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Abbey Shuster, demonstrating to her students the supplies and techniques needed to conduct a remote experiment. [Watch Shuster teach.](#)

For Microbiology Lab this fall, Ettinger connected with lab coordinators from across the country on how best to teach this lab remotely. She came up with Labster, a firm creating virtual labs for about 10 years. “The simulations are like being in a video game and solving a scientific problem that is based on bacteria. For example, one of the students has a patient experiencing a reoccurring tooth abscess,” Ettinger explains. The dentist needs to determine if it’s a single bacterium coming back again and gaining antibiotic resistance, or several types of bacteria. The student researcher runs standard tests and makes conclusions based upon the data.

Last spring fellow Lab Coordinator and Instructor **Abbey Shuster** was teaching an ecology lab when COVID-19 shut down the country. Since she could no longer take her students on a class field trip to collect water samples as was planned, she boxed up water sampling kits and mailed them to her students. Each student collected a water sample from a nearby body of water, tested it at home for nitrate and other chemicals that would help the students determine the water quality levels. Students then applied that information to determine if each body of water would support a population of trout.

“At-home lab kits made it feel more like a lab, and was more educational than just doing the research,” one of Shuster’s students said.

This fall Shuster is teaching a Biological Concepts lab for students seeking their education certification. One of the lab tasks was to dissect a fetal pig and learn their organ systems, but you can’t send a pig through the mail. So instead of dissecting pigs, the students get to build them. Knowing that her students ultimately needed to learn how to teach their future students, Shuster mailed them pictures of the pig’s organs, had them color in different organs, and put the pieces together. “That is something they would do in an elementary classroom,” Shuster says.

“I miss being able to pull up a stool next to a student, talk to them and learn their issues. So, I have a pre-lab activity and ask students to watch a video before they come to lab so that everyone comes with a similar level of understanding. We do the experiment together and build data sets together, as is done in the real world.”

LABS ONLINE

A Different Kind of Adventure

At first, **Ann-Scott Ettinger** thought doing biology labs virtually was an oxymoron. “Labs are meant to be taught in person, hands-on.”

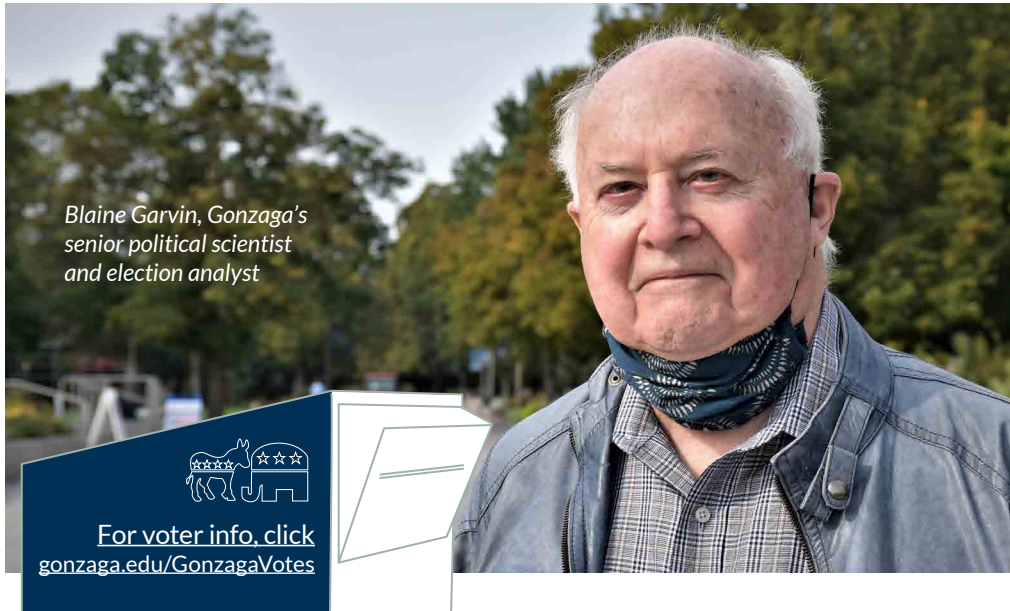
But Ettinger’s spring doubts turned into engaging fall possibilities for her and her Biology colleagues. “We knew after last spring that we’d better plan labs that could be taught 100% online, or hybrid, to be inclusive of students wherever they might be this fall.”

