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VAN ALLEN STILL RUNNING ON A FULL TANK

Jackie Van Allen retired from Gonzaga May 31, 2023.

But it didn't last long.

She returned to campus two months later serving as interim budget coordinator for the School of Engineering and Applied Science after Dean **Karlene Hoo** asked her to return.

Then, on Dec. 6, she was named director of Sponsored Research and Programs, the office from which she had retired six months earlier.

Confusing? Not really.

Van Allen began her Gonzaga career in 2010 following grant work for the University of Washington and budget management at The Spokesman-Review.

Next, she served here as grant accountant in the Controller's Office.

"This was post-grant work," Van Allen explained, "reviewing grant expenditures, invoicing funders, and preparing financial reports."

Then, after 10 years, Van Allen transferred to Sponsored Research as a grant and contract officer helping faculty and staff find funding opportunities and assisting with grant application preparations.

Now she's back as the boss and looking to expand what had become a depleted staff. She is searching for a grant and contract officer.

"It is gratifying to identify grants and assist with grant applications. And it is even better when a grant is awarded, providing funding for research and programmatic activities that benefit faculty, staff, students and our community."

For Van Allen, her work at Gonzaga for the past 14 years is not all about the work being accomplished. It is also about the community of people she has befriended, some of them folks she either worked with previously, or would later work with, on grant proposals.

And if you don't recognize Van Allen by name, you most likely have seen her tall, sleek frame, hair streaming behind her or bundled under her cap, as she makes her noontime runs across campus and beyond, often with one or more running friends at her side.

Although she has run 71 marathons (26.2 miles) and 72 half-marathons, logging more than



Director of Sponsored Research and Programs, Jackie Van Allen, is seen here participating in Sun Mountain 25k, Winthrop, Wash., in May 2023.

61,000 miles over 37 years, she seldom trains alone.

"I mostly run with others, conversing along the way," she says. "That's the part of running I enjoy the most. It's not so hard when you have other people to chat with along the way. And it has been a great way for me to get to know others on campus."

She never runs with music in her ears, saying "I want to be aware of everything around me."

Van Allen reached out to Gonzaga's then-Corporate Cup team coordinator **Gail Nord** soon after she arrived to see if Nord needed

another runner on one of GU's Bloomsday team. Van Allen quickly made friends and positive contributions to the team, and in 2013, Nord handed over the coordinator duties to Van Allen, a position she held until 2023.

Gonzaga usually sponsors six Bloomsday teams, which consistently win awards, from finishing second overall out of 300 teams in 2023 to the best team name, "Pair O' Thighs Lost" in 2014.

This was always easy work for Van Allen because, quite simply, "I love to run."

Van Allen | Continued on Page 6

Successfully Working Their Way into a Crowded Market

Rachelle Strawther described an email the Center for Lifelong Learning recently received from a gentleman who earned certificates in Women's and Servant leadership.

He needed leadership training when he was promoted at Amazon to a supervisory role and began working with five women who "were clearly smarter, more talented and better leaders than I. As a supervisor, it was a ludicrous position to be in, only having relatively more tenure than others. And it was somehow worse because we work in IT and had seen unthinkable attrition of female leaders. When the team needed role models, they had me instead," **Mike Berg** wrote.

Gonzaga's CLL programs helped Berg find a voice in challenging bias and finding his own courage to shine a light on the exceptional work of these five professionals.

Several were promoted and three of the five women were recently honored with Amazon Women Engineering awards for outstanding work.

Berg is just one of hundreds of businessmen and women, community leaders and industry experts who have received certificates from Gonzaga, and with it, an understanding of GU's values and ethics.

Strawther is the founding director of CLL, which was established in 2021, developed and launched in September 2022. CLL began with five training programs and in just 19 months has expanded to 15 certificates – five championed by the School of Leadership Studies, two each by the schools of Education and Engineering and Applied Science, and one each in Law, Gonzaga in Florence and the UW-GU Health Partnership.

CLL's growth is the envy of others around the country.

"We meet with a group of professionals doing the same kind of work across the country – most who got into this aspect of higher education long before we did – and they always give us high praise for receiving such great support from our Gonzaga partners – Marcom, GEM, IDD, ITS, Alumni, to name a few," Strawther says.

Marketing is a major factor in CLL's success in this very competitive marketplace, says **Kristin Plouffe**, assistant director charged with building relationships with community and business leaders.

