

Spirit

FACULTY & STAFF NEWSLETTER

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In Friendship & In Hope

The inauguration of President Passerini marks new era in leadership

Excitement and hope reverberated across Gonzaga's campus on Sept. 26 as the University and the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) inaugurated Katia Passerini as the 27th president. This historic ceremony followed a months-long, nationwide search, several initial visits to campus, and weeks of anticipation that culminated in a multi-day celebration of Gonzaga's Mission.

Perhaps no one anticipated the momentous occasion more than Passerini herself, who began her reflection at the installation ceremony in McCarthy Athletic Center with a confession.

"I have played this moment in my head for so long, so many times," she spoke candidly. "When I thought about this moment in my life, I did not know the place yet. I visualized speaking to a large audience about the importance of higher education and the role of education. And here I am."

"But today is beyond what I could have ever imagined," she continued. Being in this incredible place, in a region plentiful with everything one could need is beyond a dream."

The highest-ranking woman in office for the Catholic Church, Sister Raffaella Petrini, F.S.E., delivered a keynote address. President of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State and President of the Governorate of the Vatican City State, Petrini centered her speech on a simple, yet profoundly human experience – friendship.

"Katia and I are friends," she said. "In fact, friendship is the main reason why I am here today. My hope is that you will continue to cultivate friendships at Gonzaga under the guidance of your new president and her remarkable staff."

She emphasized the importance of being in relationship with one another, of entering into a space of encounter and exposing oneself to the mystery of otherness. It is only there that one can truly learn how to be receptive, how to be vulnerable and how to take risks.



"Education that nurtures true friendship becomes a peace-making force that can help heal fractures, protect the vulnerable, and bridge cultural and generational gaps," Sr. Petrini said.

Adding to the celebration, Passerini announced two major gifts to the University. The first from Tom ('69) and Nancy Woodley to establish the Woodley Institute for Civil Engagement and Humanistic Dialogue. The second from Scott and Emily Scelfo with the intent of strengthening Gonzaga's commitment to Opportunity Northeast, the place-based initiative that focuses on improving outcomes for children and families in Northeast Spokane, through the Center for Community Engagement.

Finally, Gonzaga's newly inaugurated president closed her reflection, not only on the same hopeful note that resonated throughout the ceremony, but with another confession.

"I do not know precisely what the future will look like," she said honestly. "But I'm here, committed to building it together with discernment and with hope."

"The road ahead of us is long, has a lot of turns, and may also have some deviations, but that road will take us exactly where we need to be, in a place where we understand who we are and who we can become when we bring not just our university forward, but we advance our greater community by doing so. A place where we will be able to lead forward, with hope."



President Katia Passerini, her husband Arturo Pagán and their youngest son Diego.

Forever Students

Pagán and Passerini navigate decades of learning and traveling together

By Thea Skokan ('22)

President Katia Passerini is standing on stage in the McCarthy Athletic Center delivering her first “Welcome Address” to the incoming class of 2029. It’s a packed house – parents and students filling every seat on the floor and spilling into the surrounding bleachers.

Smiling from the front row is her husband, Arturo Pagán.

In the days before, during move-in weekend, Passerini walked around campus, shaking hands with families and carrying boxes into dorms, with Pagán frequently at her side.

Aside from an unflinching support for his wife, Pagán has built an impressive career over the past 24 years, serving as the deputy director for human resources at the United Nations Population Fund. UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. It works to prevent gender-based violence and maternal deaths, and

uphold the rights and choices of women, girls and young people around the world. Within the agency, Pagán oversees a team of HR business partners located across seven regional offices and headquarters. In total, he supports around 5,000 staff across 150 countries.

“A huge motivator for me is to be able to help people that I don’t even know,” he says, adding that working in HR means you’re supporting from behind the scenes. “I’m not running the programs myself, but every time I do travel, I get to see the impact of the work we’re doing.”

“If I can say that because of my intervention, a life was saved, that for me makes all of the difference in the world.”

As two such driven people, it’s no surprise Pagán and Passerini spent decades supporting one another as careers took them up and down the East Coast, across

oceans and now to a sometimes unheard of (Gonzaga does exist!) corner of the Pacific Northwest.

“I think we’ve mastered it over many years together,” Pagán says. “But it’s not easy, as you can imagine.”

They catch up in quiet moments, watching movies on the rare occasion they’re home at the same time. And a personal favorite of Pagán, who enjoys being in the academic sphere, is taking time off to accompany Passerini to conferences.

