

Spirit

Left to right:
Emma Swenson,
Alex Wilmoth,
Kendall Scipio-
Shepherd, Lydia
Larson and
Sarah Matousek

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FACULTY & STAFF NEWSLETTER

“This is Somebody’s Real Life”

Student research brings focus to rural health

By Thea Skokan ('22)

If you hop on Highway 2 and head west from Spokane for about 80 miles, through golden wheat fields, along rocky cliffsides and finally winding down toward the Columbia River, you'll find yourself in Grand Coulee.

It's a little less than a two-hour drive from Spokane, but the landscape, the population size, and, most importantly, the access to health care, could not be more different.

“If I wake up sick in Spokane,” says Kendall Scipio-Shepherd ('26), “I just know I'm going to Sacred Heart or Deaconess and they're going to give me what I need, and I'm going to be fine. But it's not that way in Grand Coulee. A patient could be dealing with a chronic condition and travel a good distance to reach a rural clinic and they can only hope to receive the treatment they need.”

Scipio-Shepherd was one of two students researching alongside Professor Sarah Matousek this summer at the Coulee Medical Center. Matousek is an assistant professor

of public health at Gonzaga and teaches at the University of Washington School of Medicine's campus in Spokane, one of several joint faculty with the UW-GU Health Partnership. She helped Scipio-Shepherd and Emma Swenson ('27) embark on their first research project starting in spring 2025 and continuing through the summer.

Both are majors in Gonzaga's relatively new public health program, something they say felt was a natural fit for their interests.

“Where I'm from in Seattle, public health really isn't a priority,” Scipio-Shepherd says. “But I didn't know that until I learned what public health really means.” It's made up of things like safe sidewalks, clean drinking water, parks and good schools.

“I like that you can help a large group of people from behind the scenes,” Swenson says. “It's doing things that people don't often notice, but that are super important.”

Their research centers on a similar idea – looking at whether chronic physical illness and mental illness are linked, and if one worsens the other, specifically in a rural community like Grand Coulee. The goal is to identify patterns in patient needs and explore possible solutions.

So, every week this summer, Swenson and Scipio-Shepherd made the 80-mile drive from Spokane to Grand Coulee for a few important reasons.

The first is access to the program they used for much of their research. They used it review Coulee Medical Center's patient list and compare it to other medical records to identify any similarities or discrepancies with other patients. Scipio-Shepherd and Swenson were granted special access to patient records to document information in a secure, HIPAA-compliant database that de-identifies the data.

Continued on pg. 2

Grand Coulee

Continued from pg. 1

Once they have all this information, they looked at how it differs from patient to patient, specifically, between people who have mental health illnesses as well as chronic illnesses, versus people with chronic illnesses but not mental illness.

While this is ongoing research, Swenson says they've already been able to pick up on some patterns. "We've had a couple of people who have mental health illnesses and chronic illnesses and they stayed three days longer at the hospital than the average person does," she says.

The second reason they took their research on the road was the opportunity to work with two UW-GU Health Partnership students: Lydia Larson and Alex Wilmoth. They were able to answer questions for Scipio-Shepherd and Swenson and mentor them throughout their research. The entire project is made possible thanks to the generosity of Dean and Vicki Allen who funded the McKinstry Fellowship, a program designed specifically to bring together UW and GU students.

And, finally, perhaps the most important reason to venture to Grand Coulee each week – to be immersed in the environment and be near the people they could potentially help.

"We've done the reading and the research," Scipio-Shepherd says, "But once you're actually working with data from real people and seeing that it's affecting real lives, it's different. It makes you tune in a bit more because you know you're actually helping someone and could make their conditions better."

She never expected that from the research experience. "I fully believed research had to happen in a lab, using beakers and wearing goggles, and that's just not the kind of person I am," she explains. "But now that I'm in it, and I see what research can be and how it can affect people. This gets you that hands-on experience and it doesn't feel like what I thought research would be. It feels like I'm doing a job and I'm helping people."

They both credit Matousek for being an integral part of their research experience, saying they wouldn't be in the position to make these big realizations without her.

