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Father Pat Conroy, from one house to another.



From **CAPITOL** to **CATHERINE-MONICA**

Former U.S. House Chaplain Fr. Pat Conroy
Finds a Home Back at GU Working with Students

Father **Pat Conroy, S.J.**, attended law school at Gonzaga in 1972-73, when a chance meeting with Father **Pat Carroll, S.J.**, in the chow line at Cataldo Hall eventually led to him joining the Jesuits. He came back in 1976-77 to earn his master's in philosophy, and now returns to us to work with students through the Office of Mission & Ministry.

Fr. Conroy, now 70, served as chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives for the past 10 years, a post that centered on praying for the work of Congress and offering spiritual support for its members. He left Capitol Hill in January and moved into Catherine-Monica, one of Gonzaga's favored freshman dorms, in March.

House Chaplain

After stints serving the Colville and Spokane Tribes of Indians, directing retreats at Seattle and Georgetown universities, and teaching freshman theology at Portland's Jesuit High, Fr. Conroy's ministry would take its biggest shift ever. Oregon Provincial **Pat Lee, S.J.**, former Gonzaga vice president for mission, asked him to apply to be chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Knowing Conroy's undergraduate degree was in political science and having earned a law

degree at St. Louis, Lee knew Conroy would be a good pick. As it turned out, incoming Speaker of the House **John Boehner**, a Xavier alumnus, wanted to hire a Jesuit.

"My history in life and with the Jesuits set me up for this position," said Fr. Conroy, who held the job through 2020, although Speaker **Paul Ryan** asked him to resign his position in 2018 after the chaplain subtly criticized Republican tax cuts in a prayer. The chaplain resigned only to rescind his resignation, Ryan reinstating him a week later.

"When I went to Congress, I had more than 80 freshman men and women representatives," Fr. Conroy said. "A freshman is a freshman regardless of where they come from. So moving from the freshman classroom to the House of Representatives was not a big transition. I felt well-prepared."

The House chaplain provides a prayer at the beginning of every working session, and addresses whatever comes up, Fr. Conroy said.

"In Congress, I was the only person with whom a member could have a conversation knowing that it would go nowhere. Every other person in Washington has to guard what they say. What kind of a life is that?" the former chaplain wondered. "They are doing an

incredible service to the country, despite the kind of life they are forced to live."

Among his House highlights were blessing Pope Francis when he came to Congress ("I had 20 seconds)," and a magical meeting early in his term with the Dalai Lama when just four months earlier he was teaching high school freshmen.

Making his Home at Gonzaga

He had been replaced as chaplain by retired Admiral **Margaret Kibben** when the Jan. 6 insurrection occurred at the Capitol. He's content being back on the west coast, at Gonzaga, serving students in retreat and sacramental ministries, liturgy and first-year engagement.

And he's fitting in splendidly with many talents, a big personality and a bigger heart.

For St. Patrick's Day, Fr. Conroy decked out in green, brought green balloons to the Hemmingson Center, and offered all students lime milkshakes.

His big personality adds to the fun of the Mission and Ministry office. **Ben Goodwin**, who shares an office wall with Fr. Conroy, says he and his colleagues play a game: "What song is Pat going to be humming today?"

Enter his office at any time of day and you might find him strumming his guitar. He once played in a campus band called *Bea Pigs*, which performed at open mic nights in the COG. "They'd often shut the place down," Goodwin says. Fr. Conroy is well known for engaging retreat audiences with sing-alongs, mostly to classic rock songs. And he studies the roll sheet for every retreat he participates

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Spirit of St. Aloysius Alive and Well at Vaccination Center



GU volunteers have made the CHAS Vaccine Center at Gonzaga possible, donating more than 1,000 shifts in service to our community.

During her volunteer shift at the CHAS Health Vaccine Clinic in Martin Centre, Engineering's **Emily Livingston** found great joy in seeing her mom and grandma being vaccinated. "It reminded me of the importance of what we were doing...each of those people we helped get vaccinated was someone else's mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, daughter, son...and it was an honor to help protect so many loved ones," she says.

