

Spirit

FACULTY & STAFF NEWSLETTER

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SPARKING CONNECTION

Blaine Atkins is operating on a level above the average person.

Where everyone else sees numbers and wires, he sees possibility. Where abandoned projects sit on shelves gathering dust, he sees new life.

And where others see lights twinkling on a Christmas tree, he sees the potential for connection.

Atkins, ITS technician at the Next Gen Tech Bar, did just that when he looked at the iconic Hemmingson Christmas tree and thought, "there's more here."

You've probably seen them around campus – mini Christmas trees made entirely of two circuit boards and a bunch of tiny lightbulbs. If you haven't, it's likely because the trees are closer in stature to a gingerbread man than the actual grandiose tree that nearly brushes the ceiling of the Hemmingson Rotunda.

No, size is not what these trees have in common.

It's the multi-colored lights gracing each branch that connect mini-tree to big-tree and connect people across the world to Gonzaga.

Let me explain.

In 2016, former NGTB Coordinator **Scott Griffith** created ornaments for the Hemmingson tree that changed the Christmas game. With just a simple tweet, anyone could switch the color of the lights from their phone. The high-tech decorations ran until 2017 when, after Griffith left, the project was set aside.



It took two years, and one curious student named Blaine Atkins, for it

to get picked up again. He saw the ornament remnants sitting on a shelf in the Tech Bar and re-coded them from scratch, bringing color-changing lights to Gonzaga once again.

"I had no idea what I was doing, but I got out a Raspberry Pi, looked up Twitter APIs, wrote some code and realized, 'Wait, I think I can do this,'" Atkins says. "I went back to my boss the next day, two weeks before the tree went up, and he said, 'Yeah, let's try it.'"

A lot of foreign terms to the average person, but to Atkins it was Picasso and his paintbrush. After that, he says everyone from the Next Gen Tech Bar including **Ismael Teshome**, associate director of IT Service Experience, and GUEST, were "wonderfully willing" to take a chance on a sophomore student employee. The ornaments went through a few more upgrades in the years that followed, including swapping out Twitter for a QR code that controlled the color of the lights.

Fast forward to 2022 – Atkins had graduated and was living in Albuquerque, as part of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and he missed Gonzaga. When Christmas rolled around, Atkins hung a strip of lights in his kitchen, and using his IT superpowers, connected them to the Hemmingson tree.

That meant every time someone used the QR code to change the color of the tree in Spokane, the lights in Atkins' kitchen changed with it, 1,300 miles away.

Atkins loved the feeling of connection he got from watching the lights change and came up with another idea – a mini Christmas tree!

"It was a combination of me wanting to feel connected to Gonzaga from afar and then wondering how I can bring that to the people I love," he laughs and adds, "And I'm curious about designing circuit boards, so this project was a fun combination of those three things."

Atkins returned to Gonzaga in 2023, this time on staff. That year, he placed 12 tiny trees across campus, sold eight others and even

mailed some to loved ones all the way in the Philippines.

The trees have racked up some pretty impressive data in the meantime. Last year, the lights changed 20,000 times by more than 600 people.



Photo credit: Julia Schlecht Patino ('28)

When changing the tree lights this year, try typing "Thayne" into the secret mode box!

And they just keep growing. This year, Atkins says they've added a few more to the 12 already around campus and requests for the trees have more than doubled with 19 preorders.

Current student employees have also put their skills to good use, programming new modes that coordinate with their names and a color scheme of their choosing. If you're curious, stop by the Next Gen Tech Bar, ask someone about their secret light mode and see what happens when you type it in.

Atkins is zapping new energy into the wires that connect Gonzaga, on a circuit board shaped like a Christmas tree.

"The most special thing about creating these," he says, "is that it combines what's technically possible with what sparks people's joy and excitement."

There are still a few trees left! If you'd like to buy one contact atkinsb@gonzaga.edu

THE CAMPUS PANTRY

An empty space on campus, a little creativity and a lot of canned goods and care – that’s the recipe for the newest addition to Gonzaga’s student support system.

The Center for Cura Personalis opened the Campus Pantry in October in the old GU Outdoors bike shop (Hemmingson 150), hoping to provide a judgement-free place for students to come for food and basic care items.

Jackie Linder, CCP program assistant, jokes they want it to be like a grocery store, but better.

All the ease of stocking up on what you need, with none of the cost.