"We tap into organizations that have a desire to build relationships with Gonzaga," Plouffe says. "We ask leaders at these organizations to partner with us in helping to facilitate their needs rather than Gonzaga launching programs and hoping they fill."



CLL crew includes Director **Rachelle Strawther**, Admission Operations' **Amy Minton**, Program Manager **Kerri Danowski** and Assistant Director **Kristin Plouffe**.

Companies are paying for many of these courses, Strawther says. As one recent example, the Washington State Department of Transportation is considering sending five engineers from Olympia to acquire better leadership skills.

Gonzaga seeks industry leaders to teach in its CLL programs. Four years in the making, Professor **Brian Henning** worked with climate experts to craft a certificate in Climate Action Planning, creating a network of experts to instruct people in the trade in need of climate sensitivity training.

CLL is looking at many potential training needs, for young adults through retirees.

For example, one high school graduate who had received promotions in the manufacturing professions and was now in a management position, needed training in how to hone his skills to become a better boss.

"Some people who have been working for a while might want some retooling," Plouffe says. "Some may want to shift career

directions but don't have the luxury to take a couple years off to attain a new degree."

Facing degree costs and more debt, a shorter course without losing work time is a win-win for many working adults. The cost of a certificate program is approximately equal to the cost of one master's degree class. And many of CLL's programs can branch into degree programs as elective credits upon completion, Plouffe says.

Demand moves CLL's decision-making in what programs to offer. Recent additions to CLL's menu of certificate training include digital marketing, marketing analytics and project management. CLL offers 40 ways for K-12 teachers to earn clock hours. On the horizon is a program in customer service, based upon partner feedback, Plouffe says.

Playing major roles in CLL's progress are Program Manager **Kerri Danowski** and **Audrey Minton** from Admissions Operations, who although doesn't work in CLL, is a key player.

29 Faculty, Staff, Administrators Honored for 890 Years of Combined Service



Anniversarians, front row, l to r: **Ron Large**, Religious Studies, 35 years; **Ben Semple**, Modern Languages, 25; **Shannon Zaranski**, Health Sciences, 25; **Jennifer Shepherd**, Chemistry, 25; **Jason Gilman**, ITS, 25; **Jane Hession**, Business, 40; **Molly McFadden**, Foley, 30; **Mia Bertagnolli**, Provost, 30; **Jolanta Weber**, Provost, 35; **Carolyn Hood**, Law, 30. Back row: **Raymond Reyes**, President, 35; **Michiko Tra**, ITS, 30; **Glen Frappier**, Forensics, 25; **Randy Bennett**, Business, 35; **Angela Ruff**, Provost, 35; **David Boose**, Biology, 25; **Dori Sonntag**, University Advancement, 25; **Chuck Murphy**, Finance, 45; **Bud Barnes**, Business, 50; **Julie McCulloh**, Enrollment Management, 30; **Joe Poss**, University Advancement, 25. Not pictured: **Jeff Amann**, Plant, 25; **Liz Bennett**, Education, 25; **Kim Weber**, Education, 25; **David Cleary**, Chemistry, 30; **Mike Grabowski**, Registrar, 30; **David Nowak**, Engineering, 30; **Chris Standiford**, Athletics, 30; **Dean Larson**, Mathematics, 35.

President **Thayne McCulloh**, on behalf of Gonzaga, honored 29 members of this university community on March 21 who embody the spirit of St. Ignatius every day in their work with their exemplary partnership, dedication and commitment to fulfill our mission.

These are colleagues who have contributed 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years respectively to their work here at Gonzaga, or a combined 890 years.

“On behalf of the many students you have taught or mentored, the many colleagues you have worked with, and the many tasks you have carried out in service of our primary mission of educating students, I want to express my deepest thanks and gratitude for your years of service and loyal dedication to this university.”

- President McCulloh

Few here have been more appreciated than **Bud Barnes**, who has served as dean of the School of Business Administration and economics professor during his 50 years on campus; longtime controller, vice president for finance and now Chief Strategy Officer **Chuck**

Murphy, who has helped keep the University in balance – literally and figuratively – over his 45 years on the job; and **Jane Hession**, who in 40 years has transformed the way students in the School of Business Administration are supported in their academic journeys.

“In 1973, U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended, the first handheld mobile phone call was made, and average tuition at a four-year public college was \$358. But that was also the year that Bud Barnes began his journey at Gonzaga and tonight we honor his 50 years of service,” McCulloh said.