Through 18 days of vaccine distribution on campus, pieced together between Feb. 26 and April 3, Gonzaga and fellow volunteers administered an average of about 750 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine per day, for more than 13,000 doses overall.

Livingston served one of more than 1,000 volunteer shifts contributed by Gonzaga Jesuits, administrators, faculty, staff and employees' family members, estimated **Anthony Brown**, emergency manager in Risk Management.

But this didn't happen without a lot of preparation in a very short period of time.

"Thank God we're Zags or we might not have been able to do this," says **Charlita Shelton**, COVID compliance officer in the president's office. "We got the call from CHAS on Feb. 22, asking if we could put together a vaccination center to open Feb. 26. In the course of the next three days, a team of

about 20 of us reached out to others and made this happen."

Associate Athletic Director **Rob Kavon** toured CHAS's Spokane Arena setup to make sure he could duplicate everything in the same way at the Martin Centre Fieldhouse. Associate Dean of Undergraduate Nursing **Joan Owens** helped us figure out staffing the clinical side of the operation, utilizing our School of Nursing students and faculty, and getting help from WSU's nursing students. **Julia Bjordahl** and **Angela Ruff** from the president's office, and **Tara McAloon** from Arts and Sciences, staffed the non-clinical volunteers, determining shift length, recruiting and orientation. Security Director **Becky Wilkey** assigned staff to handle traffic control. Fr. **Pat Conroy, S.J.**, volunteered a number of shifts as a greeter, calming the nerves and raising the spirits of those coming for their vaccinations.

CHAS had unexpectedly received an extra federal allotment of 8,700 vaccinations, and was unsure where to turn for dissemination. Gonzaga was its answer.

"Gonzaga had petitioned the Spokane Regional Health District to be a distribution Center, but we have yet to be called. Then CHAS asked us to help out and our effort speaks to how Gonzaga was willing to step up," Shelton says. "St. Aloysius was caring for the sick during the plague, *cura personalis*. We're following in his example."

Clinic volunteer and Assistant Philosophy Professor **Maria Howard** is a medical ethicist, and has seen many tense moments in Spokane County over the past year as people and agencies have tried to deal with COVID. "But what I saw at this clinic was the opposite of this: People were hopeful and cheerful. I greeted folks in the line for a bit, and I got to hear people talking about life post-pandemic. It was such a gift after a year of worrying about the realities of limited resources if too many people became very ill in Spokane and Eastern Washington. This was one of those experiences that was so profound for me, I'll keep it 'tucked away' and revisit it a lot in the future, I think. It was a great reminder that joy and mourning can and must co-exist," she says.

Women's tennis Coach **D.J. Gurule** was totally engaged as a volunteer. "It was such a special opportunity to be a part of something positive and exciting. To see the look of hope on people's faces was very rewarding. The sound of positive chatter was everywhere. I am proud to be a member of such a special institution."

Gonzaga's work on behalf of CHAS ends April 3. The University awaits word from the local health district and the state to gain approval to become a point of distribution vaccination clinic.

Pat Conroy, S.J.

Continued from page 1

in to learn every camper's name and a few notes about each one, something Fr. Carroll taught him 50 years ago. "The students appreciate someone who remembers their names."

His office walls offer a menagerie of items reflective of his life on Capitol Hill and at other stops on his career's journey. Framed pictures of the inauguration of Presidents Obama and Trump, a license plate offering Capitol Plaza parking, and a ceremonial drum, the gift of the Spokane Tribe, to name a few.

"Pat can equally talk philosophy, theology, law and politics and in the next minute be playing

a sing-along song on his guitar," said Mission and Ministry Director **Luke Lavin**. "I have enjoyed getting to know of his athletic career as a track and field star (at Claremont Men's College), his time in Washington D.C., and hearing his deep but infectious laugh. Getting to see his love of life and God has already set our office and campus ablaze. As a priest, he believes and compels me, and all of us, to be healers of a world in deep need."



