Gonzaga men's basketball ranked No. 1 in the nation as November ended – for the third time in program history – here's a look at 2019's recently signed recruiting class, judged by some experts to be the fourth best in the country. This acknowledgement is testimony to the continuity provided by coaches **Mark Few**, **Tommy Lloyd**, **Donny Daniels** and **Brian Michaelson** over their unprecedented run here.

The new recruits include a pair of big men in 6-10 **Pavel Zakharov**, Russia, and 6-10 **Drew Timme**, Texas; a pair of wingmen in 6-9 **Anton Watson**, Gonzaga Prep, and 6-7 **Martynas Arlauskas**, Lithuania; and 6-1 guard **Brock Ravet**, Kittitas, Washington. Four of the five are ranked among the top 100 recruits in the nation by *247 Sports*.

NOTEWORTHY

New Hires

Richard Fallstrom, infrastructure administrator II-network, Information Technology Services; **Tara McAloon**, assistant to vice president for administration; **Sandra Wentz**, benefits & leave specialist II, Human Resources; **Jacob Galindo**, custodian, Plant; **Ricky Soelter**, custodian, Plant; **Kurt Nolen**, staff videographer, Marketing & Communications; **Elvir Huremovic**, groundskeeper, Plant; **Mathew Cornwell**, groundskeeper, Plant; **Brock Slavin**, groundskeeper, Plant; **Lealoni Davidson**, custodian, Plant; **Emma Powell**, registered nurse, Health Center; **Alyssa Hemingway**, records management, Admission; **Kirsten Bohlen**, program coordinator, Student Involvement & Leadership; **Marla Fallstrom**, custodial specialist, Plant; **Elizabeth McIntyre**, records management, Admission; **Monica Frank**, records management, Admission; **Macklen Scribner**, program coordinator, Faith & Reason Institute

New Positions/ Promotions

Emily Livingston, curriculum coordinator, Registrar's Office; **Nicoline Schepis**, receptionist, Health Center

Goodbyes

Harrison Lynn, instructional designer, Virtual Campus; **Erik Biddle**, groundskeeper, Plant

Anniversaries

40 **Shari Rasmussen**, registrar/director of operations, Registrar's Office

35 **Matthew Bafus**, groundkeeper, Plant

15 **Sharon Griffith**, asst director, Financial Aid

10 **Nathaniel Greene**, executive director, Ministry Institute; **David Sonntag**, associate vice president, Marketing & Communications

5 **Anas Delane**, lecturer, Mechanical Engineering; **Timothy Kreuch**, warehouse worker, Plant; **Lindsey Lessing**, director of marketing, Athletics; **Meghan McNeil**, asst director of marketing, Athletics; **Elizabeth Reamer**, program asst, Plant; **Dee-Andra Schmidt**, program asst, Plant

Town Hall on Campus Climate Gave Students, Staff and Faculty Opportunity to Share their Voice



About 300 students, staff, faculty and administrators shared thoughts at the Nov. 27 Town Hall meeting on campus climate.

The state of our campus climate at Gonzaga has been the subject of significant introspection over the past couple of years, in particular, and on Nov. 27 a coalition of students, staff and faculty staged a Town Hall, bringing those three groups, and administration, together for a unique opportunity to listen to each other and consider ways to engender a more caring, respectful climate.

The Town Hall was organized by students, staff and faculty from a variety of groups, programs and departments who were certain this event would generate interest. It provided members of the GU community a chance to listen to the concerns of others and respond to issues presented by committing to do all we can to make Gonzaga an inviting and welcoming community *for all*.

Results of the 2017 Campus Climate assessment were revisited, and some of the areas of concern were shared with the 300 Town Hall participants. Following that, members from each of the three organizing groups shared feelings about campus climate, followed by table discussion of these issues, and brainstormed ideas for moving forward.

“Table discussions offered participants time to react to the material they heard in the presentations, interact across roles, hear about others’ experiences of the campus climate, and discuss what they want to be different,” said **Juliane Mora**, assistant professor of Communication Studies.

“Our Mission statement guides us to engage in *cura personalis*, care for the whole person, and we wanted to extend that sentiment to the whole campus,” Mora added. “Care for our entire organizational body, as a community, demands that we engage all different parts. The hope for the Town Hall was to

foster fellowship – identification with the variety of members in this community who don’t always share the same experiences, interests, concerns or goals, but who have tacitly committed to developing a care for the whole community by choosing Gonzaga – *cura communitas*.”

The event allowed for information sharing on Gonzaga’s new diversity and inclusion website, which provides a history of, and commitments to diversity, equity and inclusion (Gonzaga.edu/diversity). The Bias Incident Assessment and Support (BIAS) Team reported on procedures and recapped report statistics from this year.