Barnes was one of only two doctorally-educated professors in the business school when he joined Gonzaga. He would move up the academic ranks and begin his 33-year run as dean in 1980, greatly expanding Ph.D.s on the faculty.

Beyond his efforts to create endowed professorships, chairs and faculty fellowships, he orchestrated events that brought academic topics and intellectual discourse to the community through the Economics Symposium, Dean’s Business Forum lecture series, Puget Sound Business Forum lecture series, and the Family Owned Business Conference.

He literally built the School of Business Administration by helping raise donations and overseeing the Jepson Center’s construction in 1986-87 and its expansion in 2003-2004.

“It is impossible to measure the contributions and impacts made by Chuck Murphy. A constant champion, his quiet leadership, always in service of our shared mission, has been instrumental in getting us to where we are today,” McCulloh said.

“When Chuck joined the Gonzaga community in 1978, the campus looked a little different. But so much of the significant change that has happened over the last 45 years has been due to Chuck’s vision for what Gonzaga could and should be in this world,” said the president.

In his time here, Murphy has worked tirelessly to develop and institute financial plans, build and renovate campus facilities, acquire and manage off-campus properties, develop and implement investment strategies including the stewardship of endowment investments, and envision capital projects that would make our institution an exemplar of Jesuit Education. Even in the midst of financial downturns, his faith in what’s possible never wavered. Endowment grew from \$14 million to nearly \$445 million.

Enrollment increased from 3,400 graduate and undergraduate students to 7,600 today. Campus grew from 39 buildings across 60 acres to 100 buildings across 150 acres.

Barnes credits Hession with playing a pivotal role in the school’s accreditation with AACSB. She is the only person who has served the school as first-year student adviser. She co-teaches a class called Introduction to Business, a foundational course that provides first-year business students with a roadmap for their academic endeavors. Her passion for teaching and mentorship shines through as she helps students navigate the complexities of business education.

She tells students: “Gonzaga is going to make all the difference in who you are going to be. It has completely transformed my life since I walked on campus as a first-semester freshman.”

Systemic and Transformational Change at Core of OIE Efforts

Since hiring, then promoting **Robin Kelley** to the University's chief diversity officer in fall 2020, Gonzaga's attention to improving its diversity, equity, inclusion and sense of belonging has taken a sharpened focus.

Through a program begun several years ago but expanded in recent years, three of the University's underrepresented minority postdoctoral fellows have been offered tenure-track positions here, signs that the program is fulfilling its prophecy to help diversify the faculty.

Last fall, Gonzaga helped orchestrate a meeting with area business and community leaders, GU faculty and staff to discuss how this community can best support Gonzaga students of color, a need reinforced in recent survey results from students and staff administered by the Office of Inclusive Excellence. Kelley also found many students and staff thought the campus climate for learning and engagement is positive. However, survey results also showed some members of the Gonzaga community did not possess a high level of feeling safe and belonging in the Spokane community.

"We have to continue to strengthen relationships and build new partnerships with many of our community members and organizations to help make Spokane a more welcoming community to members of underrepresented groups," Kelley says.

Over the past 18 months, OIE has crafted an Inclusive Excellence Strategic Plan to coincide with and support the University's strategic plan and has worked with the college, each school and division in developing their own inclusive excellence plans to carry out the commitments outlined in these strategic plans related to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

Kelley established the Inclusive Excellence Leadership Academy three years ago and 100 Gonzaga staff, faculty and graduate students have been educated during that span, most of who are implementing what they learned in their professional and personal lives today.

Moreover, OIE provides online and instructor-led DEI and belonging training programs such as Diversity.Edu, Bystander Education, Microaggression and Bias. OIE administers the Intercultural Development Inventory to assess University faculty and staff cultural fluency, which is both diagnostic and prescriptive, and each participant receives a development plan.

Kelley also serves as the University's equal employment opportunity officer, helping to ensure equitable recruiting and hiring practices, as well as equitable training and promotion programs. OIE is also where



Office of Inclusive Excellence staff (l to r): **Shawn Washington, Meghan Ridgely, Kristina Poffenroth, Robin Kelley, Kristin Finch and David Gomez.**

students needing religious academic accommodations can seek services.