Center for Climate, Society, and the Environment

Addressing Climate Emergency through Education, Outreach is Focus of New Center's Mission

Center Launch, Inaugural Lecture Planned

The launch of the Center for Climate, Society and the Environment will be live streamed on April 22 at 3:30 p.m. featuring panelists **Jay Inslee**, Washington state governor; **Bill McKibben**, author, educator and 350.org co-founder; and **Keya Chatterjee**, executive director of the U.S. Climate Action Network, as they discuss the impact of climate change and the promise of the Climate Center. The program also features remarks from President **Thayne McCulloh** and Jesuit leadership, and director **Brian Henning** on the mission of, and vision for, the Climate Center's work.

Also, on April 26 at 5 p.m., Henning will deliver the Center's inaugural lecture on "Universities in the Eozoic Era." To register for either event, go to www.gonzaga.edu/ClimateCenter.

The human species now threatens Earth's capacity to sustain life as we know it. This is what more than 1,360 experts concluded in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Global climate change is an urgent and significant threat that will define much of the 21st century.

That's why Gonzaga is establishing the Gonzaga Center for Climate, Society and the Environment, which launches on Earth Day, April 22 at 3:30 p.m. in a live-streamed event.

"In 2019, Pope Francis declared we have a 'climate emergency.' As a Jesuit institution, we have a special obligation to direct our work to hear both the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth," says **Brian Henning**, founding director of the Climate Center.

"For many years colleagues across campus have worked hard to reduce the impact of our operations and shrink our ecological footprint through actions such as diverting waste, building LEED certified buildings, and adopting technologies that use less energy and create less pollution. By creating an interdisciplinary academic space, the Climate Center brings together our diverse intellectual and scholarly talents to make an even bigger impact on our campus and the Inland Northwest in meeting unprecedented challenges to our climate and the environment," Henning says.

Several projects are already underway.

The Climate Literacy Project, in collaboration with Spokane Public Schools and Educational Service District 101, offers professional development workshops for secondary science teachers on incorporating climate change into their classrooms in grades 7-12. Already, 103 teachers from across the region have participated in more the 400 hours of professional development, potentially annually impacting 4,900 high school students with new climate literacy material, Henning says.

The Cataldo Project, nearly five years in operation, aims to help faculty at Gonzaga and regional universities and colleges address

how best to incorporate climate content and pedagogy into curricula in every discipline, from engineering, business and science to law, art and history.

The Center will continue hosting the **Spokane Candidates Climate Change Forum** in October of each year, inviting area candidates for office to answer questions regarding climate change and their views for the future.

Growing into the future, Henning says the Center will broaden out to assist communities in the Northwest better understand, plan for and respond to climate change.

The Climate Resilience Project seeks to offer the region's business leaders and policymakers invaluable research, expertise and advice as they develop or advance their plans to help their organizations and communities understand, mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Climate Center will offer lectures and colloquia related to climate, society and the environment and work with communities on climate-related issues.

The Center has partnered with Oregon State University's Climate Impact Research Consortium to propose a five-year National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration grant. If funded, the grant would support hiring and preparing Gonzaga students to work with and advise communities in need, like Malden, Washington, 80% of which burned to the ground in summer 2020 by raging wildfires. The Climate Center has already received a \$100,000 donation from New Priority Foundation. Several other grant options are in the works.

"To my knowledge, Gonzaga is the first Jesuit college or university center established to focus on climate change. The need is urgent as global warming accelerates, causing rising coast lines, larger and more erratic storms, and longer and more devastating wildfires," Henning says.

The Climate Center will offer innovative, interdisciplinary scholarship, teaching, consulting and capacity-building as it moves forward.

Zag Alums Point to Early Signs of Program's Rise to Basketball Pinnacle



Jeff Brown ('94), Jim McPhee ('90) and Geoff Goss ('94), all premier Zag players in the 1990s, point to key turning points in GU's rise to greatness.

The names Kispert, Timme, Ayayi and Suggs are familiar to everyone following the Zags through this pandemic-riddled, patchwork season of men's basketball.

