

# SPIRIT

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## FAITH, FAMILY, FREEDOM Three Pillars of New Jud Regis Chair



Andrew Brajcich is known for bowties, but also recognized as GU's new Regis Chair.

No one sports a bowtie on campus like **Andrew Brajcich**.

Now, the director of Gonzaga's graduate accounting program sports a new distinction: the first Jud Regis Chair of Accounting in the School of Business Administration.

And it couldn't have come to anyone with a bigger passion for Gonzaga and its mission.

Brajcich recalls his days as a student here dropping in on his grandfather, **Dan Brajcich**, who still had an office in Jepson even after he retired in 1994. Considered the patriarch of Gonzaga accounting, Dan taught here for 45 years. He is a legend to anyone who graduated in accounting during that span. And he is Andrew's idol.

Andrew has carried his grandfather's legacy forward, having taught here since 2012 and with no design on going anywhere else. His students rave about his classes and his ability to meet them where they are. He was just named Master of Taxation Outstanding Professor of the Year by graduate accounting students.

"I often remind myself that each of my students has other academic pursuits and lives outside of class," Brajcich says. "I discuss with them how I can better meet their needs and offer them flexibility. I've learned that there is not one perfect way to teach. Learning new methods and approaches to teaching is what makes this job fun."

His effectiveness, and that of his accounting colleagues, is in the numbers. Gonzaga's master's of tax program has a 100% placement rate within three months of graduation; the master's of accounting three-month placement rate is 95%.

As the Jud Regis Chair, Brajcich fits the profile that donors **Dan and Cecelia Regis** outlined when they made the \$2 million gift to Gonzaga in October. The endowed position, named to honor Dan's father, Jud, received \$1.75 million while \$200,000 was designated for the accounting program itself and \$50,000 for the Fund for Gonzaga in support of student scholarships.

His father was a family man in all that he undertook, Dan Regis said, and he and his wife wanted the Jud Regis Chair occupied by someone who embodied the values of faith, family and freedom in teaching, scholarly activities, advising and service to the University and the broader community.

"Andrew provides a strong vision for the chair that supports the three values," acting Business Dean **Molly Pepper** said. "He articulates a plan that meets the goals of the endowment, School of Business Administration and university. It is both big-picture and heart-level work. We look forward to the positive impact this gift will make."

Brajcich is well into making plans for his work as the Regis Chair. In his first year of this five-year appointment, he hopes to host John O'Leary, renowned inspirational speaker who literally brought Brajcich to tears the first time he heard O'Leary talk.

"When he was 6 or 7, he was playing with matches and a gas can and it ignited and burned 80-90% of his body. Doctors told his mother he wouldn't make it. She whispered into his ear, 'You have to make a choice whether you want to live or die,'" Brajcich says. He went on to get a degree from Jesuit St. Louis University, did well in real estate and wrote a book.

"The accident left him with two or three half fingers, yet he learned to play the piano beautifully. He would be very inspiring to our students," Brajcich says.

*Continued on Page 7*



### Another New Chair

Suzanne Ostersmith named Robert and Marion Oster Endowed Chair in Dance

*See story on Page 7*

# NINE NAMED FACULTY EMERITIS FOR LONGSTANDING ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Over the course of their careers, these faculty gave generous and distinguished service to Gonzaga. A few highlights showcase the merit to their appointments. The year after each faculty name indicates the year they began working at GU.



## John Beck (1988)

Professor Emeritus - Economics

- Research included regional differences in Chapter 13 filings and on social economy, American economics and sociology, and business ethics
- Presented research at many conferences, including Public Choice Society meeting and Western Economics Association meeting
- Frequent reviewer for various journals



## RaGena DeAragon (1983)

Professor Emerita - History

- Helped create and directed Women's Studies program
- Shaped and shepherded faculty handbook in use today
- Worked to create climate supportive of gender equity
- Gonzaga Regent



## Paul Buller (1989)

Professor Emeritus - Management

- Held Kinsey M. Robinson Professor of Business Administration chair for 20 years
- Research included examination of student-managed investment funds and the Ignatian-centered Creighton DBA program
- Founding president of Colleagues in Jesuit Business Education
- Member of editorial review board for Human Resources Management



## Jim Helgeson (1983)

Professor Emeritus - Marketing

- Research focused on consumer marketing, global business development, business ethics and psychology marketing
- Recent articles addressed effects of crisis on consumer responses and communication strategies
- Reviewer for various journals, recently Journal of Consumer Behavior and the journal Sex Roles
- School's chair of undergraduate curriculum committee