A Brooklyn native and the son of Puerto Rican migrants who came to New York in the 60s, Pagán grew up inspired by the deep Catholic roots of his family, particularly by his father, grandmother and great aunts. He went on to get degrees in education and political science, initially teaching high school social studies before pivoting to the international field.

Continued on pg. 3

US NEWS & WORLD REPORT

RECOGNIZED AMONG THE NATION'S TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR:

#15 SERVICE LEARNING

#17 UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

#48 MOST INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

#14 CIVIL ENGINEERING (non-doctorate)

#20 FINANCE

#21 UNDERGRADUATE ENGINEERING (non-doctorate)

#26 ACCOUNTING

#29 ENTREPRENEURSHIP

#59 NURSING

#88 UNDERGRADUATE BUSINESS



Save the date!

The annual **Benefits Fair** is taking place Oct. 14-15 in the Hemmingson Ballroom. There are plenty of opportunities to engage with vendors this year like Kinwell, SupportLinc and TIAA. And a special twist – on-site dental cleanings will be available through Jet Dental. You can find a full list of wellness seminars that will be offered during the fair by going to GU Training and don't forget to register for your biometric screenings by going to benefits.gonzaga.edu and clicking on ZAGFit Wellness.

» Learn More: gonzaga.benefits.edu

Arturo Pagán

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It was while earning his master's in international affairs at The George Washington University that he and Passerini first met.

"There is one additional student in this class. Her name is Katia Passerini. She had to go back to Rome to do her exams, but you'll be meeting her the day before we depart," he recalls his professor saying as their environmental policy studies class prepared to leave for a three-week trip to the Caribbean. Just from that, Pagán couldn't wait to meet this incredible woman. But when it came time to leave, he overslept, missing the class flight to Mexico City. Fortunately, he made it on a later flight and the two finally met that night on the dance floor.

"She was brilliant, smart, engaging and a great dancer," he adds with a laugh. "That was it, I was in love."

But education is where their interests really merged. Pagán says he and Passerini are "forever students." He's currently working on his Ph.D. proposal defense in multi-sector communication at St. John's University in Queens, N.Y. and hoping to finalize it soon.

"Really, I just love the challenge of being surrounded by academics and having stimulating conversations," he says.

Moving to Spokane from Brooklyn as Passerini takes on her historic role as Gonzaga's next president is just the latest in a life full of adventures and academic challenges. It helps to, once again, be doing it side by side.

Another thing that helps – the ever-present sense of community at Gonzaga.

"We loved how welcoming everyone was," he says, thinking back to the first of many trips to campus together. "We could feel it. So many people have a history at this university – they met here, they married here, they've grown up here, they have parents who've gone here. You just immediately feel this beautiful sense of community."

During another visit, Pagán attended a GU Story Slam. He found it wonderful to hear first-hand from students about their experience at the University, and what makes them so attached to it. He hopes to attend more student-led events and performances in the future.

Pagán also wants to be involved with local non-profit Latinos en Spokane and explore the local food scene. "I'm starting to get an affinity for Washington state wines," he laughs.

It's certainly a change of pace from New York and New Jersey. But it's a welcome one, he says.

"One of the beauties of living in a smaller place is you feel like everyone knows each other, and it just makes this place really special."

DeSmet Hall 100 YEARS

Gonzaga's oldest residence hall, the home of DJ DeSmet and the subject of countless stories and memories over the years – DeSmet Hall officially turns 100 this year. Designed by architect Julius Zittel, the four-story, 72-room building broke ground on March 4, 1925, and opened on October 24, just a few weeks after the start of the school year. In the end, the dormitory cost just \$160,000 to build. Not too bad, right? Actually, if built today, it would cost about \$3 million. Over the decades, DeSmet has been home to rich traditions – from hosting Navy College Training programs during WWII to the legendary Bulldog Bowl against Catherine Monica Hall, which still happens to this day. Through it all, the all-male dorm remains a fixture of campus, standing tall along Bulldog Alley.

