

- › Faculty, Staff Awards, 2
- › The Numbers with Erin Hays, 3
- › Ready to Lead, 4-5
- › Students Praise Teachers, 8

## Plans to Re-Open Campus Taking Shape, but Much Work to be Done

### Pandemic Response Task Force Paving the Way

There's nothing easy about planning for a future that seems so uncertain. But that's the task of the Pandemic Response Task Force, a group of 53 Gonzaga administrators, staff and faculty working daily, 10 committees with more than 100 committee and sub-committee members to prepare for re-opening campus and returning to a combination of face-to-face, fully online and a hybrid mix of in-person and remote learning.

**Charlita Shelton**, formerly interim associate chief diversity officer, is President **Thayne McCulloh's** pick to lead this charge. This is something she never had to face in two previous college presidencies. "And the days are flying by. It will be August before we know it," she remarks as she assesses the immensity of this job.

Unfortunately, so much is dependent upon a virus that has no vaccine and a mind of its own. Planning is proceeding quite rapidly. However, those plans are dependent upon the directives and professional advice of the Spokane Regional Health District, Washington Gov. **Jay Inslee**, the Center for Disease Control, and COVID-19 itself.

"We are creating protocol, and developing the framework that will be needed to resume on-campus operations in the fall," Shelton says. "We started with the date students are scheduled to return to campus, and backed everything out. Our target is to have the plan to Cabinet in late June, and to the Trustees by July 10 for approval."



Charlita Shelton

A website form is now live on [www.gonzaga.edu/ZagOn](http://www.gonzaga.edu/ZagOn) to offer faculty and staff, students and the public a chance to ask questions about Gonzaga's return to on-campus operations. This new website, which replaces the former coronavirus site, provides information, FAQs and more relating to returning to campus. In addition, the Call Center is available during normal working hours to answer your questions, (509) 313-7070.

### Academic Schedule

President McCulloh announced that the academic year will begin on the pre-determined start date, Tuesday, Sept. 1. Residence halls will begin a staggered move-in process for new students, Aug. 26-28, continuing with returning students living in residence halls, Aug. 29-31. In order to mitigate the risk of the COVID-19 virus, Gonzaga's plan is that all classes following Thanksgiving Break will be taught online, using remote/distance technologies. Residence halls and campus dining will remain open for those students who do not leave the county for break, pending any changes or modifications necessary to respond to public health and/or other government authority directives.

### Return to Work on Campus

The Human Resources Committee has developed a phased, incremental approach for employees to return to work on campus. This will afford flexibility for those who need to continue working from home. Return to campus coincides with implementation of robust safety measures, some described in the next section with more detail coming in future communications via email, Gonzaga's ZagOn website, trainings and signage. Review of the Return to Campus Plan and a training program on new safety protocols will be required of all faculty and staff.

### Health Monitoring and Disease Containment

Gonzaga will follow regional and state guidance for personal protective equipment, and is procuring face coverings for faculty, staff and student employees, and barriers and other equipment necessary to keep our community safe. Face coverings, self-attestation on health conditions, contact tracing and social distancing are all part of Gonzaga's guidelines. Students will be asked to bring their own PPE, and may also purchase a GU care package that includes cloth face coverings and other items for health and safety. Ongoing education of behavioral measures to promote prevention and containment will be offered. Gonzaga Health and Counseling Services has COVID-19 testing ability for students. However, employees are asked to contact their medical provider to seek testing. Spaces will be designated specifically for isolating and supporting students who test positive, and other spaces designated for quarantining and supporting those who may have come in contact with infected individuals. In both cases, residence quarters will be comfortable and equipped such that students can continue coursework online.

### Academic Delivery

The Academic and Instruction Committee is considering a number of delivery options. "Flexibility and adaptability will be hallmarks of our approach," President Thayne McCulloh said in a June 3 update to students. He said some classes may include live classroom sessions alternating with remote sessions. "We are working this summer to enhance technology in classrooms throughout campus and to consider many ways we can expand our capacity to deliver an excellent educational experience despite challenges of doing so in the face of COVID-19."

The president told students "It is clear that we will all have to make modifications and each individual will have to be an active participant in the effort of mitigating risk and protecting one another."

Shelton is encouraged. "Together, we can do this," she says.