## Brian Clayton (1986)

Professor Emeritus - Philosophy

- Developed unique and widely popular courses
- Used philosophical reflection to support Jesuit ideals in student formation
- Co-authored two books, multiple published articles and made innumerable professional presentations
- Faculty Assembly president, GU's Faith & Reason Institute director, Catholic Studies concentration director



## John Maciniak (1983)

Associate Professor Emeritus - Mechanical Engineering

- Colleague describes him: "... genuinely interested in the intellectual and academic progress of his students"
- Taught broad array of courses, developing two popular electives
- Served as freshman adviser for many years
- College relations chair of the Inland Empire section of ASME



## Neva Crogan (2012)

Professor Emerita - Nursing

- Program director for nurse practitioner and doctorate of nurse practitioner tracks
- Nursing department chair
- Led DNP program to national accreditation
- Member American Academy of Nursing and fellow with the Western Academy of Nurses



## John Spencer (2001)

Associate Professor Emeritus - Foley Library

- Served critical role in recognizing and advancing digital publishing and search engines for basic reference services
- Championed virtual reference services, including online chat technologies
- Developed and oversaw library's assessment program and contributed to GU's accreditation reports in 2002 and 2012

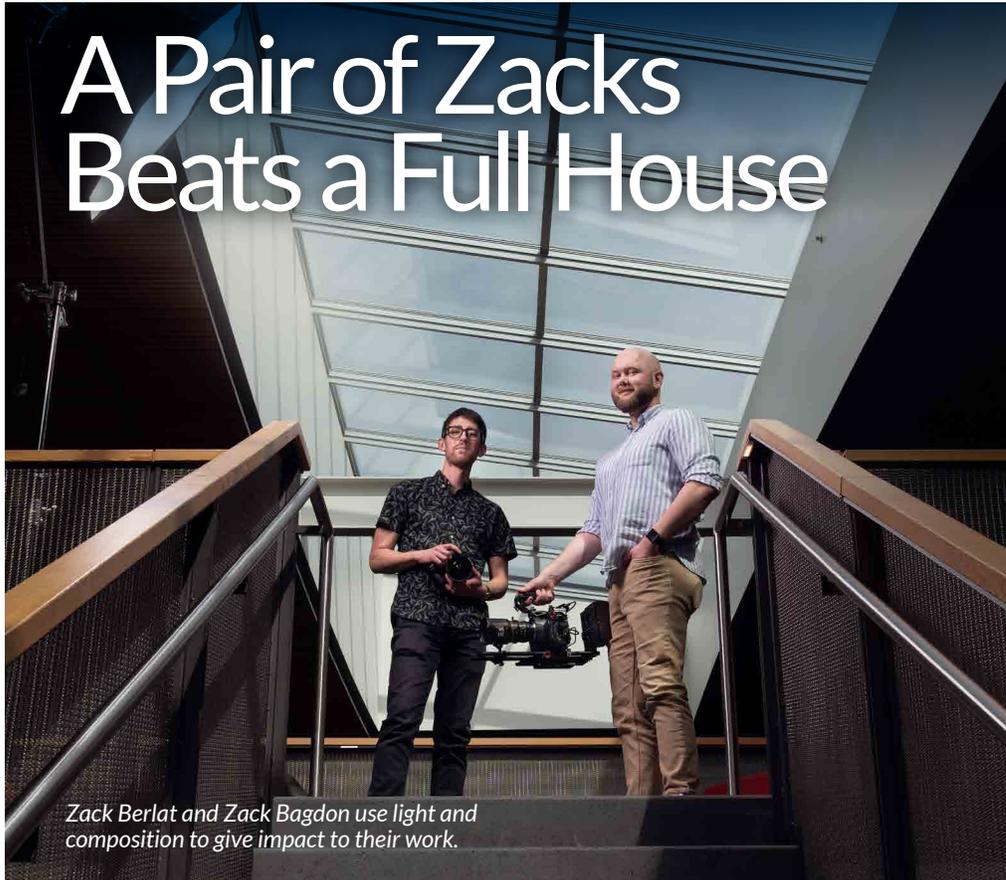


## Patricia Terry (1989)

Professor Emerita - English

- Composition and Writing Lab director
- Led proposal to change tenure-track teaching load from 4/4 to 3/3
- Department chair and associate dean
- Core Curriculum director

# A Pair of Zacks Beats a Full House



Zack Berlat and Zack Bagdon use light and composition to give impact to their work.