OIE has increased staff to six, which also includes Associate Chief Diversity Officer **Kristin Finch**, who works with faculty, Assistant Chief Diversity Officer **Shawn Washington**, who works with students, Compliance and Equity Investigator **David Gomez**, who is charged with investigating complaints of Title IX, discrimination and harassment; Gender-based Violence Prevention Education Specialist **Kristina Poffenroth**; and Assistant to the CDO and Office Manager **Meghan Ridgely**, who coordinates many programs including Colleagues of Color, the IMPACT Group, Cultivating Community and the Inclusive Excellence Leadership Academy.

Kelley's immediate priorities are fourfold. First, have inclusive excellence strategic action plans in place for the college, schools and divisions by the end of spring 2024. Second,

with the results of the three campus climate surveys, make recommendations for action steps consistent with the University's strategic plan and the Inclusive Excellence strategic plan. Third, hire a new director of harassment and discrimination prevention and Title IX coordinator this summer, and a deputy Title IX coordinator by fall. Finally, implement the recommendations from the climate surveys given to faculty, staff and students and work closely with Spokane partners who serve people of color and marginalized populations to help make Spokane feel more welcoming and like home for GU community members who are from traditionally marginalized and underrepresented groups, and everyone.

In the long term, Kelley and her colleagues will focus on initiatives to bring about systemic and transformational change within the institution to foster greater diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging for all of Gonzaga's constituents.

New Residence Hall Coming of Age in Spring 2025

The new residence hall, under construction on the corner of Sharp and Cincinnati, is rapidly taking shape. It will be completed in late fall 2024, with occupancy planned for spring semester 2025, reports **Ken Sammons**, associate vice president, Plant and Construction Services.

It will house 92 students. This facility has a mix of one, two and four beds per one- and two-room suites, each suite having its own bath. One apartment is set aside for a faculty-in-residence.

The hall is designed as a second-year housing structure and is about 5,000 square feet bigger than the earlier versions of Dillon,

Goller and Twohy halls, which house the same number of students.

“In designing the spaces inside the building, we wanted to create a space that met the needs of second-year students,” says **Matt Lamsma**, dean of Student Development.

“We’re attempting to accomplish a blend between the need for privacy and community. The common areas throughout the building are designed to draw students out of their room for studying, group work, community building, relaxation and fun.

“The first-floor common area is connected to the common kitchen, which opens to a patio on the south side of the building, where there

will be limited parking. The second floor will be outfitted with recreational equipment and be a more “active” space. The third floor will be more study and group work focused. Each floor has a small study room with large whiteboards and technology for group work,” Lamsma says.

The building houses a classroom for Core classes that are connected to living and learning communities or focused on a student’s second year at Gonzaga.

In January, residents of Alliance, Lincoln and Roncalli halls will move into the new space for second semester. Plans for those vacated residence halls will be detailed later this year.



This \$15 million project “is progressing on time and on budget,” Ken Sammons says.

Photo by Zach Berlat

Gonzaga Lands Among “Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs”

Gonzaga was among the colleges and universities selected as the “[Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs](#)” in 2024 by the American College Personnel Association and the publication “Diverse: Issues in Higher Education.”

Institutions are selected for inclusion based on the result of survey research into colleges and universities focusing on staff diversity and practices, compensation and benefits, professional development, family friendliness and other workplace factors.

“We are very excited and proud to be named on this list,” said **Kent Porterfield**, GU vice provost for Student Affairs, noting that the recognition comes after the trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing efforts to develop and implement strategies for recruiting and sustaining a diverse Student Affairs staff.

“Nearly four years ago, we established a professional development committee in Student Affairs charged with crafting an education and training series emphasizing knowledge and skills building through the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion,” Porterfield said.



*Pictured are seven of 125 Gonzaga Student Affairs staff members. The University was honored as being one of the most promising places to work in student affairs. Pictured are **Joan Iva Fawcett**, Student Affairs; **Caleb Yoder**, Sustainability; **Lyss Gorman**, New Student & Family Programs; **Joanne Shiosaki**, Student Media; **Jen Lott**, Health & Counseling Services; **Andrew Mercer**, Student Involvement; and **SR Ross**, Unity Multicultural Education Center.*

That committee has offered monthly professional development programs and a full-day colloquium annually for all Student Affairs staff. Student Affairs staff also complete

the Intercultural Development Inventory and Intercultural Conflict Style Inventory training, as well as Diversity.Edu.