All the latest info: [www.gonzaga.edu/ZagOn](http://www.gonzaga.edu/ZagOn)

## Faculty recognized for outstanding work

Faculty awards and acknowledgments, typically handed out at the spring Academic Honors Convocation, were sidelined by the pandemic, and recently announced by Provost **Deena González**.

Professor Emeritus: **Gabriella Brooke**, Modern Languages; **David Elloy**, Business; **Mary Farrell**, Art; **Georgie Ann Weatherby**, Sociology/Criminology

Associate Professor Emeritus: **Paul Hastings**, Education; **Lin Murphy**, Nursing; **Sydney Chambers**, Foley Library

### 2019-20 INDIVIDUAL FACULTY AWARDS

**Jay Ciaffa**, Philosophy, *Academic Citizenship*

**Adriana Wissel**, Counselor Education, *Collaborative Work and Innovation*

**Elizabeth Goldstein**, Religious Studies, *Diversity Leadership*

**Marianne Poxleitner**, Biology, *Open Category* (Tenured)

**Don Hackney**, Business Law, *Open Category* (Non-Tenure Track)

**Jeffery Ramirez**, Nursing, *Professional Contributions* (Tenured)

**John Tadrous**, Electrical and Computer Engineering, *Professional Contributions* (Tenure Track)

**Betsy Bancroft**, Biology and Environmental Studies, *Teaching Excellence* (Tenured)

**Gloria Chien**, Religious Studies, *Teaching Excellence* (Non-Tenure Track)

**Cathy DeHart**, Accounting, *Teaching Excellence* (Non-Tenure Track)

**Joe Johnston**, Sociology and Criminology, *Community Engaged Learning*

**Rebecca Bull Schaefer**, Management, *Compass Award*

For a complete story on Faculty Awards, go to [www.gonzaga.edu/news-events/stories/2020/6/17/2020-faculty-achievement-awards](http://www.gonzaga.edu/news-events/stories/2020/6/17/2020-faculty-achievement-awards)

## GEL innovation a team effort, garners award

Director of Undergraduate Admission **Erin Hays**, Marketing & Communications Web Producer **Shannon Whitley**, and ITS's CRM Business Analyst **Peggy Noble** and Associate Director **Rick Rasmussen** are recipients of the spring 2020 Staff Innovation Award for their work in transitioning GEL Weekend to a virtual format.

The goal wasn't just to offer a few hours of talking sessions, but to bring all of GEL weekend online. This vision evolved into an entire day of virtual sessions that students could attend from small group chats with student ambassadors to live open houses, parent presentations, mock classes, campus tours and more. GEL Weekend normally draws about 500 accepted students to campus. More than 900 registered for virtual GEL, from all over the country and internationally.



Erin Hays



Shannon Whitley



Peggy Noble



Rick Rasmussen

## McGuire, Mannetter recognized for Mission ideals

Graduate Enrollment Student Services Specialist **Margaret McGuire** and Director of the Center for Cura Personalis **Nicola Mannetter** are spring 2020's Outstanding Service in Support of Mission Award winners.

McGuire's focus is student experience and retention with graduate nursing and theology students. Described by her nominators as "one of the most selfless people you could meet," McGuire learned of a student who couldn't afford a flight and hotel room for an immersion weekend on campus, who planned to drive to Spokane at 4 a.m. and sleep in her car the following night. McGuire was able to get a room paid for at the Ministry Institute and she personally paid upfront for the student to have meals on campus while they were here.

Mannetter spoke to Mission & Ministry staff fall semester, and said if there's one thing Gonzaga does well, it's focusing on the holistic well-being of its students. Every day her team asks students about their well-being, in and outside the classroom. They talk about their classes, support networks, spiritual lives, hobbies and interests, and self-care practices. "Nicola works to hold herself accountable not only to produce her best work, but so her staff and students can be their best," her nominator writes. The Refer form is an example of her care for students, providing a means for others in the campus community to provide information about a person they are concerned about.



Margaret McGuire



Nicola Mannetter



## Virtual recruiting exercise will offer benefits in coming year Q&A with Erin Hays

*Spirit had a virtual conversation with Director of Undergraduate Admission **Erin Hays** to decipher the incoming freshman class and transfers, reflect on the impact of virtual recruiting, and look ahead.*

### *How do our new-student confirmation figures look for fall 2020?*

We have 1,104 first-year students confirmed. 1,225 was the budget goal. Currently, transfer confirmed numbers are at 79, which puts that number on track to surpass our goal of 125 (their enrollment deadline is July 1).