There weren't beakers or goggles, but when they opened someone's medical records, searching for an answer to their problems, Scipio-Shepherd she was struck with a powerful thought: "This is somebody's real life, and I could really change it."

Research Never Rests

Armed with kayaks, nets, and plenty of curiosity, Professor Betsy Bancroft and her student researchers spent the summer diving into the hidden worlds of ponds and wetlands. At Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, they used non-lethal traps to capture, photograph and study everything from tiny shoreline critters to pond-dwellers in deeper waters. By comparing life in seasonal versus year-round ponds, they're uncovering how shifting environments shape the incredible diversity of freshwater wildlife.

Bright minds.
Big questions.

Scan here to
explore summer
research across
campus.





KATIA PASSERINI, PH.D.



**LEARN MORE AND
RSVP AT:
[GONZAGA.EDU/27](https://gonzaga.edu/27)**

Friday, September 26, 2025

INAUGURAL MASS

**10:30 A.M. | ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA
CHURCH**

INSTALLATION CEREMONY

**2 P.M. | MCCARTHEY ATHLETIC
CENTER**

FEATURING A KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY

Sister Raffaella Petrini, F.S.E.

PRESIDENT OF THE PONTIFICAL COMMISSION FOR
THE VATICAN CITY STATE AND PRESIDENT OF THE
GOVERNORATE OF THE VATICAN CITY STATE

2025 Welcome Weekend

President Katia Passerini delivered her first Presidential Welcome Address on Aug. 23, telling the new students that whatever they do this year, they're not doing it alone.

"I'm a freshman myself," she joked. "I only started a month ago, and already, just like you will, I'm learning a lot of new things."

This theme of togetherness could be seen all weekend, from the army of volunteers ready to move boxes, to the local businesses and food trucks that showed up to introduce students to the Spokane community.

Let's keep that energy going all year, Zags!





Scholarship & Spirit

*Gonzaga among best in
Princeton Review rankings*

**No.
01**

Students Who Love Their School Teams

Stop us if you've heard this one before: Gonzaga students have serious school spirit.

In the new Princeton Review publication "The Best 391 Colleges: 2026 Edition," Gonzaga once again landed at No. 1 in the list of "students who love their school teams." But Zags aren't satisfied with simply cheering from the sidelines; Gonzaga also landed at **No. 14** on the list for schools where "everyone plays intramural sports."



Students Who Study the Most

If you think we take our school spirit seriously, it's nothing compared to our academic prowess. Gonzaga is a university full of highly motivated, academic-minded students, which is why The Princeton Review ranked us No. 21 in the nation for schools where students study the most.

**No.
21**



**No.
14**

Most Engaged in Community Service

Beyond cheering for the men's and women's Zags teams and a high standard for academics, the survey respondents for the Princeton Review lauded Gonzaga as one of the schools "most engaged in community service."

Other areas where Gonzaga landed among the Top 25 in the nation include "best health services" (**No. 19**) and the brand-new category of "most politically moderate students" (**No. 24**).

Dessert of the Month

Peach Cobbler

INGREDIENTS

The Peaches

5 fresh peaches – peeled, cored and sliced
(about 4 cups)
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt

The Batter

6 tbs. butter
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup granulated sugar
2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
3/4 cups milk
ground cinnamon

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1 Add the sliced peaches, sugar and salt to a saucepan and stir to combine.

Step 2 Cook on medium heat for just a few minutes, until the sugar is dissolved and helps to bring out juices from the peaches. Remove from heat and set aside.

Step 3 Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Slice butter into pieces and add to a 9x13 inch baking dish. Place the pan in the oven while it preheats, to allow the butter to melt. Once melted, remove the pan from the oven.

Step 4 In a large bowl mix together the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Stir in the milk, until just combined. Pour the mixture into the pan, over the melted butter and smooth it into an even layer.

Step 5 Spoon the peaches and juice over the batter. Sprinkle cinnamon generously over the top.

Step 6 Bake at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes. Serve warm and with a scoop of ice cream!

Happy baking!