» Send us a DeSmet memory! Email: spirit@gonzaga.edu



Help Us Keep the Campus Map Up to Date

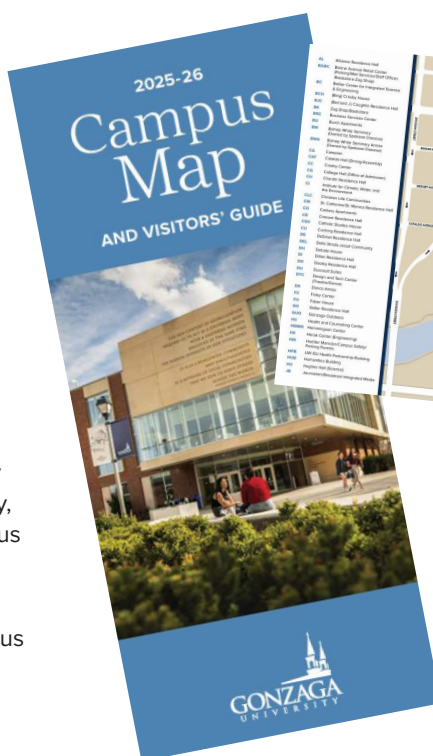
Does your department display or distribute a campus map — whether in a lobby, office, or online?

The latest version of the campus map is now available and we want to make sure the most accurate map is used across campus.

If your department utilizes a campus map in any way and would like to double check its accuracy, please email skokan@gonzaga.edu. This helps us ensure visitors, students and staff always have the most reliable information.

Thank you for helping us keep Gonzaga's campus map current and consistent!

» Email: skokan@gonzaga.edu



This is the most current campus map! Reach out if your department needs an update.



If you try the recipe, don't forget to send your photos to spirit@gonzaga.edu!

Dessert of the Month

Apple Cider Donuts

It felt fitting to include a very fall dessert in the October edition. If you're from Spokane or have lived here awhile, I'm sure you know about the famed donuts at Green Bluff that make a delicious appearance every fall. They go fast, so I thought I'd make it a little easier to enjoy a similar cakey, buttery creation from the comfort of your own home.

Adapted from Sally's Baking Addiction

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups (360ml) apple cider
- 2 cups (250g) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 3/4 tsp baking powder
- 1 Tbsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp apple pie spice*
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 Tbsp (28g) unsalted butter, melted
- 1 large egg, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup (100g) packed light or dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (100g) granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (120ml) milk
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract

Topping

- 1 cup (200g) granulated sugar
- 3/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 3/4 tsp apple pie spice*
- 6 Tbsp (85g) unsalted butter, melted

Instructions

Step 1 Reduce the apple cider by simmering in a small saucepan over low heat, stirring occasionally, until you're left with about 1/2 cup. Start checking at 10 minutes, 15 minutes, 20 minutes, etc. until you have 1/2 cup. If there are any spices or solids on top of your reduced apple cider, leave them. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.

Step 2 Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray donut pan (or muffin tin) with non-stick spray. Set aside.

Step 3 Whisk the flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, apple pie spice and salt together in a large bowl. Set aside.

Step 4 Whisk the melted butter, egg, brown sugar, granulated sugar, milk and vanilla extract together. Pour into the dry ingredients, add the reduced apple cider, and whisk everything together until smooth and combined. Batter will be slightly thick.

Step 5 Spoon the batter into the donut pan. For ease, I recommend using a large Ziploc bag. Cut a corner off the bottom of the bag and pipe the batter into each donut cup, filling about halfway. If making muffins, fill each muffin tin about 3/4 full.

Step 6 Bake for 10-11 minutes (18-20 minutes if making muffins) or until the edges and tops are lightly browned. To test, poke your finger into the top of the donut. If the donut bounces back, they're done. Cool for 2 minutes then transfer to a wire rack. Re-grease the pan and bake the remaining donut batter.

Step 7 For the topping, combine the granulated sugar, cinnamon, and apple pie spice together in a medium bowl. Once cool enough to handle, dunk both sides of each donut in the melted butter, then generously in the apple spice topping.

**If you don't have apple pie spice or can't find it in stores, you can make your own with 2 tsp cinnamon, 1/2 tsp cardamom, and 1 tsp nutmeg.*

