

Spirit

FACULTY & STAFF NEWSLETTER

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WARNING!

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION SEASON

As we move into the summer months, several important facility upgrades and renovation projects will begin across campus. Below is an overview of the projects along with anticipated impacts to building occupants and nearby areas.

Apartment Deck Replacements

Projected Start Date: May 11

The Burch, Dussault, and Corkery apartment buildings will undergo scheduled deck upgrades. After years of use, the existing decks have reached the end of their intended service life. Residents in these apartments will not have access to their balconies while the decks are being replaced.

Tilford Center

Projected Start Date: TBD

The first floor of the Tilford Center will undergo a series of space revisions to support a significant and exciting milestone for the School of Health Sciences – the expansion of the Nursing program enrollment from 80 to 110 students per cohort.

The existing first floor classrooms and simulation lab spaces will be redesigned and expanded to comfortably accommodate the larger cohorts. Designated areas on the first floor of Tilford will be closed for construction. Building occupants may experience noise during construction.

Residence Hall Washroom Renovations

Projected Start Date: May 11

Bathroom renovations will take place across three first-year residence halls – the southwest wing of Catherine/Monica, Welch and Crimont. The renovated washrooms will feature modern finishes and upgraded fixtures, as well as gender neutral, private restroom facilities. These reflect current best practices in residential facility design and demonstrate our dedication to fostering an environment where all students feel welcomed and respected.

HVAC System Replacements

Projected Start Date: May 11

The University will replace the HVAC systems in the Jundt, Foley and Jepson buildings as the existing units in these buildings have surpassed their expected useful life. The new systems are designed to deliver consistent, reliable climate control while consuming significantly less energy than older systems. Not only does this align with broader sustainability goals, but these efficiency gains are also expected to generate tangible cost savings over time.

» For all updates, visit the **Plant & Construction Services** myGU page or contact Facilities Support at customerservice@gonzaga.edu

Bringing the Hammer to Hemm

Right after Commencement, those who remain on campus will see some changes taking place on the John J. Hemmingson Center's main street. That familiar white-on-orange hammer logo of a Spokane favorite – Thomas Hammer Coffee – will replace the white-on-green two-tailed siren of Starbucks.

Suzie Mize, AVP of Auxiliary Enterprises, and Sodexo Director Pat Clelland say they've heard thoughtful feedback from students expressing interest in seeing a more locally connected coffee experience on campus. This exciting change also means welcoming home a two-time Zag!



Thomas Hammer ('91, '93 M.B.A.) started slinging coffee at age 18, about the time he began his studies at Gonzaga's School of Business Administration.

Choosing a locally rooted business owner was part of the evaluation of potential coffee providers, to ensure Gonzaga is bolstering the local economy where possible.

Stay tuned!

Spring Leadership Updates

There's a fresh wave of leadership energy rolling through Gonzaga this month, and we're excited to share what's new.

Erin E. Kastberg will join Gonzaga on May 1 as our new vice president and general counsel. Erin comes to us with more than 20 years of higher-ed legal experience, most recently at Bradley University, where she led legal affairs and several major administrative areas. She impressed the search committee with her collaborative style and strong alignment with Gonzaga's Mission.

Jennifer Shepherd has been selected as the next dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS). After a national search and a year of steady leadership as interim dean, Jennifer will continue guiding SEAS through major initiatives – from ABET accreditation prep to expanding research and industry partnerships. A longtime Gonzaga faculty member, she's known for her student-centered, Mission-driven approach.

Katey Roden has been appointed the inaugural director of the new Woodley Institute for Civil Engagement and Humanistic Dialogue. She'll lead the Institute's work in civic dialogue, public humanities, oral history and human-centered technology.

These appointments reflect Gonzaga's continued investment in leaders who strengthen our community and help advance our shared Mission.



Top left: Erin E. Kastberg
Top right: Katey Roden
Bottom left: Jennifer Shepherd

With Gratitude and Love

Spirit wants to extend heartfelt gratitude to retiring GU colleagues this year. Your dedication, wisdom and steady commitment have shaped this community in ways that will be felt for years to come. You have mentored students, supported peers and strengthened the Mission through countless acts of professionalism and care.

As you step into this next chapter, know that your contributions endure in the classrooms you enriched, the programs you strengthened, and the people you inspired. Thank you for helping this University flourish.

We wish you joy, rest, and fulfillment in the adventures ahead!





Rebranding Gonzaga Values

There have been several important updates to the Institutional Work Values project.