This old fashioned, quintessential summer recipe could not be easier to make. It's also the perfect transition from summer to fall. Head out to Green Bluff, pick up some fresh peaches, and give it a try! *Recipe adapted from Tastes Better from Scratch.*



Photo by Zack Berlat



Thanks to Natalie Chapin for sharing this photo of the grounds crew enjoying the May Dessert of the Month – almond croissant cookies!

Don't forget to send your photos to
spirit@gonzaga.edu!

Noteworthy

New Hires

Adeline Whitlow, intern, Housing and Residence Life; **Ashton Jessee**, compliance coordinator, Athletics; **Daniel Campobasso**, coordinator of native student engagement and recruitment, Tribal Relations; **Emily Waples**, learning and development specialist, Human Resources; **Erin Dougherty**, administrative assistant, University Advancement; **Eva Guzman**, lab and field technician, College of Arts & Sciences; **Joao Paulo Batista**, head strength and conditioning coach, Athletics; **Keely Whitesell**, assistant dean, Residential Experience; **Lara Aviles Matias**, intern, Housing and Residence Life; **Nicholas Wright**, assistant vice president, Office of Inclusive Excellence; **Yanxia Wu**, AI engineer, Institute for Informatics & Applied Technology

Position Changes/Promotions

Brittany Copeland, assistant to the vice provost, Student Affairs; **Colleen McLean**, assistant to the dean and office manager, School of Engineering & Applied Science; **Joshua Boche**, broadcast engineer, College of Arts & Science; **Michael Heupel**, custodial lead, Plant; **Timothy Breen**, program director, Zags 360; **Vitaliy Kuzmenkov**, groundskeeper lead, Plant

Goodbyes

Aaron Crandall, assistant professor of computer science, School of Engineering & Applied Science; **Alissa Underhill**, lecturer-AT, School of Health Sciences; **Angela Aneiros**, assistant professor, School of Law; **Blaine Garvin**, professor of political science, College of Arts and Sciences; **Cara Smith**, simulation operations specialist, School of Health Sciences; **Charles Monte**, technical director of theatre and dance, College of Arts and Sciences; **Chris Francovich**, associate professor, Leadership Studies; **Christina Brumley**, lecturer-AT, School of Health Sciences; **Colleen McMahon**, associate professor of integrated media, College of Arts and Sciences; **Daniel Butterworth**, professor of English, College of Arts and Sciences; **Daniel Dangca**, senior coordinator, University Ministry; **Deborah O'Brien**, assistant professor, School of Education; **Drew Simshaw**, assistant professor, School of Law; **George Critchlow**, distinguished visiting professor, School of Law; **Graham Morehead**, lecturer-IR, School of Engineering & Applied Science; **Ian Pecoff**, custodian, Plant; **Jack Guth**, finance and business support analyst, Auxiliary Enterprises; **Janel Anderson**, assistant professor, School of Education; **Jeffrey Omari**, professor and faculty director for the Center for Civil and Human Rights, School of Law; **Joanne Shiosaki**, assistant director of student media, Student Publications; **Joel Stafstrom**, lecturer-AT, College of Arts and Sciences; **Joshua Somrah**, residence director, Housing and Residence Life; **Katie Brandi**, lecturer-IR, College of Arts and Sciences; **Kelvin Rivera-Lopez**, lecturer-AT, College of Arts and Sciences; **Lisa Corigliano**, assistant to the vice provost, Student Affairs; **Madhura Nadarajah**, lecturer-AT, College of Arts and Science; **Mark Alfino**, professor of philosophy, College of Arts and Science; **Paris Sarquilla**, custodian, Plant; **Quanhua Liu**, associate professor of philosophy, College of Arts and Science; **Ridge Bynum**, pedagogy of hope program coordinator, School of Education; **Ryan McWilliams**, lecturer-AT, College of Arts and Sciences; **Shannon Overbay**, professor of mathematics, College of Arts and Sciences; **Shriya Shekhar**, assistant professor of finance, School of Business

Administration; **Suzanne Ostersmith**, associate professor of theatre and dance, College of Arts and Sciences; **Todd Finkle**, associate professor of entrepreneurship and Pigott chair, School of Business Administration; **William Large**, professor of religious studies, College of Arts and Sciences; **William Ettinger**, professor of biology, College of Arts and Sciences; **Yongju Hwang**, lecturer-AT, School of Education