It may seem like the norm for many college students, being “broke” and living on Top Ramen, but sometimes at private universities like GU there’s an assumption that all students have money. This can create a stereotype that makes it more difficult for someone to admit they need help.

“Everyone has the right to an education,” says Linder. “Having a basic needs insecurity can make people feel like they’re not worthy of that, however, everyone deserves to have access to the things that will promote their success on campus.”

Linder sees the Campus Pantry playing a big role in destigmatizing need. A good place to start is just to make yourself available.

“Having this expanded pantry space in Hemmingson provides that for students,” she says. “It provides additional pantry access



The pantry is open Mondays and Wednesdays, 2 to 7 p.m. and Fridays 2 to 5 p.m. But students can make an appointment anytime.

on campus with larger capacity for resources and allows students to collect what they need. This is a neutral space everyone can access, no matter what, without question, without judgment.”

It started with an idea and a lot of empty shelves. Hoping for rows of colorful cans, dry goods and maybe even new toothbrushes, Linder sent a Bat-Signal in the form of Morning Mail, knowing if there’s one thing we do at Gonzaga, it’s show up for each other.

“Our community did just that,” Linder smiles. “They showed up and stocked our shelves.”

But the need is ongoing. Linder and the rest of CCP envision this as a permanent resource, even hoping to grow their basic needs inventory and offer more than just shelf-stable food.

Linder is asking for single-use, non-perishable food items like mac and cheese cups, ramen and oatmeal packs, anything quick, easy and nourishing. The pantry also accepts personal hygiene items like laundry detergent, soap and toothpaste.

Additionally, CCP is open to partnerships. If you or your department is hosting an event, consider charging a canned good as the entrance fee and donating the collection to the pantry.

The “open” sign is on, and with a little help from the community, they’ll serve students for years to come.

“It’s not just a one-time resource,” she says. “Students can come back over and over again. They can come back twice in the same day. It does not matter. There’s no limit to what resources they can take. Grab a bag, put your food in it and know that we are here for you.”

Email ccp@gonzaga.edu to coordinate a partnership with the Campus Pantry.

ASPIRATION TO ACTION

Sustainability and Climate Action Plan Seeking Input

You can get a lot done in a decade, just ask the Office of Sustainability.

Last year, Gonzaga’s first Climate Action Plan officially turned 10 years old and the four goals and 28 strategies that made it up are more than 80% complete.

That means it’s time to reevaluate.

In 2015, Pope Francis published an encyclical letter called *Laudato Si’*. In it, he stresses the prominence of environmental degradation and global warming and calls us to take “swift and unified global action.” **Jim Simon**, director of sustainability, is basing the new Climate Action Plan on the seven pillars of the *Laudato Si’* Action Plan, the invitation he made to all

Catholic works to implement the principals of his encyclical letter:

- Response to the cry of the earth
- Response to the cry of the poor
- Ecological economics
- Adoption of sustainable lifestyles
- Ecological education
- Ecological spirituality
- Community resilience and empowerment

Simon says the new plan will focus on moving from aspiration to action, and these seven goals provide the context needed for the University to do so. Since the spring, a group of roughly 20 people have been meeting to put this into action – looking at what other schools do, what’s been done in the past, identifying strengths and roadblocks and proposing a whole new set of ideas.

For example, looking at the *Laudato Si’* pillar “adoption of sustainable lifestyles” inspired ideas like opening a daycare on campus to reduce emissions or enhancing move-in and move-out programming to lessen waste.

They’re also planning on a smaller timeline. Instead of 10 years, the team envisions three to five more years of concerted efforts before reevaluating again.

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Jim Simon, director of sustainability



MEET AYAKA DOHI

Director of the Payne Center for Leadership Development

By Mazie McNamara ('25)

As a leader, immigrant and former Zag, **Ayaka Dohi** ('13) is embracing her new role as director of the Payne Center for Leadership Development through lenses of diversity, equity and mental health support. Dohi took over as director in August and has described her transition as “energizing.”

“It’s been very exciting,” Dohi says. “I’m coming into a center that has so much history and has offered the community so much.”

Dohi was born in Japan, then immigrated to the Philippines before moving to the U.S. at 8 years old. She credits her arrival at Gonzaga as an undergraduate in 2009 to “divine intervention.”

After graduating from GU, Dohi earned her master’s degree in administrative and nonprofit leadership from Whitworth University, where she also worked as the Director of Student Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Student Success and Belonging for five years.

Now, Dohi is excited to bring her professional experience back to the table at GU.