The first is to rename the project from “Institutional Work Values” to “Gonzaga Values.” This shift reminds us that these are not simply how we work, but how we are with one another. The second shift is to tighten up the names and descriptions of the values to make them easier to remember. Finally, you may notice that the list is in a different order than it was before. This is to allow for a new mnemonic: M+IDEAS.

Gonzaga Values

- » Mission – reflective and collaborative
- » Inclusiveness – aware and supportive
- » Dignity – respectful and affirming
- » Excellence – intellectual and innovative
- » Accountability – discerning and responsible
- » Stewardship – mindful and resourceful

Congrats to this year’s winners!

Promoting Excellence in Academic Endeavors and Professional Practice

- Mirjeta Beqiri
- Kaylen Carlson
- Kathie Chi
- James Ward
- Jadyn Ashcroft
- Jennifer Gill
- Vincent Velonza
- Veronica Puente
- Stephanie Van Dellen

Sharing Responsibility for Mission Identity and Leadership

- Trena Redman

Affirming a Commitment to Human Dignity

- Vikas Gumbhir
- Rachel Maddox

Advancing a Culture of Inclusiveness

- Ashley Martin
- Kris Morehouse
- Heather Schmitt
- Magda Kondaridz

Caring for the earth while stewarding university resources

- Karli Honebein
- Kate Barnett (student)

Commencement Weekend 2026

Gonzaga women's basketball coach Lisa Fortier will speak at the Undergraduate Commencement ceremony, former National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Monica Bertagnolli will speak at the Graduate Commencement ceremony, and Washington State Supreme Court Justice Salvador Mungia will speak at the Law School Commencement ceremony.

Gonzaga will welcome friends and families to celebrate 1,272 graduates at the Undergraduate ceremony, 181 at the Law ceremony, and 597 at the Graduate ceremony.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 9

Law Commencement

- » 9-10:30 a.m. – McCarthy Athletic Center

- » Champagne reception following at the Law School

Graduate Commencement

- » 12-2 p.m. – McCarthy Athletic Center
- » Guest tickets required, no limit
- » Champagne reception following on Herak Quad Lawn

Commencement Mass

- » 2:45-4 p.m. – St. Aloysius Church

Sunday, May 10

Undergraduate Commencement

- » 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena
- » Guest ticket limit is six per participating student
- » Champagne reception following on Herak Quad Lawn



Human Resources Recognized

Gonzaga University has earned national recognition for its commitment to employee financial well-being and for its innovative approach to improving retirement readiness, engagement, and long-term financial security for employees.

Congratulations to the Human Resources team for the following honors:

- » Plan Sponsor of the Year Award
- » Eddy Award
- » Excellence and Innovation Award

Led by Lisa Schwartzenburg, assistant vice president for human resources operations, the year-long effort

introduced the new Gonzaga Target Date Retirement Fund — a custom series featuring a built-in income annuity option that offers greater flexibility and personalization than traditional plans. More than 90% of participants opted into the new series, reflecting strong confidence in the updated design.

A robust education campaign, including webinars, in-person sessions, digital office hours, and step-by-step guides, ensured employees felt supported throughout the transition.

At the end of March, the team celebrated the accomplishment with partners at Captrust and TIAA, as well as President Katia Passerini and the Retirement Committee.

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

Dessert of the Month

Strawberry Shortcake

Recipe and photo from Feasting at Home

Shortcake Biscuits

2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp baking powder
¼ tsp baking soda
2 Tbsp sugar (and more for sprinkling)
¾ tsp sea salt
Zest of a lemon
8 Tbsp (1 stick) cold unsalted butter, cut into ½ inch chunks
½ cup Greek yogurt (I prefer full fat)
½ cup heavy cream
1 egg yolk (optional, for egg wash)

Strawberry Sauce

Fresh strawberries, quartered or sliced
1/8 cup sugar
2 tsp lemon juice
1 tsp cornstarch

Homemade Whipped Cream

1 cup heavy cream
1 tsp vanilla
1-2 Tbsp sugar

Instructions

Step 1 Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Step 2 Mix together flour, baking powder, baking soda, sugar and salt. Stir in lemon zest.

Step 3 Add cold butter chunks mixing in with your hands, forks or pastry cutter until they are coarsely mashed up.

Step 4 Mix together yogurt and cream. Add to the flour mixture, carefully mixing until just incorporated.

Step 5 Turn contents out onto the counter. It is ok if there are still dry parts. Press the dough roughly out in a square, about a ½ inch thick. Fold over on itself and press out into a square again. Repeat this process 4 times.