Anniversaries

- 45** **Larry Perkins**, infrastructure architect, Infrastructure Operations
-
- 35** **Carl Bozman**, professor of marketing, School of Business Administration; **Paul De Palma**, professor of computer science, School of Engineering and Applied Science
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- 30** **Nancy Yamaura**, custodial shift supervisor, Plant; **Gary Weber**, professor of accounting and Kinsey Robinson chair, School of Business Administration; **Colleen Goodwin**, senior lecturer-IB of mathematics, College of Arts & Sciences
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- 25** **Tom Buck**, infrastructure architect, Infrastructure Operations; **Rick Smith**, HVAC control technician, Plant; **Shannon Strahl**, deputy athletic director and chief operating officer, Athletics; **Maureen Duclos**, budget personnel officer, Dean's Office; **Joseph Haydock**, associate professor of biology, College of Arts & Sciences; **Kelly O'Brien-Jenks**, associate professor, Foley Center Library; **Kevin Chambers**, associate professor of history, College of Arts & Sciences; **Ann Murphy**, professor, School of Law
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- 20** **Jared Hertz**, senior associate athletic director, Athletic Development; **Marzena Kosinski**, director of research and special projects, Enrollment Management; **JoAnne Finch**, buyer, Controller's Office; **Cindy Perry**, assistant to the VP of Mission Integration and division budget officer, Mission Integration; **Jim Sutterman**, locksmith, Plant; **Sara Kern**, professor of accounting, School of Business Administration; **MaryAnn Rinderle**, operations director and assistant to the Provost, Office of the Provost; **Vivek Patil**, professor of marketing, School of Business Administration; **Kara Hertz**, assistant vice president, Alumni Relations; **Stacey Avery**, reporting assistant, University Advancement; **Heather Easterling Ritchie**, professor of English, College of Arts and Sciences; **Ingrid Herrman Ranum**, professor of English, College of Arts and Sciences; **Patrick Baraza**, senior lecturer-AC of religious studies, College of Arts and Sciences; **Kristen Kavan**, program director, Physical Education Activity Class; **Suzann Girtz**, professor of teacher education, School of Education; **Adrian Popa**, associate professor, Organizational Leadership; **Ellen Maccarone**, vice president, Mission Integration; **Gary Chang**, associate professor of biology, College of Arts and Science; **Brooks Holland**, professor, School of Law; **Upendra Acharya**, professor, School of Law; **Vik Gumbhir**, associate professor of sociology, College of Arts and Science; **Bill Hayes**, associate professor of sociology, College of Arts and Sciences; **Danielle Xu**, professor and Mozilo chair, School of Business Administration

15 **Chris Becker**, infrastructure engineer I, Infrastructure Operations; **Jason Gillmer**, professor, founding director, School of Law, Center for Civil and Human Rights; **Yevgeniy Leksunkin**, general maintenance, Plant; **Jason Schnagl**, computer systems analyst, Computer Science; **Randi Cadena**, budget officer, Student Affairs; **Rebecca Bull Schaefer**, professor of management, School of Business Administration; **Debbie Harmon**, supervisor of graduate admissions operations, Enrollment Operations; **Rebecca Marquis**, professor of modern languages and literature, College of Arts & Sciences; **Gergely Gidofalvi**, associate professor of chemistry, College of Arts & Sciences; **David Oosterhuis**, associate professor of classical civilizations, College of Arts & Sciences; **Logan Axon**, associate professor of mathematics, College of Arts & Sciences; **Heather Hoeck-Mills**, senior lecturer-IB of physics, College of Arts & Sciences; **Joseph Mudd**, associate professor of religious studies, College of Arts & Sciences; **Elizabeth Goldstein**, associate professor of religious studies, College of Arts & Sciences; **Carolyn Cunningham**, professor of communication and leadership, College of Arts & Sciences; **Sarah Guzman**, executive director of the Gonzaga Law School Foundation, School of Law; **Katrina Rambo**, senior student employment counselor, Financial Aid Office; **Cari Johnson**, program coordinator for counselor education, School of Education; **Kim Pearson**, professor, School of Law; **Inga Laurent**, professor, School of Law