The Payne Center is on the third floor of Hemmingson. It focuses on empowering students for lives of leadership and service that affect positive change. The center offers numerous programs to students interested in being on-campus leaders.

“What most folks know us for is the Experiential Leadership Institute, colloquially known as ELI,” Dohi says.

ELI is a year-long program for sophomores and juniors to develop their skills in leadership, during which they craft a unique capstone project in partnership with a community organization.

“What’s really neat about that is they get to be a part of a community of leaders and a hub to create something that’s really meaningful for them,” Dohi says.

The Center also hosts an identity-based leadership series of speakers and panels throughout the year.

Dohi points to one it hosted in September on faith and leadership, where participants tried to answer the question: How can faith inform your leadership, or how can leadership inform your faith?

As director, Dohi understands that while leadership can be rewarding, it can be stressful as well. Since her time as an undergraduate, Dohi feels the narrative around self-care in leadership at GU has shifted for the better.

“When I was a student, conversations around mental health for communities of color were very much taboo,” she says. “Fortunately, I think this generation sees the value in prioritizing mental health.”

Dohi has been thinking a lot in her new role about the possible narrative that Gonzaga students over-commit themselves.

“I think that has a little bit of a negative connotation,” she says. “What I hear is that we have students who are very eager to use their gifts and talents to make a difference in their communities.”

Above all, Dohi’s intersecting identities are guiding forces in both her life and her student-focused work.

“All of these things are connected — my immigrant identity, being Filipino, being a first-generation college graduate.”

Dohi hopes students find it easy to access leadership resources and feel welcome to become a part of something greater.

“A leader is not necessarily a position, it’s a process,” Dohi says. “And I think it’s actually a value as well. It’s how you show up in your personal relationships, to how you might influence and facilitate an organization.”

You’re Not (Home) Alone for the Holidays

Twinkling lights, a glowing fire and carols floating through the speakers – it’s hard to imagine what could make such a peaceful time so stressful.

Except, maybe, a mounting list of presents, prolonged time with family you might typically only tolerate for the length of a meal and maybe even feelings of inadequacy as you strive to throw the “perfect” party on a less-than-perfect budget.

Okay, so there’s plenty of stress to disrupt the peace. Spirit and SupportLinc have you covered.

Here are a few tips to help you through the season:

Prioritize your list and consider alternate gift options. Keep your list short and try to prioritize. Think of the most important people in your life and consider putting more thought and energy into their gifts. Sentimentality goes a long way in those cases – consider a framed photo or something more tailored to their interests. Show love and appreciation for everyone else on your list with something more affordable like baked goods or a gift basket of thrifted goods. You can also save some money and gift your time – offering up free babysitting or a chores coupon.

Get creative when it comes to decorating. Overstocked decorations from big box stores like Target often end up at Goodwill. Check local thrift shops or, if you’re a really savvy planner, buy decorations when those January sales hit and save them for next year.

Write everything down, schedule every event and make time to rest. This may seem like a no-brainer, but a cohesive schedule with every family event can help ease stress and prioritize periods of downtime. As a bonus, schedule something “just for fun” after the holidays to combat the blues.

Consider volunteering! It’s well-known that serving others helps to keep things in perspective. There are lots of options in the community, from Christ Kitchen and Union Gospel Mission, to events for our neighborhood or even here on campus.

Utilize your resources. If at any point you need someone to share the lift – whether it’s busyness, stress or, yes, even loneliness and grief – Gonzaga employees have a number of free resources from SupportLinc at their fingertips.

Toolkits

Grief and Loss	www.griefandloss.tools
Mindfulness	www.mindfulness.tools
Meditation	www.meditate.tools
Sleep Fitness	www.sleepfitness.tools

Utilizing the First-Year Seminar for Undergraduate Research

For students who've known their major since middle school or for those who can't decide – the first-year seminar is an introduction to Gonzaga and the University core.

A required credit, sure, but the limits end there.

With topics ranging from robots and music to a seminar simply called "Failure," the classes work to show students the reality of academic classes.

Two professors in opposite disciplines are hoping to utilize the first-year seminar to introduce a new reality to incoming students, one many may not even realize is possible – research.

"Undergraduate research improves a lot of outcomes for students," says **Jeff Watson**, professor of chemistry and biochemistry. "Studies show it improves grade point averages, retention and graduation rates, satisfaction and ownership over their education."

Watson and **Katey Roden**, associate professor of English and women, gender and sexuality studies, are spearheading the Interdisciplinary Research Teams Initiative.