Gonzaga Video Producer **Zack Bagdon** ('16) imagined himself as the next SportsCenter anchor sitting alongside Spokane-product **Neil Everett** on ESPN. Senior Photographer and Multimedia Specialist **Zack Berlat** ('11) loved photography, but he thought graphic design might be a more marketable pursuit.

By his own admission, Bagdon found out quickly that he wasn't good on camera. Berlat tried graphic design but didn't enjoy it.

Now, the two Zacks are making pictures and video productions to capture the life and times at Gonzaga, and it would be hard to imagine two more productive souls.

Berlat got his start as a student working under former staff photographer **Rajah Bose** in Marketing & Communications. He returned in 2016 to replace his mentor. Bagdon spent five years grooming his craft, working with Corner Booth Media before joining his alma mater in 2021.

What people see is their finished product. What is key, they say, is their planning and preparation for every shoot.

If the shoot is on location, advance scouting is required. "When I'm scouting a location by myself, looking at different angles and sightlines to see light and backgrounds, I get some weird looks," says Bagdon. "But you have to put in the effort to make your images just right."



Tod Marshall by Berlat

in the snow, including a computer, cables, lights and stands, tripods and several lenses and camera bodies."

Bagdon adds: "You learn over time that there's a decent chance there will be a location complication, and you add more to the cart, like an extra light, tripod, lens and duct tape – in case you need to jury-rig something you hadn't planned for."

Shooting presents obstacles for these two craftsmen and storytellers, as well.

"Shooting an event and trying to be unobtrusive can appear to be kind of creepy," Bagdon says. "You're in the shadows, finding places to shoot where people won't see you and you can capture authentic moments. Once people see the camera, they stop what they're doing and look right at you."

But sometimes the only way to get the shot you need is to assert yourself, Berlat explains. "If

I have to interrupt to get the best picture, I read the room and I can do that quickly. Shooting Jesuit funerals is difficult. I feel like I have a thousand eyes on me, but I know I'm there to document the event for the entire university community."

Post-production work can be the most tedious for this dynamic duo. Bagdon shot 10 hours of video covering commencement activities and events in May. "The amount of time required to offload that footage is exhausting. It's a lot of hurry up and wait. I mark the timeline for start and end of every clip that might make the final product."

Bagdon calls his three-minute [commencement recap video](#) his signature piece, so far. "Graduation is the super bowl of our work in higher education. That's why we're here. It's our students' big moment. I really worked to think through the style of shots, music and speakers' clips to capture this poignant moment for them. This is the jumping off point for the rest of their lives."

Berlat's "gateway photo" is of English Professor Tod Marshall when he was named Washington state poet laureate. "It defined a new direction for me," he says. "Creative portraiture is my favorite. I scouted locations and thought a library would be suitable to shoot a poet laureate. I liked the reflection in the glass tabletop. The lattice wall and glass cubes created a rich setting. I lit one side with warm orange tones and accented that with cooler tones on the other side coming from behind Marshall. I think it worked well." (see photo)

Favorite part of the job for each?

For Bagdon, it's talking with such a diverse spectrum of people and listening to their stories. For Berlat, it's discovering things about Gonzaga he never knew before.

For both, composition and lighting are key to their work success.

Berlat says his work at Gonzaga is different from a lot of other enterprises where a photographer concentrates on one area. Here, it's not just portrait photography, but journalistic, event, jewelry, commercial and aerial photography, as well. He has a pilot's license from the FAA to fly and shoot from a drone.