10 **Steven Bjerken**, information security architect, Information Security; **Luke Cairney**, assistant dean of admissions, Law Student Recruitment; **Anthony Tardiff**, first year engagement librarian, Foley Center Library; **Victoria Fallgren**, assistant women's golf coach, Athletics; **Molly Ayers**, assistant dean, Center for Community Engagement; **Deena Presnell**, associate vice president, Controller's Office; **Taylor Case**, custodial shift supervisor, Plant; **Joan Owens**, associate professor of nursing, School of Health Sciences; **Masaomi Matsumoto**, associate professor of chemistry, College of Arts & Sciences; **Chase Bollig**, associate professor of English, College of Arts & Sciences; **Katharine Shultis**, associate professor of mathematics, College of Arts & Sciences; **Timothy Weidel**, associate professor of philosophy, College of Arts & Sciences; **Matthew Geske**, associate professor of physics, College of Arts & Sciences; **Adam Fritsch**, professor of physics, College of Arts & Sciences; **Nicole Moore**, associate professor of physics, College of Arts & Sciences; **Sarah Arpin**, associate professor of psychology, College of Arts & Sciences; **Tim Fitzgerald**, professor of mechanical engineering, School of Engineering & Applied Science; **Marc Baumgardner**, professor of mechanical engineering, School of Engineering & Applied Science; **Robin Dare**, art handler, Jundt Museum; **Laura Hutton**, manager of user services, Foley Center Library; **Kristina Manchester**, buyer, Controller's Office; **Brandon Harmon**, associate head baseball coach, Athletics; **Eric Moss**, director, Infrastructure Operations; **Betsy Bancroft**, professor of biology, College of Arts & Sciences; **John Orcutt**, associate professor of biology,

College of Arts & Sciences; **Rhonda Young**, professor of civil engineering, School of Engineering & Applied Science; **Karen Petruska**, associate professor of communications studies, College of Arts & Sciences; **Joe Johnston**, associate professor of sociology, College of Arts & Sciences; **Naghme Morlock**, associate professor of sociology, College of Arts & Sciences; **Ryan Arneson**, senior product designer, Marketing and Communications; **Ray Angle**, assistant vice president, Career and Professional Development; **Robert Barnes**, custodian, Plant; **Alexander Spencer**, lead security officer, Campus Security and Public Safety; **John Hirst**, security officer, Campus Security and Public Safety; **Joe Turner**, infrastructure administrator II, Infrastructure Operations

05 **Britt Stone**, associate director of strategic initiatives and communications, Recruitment and Retention; **Jorge Sanz**, assistant men's basketball coach and director of basketball operations, Athletics; **Ram Yadlapalli**, CRM developer, ITS; **Kent Porterfield**, vice provost, Student Affairs; **Annmarie Cano**, professor, Psychology; **Robin Kelley**, chief diversity officer, President's Office; **Sierra Pancoast**, assistant director of housing and residence life, Housing Operations; **Andrew Derrick**, women's crew coach, Athletics; **Agnieszka McPeak**, professor of law and associate dean for academic affairs and program innovation, School of Law; **Mariella Zavala Trevino**, assistant professor of marketing, School of Business Administration; **Clinton Wutzke**, associate professor of human physiology, School of Health Sciences; **Reinaldo Gil Zambrano**, associate professor of art, College of Arts & Sciences; **Abdulla Mamun**, associate professor of mathematics, College of Arts & Sciences; **Lee Wurm**, professor of psychology, College of Arts & Sciences; **Heather James**, dean, Foley Center Library; **Michael Reamer**, lead security officer, Campus Security & Public Safety; **Richard Vann**, associate professor of marketing, School of Business Administration; **Blake Parris**, lecturer-AT of physics, College of Arts and Sciences; **Luis Inaraja Vera**, associate professor, School of Law; **Bethany Hickey**, assistant director of discrimination and harassment prevention, Office of Inclusive Excellence

*Please note position changes for June and July will be included in the October edition of Spirit.