Noteworthy

New Hires

Delaney From, international student advisor, ISSS; **Jacob Russell**, security officer, CSPS; **Michael De Vitis**, benefits and leaves specialist II, Human Resources; **Katia Passerini**, president, Office of the President; **Bethany Fruci**, executive assistant and office manager, Office of the President; **Marlis Petersen Spawn**, business officer, Jesuit Community; **Daniel Salazar**, HVAC technician, Plant; **Robert Turner**, program manager, Center for Engineering Design & Entrepreneurship; **Tina Luerssen**, HR partner, Human Resources; **Heidi Getchell**, custodian, Plant; **Gary Hilton**, HVAC technician, Plant; **Natalie Martinez**, program coordinator, UMEC; **Kameron Lane**, HR analyst, Human Resources; **Amber Blankenship**, custodian, Plant; **Dana Parsons**, program coordinator, Student Media; **Darnell Howard**, HR coordinator, Human Resources; **David Taylor**, director of ticket operations, Athletics; **Gabriel McDaniel**, residence director, Housing and Residence Life; **Harold Martin**, residence director, Housing and Residence Life; **Jason Bromley**, simulation operations specialist, School of Health Sciences; **Javiera Rojas Nunez**, law clinic paralegal, School of Law; **Joshua Hogan**, university archivist, Foley; **Kevin Ward**, security officer, CSPS; **Kristin Powell**, asst. men's tennis coach, Athletics; **Madelyn Gerdes**, custodian, Plant; **Madiro Kwenda**, admission counselor, Admissions; **Melanie Kelley**, coordinator, Office of a Pedagogy of Hope; **Nelia Wood**, communications officer, CSPS; **Nikellie Windsor**, manager of the Dean's Suite, School of Law; **Rachel Skwira-Brown**, coordinator I, Mission Integration; **Rachel Ayres**, program assistant III, School of Business; **Rachel Janice Munda**, physics lab specialist, College of Arts and Sciences; **Rebecca Haley**, residence director, Housing and Residence Life; **Ryan Wright**, asst., baseball coach, Athletics; **Scott Anderson**, academic advisor II, Center for Student Academic Success; **Thomas Feeney**, groundskeeper, Plant; **Whitney Johnson**, program manager, Center for Lifelong Learning; **Daniel Pauw**, instructional lab manager, College of Arts and Sciences; **Jordan Dunn**, director of facilities maintenance, engineering, utility services and fleet services, Plant; **Karla Ealy-Marroquin**, access and accommodations specialist, Center for Student Academic Success

Position Changes/Promotions

Alexa Gaske, asst. director and data analyst, Admissions; **Lonni Marlow**, data and evaluation analyst, Center for Community Engagement; **Bethany Hickey**, asst. director of discrimination and harassment prevention, Inclusive Excellence; **Dallan Flake**, professor, School of Law; **Dillon Knapton**, custodial lead, Plant; **Genevieve Morris**, assoc. professor, School of Law; **Ismael Teshome**, senior director of service management, ITS; **Jadyn Ashcroft**, CRM analyst, Graduate Enrollment Management; **Justyn Thomason**, lease security officer, CSPS; **Kenlee Guss**, strategic learning specialist, Center for Student Academic Success; **Luis Inaraja Vera**, assoc. professor, School of Law; **Mark Voorhees**, women's crew coach, Athletics; **Nathan Mannetter**, interim vice president, Enrollment Management; **Susan Edwards**, senior lecturer-IB, School of Health Science; **Tyler Como**, groundskeeper irrigation specialist, Plant; **William Haberman**, financial and business support analyst, Auxiliary Enterprises

Goodbyes

Abigail Johansen, program assistant III, Center for Student Academic Success; **Alexia Thiede**, program assistant III, ITS; **Andrea LaPlant**, colleague relations director, Human Resources; **Andrea Brower**, asst. professor of sociology, College of Arts and Sciences; **Andrea Lofgren**, assessment and accreditation officer, School of Education; **Andrew Derrick**, women's crew coach, Athletics; **Ann-Scott Ettinger**, senior biology lab coordinator, College of Arts and Sciences; **Anne-Marie VanRiper**, strategic learning specialist, Center for Student Academic Success; **Austin Few**, director of basketball analytics, Athletics; **Barbara Gongyin**, coordinator of Native student accomplishments, Tribal Relations; **Brianna Burnette**, student services onboarding specialist, Graduate Enrollment Management; **Bryce Gill**, residence director, Housing and Residence Life; **Cesar Vargas Rodriguez**, assoc. head coach of men's tennis, Athletics; **Charles Monte**, technical director of theatre and dance, College of Arts and Sciences; **Christina Brumley**, lecturer-AT, School of Health Sciences; **Colton Fetzer**, program coordinator, Office of Sustainability; **Debra Fischetti**, budget specialist, University Advancement; **Eddie Johnson**, general maintenance technician, Plant; **Elizabeth Barsotti**, senior training and development specialist, Mission Engagement; **Emily Hunter**, residence director, Housing and Residence Life; **Gabriela Marquis**, program coordinator, Student Affairs; **George Critchlow**, distinguished visiting professor, School of Law; **Grace McElligott**, social media specialist, Marketing and Communications; **Jeff Borden**, dean, School of Leadership Studies; **Josephine Orlando**, residence director, Housing and Residence Life; **Julia Camilucci**, asst. women's rowing coach, Athletics; **Julie McCulloh**, vice provost, Enrollment Management; **Karianna Freeland**, CRM analyst, Graduate Enrollment Management; **Karina Maciel**, asst. director of marketing, Athletics; **Lauren Kaiser**, program coordinator, Climate Institute; **Lauren Hackman-Brooks**, director of mission formation, Mission Engagement; **Leif Forrest**, AV lead, ITS; **Matthew Villareal**, creative director of basketball recruiting, Athletics; **McCall Sarrett**, asst. professor of psychology, College of Arts and Sciences; **Maira Rogers**, director of study abroad, Center for Global Engagement; **Myles Anders**, operations and research specialist, Career Center; **Robert Finn**, senior alumni engagement officer, Alumni Relations; **Ryan Hooper**, groundskeeper, Plant; **Sean Winston**, asst. baseball coach, Athletics; **Sequoia Camacho**, security officer, CSPS