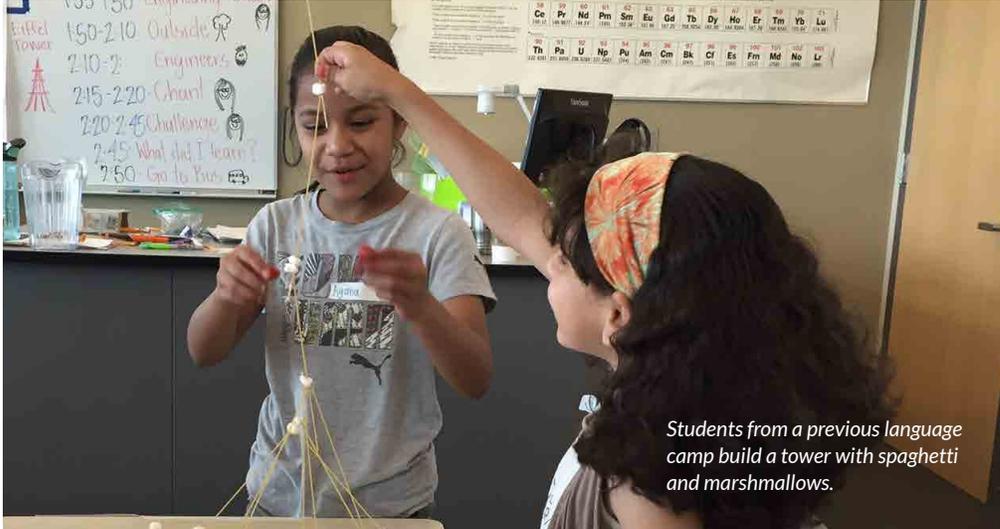
Bagdon finds that people are always intrigued by his equipment, "and to be honest, I'm a gear-head. We have thousands of dollars worth of equipment, but sometimes you don't have the right piece and you have to rig something new."

Adds Berlat: "And Zack and I might have more selfies than any Instagram influencer because we're always testing lighting and backdrops to make the best images."

The deck is stacked well here at Gonzaga. Zacks are a winning hand.

# SUMMER IMMERSIONS

## GU Welcomes Underrepresented Youngsters to Campus



Students from a previous language camp build a tower with spaghetti and marshmallows.

### SEAS IMMERSION PROGRAM

Freshman Engineering Course Coordinator/Instructor **Kirk Reinkens** directs this new program, which was conceived by SEAS Dean **Karlene Hoo** and focused on women in STEM, to expose high school juniors and seniors to engineering and computer science as career options.

This program, July 11-14, will include talks by, and interaction with, successful women engineers and computer scientists in the Spokane area, as well as three field trips to Spokane-area engineering and computer science firms, and hands-on experiments in Gonzaga's new John and Joan Bollier Family Center under the direction of GU faculty and student engineers and computer scientists.

"Ultimately, we want to ask our student campers, 'Did this program help you to consider going to college? If you are considering college, would you consider studying in a STEM field? If yes, would you consider Gonzaga's School of Engineering & Applied Science?'" Hoo says.

This program is fully funded by private benefactors with the hope of inspiring more women to enter these fields of study, heavily occupied by men.

"Imagine the first activity of the day is touring a local engineering business. Then one of our engineering faculty takes them through a hands-on project," Hoo describes. "We break campers into teams because the world needs teams of different thinkers to solve its complex problems. Then our students hear from successful female engineers and computer scientists and learn about their career journeys."

Student teams will be given design activities every day, starting small, experimenting with design, building a prototype with GU SEAS students as team mentors.

"We will encourage students to trust each other, make mistakes and recover quickly," Hoo says.

In both summer immersion experiences, the final day is to show off the students' work and celebrate achievement with their families. There are no tests or textbooks.

Perhaps the most important takeaway is hope.

The School of Education's Summer Language Camp has been a staple for Spokane's population of new refugees since 1998. Before the pandemic, its number of campers reached almost 400 youngsters from Spokane Public Schools.

Conversely, the School of Engineering and Applied Science is providing the SEAS Summer Immersion Program for the first time, bringing 15 high school junior and senior females to campus for a four-day residential camp. They hail mostly from small towns and communities and may never have been exposed to engineering or computer science.

Don't ever think campus academic activities cease to exist in the summer.

And these two programs have some distinct similarities. For example, the array of camper activities is broad. Both programs are structured using an engineering design process that includes inquiry, research, solution development, creating a prototype and crafting a product.

### SUMMER LANGUAGE CAMP

Associate Professor **James Hunter** directs the Summer Language Camp, and relies on Gonzaga students, faculty and Spokane-area teachers to teach English to K-12 children who have recently been displaced from their native countries. The camp has two parts: morning sessions for both undergraduate and graduate "Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)" students, and afternoon sessions for refugee students. Many of the morning-class students teach in the afternoon.

Students are grouped by grade level. High school-age children learn about resume making, job interviews and attend a job fair staged by the summer camp that also includes booths from Gonzaga, Eastern Washington, Whitworth, Community Colleges of Spokane, along with Spokane police and fire departments.