She knew with students’ concern for safety, and with some who may have health concerns preventing them from meeting in person, be in isolation or in quarantine, she needed to find ways to make labs accessible, engaging, fun and not a lot of busy work. “We started to rethink the expectations of engagement, reducing labs from 3 hours to 1 hour of Zoom per week, and really perform a major overhaul

in how we teach,” she says. “We redesigned our courses almost completely and are continuing to adjust the courses as we get a feel for the students’ energy, workloads of other courses, and tolerance for time online. It is a constant work in progress.”

For Genetics lab, as an example, the department removed the wet-lab portion and refocused on bioinformatics, using online databases to study DNA sequences. More Zoom breakout rooms were created, leading to more discussions and fewer writing assignments. “We wanted to get students connected and working together because that’s how science works in the real world. Being online actually makes this easier,” Ettinger says.

Gonzaga's Political Scientists Analyze This Most Unusual Presidential Election



the aggregate polls in 2020. Other key states are Florida, Arizona, Ohio, Iowa, Georgia, Texas and Minnesota, he says. "If polls are as wrong as they were in 2016, this race could be much closer. A lot can change in three weeks," he warns. Another interesting note: These political scientists believe a very low number of voters are undecided, compared to past elections.

Many questions have been posed regarding election fraud. Taninchev says, "The more people vote, the more confident we can be that the results reflect the will of the people."

Professor **Laura Brunell** downplays the potential for election fraud, "because we are watching. This will be the most scrutinized election in modern history. I trust journalists, election workers, poll workers, individual voters and the U.S. Court system to be vigilant."

While Associate Professor **Michael Treleven**, a Canadian, is confident in the authenticity of this election, he points out that some state political cultures need to be held accountable or election concerns will continue through the years. Gardner warns that voter suppression is a more likely concern in this election, with some states making voting more difficult for low-income and under-represented populations by limiting voting drop boxes to one site county wide, as one example.

Another impact of COVID-19 on this election is a health fear of going "out" to vote, especially in states that make obtaining an absentee ballot more difficult than others. This election will see more absentee and mailed-out ballots than ever before, another result of the pandemic. In no previous elections has vote-by-mail created significant concerns.

Garvin explains that this presidential election is wholly unique: besides questions surrounding the president's handling of the pandemic and its impact on American lives and the economy, voters are seeing what many believe are the visible results of climate change in wildfires, wind storms and massive flooding. The Black Lives Matter movement has raised racial injustice and equity to much higher levels. "The sitting president has called into question the legitimacy of the election and has hinted he may not give up the office if defeated. He's doing those things, I think, because he knows he may lose," Garvin says.

Political Science Chair **Stacy Taninchev** says political science professors try hard not to present partisan viewpoints to their students, but rather, present the facts about past and present, teach students how to analyze information and think critically about political arguments, and ask them to form their own opinions about what good policy looks like.

With that said, *Spirit* asked several of Gonzaga's political scientists to weigh in on the 2020 presidential election that has drawn so much attention across this country.

Just about everything relating to this election and its campaign has been touched by the pandemic. So says **Blaine Garvin**, political science professor now in his 50th year teaching at Gonzaga with even more years analyzing elections and campaigns.

For example, nominating conventions moved online; debates were distanced, canceled, distanced again; voters chose mail-in ballots in greater numbers for safety's sake; and the handling of COVID-19 became this election's major issue.

"When I was 9 years old I was upset with my parents for not letting me stay up to watch the returns (in the 1952 presidential election). My mother told me they might not know who won for days. Yet the next morning, there was Ike's picture on the front page of the Rocky

Mountain News," Garvin recalls. As it turned out, Dwight D. Eisenhower defeated Adlai Stevenson in an unexpected landslide.

Gonzaga's political scientists are not dismissing that possibility in this year's election, although polls obviously can be deceiving and President Donald Trump's unprecedented leadership behaviors make this a difficult election to predict. Remember, Hillary Clinton was up in the polls two weeks before the 2016 election and lost in the electoral college.