But this rise to the pinnacle of the men's collegiate basketball world has been a long time in forming. We sat down with three highly successful Zags from the early days of the start of Gonzaga's basketball prosperity for a glimpse of those early signs of what might transpire.

The names McPhee, Brown and Goss may be less well known to those who have jumped on the Zag bandwagon in just the last 20 years. But they saw the transformation coming.

Jim McPhee ('90, '96 J.D.) is the managing partner in the Spokane Law firm

Witherspoon Brajcich McPhee PLLC. Before he was battling for his clients he was tickling the twine in the Old Kennel and all over the country, becoming Gonzaga's second leading career scorer behind Frank Burgess ('61) by the time he graduated.

Geoff Goss ('94, '99 J.D.), a partner in the Boise law firm Goss Gustavel Goss PLLC, was a scrappy, hard-charging walk-on during McPhee's senior season who played himself into a scholarship and a first-team all-conference selection his senior year.

Jeff Brown ('94), CEO of Mivation in Spokane, chose Washington over Gonzaga out of Mead High School, but a change in UW coaching staffs and a very persuasive Zag, Jarrod Davis ('92), made a transfer to GU an easy decision following Brown's freshman year. Considered by many to be the linchpin of the team's rise to national notoriety, Brown earned three first-team all-conference selections, as did McPhee, and became the nation's scholar athlete of the year.

Brown and Goss combined to lead Gonzaga to its first-ever post-season appearance in the National Invitation Tournament in 1994. Their win over Stanford in the first round was a highlight of their careers.

But it was Gonzaga's 1997 84-71 win over No. 5-ranked Clemson in the Top of the World Tournament in Fairbanks, Alaska, that made these three believe that the Zags were now competing at a different level.

It was Coach Dan Monson's first of two years

as head coach. "I remember thinking that Mons and the young staff of Coach Mark Few and Coach Billy Grier may be starting something special," Brown said.

Goss was attending GU law school at that time. "I was listening to GU beat Clemson. It was hard to study at the time, much to the chagrin of my esteemed law professor and adviser Gary Randall. I found myself thinking that we really may be on to something with this class and other players now committed to Gonzaga. With the effort of the University and its coaching staff, it simply snowballed from there," Goss said. NIT in 1998, NCAA Elite Eight in 1999, and 21 NAAs since!

McPhee goes back even further to 1983 when a team his brother Bryce played on defeated highly-touted DePaul in Chicago's Rosemont Horizon on a last-second miss and tip-in by Dave Clement. "I also remember sensing a sea change coming when Matt Santangelo ('00) chose Gonzaga over several other high-ranked teams in 1997."

But perhaps the spark came in 1989-90 when Coach Dan Fitzgerald chose to redshirt Goss, Davis, Eric Brady, Matt Stanford, Scott Spink and Marty Wall, leaving Jim McPhee and his teammates to fend for themselves, along with a couple of young assistants, Monson and Mark Few. The result? Gonzaga's last losing season, 8-20.

"Coach Few had the unenviable task of coaching the redshirts every day," Goss said. "He was always the one telling us that if the work is put in, and the positive effort is a constant, and if you compete daily, great things would not only happen to our class, but to the University, as well."

McPhee has no hard feelings about being the sacrificial lamb that year.

"I always jokingly refer to my senior-year team as the zero in the 180-degree turnaround that Gonzaga basketball took. If that was by design and we contributed even the slightest bit to Gonzaga's current success, then I have nothing but praise for forward-thinking coaches. And that team after my senior year is one of my favorites to this day," said McPhee, whose senior team quite often was beaten by the redshirt pack during practices in Martin Centre.

And so started this Cinderella story, and launched the career of Few.

"Mark is a lock for the Hall of Fame," Brown said. "He has a great basketball mind, is an incredible evaluator of talent and so

Top of the World Win Over No. 5 Clemson was a Wake Up Call

innovative in his approach to player development.”

Brown was among nearly 100 past players

and former coaches invited to a social and a visit with the 2017 players the night before the semifinal game against South Carolina in Phoenix.