### *When pandemic struck, we knew the goal was unlikely to be met, and for no lack of effort on your crew's part. How does this number compare to what you were thinking we might be able to enroll?*

This academic year, Undergraduate Admission had exciting new initiatives that affected recruitment in positive ways. First, the implementation of Slate – a Constituent Relationship Management tool designed for admission work – gave the team opportunities to communicate with students in new and better ways, and provided improved data. We also moved the application deadline and were pleased that the number of applications equaled what we received in 2018. We capitalized on the great success of our Athletics programs by utilizing the attention to launch social media campaigns. Many great initiatives were deployed this year, and we believed we could enroll a class of nearly 1,300 prior to the pandemic and subsequent economic crisis. After that, there was no way to predict the outcome of this year, due to people feeling unsettled from COVID-19, all campus visits and events being canceled in the spring, and extending the confirmation deadline to June 1. I was very concerned when we were still in the 800s in early May.

### *What do we know about this class?*

We are very happy about the diversity and academic strength of the incoming class! This class marks the most diverse class of first-year students to date, with 28% self-identifying as students of color. The average reported high school GPA is 3.82 and

*Admission Director Erin Hays and her crew have brought in an impressive freshman class.*

comparable to last year's record of 3.83. There are students from 34 states, as well as 20 international students. The Honors Program has record enrollment this year due to an intentional expansion plan.

### *What's next for Undergraduate Admission?*

In the coming months, we will assist with retaining the students who enrolled, as well as begin extensive planning for 2021 recruitment and admission. It is important to take this summer to carefully plan virtual events for next year, and continue to make improvements on what was created this spring.

### *With so much uncertainty in our country and the world, have you had to rethink how you go about recruiting the 2021 class?*

While there is still much to be determined, it's unlikely there will be traditional recruiting in the fall (college fairs, high school visits, college nights, preview days). This is in addition to spring recruitment of juniors being canceled. We are working on identifying new sources/vendors to connect us with interested students, and we'll be strategizing over the summer how to reach students without extensive travel.

### *Anything else to add perspective to what we're seeing?*

To set some context, 83% of Gonzaga undergraduates are from over 200 miles away. We are not located in a major metropolitan center with a large population of prospective students. Campus visits are essential because they connect students with the Gonzaga community and holistic educational experience. In fact, our annual research consistently shows that visiting campus shifts peoples' expectations; it is Gonzaga's secret advantage. Without the access to campus visits – or as many visits as usual – we will need to be intentional about new recruitment initiatives. This spring, many deans, professors, student affairs professionals, and current students participated in virtual events. I extend to them deep gratitude, and an excitement to partner next year on more virtual programming.

*Marianne Poxleitner and Whitney Franklin both grew up as Pacific Northwesterners, landed at Gonzaga by way of endorsements from people they trust, and neither could be more personally or professionally satisfied to be doing what they love here in the Lilac City.*

*Poxleitner took over as Faculty Assembly president on April 30, Franklin as Staff Assembly president on June 1. And interestingly, both rank building relationships, trust and collaboration between faculty and staff among their top priorities.*

Spirit introduces you to these two strong leaders and gives you a little taste of what's on their minds as they begin their new roles in the midst of this pandemic calamity swirling all around us.



*Poxleitner right at home in her new job.*

## Marianne Poxleitner, Ph.D.: Marvels in the gift of Gonzaga

*Background: She attended Boise High School, then Seattle U before transferring to Colorado State, earning a bachelor's degree in Plant Science and a master's in Viticulture (growing grapes for use in wine production). She earned her doctorate in Molecular Plant Sciences from Washington State's Institute of Biological Chemistry, and performed post-doctoral work at Cal-Berkeley in molecular cell biology.*

Gonzaga was the only faculty job she ever applied for. Her dad is a 1969 GU alumnus, and her brother earned his Zag degree in 1995. "I heard so many good things about this school and saw how it changed people's lives so dramatically, that I just waited for a position to open up, applied for it and have been working here since 2008," Poxleitner says.