Garvin and Associate Professor **Joe Gardner** presented an analysis of "Election 2020" via Zoom on Oct. 14, and Gardner shared two aggregate polls (combining and weighting more than 100 polls each) that showed former Vice President Joe Biden leading by 10 percentage points. However, Gardner warns, polls are based upon those who voted in previous presidential elections. They do not account for a large increase in voters this time around. "If in 2020 the people who vote look different than what the polls have seen in previous elections, the outcome could be different," Gardner warns. "If you truly care about who wins the election, care more about the battleground states, as wins in those states are likely to decide this election."

Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania are states Trump won in 2016, but is trailing in

VETERANS RESCUED BY Hope with a Cold Nose

Christine Hassing ('18 MOL) was walking a journey with a friend who was dying of cancer. In the friend's last few weeks on Earth, Hassing began converting her words into letters her friend's two young sons would read in the years ahead.

"During the last conversation with my dear friend, I made a vow to her that I would make her story matter. I didn't know how at the time," Hassing says.

Then, Hassing received a class assignment in her Master of Organizational Leadership immersion for Imagine, Create, Lead, directing her to do something creative she had not done before. Writing life stories was not new to her; writing a story for someone not knowingly dying was.

"When I asked my classmate Jacob, a U.S. Navy veteran in class with his support dog Tracer, if I could write his story, it was a few weeks after my dear friend had died. I thought I was asking for a class assignment. My soul knew I was asking to fulfill a larger purpose," she recalls.

Three years later she has co-authored a book about the depths of pain, trauma, sorrow and despair, and equally about the power of courage, will and hope, with 22 remarkable veterans as she tells their stories of hope resulting from the camaraderie with, and support of their service animals. Her book is "Hope Has a Cold Nose," to be released on Veterans Day 2020.

Hassing recounts how service dogs help people with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in countless ways. From sensing a nightmare and waking a veteran before terror takes hold, to placing a comforting paw on someone's shoulder to ward off a panic attack, these dogs play a key role in helping those who've lived through trauma reintegrate into society.

The book includes the stories of 22 veterans and a first responder, who reminds us PTSD does not discriminate. Each day in this country 22 military vets take their own lives. Annually, 7,300 vets commit suicide, contrasting to 548 service women and men lost in combat.



Hassing and her running mate, Ginger.

PTSD is the common denominator in these stories. The role service dogs play in each vet's recovery is the blessing.

THE STORIES

Following Tom's return to civilian life, prescription medications were the coping mechanism. So was reclusiveness; leaving home was a major ordeal. Then came Ryder. And an 11-week road trip!

In another story, a Vietnam serviceman teamed with a dog (King) on missions to find explosive devices, and when the vet returned home, he was not able to bring King with him. That created a hole in his heart for nearly 30 years. Then, he got a service dog. "He talked about how King saved his life more than once, and how his new service dog is saving his life in a new way," Hassing says.

Another story recounts a veteran who went for a walk one day with no intention of returning. "He remembered his service dog licking his face, helping him set the gun down, and he has never looked back at hopelessness again," Hassing says.

"Telling their stories was an incredible honor and a very sacred journey because each one of these veterans gave me their trust to give their stories the honor and dignity they deserve, and I am not a veteran. I think because I believe so deeply in hope, I feel called to try to offer hope to those who feel the most hopelessness. It was an incredible privilege to be a voice for people who found healing in their journeys, and I was honored to be the bridge with my 23 co-authors," Hassing says.

This is her second book, the first one "To the Moon and Back to Me: What I Learned from Four Running Feet." She resides in southwest



www.hopehasacoldnose.com/hope-has-a-cold-nose-1


Michigan where her loudest neighbors are the bull frogs and blue herons, alongside her husband and their four-legged souls, each with a cold nose. After 26 years in the pharmaceutical industry, she now serves as a consultant, mentoring teams and individuals in respect to leadership development.

She is an avid runner, and remains involved with Gonzaga, helping Associate Professor **Adrian Pops** and Program and Faculty Support Coordinator **Kelsey Solberg** organize an alumni veterans' climb of Mt. Adams, hopefully to ascent next summer, COVID-19 willing.

**WE SALUTE
AND
THANK YOU**

Our 90 Employee
Veterans and
141 Student Vets

AROUND THE WORLD WITH TOMMY LLOYD



Lloyd, here with wife Chanelle, has traveled to more than 50 countries.