It's a new effort to bring faculty from across the University together with the goal of engaging incoming students in a research project right off the bat. The pair is asking teams of faculty members to spend the spring semester developing a first-year seminar that uses research as a teaching vessel – with a few stipulations.

The teams must consist of faculty from at least two different disciplines.



Jeff Watson



Katey Roden

Roden and Watson first got the idea after Watson stepped in to guest lecture in Roden's class. She was jokingly offended when, at the end of the semester, many of her students said it was their favorite day of class. The pair realized they were on to something.

"It's easy to fall back into my own set of expertise, I think that's true of all of us," Roden says. "So, this is a way to really think about how we invest in interdisciplinarity in the classroom."

A pillar in Gonzaga's mission and an integral part of the Jesuit identity – fostering work across many disciplines not only makes class more engaging, but it ensures students are developing their whole person.

Accepted teams will be required to attend a monthly workshop, develop and then propose a new seminar to be taught in fall 2025 and 2026 by at least one member of the team. The final stipulation – the seminars must utilize a "significant undergraduate research experience."

It's a matter of breaking down barriers, Roden says. Undergraduate research carries a lot of stigmas, often associated with labs and white coats, maybe petri dishes. That can make it feel intimidating, maybe even unattainable to some students. While Watson says there certainly is research happening behind lab doors, that's not the only place.

"There are a lot of different ways to do research," he says. "It might be collecting oral histories, it might be in literature, it might be all sorts of things. Each discipline brings a different set of methodologies to the process."

Roden and Watson hope these new seminars show students there is no mold for what a student researcher should be. In fact, when I told Roden I hadn't participated in any undergraduate research during my time as a student, she challenged me.

"I'm willing to bet you did," she said, "but it probably wasn't framed that way for you. So, by calling it what it is, we're encouraging students to think about the fact that everyone from a liberal arts institution should have research experience."

She also points out that it's an equity issue. Watson and Roden are hoping to bridge the gap for first-generation college students and minorities who may not feel they belong in the academic sphere.

Watson says, "If we demonstrate to those students that this is the kind of thing we do, and we want them to do it along with us, that invites them to join the community in a way that goes beyond just sitting in a lecture class."

Global Engagement Faculty Development Award Showcase

The Global Engagement Faculty Showcase is Dec. 3, 4-5:30 p.m. in the Joann Jundt Lounge in the Hemmingson Center with opening remarks delivered by Gonzaga Trustee Irv Zakheim. The following faculty members will present their research and insights made possible by the Global Engagement Faculty Development Fund:

- **Emma Ariyo**, kinesiology and sport mgmt
- **Andrew Goldman**, history
- **Gregory Gordon**, environmental studies
- **Toruun Haaland**, Italian studies
- **William Hayes**, sociology and criminology
- **Jessica Maucione**, English
- **Charles Pepiton**, theatre
- **Karen Rickel**, kinesiology and sport mgmt

- **Ryan Turcott**, kinesiology and sport mgmt
- **John Sheveland**, religious studies
- **Jenaro Abraham**, political science
- **Laurie Arnold**, Native American studies
- **Gloria Chien**, religious studies
- **Tracey Hayes**, leadership studies
- **Ann Ostendorf**, history
- **Pavel Shlossberg**, leadership studies
- **Rebecca Stephanis**, Spanish
- **Bi Zhao**, political science

Stop by to learn how faculty members are researching to understand cultures and global issues and responding to the Jesuit imperative to be contemplatives in action.



Dessert of the Month

If I could find a way to pay the bills with baking, I would. In the meantime, I'm the editor of Spirit! I'm adding a new section to the newsletter, with a little inspiration from Bon Appetit, that will feature a monthly recipe pulled from my arsenal of favorites.

Shortbread

In the name of a stress-free holiday season, this is the perfect slice-and-bake, make-ahead recipe. With very little hassle and a lot of butter, you're sure to impress all your friends.

1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature

1 cup granulated sugar

½ teaspoon of salt

1 large egg yolk

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract (or measure with your heart)

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 cup turbinado or sanding sugar for sprinkling (or regular sugar you have on hand)

1) With a mixer, beat the butter on medium speed until creamy, about 1 minute. Add sugar (1 cup) and salt, beat again until light

and fluffy, 2 to 3 minutes. Scrape down the bowl and add the egg yolk and vanilla, mixing on low. Add the flour and mix on low until just combined.