And it didn't take her long to find her own identity here. A tenure-track position opened not long after her arrival, she has sat on the Faculty Senate in various assignments since 2009, and just this spring the associate professor of Biology was recognized with an Exemplary Faculty Award for her role in the Biology Department's Phage Discovery Lab, studying viruses that infect bacteria.

"My goal with research is to get students engaged and thinking like scientists," she says. "The longer I teach the more concerned I am that students understand the big picture and the framework of science, in addition to the content and detail. It is more important now than ever before that everyone understands how to differentiate scientific fact from propaganda."

She is delighted to have had the opportunity to teach at Gonzaga in Florence last summer, teaching the Science of Food and how central food is to the Italian culture. One assignment required students to order coffee at a coffee bar using only Italian.

This spring/summer she is involved in a different kind of "busy." She serves as co-chair of the Academic Instruction and Learning Committee of the University's Pandemic Response Task Force. She admits taking over as faculty president in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic didn't make for an easy transition of

leadership, but right now the two enterprises overlap. "Trying to structure this re-entry back to face-to-face and hybrid instruction has its challenges, but together, we will work in the best and most thoughtful way for our faculty and our students," Poxleitner says.

She is loved by her students. One recent graduate called her "highly intelligent, funny and satirically sarcastic," which causes her to smile. "Yesterday I received an email from one of my first GU students, who just received his Ph.D. from Berkeley, and he is headed to do great things. Anytime I get feedback about what our students do when they leave here, it justifies why I spend the time doing what I do."

And she's been blessed by the feedback she has received from her colleagues.

Biology Professor **Mia Bertagnolli** has had a tremendous impact on Poxleitner's career. "Mia's ability to lead with such a calm, cool effectiveness is admirable. She gets things done and makes it look effortless. I admire her high energy and enthusiasm for Gonzaga," Poxleitner says.

Poxleitner also is in awe of the resilience and flexibility of Gonzaga's faculty in their transition to remote delivery of education. "I'm so proud of every one of them, for their tenacity to take on new challenges. I'm excited to see what we can do when we return to the classroom this fall," she says.

Before the pandemic, Poxleitner was ready to proceed with engine revved to build relationships between divisions across campus. Now her primary focus is on "making sure the University we all love proceeds in a positive way to ensure it's still here 50 years from now. And through this process, we all need to think about what higher education in the 21st century looks like.

"Now is a time to put my personal feelings aside and listen more than I talk. That's important to me, and I think that is what leadership is all about," Poxleitner says.

"If we stay together, and do what Gonzaga does best, we'll be OK. But it will take great effort on everybody's part to reach this common goal."



Franklin, right, helped orchestrate this event to honor Desmond Tutu.

## Whitney Franklin: The “Why” is what drives her

*Background: From Colbert, Franklin attended Mt. Spokane High School and earned her bachelor's degree from Seattle Pacific in business administration with a concentration in marketing. She is working on her master's here in Organizational Leadership.*

Franklin enrolled at Seattle Pacific thinking she wanted to be an accountant. Through a mentorship program she realized that was not her calling. “I told my parents and they said, ‘Thank goodness.’”

She got involved in planning and staging events while a student in Seattle. She served as a wedding coordinator following graduation, and moved back to Spokane with her husband and worked for Beacon Hill in events and sales, before settling in as an event coordinator here.

“I thought I was in way over my head here,” Franklin says. “But I’ve found that my passion aligns with my faith and my work. I’m grateful to be here.”

She now serves as director of special events for Donor Relations. But it didn’t come without trial under fire. Her first big event was staging the Kennedy Apartment dedication in 2007, just over a year after it had burned to the ground at an arsonist’s hand. Next came the College of Arts and Sciences’ 120-year anniversary celebration and renaming College Hall.

The big change in her job came in 2009 when **Thayne McCulloh** became president. “He is very thoughtful about the ‘why’ behind an event, and what impact it will have on donors, which is the primary focus of her work. “It’s not just thanking them for their generosity, but showing them the impact they have on Gonzaga students,” Franklin says. “I love the creative work, but this focus on the ‘why’ is what captures my spirit.”

Franklin has developed wonderful relationships with colleagues around the University. “I consider Sodexo a part of our team. I’ve never worked at a place where cross-disciplinary partnerships are so successful. Athletics came up big when we staged a celebration for senior **Rick Clark**, a non-traditional student who began Giving Back Packs to support homeless in our area. He was once homeless, himself, yet earned a degree and is raising a wonderful family.