Tommy Lloyd's coaching story could be titled, "Planes, Trains and Automobiles." He has spent a lot of time on all three modes of transportation as he has traveled the world in search of the next great international Gonzaga basketball recruit. His list of recruiting successes is long: **Ronny Turiaf**, **Kelly Olynyk**, **Domantas Sabonis** and **Rui Hachimura**, just to name a few of Gonzaga's success stories.

He was interviewed on sports broadcaster **Fran Fraschilla's** World of Basketball podcast in September, and shared his story.

Lloyd joined Head Coach **Mark Few's** staff as administrative assistant in 2000, one year after Gonzaga's remarkable Cinderella run to the Elite Eight. The next year he was elevated to assistant coach.

Early on, Few told Lloyd he needed to create a recruiting niche for himself if he was going to achieve notable success in this field, tossing him a media guide from a U18 international event. Lloyd had already taken a liking to the international game, having played two seasons overseas following his college career at Whitman. He took Few's hint.

Few loaned Lloyd his calling card and told him to use it as he saw fit. "After a couple of months, Coach Few asked me if something had happened to his calling card. There were over \$2,000 in international calls on it," Lloyd said. Lloyd was calling all hours of the day and night to coincide with the time differences overseas. Obviously, there were a lot of relationships to be built, with European basketball officials, international coaches and scouts, and other foreign connections. Lloyd asked Few if he wanted the card back. Few said no.

Travel hasn't always been easy. Lloyd tells about the time he was flying to France when the Icelandic volcano blew, grounding air travel for several days. He made it to Copenhagen to stay with a friend, and needed to make it back to France to catch one of the few flights home. He got on a packed train, was dead tired, and crunched himself under a bench seat to sleep on his turn-around trip back to France. Travel's been rewarding, but not easy.

Turiaf Turned the Tide

Lloyd's first major success story was Turiaf, who he first saw play in the 2000 World Championships.

"Ronny is very intelligent, a big personality, a thoughtful caring guy who carries his emotions on his sleeve," Lloyd says of Turiaf, who was a French citizen growing up and playing in the Caribbean.

When Turiaf stepped off the plane in Spokane for his official Gonzaga visit, it was Lloyd's first time meeting him in person. Turiaf came down the ramp, turned to Lloyd and asked directly,

“Can I trust you?” Lloyd’s answer was, “Of course.”

Then, while the two were walking campus, they went downstairs in the former Crosby Student Center and played ping pong. “He’s pretty good and I’m not bad,” Lloyd recalled. “He hit a great shot and I dove to the floor and got it back on the table, my knee was bleeding.”

Apparently, he liked the effort. “Ronny looked at me and said, ‘This place is something different. This is where I want to be.’”

Turiaf’s success in a Zag uniform opened doors for a lot of other kids. “When French kids are considering playing in the U.S., he is an example they use as someone who had great success here,” Lloyd said. “He’s been a pied piper.”

Sabonis Was Next Pied Piper

After Ronny came Sabonis. He had a real passion for basketball, and wanted to get back to the United States where he was born while his father Arvydas starred for the Portland Trailblazers. And the elder Sabonis was all about his kids making their own decisions.

Lloyd recalls being with the Sabonis family when Lithuania qualified for its seventh straight Olympic games. Lloyd said he was next to Arvydas when they played the national anthem and he had goose bumps on his arms. He was so proud. A class guy. And the celebration with Arvydas following that event was one of Lloyd’s most fun ever, he said.

A Japanese Sensation

Lloyd first saw Hachimura play in 2014. He learned about Rui from a friend, but it took some detective work to track him down. Living in Japan, he was only in high school at the time. He was sent on a trip to the U.S. with a translator, and you could see the joy in his face. “We continued to recruit him sporadically. We brought Rui back for his official visit with his mom and a translator. We could see he had a ton of potential, and we had a good feeling about him as a person. Rui was really motivated to come to America,” Lloyd recalled.

When Lloyd returned to Japan with the Zags to play a game against Pittsburgh in a hangar on a Marine base there – which you might recall ended at halftime due to a slick floor – Gonzaga offered Rui a scholarship, and he accepted. Lloyd met at a local restaurant with Rui, several of his family members and a half dozen professional-looking guys in suits. “At that time, I was not very good with chop sticks, but knew I had to make it through this meal eating with chop sticks. I was so proud of myself. But they probably didn’t think I did very well,” Lloyd revealed.