Van Allen *continued from page 1*

Grant awards since September totaling almost \$2 million:

IRS Low Income Taxpayer Clinic:
Law School, Principal Investigator (PI)
Christopher Crago, \$100,000

Award: Jan. 2024

Funding to assist low-income individuals who have tax dispute with the IRS.

Environmental Protection Agency:
Smoke Ready Spokane, Institute for Climate, Water and the Environment; PI
Brian Henning, \$1.1 million

Award: Jan. 2024

Funding for planning and preparing for wildfire smoke in Spokane.

National Endowment for the Arts:
Finding Our Way: Digital Deep Mapping, College of Arts & Science; PI
Katey Roden; \$99,996

Award: Dec. 2023

Funding for a mapping project designed to build community engagement, civic capacity and create a sense of place for underserved communities.

Education First/Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation:

Limitless Learning Network, Mission Integration; PI **Wendy Thompson**, \$25,000

Award: Oct. 2023

Funding to support participation and engagement in Limitless, a Postsecondary Enrollment Learning Network.

National Endowment for the Humanities:
The Critical Edition of Alfred North Whitehead, College of Arts & Sciences; PI
Brian Henning, \$297,170

Award: Sept. 2023

Funding for critical editing of newly discovered materials of mathematician and philosopher **Alfred North Whitehead**.

Allstate Foundation: A Return to Service:

Gonzaga University (Allstate Youth-Led Service grant), Center for Community Engagement; PI **Molly Ayers**, \$25,000
Award: Sept. 2023

Funding to advance the ability of GU students to engage in youth-led, youth-driven community service.

USDA Forest Service: Water security:

Evaluation of drinking water system challenges and cost implications to assess preparedness for wildfire in the Western U.S., Engineering; PI **Kyle Shimabuku**, \$335,471 awarded to GU.

Award: Sept. 2023

Funding to provide better understanding between key drivers of the initial and longer-term effects of wildfire on source water supplies and drinking water systems.

Looking Back 50 Years on Expo '74 DOING THE LAUNDRY



expo'74
50th Celebration

Expo '74 World Exposition put Spokane on the map long before Gonzaga basketball made its indelible mark on the world and our city beginning in 1999.

Spokane is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the fair with events and activities between now and July 4. The March Spirit listed six Gonzaga-related events or projects focusing on tributes to Expo. Two new Expo enterprises are also on the list:

- GU's Spring Dance Concert with tunes from the 1970s and other references to this environmental-themed world's fair, April 26-27, 7:30 p.m., in the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center.
- A special section of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences' Design Expo Day May 1 features seven Expo-themed enterprises.
 - o Drinking Water System Resilience to Wildfire – The first phase of a multi-year project supported by the USDA Forest Service evaluating efficiency of water treatment technologies to treat wildfire-impacted drinking water sources.
 - o Bringing Netherland's Sustainable Practices to Gonzaga's Campus – Explore and adapt sustainable practices (in transportation, water, buildings and energy) observed in the Netherlands during Gonzaga in Delft Study Abroad

class and examine the feasibility of implementing them as sustainable solutions on Gonzaga's campus.

- o Spokane Stormwater Quality Improvement Study – This team designed four stormwater best-management practices (BMPs) to present the City of Spokane (COS): Rain Gardens, Non-Vegetated Bio-Infiltration, Grass Swales, and Stormwater Planters, to support Spokane in reducing pollutant discharge to the river.
- o Sustainable Seat Cushion – Furthering search for materials, building prototype cushions, conducting comfort testing and providing a sustainability improvement analysis for airplane seat cushions.
- o Aircraft Interior Parts Recycling – Examining sustainability at every stage of a product's life cycle, addressing aircraft interior part end-of-service (EOS) life.
- o Electric Wing Deicing – Look at a more economical and sustainable method of deicing an aircraft wing through a thermal emitter embedded in the composite structure.
- o Wildfire Resource Simulator – To inform the public about aerial firefighting, Fire Armada assigned a GU team to develop an historical graphic simulation to depict wildfires and the flights of large

firefighting aircraft in the U.S. from 2020 through 2022.

This is not Gonzaga's first participation in anything Expo. During the fair, Gonzaga offered free parking and housing for fair visitors, through GU's central housing office in the former lumber warehouse on Cincinnati where Coughlin Hall now sits.

Gonzaga associate vice president for plant and construction services, **Ken Sammons**, was here when Expo '74 unfolded in Spokane.