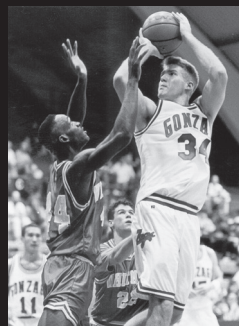
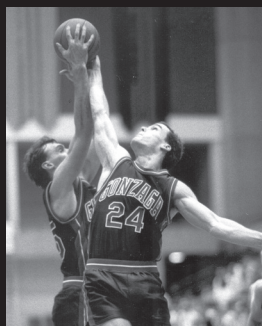
“Mark did a fantastic job of being extremely inclusive. When the players saw us walk into the room, unprompted they gave us a standing ovation,” Brown said. “Everyone in that room had chills. That spoke volumes for the character of the players and the culture of this program.”

Goss said that family feeling is what makes

Gonzaga so special. “Even when I walked on, I felt people at Gonzaga and in the surrounding area really cared about our students. That sense of belonging makes Gonzaga what it is today, and contributed greatly to how highly-regarded it has become.”

This Gonzaga basketball story is unprecedented in sports history, Brown said. “My greatest joy and pride are that they continue to do it the right way.”

The Zag way.



MILESTONES: Top row, l to r: Top of the World title in 1997; Jim McPhee 1990; Jeff Brown 1994; Sweet 16 celebration in 1999. Bottom row; Matt Santangelo key piece in two trips to the NCAAs 1999-2000; Adam Morrison led nation in scoring in 2006; Killian Tillie, Zach Collins and Przemek Karnowski (far right) helped earn a spot in national title game in 2017.

Senior Corey Kispert: A Man for All Seasons



Rev. Janeen Steer and Corey Kispert meet to plan their next Lent podcast.

Arguably the best player on the No. 1-ranked men’s basketball team in the country, senior Associated Press first-team All-America **Corey Kispert** is no prima donna. He’s a regular guy.

Despite being in the heat and chaos of managing a successful basketball season in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, Kispert has kept his teammates focused, led by example, while completing work on an MBA after earning his bachelor’s degree in 2020 in business administration (marketing and entrepreneurship).

Agilely withstanding the mounting pressure that goes with so much national notoriety, Kispert takes time out of March Madness to offer insights to Gonzaga’s Lent programming on Instagram, partnering with Rev. **Janeen Steer** from Gonzaga’s Office of Mission and Ministry.

“The program is an effort to inspire and remind students in the middle of the week of their journey toward Easter, and to supply them with good news and a deeper idea of practicing their faith,” Steer says.

“Corey is an exceptional leader. I see him in Bulldog Athlete Ministry (a group of spiritually minded student-athletes) not always in the front, and never passively hanging in the back. But finding the best ways to connect with people. We see it in our sessions and we see it on the basketball court,” Steer says. Kispert has served on BAM’s leadership team all four years of his Gonzaga education.

His basketball team leadership has been integral to the Zags as they have maneuvered their way through the coronavirus potholes while preserving an undefeated season. His maturity is tangible. But so is his care for his fellow students. For the past three years, Kispert has offered insights into his own faith formation at the University’s First-Year Retreats. He even found time to participate in Gonzaga’s intramural golf league with fellow students this past fall.

Kispert withdrew from NBA draft consideration in June after his junior year to devote full time to his team, completing his academics and sharpening his faith.



READING TOGETHER

Several departments have engaged in collaborative reading groups over the last year, and not surprisingly, there's common thread in the selections: racial reconciliation. Here are a few examples.

Enrollment Management

"How to Be an Antiracist"
by Ibram Kendi

"Half of a Yellow Sun"
by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

"Between the World and Me"
by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Marketing & Communications, Student Affairs

"So You Want to Talk About Race"
by Ijeoma Oluo

Mission & Ministry

"Racial Justice and the Catholic Church"
by Fr. Bryan Massingale

School of Leadership Studies

The staff group read:

"White Fragility"
by Robin DiAngelo

"The New Jim Crow"
by Michelle Alexander.