Rui has become a big personality in Japan. During his sophomore and junior years at Gonzaga he’d often have a dozen Japanese reporters crowded around his locker after a game. “Fast forward three years, after he was drafted by Washington, I go back for a coaching clinic, take my family, and Rui is playing with his national team in the World Championships in China. By this time Rui couldn’t leave the hotel. People were waiting outside the hotel at 1 a.m. in an effort to see him,” Lloyd said.

International Players Find Fit Here

Gonzaga has had players from 17 countries over the years, and Lloyd’s recruits include: current players **Martynas Arlauskas** (Lithuania), **Joel Ayayi** (France), **Oumar Ballo** (Mali) and **Pavel Zakharov** (Russia). Former players include Hachimura, Sabonis and Turiaf, along with Polish National Team member **Przemek Karnowski**; Canadians **Kevin Pangos**, **Kelly Olynyk** and **Robert Sacre**; Germans **Elias Harris** and **Mathis Mönninghoff**; **JP Baptista** of Brazil; Frenchmen **Killian Tillie** and **Mathis Keita**; **Filip Petrusev** of Serbia; **Guy Landry Edi** of the Ivory Coast; and Nigerian **Addulahi Kuso**.

So what makes Gonzaga such an attractive place for international players, Lloyd was asked?

“We have lots of experience with supporting international students. Spokane is a great place to live, but not a hotbed of outstanding high school size and talent. It reminds you of an old-school Indiana town,” Lloyd said.

“We had to fish in waters that weren’t over saturated with other fishermen. Develop some relationships, develop some trust. It was definitely a commitment we made.”

“With these kids (who make such a big commitment to Gonzaga), you have a responsibility to deliver, and make sure they get what they need for their futures,” Lloyd said.

Olynyk is a great example. After his sophomore year, with some talented players in front of him, he was going to transfer, Lloyd said. “We convinced him to take a redshirt year, we worked hard with him, and he came back as WCC Player of the Year and is enjoying a great career in the NBA, playing in this year’s NBA final with the Miami Heat.”

Lloyd has two passions, beyond his family. He loves to travel, make new relationships and learn other cultures; and basketball. And he’s definitely found a niche for those passions at Gonzaga.

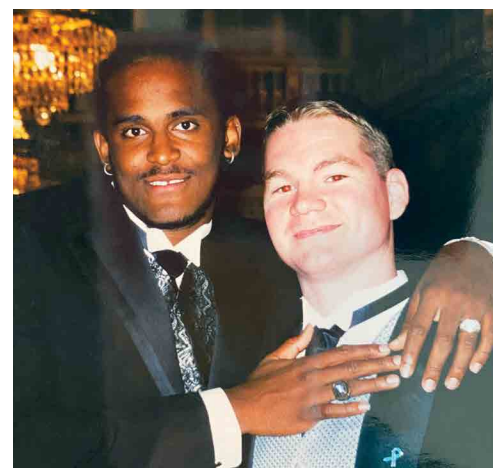
Listen to the podcast at [World of Basketball](#).



Rui Hachimura with the Lloyds’ children, Liam, Sofia, Marie; Tommy and Chanelle



Lloyd loves learning about, and partaking in, other cultures.



Pied piper Ronny Turiaf inspired other international players to be Zags.



Sustainability Ambassadors maintain the Sustainability Garden on campus.

SUSTAINABILITY AMBASSADORS SOUGHT

The Employee Sustainability Ambassadors program, operated by AmeriCorps volunteers in the Office of Sustainability, is looking for a new crop of ambassadors for spring semester, with application deadline Nov. 20. Questions can be directed to **Madison Dougherty** ('20) at doughertym@gonzaga.edu.

Launched in 2018, ESA provides a learning environment for employees to become voices for sustainability issues and causes, Dougherty says. Interactive sessions focus attention on topics like environmental justice, water, energy and waste. This next semester the group will learn more about sustainable cities, transportation, *Laudato Si*, agriculture and climate change. "The hope is that our ambassadors become adept in sustainability practices and share this knowledge with their departments and peers," she says.

ESA is one of three programs directed by the AmeriCorps volunteers. Another is the Student Sustainability Leadership Program, in which students work on a semester-long project to help improve Gonzaga's sustainability, offering ESA members a chance to work with and mentor students on their projects.