Anniversaries

-
- 35** **Lori Leonard**, welcome desk concierge, GUEST
-
- 20** **Karen Kaiser**, curator of education, Jundt Museum; **Eric Loran**, custodian, Plant
-
- 15** **Joseph Smith**, chief financial officer, President's Office; **Anna Creed**, research and instruction librarian, Law Library
-
- 10** **Steven Karr**, video broadcast and production coordinator, Athletics; **Olena Kudlaieva**, custodian, Plant; **Sean Cochrane**, network lead, Infrastructure Operations
-
- 05** **Tanner Chick**, systems data analyst, Institutional Research; **Ross Button**, men's golf asst. coach, Athletics; **Lillian Morrill**, event manager, GUEST
-

Around Campus

Events, celebrations and lectures of note this month

Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. Witness the bold, dynamic artistry of Complexions Contemporary Ballet featuring highlights from the company's 30-year history and "For Crying Out Loud," a new work set to iconic U2 hits like "Where the Streets Have No Name" and "With or Without You" | Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

Oct. 10 Mary Crosby, the daughter of Bing Crosby, will be in Spokane to witness Mayor Lisa Brown proclaim "Bing's Day" and designate a portion of W. Sprague Ave. as "Bing Crosby Way"

Oct. 16, 7:30-9 p.m. Attend the Fall Jazz Sampler concert to hear music from a variety of ensembles, combos and singers | Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. Experience the debut of Luminia, a new chamber string orchestra featuring Spokane's top musicians, led by violinist Jason Moody. The evening concludes with a preview screening of "Love, Eleanor" — a short film by GU faculty with a live, original score | Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

Oct. 21, 6 p.m. Attend a lecture discussing the link between nutrition and fertility by University of Washington's nutrition clinic dietician Judy Simon | Hemmingson Ballroom

Oct. 22, 6 p.m. Join the Climate Institute for a screening of "Cooked: Survival by Zip Code," a powerful documentary that explores the deadly 1995 Chicago heat wave and exposes the deep connections between extreme weather, inequality and systemic racism | Hemmingson Auditorium

Oct. 25, 6:30-9 p.m. Hosted by the Gonzaga Lavender Alumni Community and the Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center, "One October Night" will be a masquerade evening of music, intrigue, hearty appetizers and drinks | Hemmingson Auditorium



Jay Yang, director of the Institute for Informatics and Applied Technology

Innovation & Collaboration

The Institute for Informatics and Applied Technology opened the doors of its brand new collaborative space in Herak with a little help from President Katia Passerini, Institute Director Jay Yang, Donor and adviser Dave Reisenauer ('82), Trustee John Hemmingson and Gonzaga Board Chair Mike Reilly ('81). The new space is designed for creation and collaboration, bringing together IIAT's AI engineers, communications team, and student researchers to build innovative AI and informatics-based products. Just next door, the Human AI Collaboratory (HACLab) welcomes faculty and industry partners into an open, flexible hub for experiential learning and innovation in education. Together, these spaces embody Gonzaga's commitment to responsible technology that serves people, sparks discovery, and advances the common good.

— **Amy Hyde**, marketing & administrative specialist,
Institute for Informatics and Applied Technology