Students in the middle grades are exposed to a variety of STEM activities, in partnership with SPS after-school programs. For example, third-grade students are exposed to The Science of Superpowers while sixth-graders explore Flight and Aerodynamics.

"Every class is taught in English," Hunter says. "Some students have just arrived and don't say a word. But by the end of the first week of camp, they are speaking up, using English they have learned and feel much more comfortable."

The camp runs July 11-29.

# Together Again, Grateful

We gathered.

I never imagined those two words would have such profound impact.

We came together in a place formerly reserved for the President's Christmas Party. But on that day in the middle of May, for a couple of hours, it felt like coming home.

Together. With several hundred colleagues and for many of us, longtime friends.

We.

For the better part of the last two-and-a-half years, we siloed ourselves to protect each other, our families and friends. We joined together on computer screens in our little boxes, often with the living room, kitchen or spare bedroom as the backdrop.

But on that day, in May, we assembled, face to face, reveling in each other's stories and sharing more smiles and hugs than I've seen since my last family reunion.

**Charlita Shelton** and **Sherry Steinaway** chatted and learned they both were college students in Michigan, Steinaway at the mothership University of Michigan; Shelton attended college on the opposite side of the state at Western Michigan University, home of the Broncos in Kalamazoo. Things I never knew about either one of my colleagues.

**John Sheveland**, **Stephanie Plowman**, **MaryAnn Rinderle**, **Michael Treleaven** and I, all from different disciplines at the University, sat around one table as the afternoon drifted into evening sharing stories of our kids, favorite colleagues who have passed or moved on, nice people we've worked with, plans for the summer, and even uncovered news that Treleaven, after 32



Those "crazy kids" in ITS . . . left to right: *Cassandra Slagg, Darren Owsley, Chelsea Tau'a, Eric Moss, Kristi Duenas, Borre Ulrichsen, MJ Spadafora, Steve Bjerken, LeAnn Bjerken, Larissa Robinson, Colette Boyd, Cherie Christ and Matt Eastman in front.*

years here, is retiring. We figured that the five of us combined have worked at the University for 134 years. Another amazing fact: Rinderle has worked for nine chief academic officers in her 17 years in the offices of the academic vice president and provost. That might be a record.

As I drifted from one group to another, I heard stories of upcoming surgeries, past injuries and recovery, engagements, retirement plans, summer recreation planning, past jobs and future enterprises. It was all in the spirit of sharing. Smiles, congratulatory remarks, kidding and best wishes abounded.

We.

Together.

Grateful for our work at such an esteemed university and with the people who make Gonzaga what it is today.

We all embraced our workmates outside the work bubble.

We were all together, again.

-Editor



Folks from Leadership Studies, left to right: *Mandy Baird, Josh Armstrong, Teresa Atkins, Yoli Gallardo, Kristin Telin, Kelsey Solberg.*



*Charlie and the Angels from Sustainability showed for the party: Kathryn Graham, Jim Simon and Marisa Montesi.*

# Students' Innovative Business Plans Reflect Personal Goals

## GARNER TOP AWARDS



*Kody Lukens' plan is designed to suit the stimulatory needs of folks with ADHD and autism.*



*Katrina Wagner's plan offers accessible travel for people with physical disabilities.*

Two students studying in Gonzaga's highly ranked entrepreneur program, participating in a recent competition, won prize money to further their ideas for ventures that serve others.

**Kody Lukens** ('22) is preparing to launch Stimagz, which would manufacture sets of small magnetic cylinders designed to suit the stimulatory needs of ADHD and autistic adults. The cylinders can be connected and manipulated in routines of a person's choice.

**Katrina Wagner** ('23), who has a physical disability and has struggled with traveling, pitched TravALL: a travel agency that pairs tourists with trips that include fully accessible itineraries for individuals who use any type of physical aid or need additional services.

For both Zags, their projects are personal.

"I was disappointed with the stim toys available online," Lukens said, "and believed something better could be made that would more adequately suit my needs and the needs of others."

So Stimagz – from "stim" and "magnets" – was born and he's worked tirelessly the past year to refine the design and prepare them for manufacturing.

"They're always the first thing I pick up in the morning and the last thing I set down at night," the Sammamish, Washington, native explained. "They truly just feel like an extension of myself."

A huge boost for his dream came when he won \$10,000 in the 2022 Northwest Entrepreneur Competition in April.