The third AmeriCorps sustainability project is the Spokane Climate Resiliency Academy for the county's community members.

Election Nuances from Page 2

This team of Gonzaga political scientists, some to more extent than others, say U.S. democracy is at stake in this election. "Democracy depends on transparency, accountability, restraint in the use of political power, and most importantly, having an informed electorate," says Brunell. Taninchev says, "While there are important issues at stake, the result and aftermath of this election could be more important than past elections in either preserving or further eroding our democracy." Treleven is concerned about America's democracy, but reminds us: "The United States didn't fall into a great dictatorship during the Great Depression, World War II, McCarthyism or the Cold War. I think this country is

more robust than that, even if some people are reckless with it today." But Garvin warns, "Many people in this country are genuinely concerned of the possibility of authoritarianism should the current president win re-election," echoing the pronounced concern of his fellow colleagues.

Will having a woman, Kamala Harris, on the ticket have an impact on the result of this election? Brunell says no. "This election is a referendum on Donald Trump." However, Garvin says, "This is an important step to have a woman, and a woman of color, on the Democratic ticket. It's an attempt by Biden to demonstrate inclusivity; an important moment it seems to me." Adds Brunell, a longtime teacher of Gender Politics, "Before the nomination was locked in, Biden said he would step aside after one term and pass the baton to his vice president. I'm not surprised this may be how America gets its first woman president."

Holidays Coming Up; NEW SPRING CALENDAR ANNOUNCED



Thanksgiving not only marks a well-deserved four-day break for staff and faculty (Nov. 26-29), but it also marks the end of in-person classes on campus for this fall semester. As earlier announced, all classes post-Thanksgiving will be delivered by remote means, as will finals. The semester ends Dec. 18.

This year, Gonzaga staff will have the week of Christmas off, from Monday, Dec. 21 to Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25. Friday, Jan. 1 is a holiday the following week.

In news shared with the community by Provost **Deena González** Oct. 9, spring break has been eliminated from the spring semester in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 following a week typically highlighted by student travel. Instead, spring semester will commence a week later than the original spring calendar dictated, on Tuesday, Jan. 19, the day following the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday.

Other spring holidays include President's Day on Feb. 15, and Good Friday and Easter Monday weekend, April 2-5. Students are given a pair of Reading Days (translate No Classes) on March 12 and May 3, with the last week of the semester scheduled May 4-7. Commencement weekend 2021 is May 8-9.

Labs Online from Page 1

And they try to have fun. Last spring Kirk Anders, who taught labs with both Ann-Scott and Bill Ettinger, created a lab video introduction that included "big head" pictures of the three instructors bobbing up and down to AC/DC's "Thunderstruck," superimposed over a Kennel crowd.

"The creativity always made me laugh and re-motivated me to complete my work," says student **Courtney Murray**. "I'll have to admit, it was difficult to have the hands-on experience of lab taken away, but GU professors continued to engage students with the material."

"It's been a roller coaster ride," Ann-Scott says. "It has been overwhelming and exhausting, but interesting and preventing Alzheimer's, at least that is what I keep telling myself!"



Ann-Scott Ettinger, with orphan vervet monkey, at Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage, Zambia 2018, Gonzaga-in-Chimfunshi Faculty-Led Study Abroad Program.

Oh, TO BE A FIRST YEAR STUDENT AGAIN



Rob Bryant

First Year Seminars can't help but capture one's attention. Some of them are a little bit like taking rocket science and applying it to floral ornamentation theory. They're fun, engaging and raise plenty of questions.

They introduce university academic life to Gonzaga's incoming freshmen, who strive to acclimate themselves to their new college lifestyles and the rigor and content of higher education. Every freshman must take one FYS.

Here are a few intriguing First Year Seminar course titles, both past and present: Freaks, Geeks & Outsiders, Fake News/Alternative Facts, and Music: A Human Obsession.

Makes you want to be a freshman again and sit in on a few of these classes.

For example, last fall Assistant Professor **Cassandra Dame-Griff** offered LOL: Comedy, Humor and Race, examining the role comedy plays in perpetuating racial stereotypes, or conversely, thwarting racism. Particularly timely.

Here are a few course descriptions from this fall:

Time of Your Life looks at questions of time that are as infinite as time itself. Still and yet, one central truth is undeniable: time matters. A lot. By the end of the semester students will consider the value of time as it relates to their future. Taught by Senior Lecturer **Jessica Halliday**, English, and Information Technology Professor **Rob Bryant**.