Faculty and staff together read:

"All We Can Save" Ayana Johnson and
Katharine Wilkinson, editors

"Stillness is the Key"
by Ryan Holiday.

These efforts are a way to foster individual and collective learning and growth. The University benefits.

New Alliance Provides Valuable Campus Resources

An Update from the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

While the unwarranted killings of **George Floyd**, **Breonna Taylor**, Asian American and Pacific Islanders and countless others are inexcusable, they have heightened our awareness of racial inequalities and injustice, sparking increased efforts to study, learn about and take more active roles in fighting racism.

One of the actions taken by Gonzaga is joining the Liberal Arts Colleges Racial Equity Leadership Alliance, along with 58 other institutions. That number will undoubtedly grow. Launched last November by the University of Southern California Race and Equity Center, it is becoming a major resource for GU deans, faculty members, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, DEI practitioners and experts.

Associate Chief Diversity Officer **Robin Kelley** serves as the University's liaison to the Alliance.

She says one of the most notable tools offered by LACRELA is a series of eConvenings, which Gonzaga deans or their designees attend monthly. Each session features experts in the field, both in higher education and more broadly. Upcoming topics include:

- Accountability and Incentives for Advancing Racial Equity
- Confronting Explicit Acts of Racism and Racial Violence on Campus
- Disaggregating Data to Identify Racial Inequities
- Recovering from COVID-19 Racial Inequities
- Teaching the Truth About Slavery and America's Racial History
- Strategically Hiring Faculty of Color
- Supporting and Retaining Faculty of Color
- Recruiting and Strategically Diversifying Staff at All Levels
- Creating Equitable Pathways to Leadership Roles for Employees of Color
- Meaningfully Integrating Racial Topics Across the Curriculum

Gonzaga will administer an Alliance-provided campus climate survey to students next academic year to measure the feelings of belonging and inclusion, the frequency

and depth of cross-racial interactions, and appraisals of institutional commitment to diversity and inclusion. A similar survey of faculty will take place the following year, and of staff the third year, Kelley says.

LACRELA member college representatives will meet regularly to share ideas, seek advice and identify ways the alliance can have a collective impact on racial equity in higher education. Meetings will discuss how to address urgent racial issues confronting the nation and campuses as such arise.

"We must create new and more comprehensive approaches to build and sustain an equitable and inclusive campus community – a vital responsibility that requires constant attention and broad-based commitment," says President **Thayne McCulloh**. "In conjunction with existing leadership and programs, LACRELA will strengthen our ongoing commitment to diversity, inclusion, equity and anti-racism in our pedagogy, policies and practices."



Top row: Marcia Bertholf, Mary Farrell & Cheryl Mitchell; bottom row: Stefania Nedderman, Pat Reese, Gary Weber & Quanhua Liu



Top row: Julia Bjordahl, Scott Bozman & Paul DePalma; bottom row: Mary Heitkemper, Lori Leonard, Jerri Shepard & Vicki Yount



David Elloy, Ken Krall, S.J. & Jason Chen



Larry Perkins

Anniversarians Devote 745 Years of Service to GU

During his first year in office, President **Thayne McCulloh** revived a tradition to take time to recognize those whose long-time work and achievements have made our success as an institution possible. As such, 26 employees celebrating milestone anniversaries, a combined 745 years of service, were honored at this year's virtual celebration in March.

The good cheer shared this night culminated in a toast by **George Wendt**, who played Norm on the hit TV series Cheers. "I would like to salute all of the Gonzaga colleagues who are celebrating milestone anniversaries this year. That's really something. I'm personally going to have a drink to celebrate all your hard work. So, Cheers everybody! Go Zags."

The virtual evening included a PowerPoint slide show and brief citations on the accomplishments of each anniversarian. Friends and family members of the guests of those honored were invited to join in the evening of recognition.