2) Pour dough onto the counter and form into a 12 in log. Place the log onto plastic wrap and sprinkle sanding sugar all over, covering the edges of the log. Wrap in the plastic wrap and refrigerate until firm, 2 hours or longer.

3) When you are ready to bake, adjust your oven rack to the middle and preheat to 350°F. Line your baking sheets with parchment paper.

4) Slice the chilled log into ¼ in thick rounds and place 2 in apart on the baking sheet.

5) Bake until the edges are very light golden brown, but the centers are still pale. Total baking time will be about 14 to 16 minutes.



Adobe Stock Image

Did you make this month's recipe? Send us a picture! Spirit@gonzaga.edu

6) Let the cookies cool completely on the sheet. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 4 days.

Feel free to add any number of goodies to the dough. Dark chocolate chunks and pistachios really elevate this simple butter cookie!

Adapted from Sarah Kieffer's recipe in "100 Cookies."

PAINTING THIS PLACE

Renowned local artist **Ben Joyce** ('01) took a nostalgic stroll back through his time at Gonzaga for the first piece in his University Collection. Joyce, known as the "Painter of Place," celebrates what makes this campus so special, incorporating even the tiniest of details.

The piece now hangs in the Hemmingson Center as a tribute to the place that builds Zags.

Prints of "Gonzaga University" are available for purchase on [Joyce's website](#), with 25% of each sale supporting student scholarships.



"Gonzaga" was unveiled in the Hemmingson Center in September



We Worked Hard All Year...
IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

A beacon of care, hope and connection – the annual ROTC Christmas Party is officially set for **Dec. 12, noon-4 p.m.** Dating back to 1969, the celebration began with Col. Joe Boyle, former professor of military science. He saw a campus, somber in the face of the Vietnam War, in need of a little joy and humanity. Join ROTC in **College Hall 045** to continue the tradition in its 55th year!

It's time to don your best Victorian attire (or cocktail attire) for the President's Christmas Party! President Thayne & Julie McCulloh are hosting this year's event at the Historic Davenport Hotel on **Dec. 13, 6-10 p.m.** The themed party will take place across three different rooms, representing the past, present and future. If attending, please RSVP by **Dec. 3.**

WHAT WOULD IGGY DO?

A reflection by Jamie Aitken, senior director of Strategic Communications, on slowing down and appreciating the world around you

I've been thinking about how my way of thinking has changed in the two and a half years I've been at Gonzaga. Before I came here, I never asked the question, "What would Iggy do?"

I can safely say I didn't know who Ignatius of Loyola was, and I've never been one to spend time in meditation and reflection. The Jesuit life was not something I grew up with. I came up in the television business where you literally had to pay attention to seconds, to live by seconds. Even the business side that wasn't strictly governed by the clock was completely different from this world. Your ability to make judgments and act quickly could mean the difference between winning and losing. It's been an adjustment to enter the world of Ignatius. And I'm really glad I did.

Where I'm tempted to immediately react, Ignatius says, "Hold on, let's try reflecting on this, what it means not just to you and your problem, but where this issue came from, why it's here and what it means."

Taking a breath to reflect hasn't been easy for me, but I see how important it is. Without it, I'm the guy in the car doing 70 mph and missing a big piece of the world that's going by in a blur. That's a piece of the world that others are living in, maybe struggling with, and it's meaningful and important to them even if I don't see it. And it should be important to me because it probably is affecting my life even if I'm not taking the time to notice.

This is where Ignatius lived and called us to pay attention.

So, I'm trying to slow down and be intentional about getting outside my own self and thinking about how others see the world. I think that's especially important now, when that world is so polarized. It's not easy because it makes me realize I have to get outside my own comfort zone to listen first then act.

This Ignatius stuff seems hard at first, but it's really not. It's literally about slowing down, looking, listening, praying if you're religious, reflecting if you're not, being honest with yourself and caring.

The world is always going to be a challenging place, but it's really beautiful too. Ignatius helps us navigate it and appreciate it at the same time.

I'm thankful for where I am today, with all of you, at this place, where I'm learning to ask the question, "What would Iggy do?"



ASPIRATION TO ACTION

Continued from pg. 2

Why? Simon says it best, “If we say we’re going to do something in 10 days, we procrastinate and do all the work on day nine. We’ll get it done, but we’re probably not proactively working the entire 10 days.”

Checking in sooner rather than later will help keep the University on track and allow for better adaptation to our rapidly changing world.