Art of Walking examines a form of action and reflection, with repercussions for the individual, the environment and the larger community. Philosophical traditions of walking, epistemological differences, challenges posed by ableist cultures and space, justice issues, walking as a form of protest. Taught by Assistant Professor **Casey Schmitt**, Communications Studies.

Around Campus

Assistant professor of management information systems **Tim Olsen** has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar, currently scheduled to arrive in Kuala Lumpur's capital city of Malaysia in mid-January. He will teach at the University of Malaya, and conduct research on crowdsourcing as an employment opportunity for historically marginalized people.



Law Dean **Jacob Rooksby** was elected to the American Law Institute, a national group that focuses on law reform. He also edited a book published last spring entitled, "Research Handbook on Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer."

"The New Leader: What 2020 taught us about how to lead in 2021," is the subject of **Chris Lowney's** Nov. 5, 6 p.m. virtual talk, presented by the School of Business Administration. [Lowney event](#). He is vice chair of the board of CommonSpirit Health, America's largest nonprofit health system. He is a one-time Jesuit seminarian and later

served as a managing director of J.P. Morgan & Co on three continents.

What Happened? Post-Election Analysis with GU Political Science Professors **Blaine Garvin** and **Joe Gardner**, Nov. 12, 4-5 p.m. via Zoom, meeting ID: 974 8869 7792, password 536751.

Dance Presents! a live-streamed dance concert featuring 12 students comprising the Ballet Ensemble, is Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m. This dance premiere was created for these GU dance students by **Kyle Davis**, a principal dancer with Pacific Northwest Ballet. They will be masked, and each in a 10-foot taped square, dancing to "Variations on a Theme, Tchaikovsky Op.35a." Live stream performance at youtu.be/tYjkw10FzU.

Voice recitals will be live-streamed from the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center Recital Hall on Nov. 2 and 23 at 5:30 p.m., with instrumental recitals Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. Find live stream link [here](#).

Jesuit Education: A Fire Kindling Other Fires. Walking the cat back to St. Ignatius, the Spiritual Exercises and the Jesuit plan of learning (Ratio Studiorum), students apply insights to modern educational and societal situations by placing texts and interpretations in dialogue with contemporary issues of faith, community, spirituality, learning and social justice. Taught by Associate Professor Fr. **Steve Kuder**, S.J., Religious Studies.

Coming of Age explores emerging into adulthood, focusing on faith development, relationships, college/work commitments, risk-taking and identity exploration, and how this period of life-course is shaped by culture. Taught by University Core Director and Psychology Professor **Molly Kretchmar-Hendricks**.

Extraordinary Bodies studies how human forms have been described and categorized over time, and dignity denied to some whose bodies are marked by science/medicine, i.e. disabled, fat, a race or gender, among other embodiments. Students choose a local problem affecting a marginalized group and complete an action-learning project to address it. Taught by Associate Professor **Sara Diaz**, Women's & Gender Studies.

NOTEWORTHY

NEW HIRES:

Steve Hammer, lecturer, Biology; **Michael Reamer**, communications officer, Campus Security & Public Safety; **Kaylee Krout**, adviser, Academic Advising & Course Enrollment; **Erica Ramos-Thompson**, case manager, Cura Personalis

POSITION CHANGES/PROMOTIONS

Brandi Praytor-Marsters, asst director, youth programs, Community Engagement; **Wayne Shadd**, financial support analyst, GUEST; **Caleb Strine**, operations manager, GUEST; **Greg McGuire**, operations manager, GUEST, **Stephanie Conlin**, manager, Clinical Legal Programs

GOODBYES

Erin Morrison, psychiatrist, Health & Counseling Services; **Kelly Alvarado-Young**, director, First Year Experience; **Tyler Hobbs**, major gift officer, University Advancement; **Camesha Little**, asst dean, student affairs, Law; **Carlee Payton**, office asst I, Health & Counseling Services; **Jennifer Anderson**, operations specialist I, Admission; **Greg Swift**, custodian, Plant; **Jason Phahongchanh**, custodian, Plant; **Aaron Faulks**, custodian, Plant; **Nicoline Schepis**, receptionist, Health & Counseling Services; **Kathryn Stefano**, technical analyst, Financial Aid; **Judy Noll**, interlibrary loan asst, Foley; **Laura Miller**, program asst III, Law; **Kyle Myers**, case manager, Cura Personalis

GRAY HAIR AND THE DIGNITY OF BLACK FOLKS

By Ed Taylor

Trustee, two-time alum and former men's basketball player Ed Taylor is vice provost and dean of undergraduate academic affairs at the University of Washington and professor of education. He penned this piece, originally published on KUOW.org (Sept. 3, 2020); it is republished here with permission.