Teams advanced through two rounds of judging by submitting a 90-second pitch video and then presenting to a panel of regional business leaders and experts. They competed for \$44,000 in prizes in three categories: technology business, traditional business and open business.

"I don't think my heart has ever beat faster than when they were announcing the competition rankings," said Lukens, who

graduated in three years thanks to a Running Start program that enabled him to earn an associate's degree in high school. "I saw Stimagz pop up as No. 1 and was just in shock. I couldn't believe that all the hours I'd spent preparing and practicing had carried me through to the finish line. (A second entry by Lukens, Print4Us, a decentralized affordable 3D printing service powered by 3D hobbyists around the world, received \$3,000 for placing second.)

Wagner, an accounting major with minors in entrepreneurial leadership and Spanish, said she submitted her video not expecting to advance very far. She called her reaction to being a winner "a mix of appreciation and excitement for the future."

"My experience in the Northwest Entrepreneur Competition was a spontaneous leap of faith," she said. "I was a sole presenter, which provided both learning curves and opportunities for growth."

TravALL's website contains both an inventory of trips to major cities with flights, excursions and hotel accommodations that a customer can shop, and a service that organizes accessible, customizable plans.

The tourist, Wagner explained, creates an online profile that captures their capabilities and necessary accommodations, where they are planning to go, and their desired activities.

"With the funds, I am looking to continue to develop my business idea through research and networking while seeking other opportunities to compete more," said Wagner, from Enumclaw, Washington. "Winning third place (and a \$1,000 award) ignited a sense of possibility, a desire for improvement, and an 'I can do this' attitude that I want to channel when stepping into entrepreneurship."

In other successes, Gonzaga sophomores **Siena Merrin, Hayley Mosby** and **Kate Sprague** won first place among 38 competitors in the Sparks Weekend entrepreneurship competition May 1 for their business plan, Zaps, a way for students to mitigate their college expenses by utilizing their dining dollars when they pay each other back. Their prize, \$50,000 in seed money, is subject to final due diligence and agreement on investment terms, expected to be finalized this summer. Fellow Zag **Anna Deschane** joined a team that won second place for its venture, Gameleon Boards.

# Ostersmith Named Oster Chair of Dance

Associate Professor and Director of Dance and Interdisciplinary Arts **Suzanne Ostersmith** is the inaugural Robert and Marion Oster Endowed Chair in Dance.

"The Osters endowed this chair because of Suzanne's work over the last 20 years to build a thriving dance program that embodies *cura personalis*," says College of Arts and Sciences Dean **Annmari Caño**.

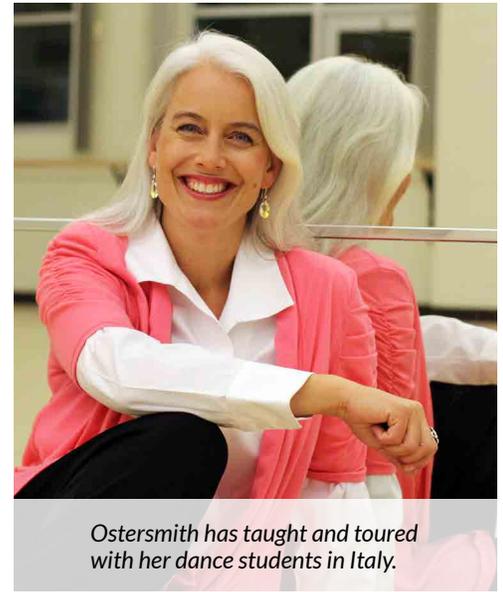
Ostersmith was nominated as the first recipient based on her contributions to the program and her vision for the future, which includes expanding opportunities for pre-college dance programs, dance as *cura personalis* in the community, and health and wellness for dancers.

The Dance Program in the Theatre and Dance Department produces seven concerts per year. This is the fourth year of the BA program and will see seven dance majors and nine dance minors graduate.

"The donors chose to be the champions of the dance program with their generous gift so that we can grow our faculty to provide a world-class dance curriculum," Ostersmith says.

Ostersmith has taught at Gonzaga since 2000 and shared her dance and choreography expertise throughout the community. She and biology professor **Brook Swanson** created a first-year seminar entitled "Art and Science of Dance" to teach students about evolutionary biomechanics through dance and presented and published their work. In March, Ostersmith and Core Director **Kathleen Jeffs** published a textbook entitled "Interdisciplinary Arts: integrating dance, theatre, and visual arts."