Each administrator presenting one of the milestone groups reminded the audience what was happening when their colleagues signed on with Gonzaga:

- 25 years ago/1995 - Top-rated TV show was ER, the FDA approved the first Chicken Pox vaccine, Forrest Gump won best motion picture
- 30 years ago/1990 - Top TV show was Cheers, Nelson Mandela left prison after 27 years, East and West Germany were reunited
- 35 years ago/1985 - Average home cost was \$100,000, Coca Cola changed its original formula (which didn't work out so well)
- 40 years ago/1980 - Mt. St. Helens erupted, Post-It Notes were created, the big question was "Who shot J.R.?"

The longest serving honoree, serving 40 years, is Infrastructure Architect **Larry Perkins** from ITS. He had come to GU on a National Merit Scholarship in 1976, with a desire to serve youth and become a teacher. In 1977, unable to afford the cost of taking 21 credits, he simply sat in on a 4-credit Fortran class, and soon thereafter launched a career in IT. He served the department as a work-study student, then became a fulltime employee in 1980.

"While much at Gonzaga has changed over the years, one thing holds steady: our people. Individuals like those celebrated at this event, who dedicate their hearts and soul every day to our mission of educating students to go out and change the world. It is your partnership, leadership, dedication and commitment that inspires all of us," McCulloh said.

40

Larry Perkins - Infrastructure Architect - Information Technology Services

35

Jason Chen - Prof., Mgmt. Information Systems - School of Business Administration

David Elloy - Prof., Management (Retired) - School of Business Administration

Ken Krall, S.J. - Senior Lecturer (Retired) - Classical Languages

30

Julia Bjordahl - Exec. Assist. to the President - Office of the President

Scott Bozman - Professor, Marketing - School of Business Administration

Paul De Palma - Prof, Computer Science - School of Engineering and Applied Science

Mary Heitkemper - Director - Career & Professional Development

Doug Kries - Prof. - Philosophy Department

Lori Leonard - Concierge, Hemmingson Center - GUEST

Jerri Shepard - Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Educ. Lead. & Admin. - School of Education

Michael Treleaven - Assoc. Prof. - Political Science

Vicki Yount - Law Clinic Paralegal - Clinical Law Program

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Marcia Bertholf - Admin. Assist. to the CFO - Finance Dept.

Louisa Diana - Assoc. Dir. - Student Fin. Svcs.

Mary Farrell - Prof. Emerita - Art Dept.

Colleen Goodwin - Senior Lecturer - Mathematics

Quanhua Liu - Assoc. Prof. - Philosophy

Cheryl Mitchell - Senior Director Data, Reporting & Analytics - Univ. Advancement

Stefania Nedderman - Assoc. Prof. - Modern Languages

Pat Reese - Senior Principal Giving Officer - University Advancement

Janet Snowden - Custodian Shift Supv. - Plant Services

Gary Weber - Prof., Accounting - School of Business Administration

Nancy Yamaura - Custodian Shift Supv. - Plant Services

*one 25-year anniversarian chose not to be included

ACCREDITATION TEAM ASSESSING STUDENT SUCCESS, INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

University accreditation occurs every seven years, and Gonzaga's virtual site visit by an accreditation task force from the Northwest Commission on College and Universities' (NWCCU) takes place in April. Faculty, staff and students have a chance to meet with the evaluators via Zoom as follows:

- Faculty – April 19, noon-12:50 p.m.
- Students – April 19, 3-3:50 p.m.
- Staff – April 20, 2-2:50 p.m.

Watch Morning Mail for direct links to these open meetings.

The NWCCU applies evidence-informed standards and processes to support continuous improvements and promote student achievement and success. Gonzaga's last comprehensive accreditation visit was in 2014.

Accreditation matters because it:

- reviews Gonzaga's academic programs and support services to certify the University's quality, competency and credibility;
- verifies that Gonzaga meets standards necessary to prepare graduates who are ready to enter their professions;
- encourages academic best practices through formal, continuous quality improvement;
- uses third-party peer review by trained experts to evaluate programs for relevancy, content and quality;
- is a keystone indicator of Gonzaga's academic strength;

- is required to get federal or state grants or loans, or to conduct recognized research.