As a Black man, these past few months I have thought a lot about dying. More than usual. When I was young, I imagined a death where I learn that I have an incurable disease and then begin my final, glorious lap around.

The end comes in the company of family and friends and a final touch of a loving hand before my last breath. The end, in some way, resembles the very beginning of life — swaddled, surrounded by love, care and attention to every breath. There is something sacred about that first breath, the last and all in between.

When I was in college, I read about death and dying, which Emerson described as being “kind” and Socrates described as “like a dreamless sleep.” I learned that death is sacred and is a counterpart to birth. Buddhists prepare for death, because it can happen at any time — breathing is the most cherished gift of nature.

I loved my college courses. I have taught my share as well. Every time I would return home from college and enter Grace Temple Baptist Church in California with my mother, I was in the presence of people who knew things. They knew, to quote James Baldwin, rivers “ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins.” They knew about death and dignity, especially those who grew to be old.

I have lived long enough to know there is no promise that the end of my life will be the one I hope for — a time that involves a rocking chair and a grandchild on my knee; stories about the 50-pound trout that I caught in Lake Washington; the basketball game where I sang the national anthem and went on to score 75 points, including the winning basket; endless magic tricks.

I WANT MY HAIR TO BE FULLY GRAY. THE LIVES OF BLACK FOLKS SHOULD END WITH DIGNITY.



Ed Taylor, Ph.D.
(’82, ’83 M.A.)
GU Trustee

I want to fall asleep at the dinner table but not before saying embarrassing things. I want to be seen as having wisdom worth sharing. I want my hair to be fully gray. I want to be called distinguished every now and again and crazy most often. I don’t need much praise and will settle for forgiveness for the times I’ve come up short. I want to tell stories about the 70s. I want to pass down my Marvin Gaye and Supremes vinyl. I want to tell the kids, “Lemme show you how the ‘Soul Train’ dancers busted a move in the day.”

When I would return home to visit my mother in California, there were fewer and fewer Black men in her church. One year, the men’s choir had become a trio. I know the life expectancy data for Black men, many who have suffered quietly. I know the price of things, which is why I lie awake at night out of the “reach of warm milk.” I know that I’ll be fine but not okay. My father held his grandson, my son, once, for a moment. He never met his granddaughter. I pass on my father’s fishing and military stories as best I can.

I think about death more now because I want to live well. I do not want my life to be something I beg for. I do not want to plead for my last breath under an officer’s knee. I do not want to run from a bullet. I do not want my final moments to be recorded by a stranger with a cell phone, a video that goes viral. I do not want my nurse to be in a biohazard suit. I want my last breath, my brother’s last breath, my son’s last breath, my daughter’s last breath to be cherished — just as I cherished their first breaths. On my last night, I want to feel like a child again, safe and beloved.

My friend, B.J. Miller, a palliative care physician, has made it his mission to help people live well in the face of death. He knows life, death and suffering. He says, “At the end of our lives, what do we most wish for? Comfort, respect and love.”

I have no desire to give a “last lecture” when my time comes. I’ve had many opportunities to say what I need to say. I want the last word to go to the elders; I want there to be more elders. I want the last word to go to the young Black man in middle school and the young Black woman in high school now, those who will become elders.

I want to hear the cries and laughter of the baby newly born in the neighborhood that has the most cracks in the sidewalks and a few broken windows — a community that is truly colorful and vibrant, a community that cherishes that baby. I want that child to live to be elderly. I want my current and former students to have their say.

I want us all to rest in peace. I want it never to be said that our birthright pre-determines the length and quality of our lives. The lives of Black folks should end with dignity, their final breath sacred and childlike.

If there is such a thing as a good death, and let us imagine that there is, we take our last breaths, not have them taken.