"I was busy scrambling to build a laundry room next to Madonna," he recalls. Apparently, some of Gonzaga's planners agreed to rent out dorm rooms and furnish linens, not realizing until the rooms were filling that the linens would need to be washed.

"Then they found out that everybody else in town had thought of this earlier and had all the laundry facilities booked up," Sammons says. "So, we built a laundry facility of our own."

Work Value Champions for March Professors Treuthart, Pepper Welcoming Spirits

Law school Professor **Mary Pat Treuthart** and business Professor **Molly Pepper** are recognized as March Work Value Champions.

These two longstanding academicians affirm their commitment to human dignity and advancing a culture of inclusiveness, says coordinator **Brian Steverson**.

Treuthart sits with students through difficult transitions and moments in their lives, walking them through life's hiccups. Her nominator says she never gives up on a student. She is retiring at the end of this year, and "I have no idea how we will be able to fill the gap she will leave," her nominator adds.

Pepper has championed diversity, equity and inclusion in the School



Mary Pat Treuthart



Molly Pepper

of Business Administration. She was way ahead of her time leading the business school's inclusiveness efforts, holding strategy sessions, establishing an Inclusive Excellence committee, and working university-wide to advance this cause, her nominator says.

Thank You!

On March 7, Zags gave:

\$100,000

2,290 Donors

1,072 Alumni

290 Faculty/Staff

910 Families

301 First Time Donors

\$50,000 Unlocked by Donors giving from all 50 states

\$50,000 Unlocked in support of all academic projects

Every **100** 1st time donors unblocked an additional **\$10,000**

Gifts ranged from **\$5** to **\$50,000**

ZAGS
GIVE day

03.07.24

Total
\$1,152,657
Given, matched and unlocked
on Zags Give Day

NOTEWORTHY

NEW HIRES

Amber Stastny, *paralegal/social justice issues, Law*; **Dominique McBroom**, *manager/ dean's suite & faculty support, Law*; **Dorian Beckner**, *custodian, Plant*; **Evana Abrams**, *custodian, Plant*; **Heather Casey**, *clerk, Mail Services*; **Kevin Schenk**, *asst women's soccer coach, Athletics*; **Lonni Marlow**, *budget asst, Community Engagement*; **SarahAnn Bennett**, *program asst III, Global Engagement*

POSITION CHANGES/ PROMOTIONS

Lea Hart, *specialist/academic budget & personnel, Provost*; **Lucas Schwind**, *leadership annual gift officer, University Advancement*

GOODBYES

Anastacia Lee, *asst director, Health & Wellness*; **David Alsept**, *painter, Plant*; **Jeffrey Marcum**, *electrician, Plant*; **Jeffrey Gilbert**, *SARL tech, Engineering*; **Lindsey Conley**, *sr recruiter, Human Resources*; **Martin Northcroft**, *asst athletic director/marketing & creative services, Athletics*; **Nicola Mannetter**, *director, New Student & Family Programs*; **Patricia Deines**, *benefits & leave specialist, Human Resources*; **Peter Chastain**, *groundskeeper, Plant*

ANNIVERSARIES:

30 **Heather Teshome**, *sr assoc registrar, Registrar*

15 **Vipul Saxena**, *CRM tech architect, ITS*

10 **Reme Bruesch**, *program asst II, Education*; **Lori Jennings**, *administrative asst, Arts & Sciences*; **Jordan Green**, *asst women's basketball coach, Athletics*

5 **Mike Nelson**, *director/facilities operations, Athletics*

Distinguished Speakers Announced for Commencement Ceremonies

Two Gonzaga alumni and a former U.S. Secretary of Defense will serve as featured speakers at the University's 131st Commencement ceremonies, May 11-12.

Distinguished alumnus, scholar and academic administrator **Edward Taylor** ('82, '85 M.A.) will speak at the undergraduate commencement ceremonies, May 12, 9 a.m., in the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena. Taylor is vice provost and dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs at the University of Washington. He served as a member of the Gonzaga Board of Regents 1998-2006, and Board of Trustees 2007-2023, after which he was named Trustee Emeritus.

Taylor has dedicated his life to service leadership, improving academic access by addressing and reducing inequities, and ensuring that educational institutions are places of belonging. A 1980-81 men's basketball team co-captain, Taylor earned undergraduate degrees in sociology and psychology and a master's degree in psychology at GU before earning his Ph.D. at the University of Washington. He is a highly respected voice in educational leadership and policy studies and has taught and written extensively on community, racial reconciliation and civil discourse.