In 2021, she was named by The Spokesman-Review as one of 14 women of the year for her community impact.



Ostersmith has taught and toured with her dance students in Italy.

## FAITH, FAMILY, FREEDOM

*continued from page 1*

His second project, tentatively slated for spring 2023, is to work with the Kalispel Tribe to develop a pilot program to bring 15-20 high school students from the reservation for an afternoon on campus. He intends to bring in college students and professionals from ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds who can best relate to these young people, and talk to them about what they did to create successful lives, and encourage the students to do the same.

Brajcich loves teaching and his students. And they love his bowties (all self-tied, by the way).

One day I was getting ready to begin class and only 10 of my 40 students were there. I asked, "Where is everybody?" and about then the other 30 students walked through the door sporting bowties and suspenders. That might have been my favorite day of class," Brajcich says.

And he loves being a Zag.

"This is so much more than a job," he says. "You can meet a Zag in Seattle or Boston, and there is always such a tight bond. This is my extended family. My GU experience as a student was so magical. Now, I walk into work every day and I'm always excited to make an impact on someone else."

## Around Campus

- » Former Gonzaga Athletics Director **Mike Roth** was named the 2022 Gary Cunningham Lifetime Achievement Award recipient by the Division I-AAA Athletic Directors Association.
- » The Western Environmental Law Center, a nonprofit public-interest environmental law firm, has added GU's Center for Climate, Society and Environment Director **Brian Henning** to its board of directors.
- » Queer Art Walk Exhibit in Collaboration with Spokane Arts Fund is June 3, 7 p.m., GU Urban Arts Center, 125 S. Stevens St.
- » Alumni Scholarship Dinner, June 4, 5:30-8 p.m., Bozarth Mansion. All proceeds support scholarships for children, grandchildren and siblings of Gonzaga alumni.
- » Operation Opera Festival includes: World premiere of "When Purple Mountains Burn," June 10, 7:30 p.m.; Art Song Series, June 11, 7:30 p.m.; Four Chamber Operas, June 12, 2 p.m., all at the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center Recital Hall.
- » Professor Emeritus of English **Mike Herzog** reads from his newest work: "Pilgrimage - The Only Complete Version of Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales," June 15, 5-7 p.m., Hemmingson Auditorium.
- » Associate Professor **Nichole Barta** is the new director of the Center for Teaching and Advising. She currently serves as Kinesiology program director and chair of the University Core Writing Enriched Designation Committee.
- » Benefits and Wellness Director **Lisa Schwartzenburg** and Director of Organizational Development **Sherry Steinaway** are sharing responsibility for leading the Human Resources department until a new vice president has been selected and is in place.
- » All GU staff members are asked to complete the National Assessment of Collegiate Campus Climates survey by June 21. The survey will assess impressions of equity in the GU workplace. Twenty-five submitters will win a \$10 Starbucks gift card via random drawing. An email from helpdesk@naccsurvey.org will include the survey link. Responses are confidential.
- » Voice of the Zags, **Tom Hudson**, was part of a panel discussion on leveraging sports coverage to enhance your profile at the Public Relations Society of America Travel and Tourism Section Conference in Spokane.
- » Associate Professor **Casey McNellis** was voted Master's of Accounting Outstanding Professor of the Year by graduate students.

## NOTEWORTHY

### NEW HIRES

**Abby Jones**, registered nurse, Health Center; **Adrian Leiser**, volleyball operations director, Athletics; **Alexia Hess**, custodian, Plant; **Amanda Baird**, program/project specialist, Leadership Studies; **Emily Cooper**, registered nurse, Health Center; **Justin Pugh**, academic coordinator, Athletics; **Michael Sittner**, custodian, Plant; **Nick Albano**, facilities coordinator I, Auxiliary Enterprises; **Isaiah Mize**, custodian, Plant; **Autumn Jones**, sr communications specialist, University Advancement

### POSITION CHANGES/PROMOTIONS

**Brittany Copeland**, access/accommodation specialist, Student Academic Success; **Candace Williams**, coordinator II, Mission & Ministry; **Cole Kelly**, asst director, Community Engagement; **Daniel St. George**, infrastructure engineering, ITS; **Daniel Marx**, project management assoc director, ITS; **David Gilbert**, student involvement director, Student Affairs; **Lindsey Spencer**, transfer admission counselor, Admission; **Mackenzie Pavlik**, study abroad adviser, Global Engagement; **MaryAnn Rinderle**, academic operations director/asst to the provost, Provost; **Samantha Scott**, student accounts director, Student Financial Services; **Zack Berlat**, sr photographer/multimedia specialist, Marketing & Communications