Step 6 Shape into a square with your hands, about 6 x 6 and about 1/2 inch thick. Cut into 6 pieces. Place biscuits on parchment lined baking sheet. Brush with egg wash and sprinkle with sugar. Freeze 10 minutes and then bake for 20-25 minutes.

Step 7 Make the strawberry sauce by placing sliced strawberries in a saucepan with sugar. Cook for about 7-10 minutes until they just begin to break down.

Step 8 Mix lemon juice and cornstarch until completely smooth. Add to the cooking berries and bring to a light boil. Remove from heat and allow to cool.

Step 9 Make the homemade whipped cream by whipping cold heavy cream with a hand or stand mixer with vanilla and sugar until stiff peaks form. Store-bought whipped cream works great, too!

Noteworthy

New Hires

Diana Davila, admission counselor, Admissions; **Jeffrey Dennison**, senior director of strategic communications, Marketing & Communications; **Mary Clark**, admission counselor, Admissions; **Sergio Bobadilla**, custodian, Plant; **Zebulun Klement**, program coordinator, Office of Sustainability

Promotions

Austin Sauer, AV engineer, ITS; **Jonathan DeLorenze**, warehouse supervisor, Plant; **Kori Baker**, campus minister for liturgical life, Alumni Relations

Goodbyes

Becky Wilkey, director, CSPS; **Frank Hruban**, general counsel; **Larry Osborn**, custodian, Plant; **Lindsey Spencer**, sr. transfer admissions counselor, Admissions; **Mikala Presho**, residence director, Housing and Residence Life; **Robert Turner**, program manager, Center for Engineering Design & Entrepreneurship; **Scott Carpenter**, IT technician I, ITS; **Victoria Bjordahl**, program assistant, University Advancement

Around Campus

Events, celebrations and lectures of note this month

May 3, 2-3:30 p.m. Celebrate the end of the season with the Spring Choral Celebration, featuring Musea Treble Chorus, Concert Choir, Glee Club and Big Bing Theory | Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

April 27–May 8, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Explore original works by graduating artists at “Beneath the Surface: Senior Art Exhibition,” showcasing diverse media, research and creative perspectives | Spokane Art School, 503 E 2nd Ave, Suite B

May 9, 7:30 p.m. Experience fiery tango fused with big band jazz at the Spokane Jazz Orchestra: Dance with SJO and Tango Volcado, an evening of rhythmic intensity and musical elegance | Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

May 12, 7 p.m. Join author Shelby Van Pelt for a conversation on her bestseller “Remarkably Bright Creatures” and its upcoming Netflix adaptation | Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

May 30, 5:40 p.m. Reconnect with fellow alumni at Zags Night at the Seattle Mariners, featuring a co-branded jersey and a pregame social while the Mariners take on the Diamondbacks | T-Mobile Park

Anniversaries

30 **Gordon Carolan**, infrastructure administrator II, Infrastructure Operations

20 **Andrew Logsdon**, custodial lead, Plant

10 **Matthew Barcus**, program manager, Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center; **Phillip Tyler**, associate director, CSPS

05 **Sarah Marr**, asst director of community engaged learning, CCE; **Stephen Gentry**, asst men’s basketball coach, Athletics; **Tara Pittmann**, registered nurse, Health & Counseling Services

Mission Formation Advocates

The Office of Mission Engagement is pleased to recognize twelve new Mission Advocates who have spent several years immersed in Mission formation cohorts learning about our Jesuit, Catholic and humanistic identity:

- Kori Baker, Campus Minister for Liturgical Life (University Ministry)
- SarahAnn Bennett, Program Assistant (English Language Center)
- Chip Callahan, Associate Professor (Religious Studies)
- Katelyn Carroll, Program Assistant (Climate Institute)
- Albana Dwonch, Lecturer (Political Science)
- Natalie Gordon, Instructional Technologist (Instructional Design and Development)
- Catie Peissig, Associate Director of Recruitment and Admission (Graduate Enrollment Management)
- Robin Petersen Lewis, Community Engaged Learning Coordinator (Center for Community Engagement)
- Sarah Porter, Assistant Professor (Religious Studies)
- Chandler Rodgers, Lecturer (Philosophy)
- Nader Shoaibi, Lecturer (Philosophy)
- Britt Stone, Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives and Communication (Graduate Enrollment Management)

The Office of Mission Engagement encourages anyone interested in deepening their understanding of our Jesuit mission to consider signing up for a cohort:

- Staff cohort begins September 10
- Faculty cohort begins January 2027