Individual opinions shared included the need to improve relationships between faculty and staff; listen to student concerns around equity and inclusion; work to make everyone feel a part of the Gonzaga Experience; and improve transparency through campus communications.

The event closed with suggestions for commitments that could be made in the next 90 days to make a difference. They included:

- Talk to someone you don’t know and find out more about their role on campus
- Engage in productive discomfort by asking the questions that are difficult to ask, and engaging with people who may not view campus climate as their problem/issue/job
- Commit to being uncomfortable and listen well – hearing things that are critical or negative is an opportunity to grow and change

PREPARING FOR WINTER WEATHER, POSSIBLE CLOSURE OR DELAYS

With winter approaching, the University will inform students, faculty and staff of class and operations delays or closures as early as possible before the workday begins. When road and weather conditions are extremely hazardous. If no notice is given, assume all academic and campus operations are as normal.

The campus community will be informed of deviations from the normal schedule through ZagAlert text, phone, email and social media messages. Information also will be recorded on

the campus information hotline at 313-5666 and updated on the gonzaga.edu/weather website.

Employees and students are always encouraged to put their personal safety first and contact supervisors or professors, respectively, if they are concerned about making it safely to campus.

Anyone not signed up for Blackboard Connect/ZagAlert or who wish to update their information, may do so at gonzaga.edu/zagalert. Visit gonzaga.edu/weather for winter weather preparedness information.

Fall Enrollment 2018 Official Count

Total enrollment – 7,563

Undergraduate – 5,304

-New freshmen – 1,196

Master's level – 1,596

Doctoral – 300

Law – 350

Non-credit – 79

UW Medical – 152

SEEING GREEN

Gonzaga University has launched into a partnership with Avista Utilities to buy green electricity created through the soon-to-open solar farm near Lind, Washington.

The idea for increasing green power at the University was shared with Avista officials more than a year ago as Gonzaga looked at ways to ensure it met its commitment to U.S. college presidents to reduce the campus carbon footprint by 20 percent by 2020 (At last report, GU has reduced that footprint by 20.9%).

“We told Avista officials that we could not meet our 2020 commitment without their help,” says **Ken Sammons**, director of Plant and Construction Services.

That propelled Avista to step up its efforts to create more green power sources. The Lind solar farm is expected to begin capturing solar power in December from 82,000 solar panels.

Gonzaga is one of 80 entities to receive green power from this project.

About 4.7 percent of Gonzaga's overall electricity needs will be satisfied through the Lind project. Gonzaga also is a member of the Boulder Park Community Solar Project in the Spokane Valley, has installed solar panels on its

Sustainability House on Sharp, and will install an array of solar panels on Woldson Performing Arts Center, as well. By summer, Gonzaga will receive about 5 percent of its electricity from solar sources, Sammons says.

“All of our electricity sources are now green,” Sammons says. “Avista is 48 percent hydro, 2 percent bio-mass (Kettle Falls wood-fired plant), 6 percent wind (from the Rosalia Wind Farm), plus their purchase of solar from the Lind solar farm. We also purchase renewable energy credits (wind) that offset the remaining 44 percent of our electricity consumption.”

The Lind project is the state's largest solar plant, and two more such farms are being planned in Adams County, southwest of Spokane.

This solar farm is like the one Avista has created in Lind, which will provide green electricity to GU.



CHRISTMAS, GONZAGA STYLE!

Foley Center, ROTC and the President's Office offer a chance to celebrate the season with colleagues from across campus. Here is a list of Christmas parties for faculty and staff. Merry Christmas everyone.

Foley Center Christmas Party

Dec. 6, 2-4 p.m., Rare Book Room

Join fellow employees for hors d'oeuvres and punch, cookies, too. Gift basket raffle tickets \$1 each, or a donation of food item for 2nd Harvest Food Bank.

Military Science Army ROTC Christmas Open House

Dec. 13, 2-5 p.m., College Hall 045

Enjoy the company of friends and co-workers while sipping eggnog (leaded or unleaded) or a warm glass

of Gluhwein, and snacking on an assortment of hors d'oeuvres and treats.

President's Christmas Party

Employees are invited to join Thayne and Julie McCulloh for a holiday celebration!

Dec. 14, Davenport Grand Hotel, Grand Ballroom

6:30-9 p.m. cocktails & cheer, festive holiday photos and raffle drawing

9-11 p.m. desserts & dancing (those non-dancers are invited to stay, mingle and enjoy dessert)

RSVP by Dec. 4 to www.gonzaga.edu/christmasparty

Take a long winter's nap. Call 458-3330 and mention the Gonzaga President's Christmas Party to make a room reservation, \$99 plus tax.



Spike wishes you all a most blessed holiday season.