**Mike Rowe’s** Facebook show, “Returning the Favor,” did a story on Clark, and the final stop on their tour of campus was filmed in McCarthy Athletic Center. Five hundred Zags surprised Clark with boisterous cheering that would have rivaled any game night in the Kennel. As Clark emerged from the tunnel, he took center stage in front of a framed backdrop of 500 backpacks. Thanks to Whitney Franklin, and a lot of great partners.

Don’t think this was easy. Yet it came off without a hitch.

“Planning and staging events is not nearly as glamorous as people think it is. I’m always the last person throwing on my heels before the curtain goes up,” Franklin says. “Forbes ranked it as the fifth most stressful job in America last year. It’s easy to get wrapped up in the beautiful flowers and pretty linens. But when it’s done right, it is all about what the guests get out of it and how they feel when they walk away.”

Franklin ranks her best orchestrated event as the Campaign for Gonzaga Kick-off celebration at the Grand Hotel ballroom in 2017. Her biggest event calamity was the 10:30 p.m. fireworks following a Zag basketball game to commemorate the University’s 125th anniversary in 2013, resulting in many noise complaints from neighbors.

Like Poxleitner, Franklin serves on the Pandemic Response Task Force, which keeps her busy while starting to build a cohesive team on the Staff Assembly Executive Council, the counterpart to the Faculty Senate. Franklin’s hope is that Gonzaga staff will see the entire council as their leaders, not just her.

What she calls her BHAG, her big hairy audacious goal, is working to build trust across the campus, between administration and staff, faculty and staff, supervisors and employees, and between departments. She also wants the Council to do its part in insuring their work is guided by Gonzaga’s mission.

She wants to do a good job of marketing the Staff Assembly’s Advocacy Log, which tracks staff feedback through the Assembly’s campus area representatives. “I’d like to see us expand its use as an avenue to share staff concerns more broadly with the appropriate people and offices,” Franklin says. Staff can also share their ongoing feedback to [staff-assembly@gonzaga.edu](mailto:staff-assembly@gonzaga.edu).

## NOTEWORTHY

### NEW HIRES

**Mitchell Coughlin**, academic coordinator, Athletics; **James Williamson**, men's Soccer asst coach; **Brittany Stone**, admissions specialist, Graduate Enrollment; **Nicholas Crane**, custodian, Plant; **Spencer Alexander**, security officer, Campus Security

### POSITION CHANGES/PROMOTIONS

**Cody Cantu**, communications officer, Campus Security; **Joe Clark**, communications coordinator, Campus Security; **Melissa Waite**, data & systems manager, Human Resources

### GOODBYES

**Jeffrey Omari**, visiting asst professor, Law; **Paul Hastings**, assoc professor, Education; **Kayla Zobel**, case manager, Cura Personalis; **Catherine Stearns**, custodian, plant; **Dan Meyer**, benefits & leave specialist, Human Resources; **Rae Anna Victor**, communications coordinator, Campus Security; **Renee Massicottee-Vezeau**, digital collections coordinator, Foley Library; **Laurie Hitchcock**, sr. faculty asst, Art, International & Environmental Studies; **Barb Warner**, custodian, Plant

### ANNIVERSARIES

**40** **Larry Perkins**, infrastructure architect, ITS

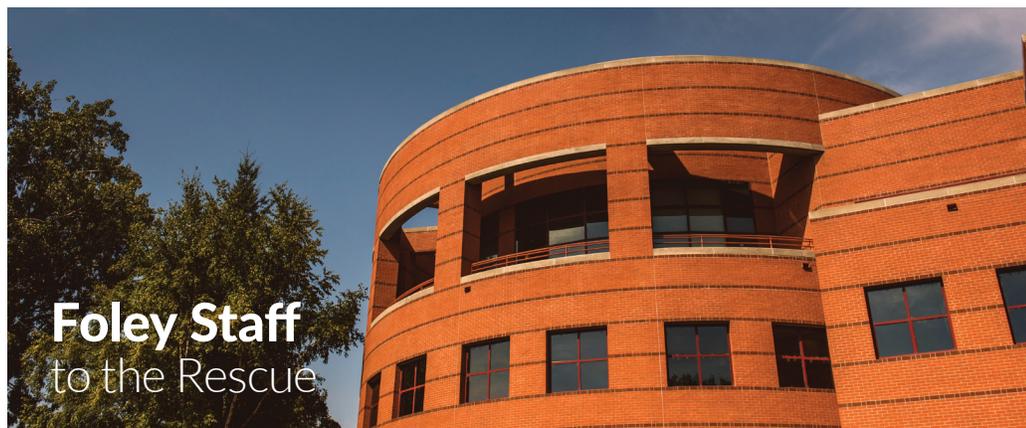
**25** **Janet Snowden**, custodian shift supervisor, Plant