A champagne reception follows on the Herak Quad.

Chief executive officer of the Native Forward Scholars Fund, the largest provider of direct scholarships to Native students in the United States, **Angelique Albert** ('15 M.B.A., with concentration in Native American

Entrepreneurship) will speak at the Graduate Commencement ceremony May 11, noon, in the McCarthy Athletic Center.

Since its inception 50 years ago, the fund has awarded more than \$400 million in scholarships to over 20,000 Native scholars from over 500 tribes. She is a mission-driven leader with expertise in public service, philanthropy, social justice and providing essential resources and support for Native students to fulfill their academic and professional aspirations.

She is an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe and first-generation college student. In addition to her extensive work resume, Albert has spent 35 years creating artwork that introduces traditional Native culture to contemporary America. A champagne reception follows on the Herak Quad.

Robert Gates earned a Ph.D. in Russian and Soviet history from Georgetown University. Over the course of seven different Republican and Democratic presidential administrations, he served as U.S. Secretary of Defense and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, with President Barack Obama acknowledging his contributions to our nation by awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He has also been the president of Texas A&M University, chancellor of the College of William & Mary, and president of the Boy Scouts of America.

Gates will speak at the School of Law commencement May 11, at 9 a.m. in the McCarthy Athletic Center. A champagne reception follows in the law school.



Edward Taylor



Robert Gates



Angelique Albert

Around Campus

- » Gonzaga has extended the confirmation date for newly accepted undergraduate students to June 1. Recognizing the concern students and families face in making timely college decisions, GU is also offering an [Estimated Financial Aid Offer](#) for accepted students to help them assess their options. These two initiatives come in response to delays in the U.S. Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process that has hindered students and families nationwide from completing the form used to determine eligibility for financial aid.
- » Events in the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center: PAMYUA (Inuit music), April 12, 7:30 p.m.; Sing the World Awake! An Evening with Moira Smiley & Gonzaga Choirs, April 13, 7:30 p.m.; Cello & Piano Recital featuring **Kevin Hekmatpanah** & **Yoon-Wha Roh**, April 14, 4 p.m.; Pulitzer-Prize winning author Edward Humes, April 18, 7:30 p.m.; Emerging Artists Series, April 19, 7:30 p.m.; Spring Dance Concert, April 26-27, 7:30 p.m.; Vocalist **Erin O'Meally** and Pianist **Priscilla**

- Novarro**, April 28, 2 p.m.; Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra featuring guitar soloist Pepe Romero, April 29, 7:30 p.m.; Wind Ensemble Concert, May 1, 7:30 p.m.; Spring Choral Celebration, May 5, 2 p.m.; Las Cafeteras, May 8, 7:30 p.m.
- » EXPO '74: 50 years of Environmental Justice in the Inland Northwest, April 12, all day, Barbieri Courtroom/Law School.
- » Student Choreography Concert, April 12, 7 p.m., Magnuson Theatre.
- » Palestinian Refugees and the Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza, April 15, 5 p.m., Zoom webinar sponsored by the Provost's office. Register [here](#).
- » Fentanyl Crisis in Spokane County, April 16, 4 p.m., Jepson Wolff Auditorium.
- » Sports: A Guerrilla Strategy for Shifting Gender Norms Globally, featuring **Sarah Murray**, executive director of Free to Run, April 17, noon, Jundt Auditorium.

- » Law and its Center for Civil & Human Rights will host With Pride: 2024 LGBTQ+ Rights & Advocacy in Legal Education Summit, April 19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the law school. \$60 Summit registration fee.
- » "Without Them I am Lost," a full-length documentary on American writer **Damon Falke's** migration to the northernmost coastline of Norway and the people who thrive there, directed by GU Theatre Arts Professor **Charlie Pepiton**, April 23, 6 p.m., Hemmingson Auditorium.
- » Senior Design Expo, May 1, Foley Lawn, noon-2 p.m., featuring 41 projects by GU engineering and computer science students.
- » The Academic Honors Convocation is combining with the Student Achievement Award presentations this year, on May 10, 11 a.m. in the Hemmingson Ballroom.

A separate event to celebrate faculty award winners, new emeritus faculty, and retiring faculty is scheduled May 3, 3-5 p.m., Globe Room in Cataldo Hall.