Simon spent the last few months laying the groundwork, and now he wants more voices

in the mix. The Office of Sustainability is asking for faculty, staff and students to join their working group and help turn strategy into action.

Group members will dedicate three to four hours of work each month and pitch in at the occasional event. “It’s a small commitment for a big impact,” Simon adds.

He hopes to roll out the updated plan in the spring, but to do it right and involve the community extensively, Simon knows it may take more time.

“We’re approaching this with hope and optimism and trying not to look at the road ahead with a sense of concern or worry.”



NOTEWORTHY

New Hires

Alexandra Cassano, enrollment operations specialist I, Admissions; **Brandon Haddock**, director, Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center; **Daniel Clark**, maker space and lab coordinator, School of Engineering & App Science; **Danny Lopez IV**, FXD agile coach, ITS; **Gabriela Marquis**, program coordinator, Student Affairs; **Jacob O’Brien**, custodian, Plant Services; **James Matulis**, machinist and project support coordinator, School of Engineering & App Science; **Justin Higginson**, custodian, Plant Services; **Kameron McCardell**, program asst III, College of Arts and Sciences; **Karen Hoff**, counselor, Student Financial Services; **Krystal Bates**, program asst, Law Career Services Office; **Sophia Sedlar**, strength and conditioning coach, Athletics

Position Changes/Promotions

Carol Osenga, asst director of Gonzaga Law School Foundation, School of Law; **Nelda Drackley**, custodial shift supervisor, Plant Services; **Patrick Kearns III**, senior international student advisor, Center for Global Engagement; **Victoria Bjordahl**, program asst, University Advancement; **Olivia Bridston**, application administrator, ITS

Goodbyes

Chrishone Wilson, sr. Employment specialist, Human Resources; **Isla Ortiz-Leyva**, gift accounting asst, University Advancement; **Joan Perkins**, finance systems administrator, Controller’s Office; **Mary Margrave**, HR data & systems coordinator, Human Resources

Anniversaries

- 45** **Kai Uahinui**, DBA and ERP Architect, Integrations Operations
- 10** **Eric Blunt**, Custodian, Plant Services; **Sherri Lynch**, asst dean, School of Leadership Studies
- 5** **Jacqueline McCormick**, marketing and event coordinator, Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office; **LeAnn Blair**, manager of clinical legal programs, Clinical Law Programs; **Juliya Fox**, business analyst, ITS Administration; **Hank Wiswell**, security officer, Security

Around Campus

GU Upcoming events

- »» **Dec. 2, 5-5:30 p.m.** Hemmingson Christmas Tree Lighting | Hemmingson Rotunda
- »» **Dec. 3, 12-1:30 p.m.** Learn practical skills for interacting with people with disabilities at the Zags for Abilities Fair | Cataldo Hall
- »» **Dec. 8, 10-11 a.m., 12-1:30 p.m.** Advent Mass followed by pictures with Santa and Spike! | University Chapel College Hall & Hemmingson Rotunda
- »» **Dec. 9-11** Staff Assembly is offering a free meal at the COG for all staff! Pick up your ticket for either breakfast or lunch on Dec. 9, 10, or 11 at the Hemmingson

Welcome Desk. Breakfast will be available between 7-10 a.m. and lunch between 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Grab your ticket and enjoy a meal with your colleagues!

- »» **Dec. 12, 1-3 p.m.** Kick off the holiday season celebrating your coworkers. See who will receive the Fall Staff Assembly awards and decorate a cookie decorating! | Hemmingson Ballroom
- »» **Dec. 14, 7 p.m. and Dec. 15, 2 p.m.** Create a new holiday tradition at Campana Sobre Campana: Christmas in Mexico. The vibrant show weaves cherished Mexican traditions into a magical story of the season | Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center
- »» **Dec. 18, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.** All employees can connect with Gonzaga’s mission at

“Leading in a Jesuit University.” Explore topics like Jesuit worldview, Cura Personalis and discernment | Zoom

- »» **Jan. 7** Take time to reflect on the past year and look to the year ahead at a one-day retreat for staff and faculty | Bozarth Mansion
- »» **Jan. 24, 7 p.m.** Zags Night at the Chiefs is coming up! \$35 gets you a ticket and a Gonzaga-Chiefs flannel | Spokane Arena

Spotlight

- »» The College Media Association selected Gonzaga Student Media as the winner of nine awards for work created during the 2023-2024 academic year including, but not limited to, photography, advertising and graphic design.