**20** **Richard Smith**, HVAC control tech, Plant; **Shannon Strahl**, sr. associate athletic director for compliance/sr. woman administrator

**15** **Bob Finn**, alumni outreach & engagement officer; **Marzena Kosinski**, director, research & special projects, Enrollment Management

**10** **Yevgeniy Leksunkin**, general maintenance, Plant; **Jason Schnagl**, computer system analyst/ administrator, Computer Science

**5** **Victoria Fallgren**, asst Women's Golf coach; **Jenna Parisi**, director, Health Promotions; **Anthony Tardiff**, asst professor, Foley Center; **Stephanie Thomas**, Title IX director, Human Resources



## Foley Staff to the Rescue

*The building is closed, but the library is open.*

You've heard the stories about colleagues in ITS and Instructional Design and Delivery pivoting on a dime to make remote learning possible for so many faculty across disciplines when the pandemic became a reality on Gonzaga's campus.

But perhaps not as well publicized were efforts by colleagues at Foley Center who made access to information and materials readily available for faculty and students, alike.

In response to the rapid transition to online teaching, User Services and Scholarly Resources used many existing library products and services to develop a new support process for faculty having to suddenly teach online, says Associate Dean **Brad Matthies**. "This process included locating existing online library content, acquiring new online content, identifying open access materials, and the development of a rapid copyright remediation process for Blackboard course materials. This process allowed faculty to rapidly get course content into Blackboard and be able to focus on their teaching."

Assistant Art Professor **Laura Truitt** said she used Chat with a Librarian "for everything. "My advanced painters watched 'Everybody Knows...Elizabeth Murray' (a documentary about the painter) before our Zoom class and then I streamed a few clips through Zoom from 'The Price of Everything,' which takes a cynical look at the art market in NYC," Truitt says. "We had a fruitful discussion about the commercialization and exclusivity of the art market, and looked at the nuances of where Murray fit into the NY art scene. This led students to imagine themselves in this system, and how they might change it or approach art in a different way.

"I, of course, put this together on the fly and I found the Foley Library staff very accommodating, quick and helpful, and I very much appreciate their support with online streaming."

Spanish Associate Professor **Rebecca Stephanis** appreciated User Services Head **Laura Hutton** for helping her find alternative ways to make foreign films available online and through streaming for her Latin American Art class. German Program Coordinator **Ute Perz** used two movies in his German Cinema course and was astonished how easy it was for his students to access those recent German language films via Blackboard link to Kanopy.

The students of Religious Studies Lecturer **Scott Starbuck's** Hebrew Bible in Ancient Near Eastern Context class would have been "left high and dry," Starbuck says, had it not been for Foley Center Assistant Professor **Anthony Tardiff**. Students were tasked with researching a significant period in biblical formation, including "cutting-edge modern scholarship," Starbuck says, which was unavailable through summary and introductory materials. Tardiff quickly ordered digital copies of all faculty-suggested research items, more than 50 articles and monographs including archeological reports and literary analyses, and placed them on the course reading list, making them available to students. In the end, student engagement with these materials and the quality of final reports reached new levels of creativity, insight and understanding," Starbuck says.

Other library services called upon during the execution of remote learning this spring included:

- digital journal articles and book chapters
- 300 databases offering full-text articles, streaming movies, reference materials, primary sources, ebooks, e-audio books and more, available from off campus
- The Reading Lists Platform by Leganto, which helped instructors, students and librarians collaborate to create dynamic, interactive resource pages all in one place

These are resources available to faculty and students, whether they're physically together or apart. For more information about services available, contact **509-313-5931**.