### GOODBYES

**Caleb Cruze**, lighting/AV specialist, Arts & Sciences; **Daniel Palomba**, web/social media specialist, Education; **Debra Loudon**, assoc director, Student Financial Services; **Diane Imes**, business manager, Jesuit Community; **Emily Carlson**, marketing asst director, Athletics; **Eric Smith**, custodian lead, Plant; **Jackie McCormick**, marketing & event coordinator, Arts & Sciences; **Jennifer Leetch**, custodian, Plant; **Lauren Hahn**, benefits coordinator, Human Resources; **Mary Willemsen**, WIN consortium project manager, Foley; **Mary Kelly**, program asst III, Arts & Sciences; **Michael Whalen**, support center manager, ITS; **Gena Hoxha**, program manager, Nursing & Human Physiology; **Sierra Bryceson**, admission asst director, Law

### ANNIVERSARIES:

- 35** **Mike Carey**, assoc professor, Organizational Leadership

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- 25** **Diana Lartz**, desktop publishing specialist II, Campus Printing

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- 20** **Elizabeth Kennedy**, planned giving specialist, University Advancement; **Megan Self**, purchasing manager, Controller

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- 15** **Michelle Wheatley**, vice president, Mission Integration; **Lisa Fortier**, head women's basketball coach, Athletics; **Michael Lavoie**, infrastructure admin I, ITS

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- 10** **Lea Hart**, office & budget specialist, Plant; **Kara McGinn**, Sharepoint analyst I, ITS; **Katherine Brackman**, asst director, Career Center; **Jared Uhlenkott**, custodial lead, Plant

## Staff Recognized with Mission, Innovation Awards for Extraordinary Service

**Tara McAloon** and **Becky Wilkey** serve Gonzaga with compassion and great care for their people. McAloon hires and oversees 14 program assistants in the College of Arts & Sciences. Wilkey directs the Campus Security and Public Safety crew and makes sure the physical and emotional well-being of her officers and staff are a top priority. They are this semester's Outstanding Service in Support of Mission Award recipients, as announced at the May 31 Staff Assembly Open Meeting.

**Kimberly May** and **Karianna Freeland** revamped the entire onboarding process for our incoming graduate students beginning in 2019, putting a process in place that largely prevents confusion between students and schools, which helped to ensure predictability. They are the semester's staff Innovation Award recipients.

### MISSION AWARD



Tara McAloon

McAloon is director of operations for Arts & Sciences and her hires demonstrate her investment in mission identity and leadership while advancing a culture of inclusiveness in the recruiting

and selection process, said nominator **Mia Bertagnolli**, biology professor. Dean **Annamarie Caño** credits McAloon with conducting professional development training for all 14 of her program assistants. "Tara is the whole package," Caño says.

"Dedicated, professional, problem solver/fixer, organizational force, hard worker, strategic, caring, funny, honest, mission-focused in all of her work; a true Zag," adds Bertagnolli.



Becky Wilkey

Wilkey re-established the GSBA Security Council with the intention to build stronger connections with students and gain their perspectives. Building relationships with her staff is

important, too. She advocated for the care of her staff in several ways, from building a gym in the basement of the Huetter Mansion to ensuring that counseling services are available to officers after responding to traumatic incidents. When a CSPA staff member lost a loved one, Wilkey's compassion from the incident to the memorial to the return to work was steadfast.

"Nothing could get in the way of Becky caring for her staff," says nominator **Taylor Jordan**, director of administration for Health & Counseling Services.

### INNOVATION AWARD



Kim May

All 30 programs May and Freeland support know precisely what will happen, when, and who is making it happen. Providing a seamless onboarding experience for

all new students and ensuring it was finished on time, within expectation and within scope, was a huge challenge. They came up with a strategy that allowed for oversight but doesn't suffocate creativity.

"Nothing is too small for them to help students," says nominator **Kathie Chi**, associate director of student services in Graduate Enrollment. "In a time of doing more with less, they help establish a culture ensuring everyone understands that every contribution has incredible value regardless of how small it may seem. They are leaders in implementing a complex ZRM, willingly offering training time with our new users."



Kari Freeland