Associate Provost **Ron Large** orchestrates the accreditation process for Gonzaga. With help from colleagues across campus, Large has completed a 100-page accreditation report and filed it with the NWCCU for review prior to its virtual campus visit. The report outlines the University's efforts to ensure student success and institutional effectiveness, as well as meeting standards of governance, resources and capacity.

Large highlights a few of Gonzaga's significant milestones:

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gonzaga has held in-person, remote and hybrid classes, enrolling more than 7,200 students this academic year.
- Gonzaga's First Destination Success Rate remains among the highest in the nation with nearly 96% of 2018 graduates either employed, pursuing post-graduate work, volunteering (Peace Corps, Jesuit Volunteer Corp, Teach for America, etc.), or serving in the military.
- Gonzaga's four-year graduation rate is 30 points above the national average, with 86% of students graduating by the end of six years; and retention of freshmen to sophomores is 94%.
- The University's support of diversity, equity and inclusion continues to improve, with the 2019 development of the Office of Diversity, Equity and

Inclusion, a new curriculum in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (and two fulltime faculty members hired), and the offering of summer faculty workshops to explore unconscious bias in the classroom. The Institute for Hate Studies is planning its fifth international conference in summer 2021.

- Interdisciplinary studies have increased significantly, and the Integrated Science and Engineering facility will be complete this fall, offering new opportunities for research and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- In 2016, Gonzaga and the University of Washington Medical School created the Health Partnership. A new medical and health sciences building is under construction, due for completion in summer 2022. It will house not only the medical school but also Gonzaga's human physiology program while offering many opportunities for biology and other sciences to benefit from increased laboratory and research space.
- Directly impacting student development on campus are three new structures: the Hemmingson Center, Volkar Center for Academic Achievement and the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center.

NWCCU will render its decision on the University' accreditation in June.

Around Campus

»» Co-founder of Kaspian (formerly etailz), **Tom Simpson**, delivers the Pigott Lecture April 7, 6 p.m. via Zoom at <https://gonzaga.zoom.us/j/98902064499>.

»» CATAPULT is all about the human body and its ability to transform through shadow illusion. April 9, 6 p.m., [Register Here](#).

»» Spokane band Jacklando explores jazz, pop, neosoul and other genres via Zoom. April 10, noon. [Register Here](#).

»» Fr. **Daniel Horan** lectures April 14, 5:30 p.m. on "Beyond Laudato Si': Embracing the Challenge of

Franciscan Eco-Spirituality in the Age of Pope Francis. Register here. https://gonzaga.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ofqa12fmQ7q4xbFKUd-pMQ

»» GU Concert Choir joins a bluegrass band and an Argentinian folk ensemble for its spring masterworks concert, May 1, 3 p.m., live streamed from the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center.

»» Associate Professor of nursing **Jeff Ramirez** was named a distinguished fellow of the National Academies of Practice for advancing interprofessional healthcare by fostering collaboration and advocating policies.

NOTEWORTHY

NEW HIRES

Jonathan Byers, director, Career Education; **Eli Jenkins**, admission counselor, Admission; **Fr. Pat Conroy, S.J.**, Jesuit specialist III, Mission & Ministry

POSITION CHANGES/PROMOTIONS

Diana Aguilar Amaya, sr. admission counselor, Undergraduate Admission

GOODBYES

Lisa Clark, admin asst III, Law; **Geneva Finley**, manager, Travel & Expense; **Amber Platz**, custodian, Plant; **Lee Plew**, custodian, Plant; **Josie Daniels**, counselor, Financial Aid; **Daria Woodhead**, custodian, plant; **Sabrina Harrington**, medical asst, Health Center

ANNIVERSARIES:

10 **John Johnston**, lead security officer, Campus Security; **Laurie Ferguson**, custodian, Plant

5 **Randall Castleman**, general maintenance, Plant; **Audra Henkins**, custodian lead, Plant; **Catherine Santangelo**, office asst., Housing/Residence Life