## Sunrise on the Sea of Galilee

*Hackman-Brooks of Gonzaga (second from right), is pictured with Father James Martin, S.J. (second from left) and Ignatian colleagues from across the country.*

“Many mornings I would wake up early and watch the sunrise over the Sea of Galilee, just as Jesus and his disciples must have experienced it years ago,” says Gonzaga’s **Lauren Hackman-Brooks**. She shares some of her fondest memories of her travels to the Holy Land and the great impact it has had on her spiritual life. “I’ll never read Scripture the same way again.”

Hackman-Brooks, M.Div., is associate director of Mission and Ministry, and while she is new to Gonzaga, she is a veteran of Jesuit learning. Her first encounter with Ignatian spirituality was through a post-graduate volunteer program at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. After a decade of ministry in Jesuit education in Chicago, and pilgrimages to the Holy Land (for the first time) and Spanish Ignatian sites, she and her family relocated to Spokane in 2019.

Just prior to the spread of COVID-19 and related travel restrictions, Hackman-Brooks joined “America” Magazine editor and 2016 GU commencement speaker Father **James Martin, S.J.**, providing support for about 100 pilgrims, helping with hospitality and pastoral care on a trip to the Holy Land. She loved walking through meaningful Biblical places once more, and enjoyed the company and community that was formed in the group.

“Sharing with the same people, praying, eating meals, and staying up late debriefing the day really draws you close to each other,” she says. “One of the greatest gifts is getting to be in the places that mean so much to the Church, but also falling in love in a new and different way with the people that make up the Church today.”

The group had some incredible experiences like renewing their baptismal vows on the Jordan River – the very place where Jesus was baptized – staying at the Mount of Beatitudes and visiting Lazarus’ tomb and the Holy Sepulchre Church where Jesus was crucified, died, buried and rose from the dead. One of her favorite places is the Sea of Galilee, which sets the scene for many important Bible stories. Jesus preached along these shores and this is where he invited the disciples to be “fishers of men.”

“I love that the pace of the trip is meant to be more of a retreat than a tour, with daily Mass and evening faith sharing, plus ample time for individual prayer and reflection.”

At Capernaum – believed to be the town where Jesus lived and preached during his public ministry – Hackman-Brooks recalled the Bible story of Jesus eating dinner with tax collectors and coming across the words, “Jesus was at home.” She began to think what it would be like to go to Jesus’ house and have dinner. This scene has become an especially prayerful experience for her during this time of quarantine when we can’t visit the homes of friends and family. She imaginatively prays about inviting Jesus to her home, having dinner there, and imagining the potential conversations that could unfold.

Since returning from her trip, Hackman-Brooks has tried to bring the essence of the Holy Land to Gonzaga through mini-retreats with students, faculty and staff. Even during the COVID-19 quarantine, these times of prayer and reflection, based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, take place weekly via Zoom.

– By Mari Cuevas ('20)

## Feel God’s Presence, and Feel Alive; Companions in Mission Uplifting

At a time when anxiety is high and uncertainty is a common denominator, Mission & Ministry Vice President **Michelle Wheatley** and her staff remind us to pause, reflect on what we’re experiencing and look ahead to our hopes and dreams.

During a mid-May break from work and wonder about where we’ll be six months from now – or even six weeks – Mission & Ministry directed a Companions in Mission Zoom session for staff and faculty, looking at the Examen, a prayer to help people find God in their lives, and where to find grace in a time of uncertainty. Program Coordinator **Meredith McKay** directs her Zoom audience to close their eyes, soften their gaze, calm themselves, be still and ask God to be with them. “The Examen is rooted in gratitude. Think back to a few things you are most grateful for during this past year, what are you grateful for now. Think about the times when you felt God’s presence, where you felt most alive, where you felt joy or peace, challenged, finding an opportunity for renewal and pause.

“Allow yourself to linger on one particular thing from your year – a specific event or a pattern of your activities or decisions – and think about the emotions you feel as you think about this part of your year.”

The final step of the Examen is to look forward, invite yourself to look ahead with hope. “Ask yourself, ‘What do I want to ask God to do for me today and in the coming weeks?’” McKay said.

Attendees shared their thoughts on their Examen experience – themes that emerged and concerns, worries or hopes each member can hold for each other. Some asked for prayers for their families, others shared gratitude for their jobs and good health. A common theme was to keep doing what we can to keep our world coming together in this fight against a common foe.

The Examen provides a time to reflect on, and appreciate our lives, and be grateful for the peace and quiet that we each can find in our days amid the commotion of the coronavirus pandemic.

Pastor **Janeen Steer** reminds that as the world around us swirls, the Examen gives us space to silence ourselves and hear the quiet whisper of God. “May we remember the absolute tenderness of the Divine, and know that the Creator is always close enough so we can hear His whisper.”

“As we pray for an end to this pandemic, please draw us close to those who are sick. We give our own fears to you now, dear Lord.”

## Students Appreciate Creative Solutions, Care

*One Last Look at Heartfelt Gestures GU Faculty Offered to Their Students This Spring*

**Bunji McLeod** ('20), who earned a degree in mechanical engineering and gained experience from the Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program, shares the way his faculty members adapted when senior projects are normally very hands-on and team oriented. They “rolled with the punches,” he said, “using a lot of digital software for modeling and predictions and equations, using 3-D models for the main part of our presentation.”

While he admits it’s not possible to replicate working with physical prototypes with real equipment in a machine shop, faculty members like **Derek Larson** offered a different type of value. He shifted his focus to being a valuable resource for networking on engineering jobs, offering students feedback on their resumes and applications.

The remote learning systems leveraged by Gonzaga provided interactive tools such as discussion boards and posts, which fostered broader, meaningful participation to all students when facilitated by faculty members.

McLeod attests to that. “Professors want the best for us, best care of the whole person,” he says. As an example, Professor **Brian Steverson** hosted informal chats where students chose the topics. “Students were really engaged – everyone had their cameras on for this. It was really fun,” McLeod shares.

How about the students in the performing arts, unable to be on stage together or rehearse music in settings with appropriate acoustics?

Choir student and education major **Bel Thurston** ('21) says **Tim Westerhaus**, chair of the music department, went “above and beyond not just to make our music progress, but to keep us connected as people. He made this online experience much more interactive and engaging than it could have been.”



Westerhaus



Pepper



Larson



Loroz

Westerhaus used Kahoot quizzes to help students learn more about each other, and announced Gonzaga’s decision on the fall musical (“Pirates of Penzance”) by arriving to the Zoom class dressed in full pirate attire.

Recent grad **Katie Michelon** ('20), a business major with a minor in solidarity and social justice, was impressed by the “person-first” attitude so many faculty members took when transitioning to remote learning. Associate Business Dean and Professor “**Molly Pepper** was so careful about making sure every one of her students were doing OK personally” before diving into academics, Michelon said. “And even though I hadn’t had a class from Professor **Peggy Sue Loroz** since spring 2019, she emailed me and many of her former students who were now seniors to see how we were doing, to let us know she was available to talk. She showed care for students who weren’t even her own students, again showing that person-first mentality that is so common at Gonzaga.”

“There’s no substitute for being together, live, but this community came together still,” says Thurston.

## Around Campus



»»» **Robin Kelley** will assume her position as associate chief diversity officer July 20, working with Associate Provost and CDO **Raymond Reyes** in the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She will be working to provide culturally diverse, inclusive and

welcoming environments for the University’s workforce, student body, learning spaces, programs, services and partnerships. Kelley earned her Ph.D. from Iowa State, and served as associate vice provost in for institutional equity and diversity at North Carolina State (2016-2018), director of equal opportunity at Iowa State (2013-2015), and assistant director of equity, diversity and inclusion at State University of New York, Buffalo (2008-2013). She most recently has worked as a consultant.

»»» GU student-athletes posted the highest NCAA Academic Progress Rate in the West Coast Conference again this year, with a score of 996 out of 1,000 points possible. That’s nine points higher than the league average, and 13 points higher than the national average. This number represents an institution’s retention and maintenance of its scholarship student-athletes’ academic eligibility and citizenship.

»»» The NCAA’s Annual Progress Rate Recognition Awards listed 10 of GU’s 15 APR-eligible teams, which ranked the Zags fourth nationally with 67 percent of its teams receiving the award, behind only Columbia, Colgate and Northwestern. GU’s men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s cross country, men’s and women’s track, men’s golf, men’s soccer, women’s tennis and volleyball received the NCAA Public Recognition Award.